

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Jack Nelson – Town Mayor

Councillor Frank Bowron	Councillor Sheila Jones
Councillor Lenny Brandon	Councillor Phil Knott
Councillor James Broach	Councillor Linda Mendez
Councillor Margaret Eames-Petersen	Councillor Geoff Wiltshire

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)
Sam Frake (Deputy Town Clerk)

54. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heather Ciarleglio (unwell), Councillor John Fitzpatrick (work commitment), Councillor Kerstin Holman (illness), Councillor Kim Langley (illness), Councillor George Relph (illness), Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri (work commitment).

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Councillor Eames-Petersen declared an interest in agenda item 7 - planning application – 6/2018/2768/outline Hatfield Business Hark, Hatfield AL10 9SL – outline application for a large scale mixed use development including 1,100 new homes and supporting infrastructure including a primary school, local centre and open space with all matters reserved as she had already stated her opinion on the application.

56. QUESTION TIME

Ellenbrook Residents Association asked the following question;

We welcome the progress made on the development of a design for the Ellenbrook playground and are delighted to see an innovative approach being taken to provide an exciting facility for all residents.

We recognise that there is significant cost involved and would ask you, the Town Council to support this and let us know if they have made any progress on identifying the funding for the playground project?

The Leader of the Council advised that a grant of £10,000 had already been obtained from True Colours Trust. Three further funding opportunities had been identified by Groundwork Trust and they would be working with the Town Council to apply for those grants.

Cllr Bowron undertook to follow up with Grant Shapps MP on his promise to assist with funding opportunities.

The Residents' Association advised that they had raised over £3,500 themselves towards the project, for which they were congratulated.

Ellenbrook Residents' Association also asked a question regarding the planning application to build 1100 home on Ellenbrook Fields, Item 7 on the agenda.

Ellenbrook Residents Association object to this this planning application on the following grounds.

- This development will result in the loss of the vast majority of the open space for residents as promised in the 1999 planning permission for the Hatfield Aerodrome.
- If this development is approved it means that WHBC will have reneged on the Section 106 agreement for the creation of the Country Park for local residents
- The country park is a vital part of the community, supporting the health and well-being of the residents of Hatfield.
- This development will increase the excessive concentration of housing development in the Hatfield Garden Villages area
- The development will increase the traffic congestion and noise and air pollution which is already a significant issue in this area and is detrimental to the health and well-being of local residents
- And finally we are concerned about the potential risk to our drinking water caused by development on a site where bromate is present

If this development goes ahead alongside the quarry application there will only be a very tiny part of useable country park remaining for residents which makes a mockery of the Section 106 process.

Our question is

What are you the councillors and Hatfield Town Council doing to ensure that the land set aside for the Ellenbrook Country Park is released by the owners and the Section 106 is enforced, and the current planning application to build houses on our land is rejected?

The Chairman of Planning Committee, Councillor Broach, advised that once the Council had considered the application at item 7 on the agenda, should it decide to object to the application, he would attend any meetings at the Borough Council to press the Town Council view and liaise with the Residents' Association to maximise use of the public speaking time.

57. MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2018 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

58. REPORTS OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Brandon advised that although he had been very busy with lots of meetings, he could not yet report any concrete outcomes. He thanked Cllr Knott for his support at those meetings.

59. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Resources & Policy Committee – 21st November 2018

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

Councillor Eames-Petersen left the meeting.

60. PLANNING APPLICATION – 6/2018/2768/OUTLINE HATFIELD BUSINESS PARK, HATFIELD AL10 9SL – OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR A LARGE SCALE MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING 1,100 NEW HOMES AND SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING A PRIMARY SCHOOL, LOCAL CENTRE AND OPEN SPACE WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED

Members considered the application. RESOLVED that The Town Council objects to the size of the development in a location not identified for residential development in the Local Plan. It is over development in the Green Belt contrary to Policy. Mineral Extraction and this development will lead to loss of 90% of greenspace identified in a s.106 Agreement as Trust land for a country park to off-set residential development of the aerospace site. Members are further concerned at contaminated land on site.

Councillor Eames-Petersen re-joined the meeting

61. AUDIT 2017/18

Members considered the final external auditor report from PKF Littlejohn LLP. It was noted that Assertion 4 and Assertion 7 in Section 1 should be amended to “No”.

Members noted the comments regarding some weaknesses in accounting records but also referred to the internal auditors’ report which showed significant progress by year end.

Concern was raised at the untimely manner in which the external auditor’s interim and final reports were received.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Action: Town Clerk)

62. TOWN COUNCIL LOGO

Members noted the draft logo in red and RESOLVED that it be created professionally and used but without incurring big expense in re-branding Town Council property.

(Action: Town Clerk)

63. TOWN COUNCIL APP

Members considered the quotation by Willowweb media and RESOLVED that they be engaged to create an app and the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conclude negotiations on ongoing maintenance costs including use of existing Council staff following consultation with, and concurrence by, the Leader of the Town Council.

(Action: Town Clerk)

64. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 23rd January 2018.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Allotments
- (ii) Professional fees

66. ALLOTMENTS

Members considered the report of officers and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to continue discussions with the potential landlord including requesting that they consider paying towards planning application for change of use.

(Action: Town Clerk)

67. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Members were advised that professional fees were required costing £2,000 RESOLVED that the cost be approved.

Closure: 9.45pm

Mayor