

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held by Zoom on Monday 17th May 2021 at 2.30pm at the Summerlin Centre

18/21 **Election of a Chairperson:** Nominations for Chairperson 2021/22 were invited and Cllr Rae was nominated and agreed to stand. It was **RESOLVED** by all members to elect Cllr Rae and Chairperson of the Council

19/21 **Present**

Councillors: Cllr J. Rae (in the Chair) Cllrs M Geddes C. Cowmeadow, P. Farrant, J. Green, D. Hopkins, J. Jeffreys, R. Lanyon-Hogg, P. Skelton

Clerk: Mrs A Jordan

Also Present: Three members of the public

Apologies None

20/21 **Town Mayors Announcements:**

Cllr Rae thanked the outgoing Chairman for all his work throughout the past year.

Cllr Rae enjoyed a virtual event she had been invited to by Girl Guides and proposed a letter to thank them.

We have received an invitation to attend an virtual briefing by the Armed Forces. If anyone would like to attend please let the Clerk know.

21/21 **To receive the Chairperson's declaration of acceptance of office:**

The Chairperson will visit the office to sign the declaration.

22/21 **Elect a Vice Chairperson:**

Cllr Skelton was proposed and seconded.

23/21 **Declarations of Interest:**

- a. Under the localism act 2011 (section 26-37 and schedule 4) and in accordance with the Councils code of conduct Cllr D Hopkins referred to his entry in the member's register of interests
- b. Cllr Rae declared interest regarding planning application 21/01016/TCA
- c. Cllr Cowmeadow declared interest regarding planning application 21/01144/TPO

The meeting was then adjourned for public question time:

Three local residents had attended to express their concern about the East West Rail proposals.

24/21 **To appoint statutory or standing committees and working groups:**

List of agreed committee and working groups circulated.

25/21 **To approve Standing Orders and Financial Regulation reviewed 2019:**

It was RESOLVED to approve the standing orders and financial regulations which were updated in 2019

26/21 **Minutes:**

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021 had been circulated, approved and signed as a true record.

27/21 **Progress Reports**

a. **The Clerk's Report:** (circulated)

There was concern from a resident that the conservation area on the side of the lake in Parklands was being trampled by children fishing, and sometimes adults too. Cllr Skelton assured us it was clearly intended as a conservation area and there should be no fishing. The Clerk will contact WS Fishing Club to address the problem.

The Clerk will write to Pete Marland to formally record our dissatisfaction at the removal of the bus service and the poor service from the DRT, including the difficulty users have in making complaints.

There was discussion about a date for the Garden Competition.

b. **Halls and Library:**

- Taylor Wimpey tell us the Sports Hall will be handed over by 1st July.
- Cllr Geddes reported on the Halls Committee meeting of 10th May. The next meeting is 7th June to discuss the Sports Hall and there will be an open evening for the public to visit the Sports Hall on Friday 9th July from 7pm. It will be open for use from 1st September 2021.
- The drop-off layby has been designated as parking bays by Taylor Wimpey in their plans. The Clerk to check planning.
- There was a Recreation Ground update from the Halls Committee meeting

- WSTC is very sorry to hear of the death of Robin Harewood-Lee the Library Volunteer Co-ordinator. The Clerk will send a card with condolences to his partner. The Librarian is co-ordinating the volunteers temporarily.

c. **Environment:**

- a new kissing gate has been installed at the top of Edgewick Farm, thanks to a generous donation from a local resident
- Cllr Skelton's 'Fullers Earth History Walk' was very successful with a full group of 20 and a waiting list.
- Cllrs have been asked by residents if a banner could be erected outside Edgewick Farm about the EWR proposals. The example shown was considered to have too much writing which may distract drivers, but having a banner for this reason is acceptable if simplified. There was a discussion about other locations for a banner near the station. The Council would like to know who is responsible for putting up and taking down the banner. Giving permission for a banner on their property does not necessarily mean the Council supports the group, any information should say contact EWR rather than WSTC.
- Tree planting in recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: residents can apply to plant trees but Edgewick Farm is an open space and shouldn't have too many trees. Can we look at other places? The MKC Tree Officer could be consulted about repopulating streets with trees. Could we find out costs and if anyone in the community could fund?

d. **Finance** – to be discussed at item 37/21

28/21 **Unitary Councillor's Report:** (Circulated)

29/21 **Planning:**

Notification from Milton Keynes Council of the following applications:

- 20 Bellway – no comment as outside Woburn Sands
 - 21/01038/EIASCR in an environmental survey so WSTC is not expected to comment
- a. * 21/00913/FUL Erection of front garden walls and formation of car parking area
18 Station Road
WS Town Council objects as being detrimental to a conservation area.
- b. *21/01062/TCA Notification of intention to fell a Sycamore tree
29 Station Road
The Council deferred to the Tree Officer noting the gradual and continuous denudation of the Conservation Area should be recognised as a real problem
- c. *21/01038/EIASCR A notification letter proposing up to 1450 dwellings, roads and other infrastructure
Land West of Woburn Sands And South of Wavendon Newport Road Wavendon Milton Keynes
Although no response was necessary at this point WSTC did respond to say no objection to the survey but not to be taken as agreement to the proposals for development
- d. *21/00552/FUL Erection of single storey store and change of footpath layout
Asplands Close
This is an amended application. The Council has objected to the original application and object to the amendment as it is a very minor modification and still unsuitable.
WSTC will request this goes to a Development Control meeting and someone must go to speak. It was noted some residents have produced a leaflet protesting about this development. WSTC requested a footpath originally and it was to have a hard surface accessible for all, now it is gravel. The developers appear more interested in security of the development than an accessible footpath.
- e. *21/00734/FUL single storey out building
41 Chapel Street
An amendment; Woburn Sands Council still object because the building is in front of the building line and would set an unacceptable precedent
- f. 21/01016/TCA Notification of intention to remove Thuja Plicata tree
3 Theydon Avenue
Woburn Sands have no objection subject to the approval of the Tree officer
- g. 21/01144/TPO Notification of intent to remove some trees to allow remaining ones to flourish
7 Sandy Court
The Town Council are aware of discussions between MKC Tree Officer and the owners, and are happy therefore to leave the decision as he advises

30/21 **Notification of Decisions made from Milton Keynes Council**

Since sending out the agenda there have been the following notifications:

- 21/00746/FUL 33 Vandyke – approved
- 21/00795/FUL 57 High Street Nail Salon – approved
- 21-00681-FUL 22 Russel Street – approved
- 21/00832/FUL 48 Elm Grove – approved
- 21/00872/TPO 83 Newport Road tree crowning – approved
- 21/00819/CLUP 11 Spring Grove – rejected

31/21 **Report on Councillors meeting with Iain Stewart MP:**

Minutes were taken and will be circulated attached to these minutes

32/21 **East West Rail update:**

WSTC are encouraging Iain Stewart to talk to both EWR and MKC, and for them to consult with each other. The 'options' offered by EWR were discussed with Iain Stewart; he has a clear idea what WSTC want but as an MP any decisions are out of his hands. To keep residents informed the minutes of the meeting with Iain Stewart will be posted on WSTC website, and the website will say to respond to consultation by sending an email to EWR as an easier option than filling in the form.

The WSTC draft response to EWR is to be finalised. Following further discussion on the points in the response, WSTC do not want to suggest the Council is opposed to EWR but that the Council does support rail travel.

33/21 **SID Report:**

the SID machine has had to be repaired following damage while positioned at Newport Road, but will return to the bottom of Hardwick Road soon, therefore there is no report.

34/21 **Purchase a 'Swallowfield Brick' to support the Lower School:**

The Clerk to look into whether we can donate £250 to purchasing a brick.

35/21 **Neighbourhood Plan (NP):**

A new plan will require identifying groups and consulting with residents. WSTC need to consider how to go about a consultation process. It will require commitment from Councillors. What did the last one achieve? Plan: MK has overtaken the last NP and if government planning regulations keep changing, where do we stand? A new NP would have to have the potential to be updated as necessary.

It was decided to discuss how to go about planning for a Neighbourhood Plan at the next meeting.

36/21 **To review budgets, reserves, income and expenditure up to the end of the financial year 31st March 2021:**

WSTC finances look healthy, the Council thanked Lynne and Alison for their work in transferring to a new accounting system.

The reserves and budgets will be look at next meeting and quarterly thereafter.

37/21 **Finance - To consider and approve payments on list enclosed:**

BT monthly direct debit payments were omitted from the accounts to be agreed because BT contract is due to be renewed and BT have agreed with the Clerk to work out a better deal, but have not yet come back with figures.

The accounts were **APPROVED**.

38/21 **Additional hours for the Clerical Assistant:**

The Clerk requested the Clerical Assistant be given more hours. 22 hours per week (which is an extra 7 hours per week) were agreed on a temporary basis for six months and will be looked at in the budget meeting in November.

- The Clerk will report on the total staffing costs to the Council
- A staff appraisal shall take place near the end of the Clerical Assistant's six month probationary period in August

39/21 **Budgets for 21-22:**

Reviewed above, item 36/21

40/21 **Notification of any urgent decisions that have been made:**

- a. The Clerical Assistant worked additional this month
- b. Skip hire £198 (Smith Recycling ask to be paid in advance of sending the skip)

41/21 **Correspondence:**

There are planning changes which mean applicants can make a change of use from business to residential even within Conservation Areas. WSTC need to request MKC for an article 4 direction to protect the High Street. This advice was gratefully received from the Clerk of Newport Pagnell Parish Council. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Skelton would draft a request.

42/21 Councillor's reports and items for next agenda:

- The Clerk will send out a message to request agenda items a week before the next agenda is due to be displayed publicly
- Cllr Farrant showed the meeting a photo of a mural on the end wall of a building in Stony Stratford and suggested sourcing a suitable piece of artwork for the side of the building at the top of Club Lane. The proprietor of Mrs Mac's Cakes suggested the idea
- The Clerk and Mayor would like to put formal staff appraisals in place
- The Young Environmentalist event will need a separate meeting to plan and some Councillors to assist

43/21 Future meetings:

WSTC should be able to return to meetings in the Committee Room at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month from July. Government guidelines mean we still have to socially distance at our meeting in June so this will be in the Memorial Hall.

Date of next meeting:

2.30pm Monday 14th June 2021

Meeting ended 4.50pm

Signed by the Chairperson: