

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Jack Nelson – Town Mayor
Councillor John Fitzpatrick – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Frank Bowron Councillor Sheila Jones
Councillor Lenny Brandon Councillor Kim Langley
Councillor James Broach Councillor Linda Mendez
Councillor Heather Ciarleglio Councillor Geoff Wiltshire
Councillor Kerstin Holman Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri
Councillor Phil Knott

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)
Sam Frake (Head of Operations)

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Councillor J. Nelson was elected Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick was elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor George Relph.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Councillor L. Brandon was elected Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Knott was elected Deputy Leader of the Council. Councillor G. Wiltshire was elected Leader of the Opposition and Councillor K. Langley was elected Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

6. STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council thanked Councillor Broach for his year as Mayor and wished Councillor Nelson well as Mayor for 2018/19.

He said that 4 years had flown by. There had been 4 by-elections, 3 Conservative Councillors had gone Independent and 1 had walked the floor. The cost of the latest by-election was not yet known but 3 previous by-elections had cost tax-payers £16,000.

The Town Council now operated more functions, worked hard, was in better shape and reserves were up.

Part 2 of our Leisure Services Review was almost complete. Part 1 looked at the management structure and staffing of the Leisure Centre, Part 2 would be looking at the service provided at our halls. Cllr Brandon thanked all of the Town Council's staff for the dedication and support during the review and for their continued hard work.

Turning to the Council's properties he advised that Roe Hill Hall was undergoing refurbishment at the moment. A coffee shop had been opened up and would be extending its hours of opening shortly. The bar would be re-opening after the £20,000 refurbishment providing the community with another licenced function hall to hire at reasonable rates. Outdoor gym equipment would be put in soon and it was hoped that the play equipment could be moved nearer to the coffee shop.

Newgate Street Village hall had new windows installed improving its energy efficiency. The tennis courts had been resurfaced and plans were being looked at to introduce outdoor gym equipment and skatepark equipment or BMX mounds to keep the teenagers of Newgate Street amused.

The War Memorial Gardens lighting had been completed except for the column which would be done soon.

Lemsford Village Hall and deHavilland Grange had had some informal plans drafted to enable discussions with the Football Foundation.

At Birchwood Leisure Centre the new Coffee Shop was working well. Other plans were still in the making and it was hoped that we could bring them forward in the next 2 months or so.

All our sites were compliant, we had new tills taking card payments, we now paid invoices by BACS rather than cheques, our accounts systems were up to date and efficient.

We would be hosting our third Music Festival this year and we would be hosting our third Fireworks Night in November. We had held 2 Sports and Community Award nights.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day were events that the Town was proud of and he would like to thank Graham and Sam Frake for all they do. The programme provided at these events was a worthy souvenir.

As a member of Hatfield 2030+ the Leader ensured that the people of Hatfield's voice was heard amongst this group making decisions on our behalf.

We had started Walking Football in Hatfield which had proved so popular that we had put on a Friday night session for working participants. They had

played against Barnet, West Ham and Barnet and hoped to go to a tournament in the Netherlands in July.

Our Blue Plaque Scheme had finally taken off with a temporary plaque in place for Mr Gunn and a new application submitted for Donovan. More applications were in the pipeline for George Martin, Norman Wisdom, David Kossoff and Paul Kossoff all who coincidentally lived in Roe Green Close!

Our 10K run at Hatfield House last October was a great success, regretfully we were unable to hold it again in 2018 but had been promised a slot in 2019. We were looking into a half marathon around Hatfield in October 2018 but that would depend on road closures.

We were preparing for Armed Forces Day in the Galleria on 30th June and as Hatfield's Poppy Organisers collections would be co-ordinated in October & November, thank you again to Sam Frake.

The Jamie McVeigh Foundation would be the Mayor's Charity in 2018/19.

Councillor Brandon thanked his fellow Labour Councillors for their support, the 2 Independent Councillors and Councillor Wiltshire.

7. QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked how much the by-election had cost in November. He was advised that it cost £6,426.04.

8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2018 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Planning Committee – 14th March 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

b) Annual Town Meeting – 21st March 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted.

c) Sport & Leisure Committee – 28th March 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

d) Planning Committee – 4th April 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

e) Resources and Policy Committee – 11th April 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

e) Planning Committee – 25th April 2018

RESOLVED that the Minutes be noted and any recommendations be approved.

10. COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES

Nominations to existing Committees were approved as follows;

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the majority party are ex-officio voting Members of each of the Committees (shown underlined).

Resources and Policy Committee: (7 Members)

Chairman: Cllr J. Fitzpatrick **Vice Chairman:** L. Mendez
Members: Cllrs F. Bowron, L. Brandon, S. Jones, P. Knott, J. Nelson,
G. Wiltshire, B. Zhaveri

Sport and Leisure Committee: (6 Members)

Chairman: Councillor P. Knott **Vice Chairman:**
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Members: Cllrs F. Bowron, L. Brandon, H. Ciarleglio, K. Holman, L.
Mendez, J. Nelson

Planning Committee: 7 Members

Chairman: Councillor J. Broach **Vice Chairman:** Councillor
S. Jones
Members: Cllrs F. Bowron, L. Brandon, H. Ciarleglio, P. Knott, K. Langley,
M. Eames-Petersen, K. Holman

Grants Sub Committee: 5 Members

Chairman: Councillor J. Nelson **Vice Chairman:** Councillor S. Jones

Members: Councillors F. Bowron, L. Mendez, K. Holman

Establishment Sub Committee: (Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of Resources & Policy Committee, Leader (or Deputy Leader) of the Council and an Independent Member

Chairman: Councillor L. Brandon **Vice Chairman:** Councillor P. Knott

Members: Councillors J. Fitzpatrick and F. Bowron

Appeals Sub Committee - (3 Members)

All Members are Members of the Appeals Sub Committee provided they have not been involved with the matter under discussion beforehand.

All Members are substitute members.

Football Ground Working Group: (Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Leader of the Opposition or their representative, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Resources & Policy Committee, Leisure Committee Chairman), 2 Community representatives, representatives of Hatfield Town FC, AFC Hatfield and Hatfield Social FC, Borough Council, Herts Sports Partnership, University of Herts.)

11. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following nominations be made;

		2018/19 Members
a)	Welwyn Hatfield CVS	Cllr. L. Mendez
b)	Newgate Street Village Hall	Cllr. G. Wiltshire Cllr. J. Nelson
c)	Welwyn Hatfield Association of Local Councils	Cllr. J. Fitzpatrick Cllr. J. Nelson Cllr. J. Broach
d)	Wellfield Trust	Cllr. L. Mendez Cllr. J. Broach Tara Lyons
e)	Welwyn Hatfield Fairtrade Steering Group	Cllr. L. Brandon
f)	Town Team Marketing, PR & events Group	Cllr. L. Brandon
g)	Town Team Look and Feel	Cllr. L. Brandon
h)	Town Team Safety & Security	Cllr. L. Brandon

i)	Welwyn Hatfield Highways Liaison Meeting	Cllr. M. Eames-Petersen
j)	Hatfield 2030+	Cllr. L. Brandon Sub. Cllr. P. Knott
k)	Town Team	Town Clerk
l)	Community Liaison Forum (University)	Cllr. M. Eames-Petersen
m)	Borough, Town & Parishes Meeting	Cllr. L. Brandon Town Clerk
n)	Development Management Committee (Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council)	Cllr. S. Jones
o)	Hatfield Community Sports Fund Board	Cllr. L. Brandon
p)	Ellenbrook Park Preservation Trust	Cllr. L. Brandon
q)	Police liaison	Cllr. L. Brandon

12. EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL (AUDIT)

Members considered the effectiveness of internal control and RESOLVED that all standards had been met.

(Action: Town Clerk)

13. INVESTMENTS

Members considered the report of officers and requested that a further report be brought back to Resources & Policy Committee on the CCLA deposit account return for consideration.

(Action: Town Clerk)

14. BIRCHWOOD & DeHAVILLAND PLAYINGFIELDS TRUST CAR BOOT

Members considered permitting the Trust to run a car boot with another operator 14 Saturdays in the year on Birchwood Playing fields to raise funds.

RESOLVED that the Birchwood & deHavilland Playing Fields Trust be permitted to hold 14 car boot events on the Council's playing field during the year with an operator provided that all previous conditions regarding signage, parking on streets etc remain in place.

(Action: Town Clerk)

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 20th June 2018.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded for the following items as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

- (i) Financial Matters

17. REPORT BY INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Members considered the report by Greenbiro. Cllr Wiltshire undertook to look into false allegations by members of the Conservative Party on social media. RESOLVED that the full report (if possible) and its recommendations be considered in public at Resources and Policy Committee in June.

(Action: Town Clerk)

Closure: 9.05pm

Mayor