

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Berkshire on Wednesday, 30th July 2014 which commenced at 7.53 pm.

Present

Chairman – The Mayor, Councillor Mrs L Chambers

J Armstrong, Miss L Blumenthal, T Chambers, Ms M De Jong, Ms P Dunn, J Eastwell, M Firmager, G Grandison, D Hare, N Holloway, T Holton, N Jorgensen, Mrs P Jorgensen, Mrs J Lissaman, T Maher, K Miall, A Thomas, B Wedge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Ahmed (religious reasons), A Bradley (work commitment), D Chopping (Maiden Over Meeting), N Page (holiday), Miss J Rance (holiday)

33. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25th June 2014 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. With regard to part 1 of the resolution recorded at Minute 23.1.1 a Member present asked for an update on the results of the Town Clerk's discussion with the Town Clerk of Woodley regarding the contents of the Minutes of the Woodley Town Council meeting held on 13th May. In response, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Minutes were a correct record of the proceedings at that meeting.

Concern was expressed that whilst the Minutes may be a true reflection of the discussion which had taken place at the 13th May Meeting of Woodley Town Council, the statement that had been made was inaccurate, as at that time, the Town Council had made no decision on whether to appoint representatives to the Site of Urban Landscape Value Joint Working Party. At the request of a Member the Town Clerk, was asked to arrange for this matter to be further discussed at the next meeting of the Full Council on 15th October.

34. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor announced that, since the last meeting of the Town Council, she had attended a number of events as follows:-

27th June – Radstock School Summer Fete and Bigtop Circus in the evening.

29th June – Retirement Service and Lunch for the Reverend Derek Spears and also a Service in the evening.

2nd July – Silverdale Centre Music Fusion Group Re-Launch

4th July – St Nicolas Scouts Group where she had awarded three Scouts with St. George's Awards.

6th July – A service at Reading Minster to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of World War I.

7th July – Berkshire County Scouts' Celebration

35. **TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

35.1 *Planning Committee*

35.1.1 *Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th July 2014*

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th July 2014 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor T Chambers.

On the proposition of Councillor T Chambers seconded by Councillor B Wedge it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th July 2014 (Minutes 26 - 35) be adopted.

35.2 *Amenities & Leisure Committee*

There was one amendment to the Minutes at the end of the 1st paragraph under item 20.1.1 where the number of Town Councillors in attendance should read 4 and not 3.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held on 9th July were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor M Firmager. In presenting the Minutes Councillor Firmager highlighted that this was the first meeting attended by the new Facilities Manager, Stewart Walton; the Music Fusion Project re-launched detailed under Minute 20.1.1; the work to the new Car Park at Sol Joel Park recorded at Minute 21.1; the Green Fair and the World War I commemorations.

A Member present asked for an update on the situation with regard to the Gas Contractor who had gone into liquidation, which had resulted in another Contractor having to be appointed to carry out the work at the new pavilion at Sol Joel Park. The Town Clerk confirmed that the money had, unfortunately been lost and would have to be written off; another Member present suggested that this may be covered by insurance and the Town Clerk was requested to investigate this further.

Councillor Firmager then drew attention to the recommendation at Minute 22, regarding the possible transfer of various areas within the new Sibly Park Development, including Redhatch Copse, being transferred to the Town Council.

On the proposition of Councillor M Firmager seconded by Councillor G Grandison it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held on 9th July 2014 (Minutes 19 - 28), as amended, be approved and the recommendation at Minute 22 be adopted.

35.3 *Policy & Resources Committee*

The Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 16th July 2014 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor A Thomas. Councillors were advised that Councillor T Holton had been attending a Borough Council Meeting and requested that the Minutes should be amended accordingly.

In presenting the Minutes, Councillor Thomas highlighted the item in respect of the Earley Town Plan.

On the proposition of Councillor A Thomas seconded by Councillor D Hare it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 16th July 2014 (Minutes 12 – 19) as amended be adopted.

36. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

36.1 Reports of Representatives

Councillors noted details of the written reports in respect of the Earley Day Centre, Readibus and the Queen Victoria Institute Fund which had been circulated with the Agenda and Supplementary Agenda for this meeting.

36.2 Borough Parish Council Working Group

Councillor J Armstrong gave a verbal report on the first meeting of the Borough Parish Council Working Group which took place on 15th July at the Borough Council Offices at Shute End; Councillor Armstrong confirmed that this was the first meeting of the reformed group and the meetings would be held on a quarterly basis. Councillor M Firmager had been elected as Chairman. The discussions were wide ranging, including a request that Borough Council Planning Officers should visit Councils and advise on regulations. It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Working Group was on 23rd October.

37. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE LEASES

In view of the confidential nature of the item under discussion it was

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of this item.

38. THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Councillors were reminded that this award was given annually in recognition of outstanding achievement by groups of people in the United Kingdom who volunteer their own time to enhance and improve the quality of life and opportunities for individuals in the community. A letter received from the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire inviting nominations for this award had been circulated with the Agenda for Councillors' consideration.

Councillors were advised that the EASI litter picking group, which had been nominated by the Town Council in 2013, had been kept on the list for the following year.

Councillors were asked to consider any other nominations which they would wish to submit.

The Earley Charity was a suggestion put forward by a Member, and it was confirmed that the charity was not just a grant making body but had involvement in many other aspects of supporting the community, not just in Earley but in Reading Borough Council area, Shinfield, Whitley and Sonning. The Town Clerk requested that the Member nominating the Earley Charity should liaise with him outside the meeting to ensure that the Town Council's submission was as detailed as possible.

Concern was expressed that the Earley Charity may not be eligible to receive the Award and that the Town Council should consider a further nomination in reserve.

After further discussion, on the proposition of Councillor B Wedge seconded by Councillor D Hare it was

RESOLVED that

- 1 subject to confirmation of the organisation's eligibility for the Award, the Town Council's nomination for 2014 should be the Earley Charity
- 2 on confirmation that the Earley Charity was eligible for nomination, the Town Clerk be requested to write to other local Councils in the area in which the Earley Charity has an involvement, seeking those Councils' support for the nomination and
- 3 The Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau be the reserve nomination for 2014, and the Town Council's nomination for 2015.

39. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCES

39.1 Record of Members' Attendance

Details of Councillors' attendances since the beginning of the current municipal year had been circulated with the Agenda for consideration. Following the amendments to the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, discussed earlier in the meeting, it was noted that the Attendance List would require amending to highlight that Councillor T Holton was absent from the Policy and Resources Committee because of his attendance at the Borough Council meeting. It was

RESOLVED that details of Councillors' Attendances for 2014, as amended and appended to these Minutes, be noted.

40. WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATIONS

Councillors were referred to Minutes 11 and 24 of the Amenities & Leisure Committee and, in particular, the proposal to hold a Civic Service of Commemoration in remembrance of the fallen from the Town of Earley.

Following the retirement of the Revd Derek Spears, the Town Clerk had been in discussion with Church Wardens who now had the responsibility of organising the Service. Councillors were further reminded that at Minute 11 it was reported that the Revd Spears was of the opinion that, due to the numerous commemorations that would be taking place during the period, it would be more prudent to hold this Service some time in September. Consequently, the Church Wardens were proposing an Ecumenical Service to be held at 6.30pm on a Sunday in September and were suggesting either 14th, 21st or 28th September as possible dates.

Having considered the dates available, those Councillors who felt that they would be in a position to attend the Service indicated a preference for it taking place on 21st September.

41. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED that the various accounts as set out in the list attached to these Minutes (Vouchers 146 – 191) be paid in the sums as stated.

42. PUBLICATIONS

It was noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal in the Council Offices:

Maiden Erlegh Residents' Association:	Minutes of meeting held 10 th July 2014. Magazine – Summer 2014, Issue 163.
Wokingham Borough Council:	Agenda for Meeting of The Executive to be held on 31 st July 2014.
Readibus:	Review of the Year 2013/14.
Queen Victoria Institute Fund	Minutes of Meeting held 22 nd July 2014.

43. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

44. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.06pm.