



Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Eames-Petersen– Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor Mark Bolitho Councillor Caron Juggins  
Councillor Lenny Brandon Councillor Hazel Laming  
Councillor Jackie Brennan Councillor Angus MacKay  
Councillor Richard Brisbin Councillor Lee Newman  
Councillor Rory Craig Councillor John Percival  
Councillor Richard Griffiths Councillor Tristan Wiltshire  
Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)  
Sam Frake (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Alistair Ogilvie (Estates Manager)  
Jane Anderson (Office Manager)

The Mayor Jack Nelson in the Chair

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Linda Mendez was elected a Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Margaret Eames-Petersen was elected Deputy Town Mayor and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mendez.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest.

5. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADERS OF POLITICAL GROUPS

It was noted that Councillor Brandon was Leader of the Council and Councillor Juggins was Deputy Leader of the Council and Councillor Brennan was Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Councillor Brandon welcomed the new Councillors to the Town Council. He thanked the out going Councillors and Mayor for the time and effort they had put in over the last four years. He thanked the Council staff particularly the Grounds staff and praised the work of the Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator and the Council's Parade Marshall Graham Frake. Councillor Brandon thanked Councillor Juggins for enabling the Council to progress into 2019 with renewed purpose for the benefit of the people of Hatfield. He reiterated the Council's pledge to fight the Town's cause against the Bromate Plume.

6. QUESTION TIME

The Ellenbrook Residents Association asked the following question;

As a result of the elections and changes in councillors we would like to ask what effect that will have on your actions as a Town Council regarding the Bromate pollution issues that were previously discussed in the meetings on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Will you endeavour to ensure that the Environment Agency and Affinity Water take a 'no risk' position in relation to the preservation of the ground water and prevention of potential contamination from the bromate plume by any activity such as the proposed quarry.

Will you also please push to have the Ellenbrook Country Park and Trust formed along with the original Sec106 order, made in 2000, enforced as it stands, and not allow the developers Arlingtons to make alterations to it that are wholly in their favour.

Members agreed that it would be useful to have a meeting with the Residents' Association and prior to that a briefing paper should be sent to them regarding the Bromate Plume.

The Ellenbrook Residents Association asked the following question;

We would like to raise some concerns we have over the security of the playground at Ellenbrook Recreation Ground, Ellenbrook Lane, Hatfield.

As you are probably aware works involving considerable sums of money, from HTC, grant funding and resident funding have started in relation to the re-furbishing of the children's play area and surrounding open space.

Due to the size of the plot, the location which is hardly overlooked and the lack of effective security, especially at the entrance off Ellenbrook lane, makes this site vulnerable.

We are concerned that this could present an easy target for persons to bring vehicles onto the site and remove some of the expensive items of play equipment being installed and or cause damage to the site.

Also, considering recent events elsewhere where sites like this have been occupied by travellers moving caravans onto the area, we thought that some proactive security precautions now could save monies in the long run.

Please could consideration be given to the placement of width and or height restricting barriers at the entrance to mitigate this risk of site theft, damage or occupation.

The Estates Manger undertook to look at the site the following day to see what could be carried out immediately at low cost, otherwise this would stand referred to Sport and Leisure Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

Mr N. Hutton asked the following question:

I live close to 'The Dell' wooded area in Hatfield, which is owned and managed by the Town Council.

Whilst I support the aim to provide a continuous footway along Mount Pleasant Lane, I am very concerned about the way this is being implemented by the County Council.

The lane has existed for at least 250 years and gives the area its particular character. If you travel along this road you will have seen these so called 'improvements' – which include decimating ancient hedges and unnecessarily digging up grass verges.

The County Council have also started building a cycle path which provides a useful link for pedestrians and cyclists from the A1000 towards Tesco. However the way this is being built – replacing a grass slope with a highly intrusive concrete retaining wall is nothing less than landscape vandalism. The County Council will not accept that there is anything wrong with their choice of stark concrete, when in my professional opinion, the easier and cheaper, yes cheaper, option of moving the current slope back by around 1 metre is the right solution here.

The County Council only intend to build a small part of the 'missing footway link' alongside The Dell as part of the first phase of this project and this requires Town Council agreement. I fear that the County Council propose to construct another retaining wall like the one they have built on the cycleway, this will look just as bad as that stark concrete wall.

My question is therefore - Have the County Council said what type of construction they intend to use next to The Dell?

I would ask the Town Council to withhold or withdraw permission for the County Council to do works on Town Council land until the Town Council are satisfied that the construction works here will retain or relocate the existing hedge bank that gives Mount Pleasant Lane its distinctive character.

Members agreed that no work should commence on site until a meeting had been held with County Councillor Susie Gordon and the exact plans were known for the treatment of the boundary with the Town Council land for Phase 1. If necessary the Resources and Policy Committee would consider this further on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that To the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the following Meetings of the Council's Committees be noted;

- a) Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- b) Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

9. COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members approved the Terms of Reference attached at **Appendix A.**

10. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to the Council's Standing Committees and Sub Committees and substitute members as at **Appendix B.**

11. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be approved as attached at **Appendix C.**

12. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED that Financial Regulations be approved as attached at **Appendix D.**

13. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that Members be appointed to Outside Bodies as at **Appendix E.**

14. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Members RESOLVED that the Council meet the required criteria.

15. BANK MANDATE

Members RESOLVED that Councillors Brandon, Mendez, Bolitho, Griffiths, Zhaveri and Brisbin be signatories to the Council's bank account at NAT WEST.

16. REVIEW OF ASSETS

RESOLVED that the Council's assets be noted and the date for a tour of Council owned and managed land be arranged shortly.

17. INSURANCE

Members noted that the Town Council is insured through Zurich.

18. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

RESOLVED that the Complaints Procedure be amended to amend pronouns to gender neutral and then be approved as attached at **Appendix F**.

19. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES IN RESPECT OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

RESOLVED that the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, Document Retention Policy, Hirers' Privacy Policy, Recruitment Privacy Notice and Privacy Statement be approved.

20. PRESS/MEDIA PROTOCOL

RESOLVED that the protocol be approved as attached at **APPENDIX G**.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next Council meeting would be 7.30pm on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Closure: 20:55

Mayor