



## **EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 which commenced at 7.00pm.

### **Present**

Chair – The Town Mayor, Councillor M Smith

Councillors: R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, N Brock, R Browne, R Cook, J Eastwell, D Hare, T Holton, M Iyengunmwena, S Jordan, P Jorgensen, I Khayinza, G Littler, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Neal, B Owen, H Sarasan and C Smith.

In Attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk) and E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk).

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### **43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M De Jong, N Jorgensen and S Newton.

### **44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **45. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 (Minutes 23 – 42) were a true and correct record and could be signed by the Chair.

### **47. TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

- 47.1 Councillors received a written report from the Town Mayor detailing the events he had recently attended. These included the Wokingham Pride event, an Aldryngton Primary School assembly, ETC's Green Fair, Daisy's Dream's Teddy Bear Picnic, Royal County of Berkshire Cadet Forces annual camp Open Day, the Reading Pride event, opening celebrations at St Nicolas' Art Space for the Earley patchwork "One Square at a Time", ETC's Allotment Competition judging and a visit to Lower Earley Salvation Army Men's Breakfast.

#### **47.2 Town Mayor's Reception**

Councillors noted that the Town Mayor's reception will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Radstock Lane Community Centre.

#### **47.3 Deputy Town Mayor's Communications**

Councillors received a written report from the Deputy Town Mayor on her attendance at Wokingham Volunteer Centre's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024, which was attended by current and former volunteers, staff, partner organisations, funders and supporters.

## **48. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **48.1 Amenities and Leisure Committee**

Councillor Brock presented the draft Minutes of the Amenities and Leisure Committee meeting (Minutes 18 - 31) held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Council received the draft Minutes.

### **48.2 Planning Committee**

Councillor M Smith presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting (Minutes 30 - 43) held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

Councillor M Smith presented the draft Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting (Minutes 44 - 58) held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

### **48.3 Policy and Resources Committee**

Councillor D Hare presented the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting (Minutes 1 - 20) held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

Councillor D Hare presented the draft Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting (Minutes 21 - 40) held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

## **49. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

### **49.1 University of Reading**

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk on her attendance at a collaboration meeting between the University of Reading and Earley Town Council on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which was also attended by Councillor Hare. These meetings will be held every two months to discuss and develop ways in which the two organisations can work together.

### **49.2 South West Railway Stakeholder Teams Meeting**

Councillors received a verbal report from Councillor Bassett on her attendance at the South West Railway Stakeholder Teams Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. Attendees were told of community rail events such as Stations in Bloom and next year's 200 years celebration of railway heritage. Councillor Bassett recommended that a representative be appointed to attend future meetings and it was agreed that this will be done at the next Full Council meeting in November 2024.

### **49.3 Kenton Road Day Centre**

Members received a verbal report from Councillor Bassett on her attendance at a meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The day centre is still looking to change its name to something that better reflects its activities. The centre is also looking to replace its stacking chairs and has been advised of ETC's Grants process.

### **49.4 Wokingham Waterside Centre**

Councillors received a written report from Councillor Jordan on a board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024, which she had been unable to attend. It was reported that the wet weather and news coverage about Thames Water's spillage of sewage in the Thames had impacted the centre's income.

49.5 MoreArts

Members received a verbal report from Councillor Matthews stating that, due to the impacts of the pandemic, the charity has decided to close.

50. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

Councillors received an update from the Town Clerk on ETC's current Climate Emergency Action Plan and Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Climate Emergency Working Group has not met since April 2022 and no members were appointed to the Working Group following the Council elections in May 2023. Council officers have continued to apply ETC's green agenda principles to everyday working practices.

It was **RESOLVED** that a new Working Group be formed consisting of Councillors A Bassett, A Long, R Cook, M Iyengunmwena and A Neal. The group will review both the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

51. **COLLINS DRIVE PLAY AREA**

Members were pleased to note that the Collins Drive play area is now fully open and the project completed.

52. **WBC STANDARDS COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

Councillors received Wokingham Borough Council Standards Committee Annual Report 2023/2024.

53. **COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE**

Record of Members' Attendance

Councillors noted the details of Councillors' attendance during 2024/25 at meetings of the Council and its Committees.

54. **ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

Members noted the details of Orders for Payment (Vouchers 7057 & 7072 - 7084, 7085 – 7111, 7112 – 7121 and Imprest vouchers 994 – 996).

55. **PUBLICATIONS**

Councillors noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal from the Council Offices:

Office of the PCC	E-newsletter September 2024
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Friendship Alliance e-newsletter	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2024

*Councillor Hare left the meeting.*

56. **PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

No press releases were requested.

*Councillor Hare entered the meeting.*

*Councillor Holton left the meeting.*

**57. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

**PART II**

**58. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

*Councillor Holton entered the meeting.*

**59. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**60. MAYS LANE CEMETERY**

**61. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 8.34pm.

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**Town Mayor**