

## **BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 14 January 2020 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Colegrave (Town Mayor)  
Councillors: Beere, Bignell, Cherry, Clarke, Dhesi, Fatemian, Harrison, Hussain, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mephram, Milne-Home, Ross, Woodcock and Wren.

Officers: Mark Recchia (Town Clerk); Mark Hassall (Deputy Town Clerk); and Mike Hall (Recreation & Amenities Manager).

### **C.41/19 Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Banfield, Bell and Richards.

### **C.42/19 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **C.43/19 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, and was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

### **C.44/19 Communications**

The Town Mayor's communications had been circulated to those present.  
**IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Communications be noted.

### **C.45/19 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public**

#### **a) Elected Members**

None.

#### **b) Members of the Public**

No questions were asked.

### **C.46/19 Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 November and 18 December 2019 and 8 January 2020 be received.

### **C.47/19 General Services Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Harrison and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 17 December 2019 (postponed from 10 December due to the General Election) be received.

### **C.48/19 Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 7 January 2020 be received.

It was further **RESOLVED** that:

- i) further to Minute R.37/19 (Draft Estimates), the Estimates as recommended by the Grants and Budget Sub Committee on 25 November and the General Services Committee on 17 December 2019 be approved; and that the Four Year Financial Forecast be approved.
- ii) further to Minute R.38/19 (Calendar of Meetings), the 2020/21 Calendar of Meetings, attached at Appendix A to the Resources Committee Minutes, be approved, including moving the 2020 Annual Council Meeting to Tuesday 19 May 2020.
- iii) further to Minute R.40/19 (Grounds Maintenance Contract)
  - a. the offer made by id Verde Ltd be accepted for the current grounds maintenance contract, with a Variation Order raised to cover the change in service provision, and the Town Clerk be authorized to enter into an agreement with id Verde on the terms outlined in the report.
  - b. the General Grounds Contract is offered to the preferred bidder as shown in the report, with the Variation to this contract to include parts of the Sports Grounds Maintenance Contract as identified and that the remainder of the work is brought In-House to be managed by Banbury Town Council.

**C.49/19 To set the Precept for 2020/21**

The Leader of the Council expressed thanks to Officers and Councillors that had been a part of the Budget process, particularly those that attended the Grants & Budgets Sub Committee. He then outlined the budget highlights, which included a 0% increase in Banbury Town Council's share of the Council Tax bill, meaning the levy would stay at £122.12 for a D band home – the figure first set in 2010.

The Leader explained that money had been set aside for a café and toilets in People's Park – and both facilities would be completed later this year. In addition to that money, close to half a million pounds was to be spent on refurbishing works to play areas, parks and sports fields. This included:

- Continuing the rolling programme of improvements to parks and play areas and this year work totalling £130,000 would be carried out at Stanbridge, Hill View, and Ferriston play areas.
- Another £50,000 would go on phase 2 of the improvements to footpaths in People's Park.
- Landscaping at the community garden in People's Park was estimated at £90,000 and CCTV at the proposed new toilets £6,500.
- £150,000 was being earmarked for the creation of sports facilities at Spital Farm playing fields.

Other budget highlights included:

- maintenance and upkeep of cemeteries and sports fields would be taken 'in-house', an investment that would give greater control over the quality of the work done in those areas.
- Regarding the programme of annual events in 2020 two new events. a Motown Magic music night and a 'Day of Transport' that will highlight transport through the ages were planned.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council set a precept of £1,929,411 (or £122.12 per Band D property), being an increase of 0%.

**C.49/19 Resolutions Moved on Notice**

Resolution No 51

It was proposed by Councillor Woodcock and seconded by Councillor Kilsby that:

“This council declares a climate emergency and commits to playing its part in tackling climate change.

As part of this commitment this body commits to hosting a Citizens Assembly in the next municipal year in order to gauge the views of Banbury residents.”

Councillor Woodcock outlined the reason for his motion. There then followed a brief debate on the motion, where a number of Members spoke in support of the intention behind the motion, but with some Members questioning the need to convene a Citizens Assembly. Following which an amendment was moved by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Clarke, to the second paragraph of the motion to delete the words “this body” and replace with “Banbury Town Council”; to delete the words “Citizens Assembly in the next municipal year in order” and replace with “an environment and climate change joint local government meeting”; and to delete the words “the views of Banbury residents” and replace them with “work already undertaken by all tiers of Local Government in their partnership working with other organisations and to commit to ways of continuing to tackle climate change”.

The amendment was voted upon and carried 11 votes to 4. The substantive motion was then put to the Council in the following terms:

“This council declares a climate emergency and commits to playing its part in tackling climate change.

As part of this commitment Banbury Town Council commits to hosting an environment and climate change joint local government meeting to gauge work already undertaken by all tiers of Local Government in their partnership working with other organisations and to commit to ways of continuing to tackle climate change.”

It was then **RESOLVED** that the substantive motion as set out above be carried.

The Meeting ended at 7.35pm