

# EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk  
JO FRIEND BA(Hons) PSLCC



Council Offices  
Radstock Lane  
Earley, Reading  
RG6 5UL

Tel: (0118) 986 8995

29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Councillor

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of Earley Town Council will be held on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025** commencing at 7pm in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley.

Yours faithfully

*Jo Friend*

TOWN CLERK

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## A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest from Members.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

To receive any questions from members of the public attending the meeting. The Public Forum shall not exceed 15 minutes. If there are no questions, the Council will commence business forthwith.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and, if appropriate, to agree they represent a true and correct record and **RESOLVE** they be signed by the Chair.

5. TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

5.1 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to bring to the notice of the Council.

*Appendix A*

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

To receive the minutes of the following meetings:

6.1 Amenities & Leisure Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (*draft*) (Minutes 47 – 64)

- 6.2 Planning Committee - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Minutes 89 - 106)  
7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (*draft*) (Minutes 107 – 120)

- 6.3 Policy & Resources Committee - 22nd January 2025 (*draft*) (Minutes 61 – 76)

## 7. **REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

To receive Councillors' reports on meetings of outside bodies on which this Council is represented:

### 7.1 University of Reading

To receive a written report from the Town Clerk on the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

*Appendix B*

### 7.2 More Arts

To note that More Arts is closing on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and will therefore no longer be in need of a town council representative.

### 7.3 Queen Victoria Institute Fund

To note that the QVIF is in the process of registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and dissolving the old charity QVIF. The Trustees have decided that they will no longer ask the Town Council for a nomination to the board of the new charity, ETC will therefore no longer be providing a representative to QVIF. To also note that ETC's current representative, Cllr D Hare, has agreed with QVIF that he will stand in a personal capacity as a Trustee of the new charity.

## 8. **ANNUAL FEES & CHARGES REVIEW 2025/26**

To receive a report on the recommendations of the Amenities & Leisure Committee and to **RESOLVE** accordingly.

*Appendix C*

## 9. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26**

To consider the discussions had at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 and the further discussions at the meeting of the Budget Working Party on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A report on both meetings is attached. Council is required to **RESOLVE** upon a budget for 2025/26 and to **RESOLVE** upon a precept for 2025/26.

*Electronic copy provided, hard copies available*

*Appendix D*

### 9.1 Town Council Budget 2025/26

To discuss matters arising from previous budget discussions and to consider recommendations from the previous meetings. Councillors to agree a budget for 2025/26.

Members to **RESOLVE** accordingly.

*Appendix D*

### 9.2 Town Council Precept 2025/26

Councillors to agree a precept for 2025/26.

Members to **RESOLVE** accordingly.

*Appendix D*

**10. SERVICE TO EARLEY AWARD 2024**

To note that the Service to Earley Award 2024 was presented to Liz Kerry for her work organising the Earley One Square at a Time patchwork as well as her involvement on other community works around Earley. The presentation was made at the Mayor's Reception on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

To note that, also at the Mayor's Reception, a Special Recognition Award was presented to Fraser, the Pets as Therapy dog for his work supporting residents at Austen House Care Home. The awards were given quite a lot of publicity locally, including a full page in Wokingham Today.

**11. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

To receive an updated Community Governance Review paper as provided by Wokingham Borough Council.

*Appendix E*

**12. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025/26**

- 12.1 To consider the proposed Schedule of Meetings 2025/26 and to **RESOLVE** accordingly.

*Appendix F*

**13. CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF SANCTIONS**

To note that the Government is now consulting on proposals for the introduction of sanctions on councillors in local government found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct, a move that NALC and SLCC are supporting. The proposals include:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals

As a signatory to the Civility & Respect Pledge, Members of Earley Town Council are encouraged to view the consultation and submit their individual responses. The consultation closes on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Details of the consultation can be found at:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england-](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england-)

**14. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE**

- 14.1 Record of Members' Attendance

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

*Appendix G*

**15. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

No Orders for Payment have been issued since the last meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

**16. PUBLICATIONS**

To note that the following publications have been received and are available for perusal from the Council Offices:

Office of the PCC	E-newsletter November & December 2024
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Friendship Alliance e-newsletter	8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

To decide whether any of the foregoing items of business shall form the subject of a press release.

**18. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

*To agree that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable that the public and press are temporarily excluded and are asked to withdraw for items 19, 20 and 21 on the Agenda.*

**19. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

To consider the Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Minutes 78 – 81) and, if appropriate, to agree they represent a true and correct record and **RESOLVE** they be signed by the Chair.

**20. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

To receive the Confidential Minutes of the following meetings:

- 20.1 Policy & Resources Committee - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 (*draft*) (Minutes 74– 75)

**21. MAYS LANE CEMETERY**

To receive an update on the work of the Cemetery Working Group.

*Confidential Appendix H*