



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Eames-Petersen (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)

Councillor Lenny Brandon	Councillor Caron Juggins
Councillor Jackie Brennan	Councillor Hazel Laming
Councillor Richard Brisbin	Councillor Tristan Wiltshire
Councillor Richard Griffiths	

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)  
Sam Frake (Head of Operations)  
Ali Ogilvie (Head of Estates)  
Jane Anderson (Office Manager)

#### **68. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Linda Mendez (unwell) Councillor Mark Bolitho (unwell), Councillor Rory Craig (work), Councillor Angus Mackay (work), Councillor John Percival (unwell) and Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri (unwell).

Councillor Lee Newman was delayed and was unable to attend the meeting at all.

#### **69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Griffiths declared an interest in the Hilltop Development as his son is Project Manager and he declared an interest in the War Memorial Cleaning as one of the tendering companies was a client.

#### **70. QUESTION TIME**

Mr D. Brandon expressed concern that nothing had been done about the shipping container on a green at Aldykes and Briars Wood and the length of time it had been left there. He had first raised this in October 2019. It was acknowledged that this was not a Town Council matter but it would be re-reported through to Borough or County Council.

#### **71. MINUTES**

The Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

## **72. HCC PLANNING APPLICATION 5/0394-16**

Members considered the latest information regarding this application. It was noted that Ellenbrook Residents' Association were funding a flood risk expert from recent donations but the cost of a Bromate Specialist of £800 was still needed.

The Council was aware that it needed assistance from the expert advice too and RESOLVED that

- (i) £800 be agreed towards funding the expert's attendance at HCC Development Control Committee;
- (ii) The Town Clerk respond to the consultation following consultation with the Deputy Town Mayor;
- (iii) The Town Clerk write to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council requesting that they contribute towards a fighting fund against this and future applications on this site.

(Action: Town Clerk)

Councillor Griffiths left the meeting

## **73. HILLTOP REDEVELOPMENT**

Members noted the notes from the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

It was noted that the Town Council had now grant funded £2,000 towards the Youth Club car Park.

Due to the change in circumstances at Jimmy Mac's it was RESOLVED that Colin Haig and Vicki Hatfield be contacted at the Borough Council to discuss a shared electric car scheme, additional parking provision for Jimmy Mac's particularly on Friday nights, the Town Council being included on the Board of Trustees for the £50,000 Community Fund and the fund be directed towards alleviating the parking problems at the Youth Club and consideration be given to provided external electric sockets to the shops for Christmas lights.

(Action: Town Clerk)

## **74. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED that £8,945.73 be released from reserves in 2020/21 for 4 Pilates reformers.

The Minutes of the following Meetings of the Council's Committees were noted;

- a) Sport & Leisure Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020
- b) Planning Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- c) Planning Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Councillor Griffiths returned to the meeting

## 75. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Proposed by Councillor Eames-Petersen and seconded by Councillor Brandon that the Liberal Democrat motion be considered in the confidential session of the meeting as it contained sensitive financial information. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group wishes to see Officers progress the proposal for plans for a new multi-purpose, 2 storey, Hatfield Town Council community centre, at "De Havilland Grange" in Cornflower Way, using £400,000 - s106 funds set aside for this purpose over 10 years ago. Any progress, including applying for further funding from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Herts County Council for this purpose is to be reported to the next Resources & Policy Committee.

Councillors were concerned that local residents had not been consulted on any plans and many Councillors had not seen the plans themselves.

**RESOLVED** that a Working Group of Cllrs Brennan, Griffiths, Eames-Petersen, Brisbin, Wiltshire and Brandon meet to draw up a residents' consultation plan and report back to the next Resources and Policy Committee.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group wishes Officers to write to Howe Dell school to require that the Parking spaces allocated to Howe Dell Hall, as defined in the land registry plans, within the joint grounds, are duly released for use by Hatfield Town Council and hall users. Bookings have been limited in the day time because of the lack of parking made available, when the school uses spaces which do not strictly belong to them. The letter and response to be reported to the next Sport and Leisure Committee. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group wishes officers to explore with the Planning Committee consideration of the possibility of a Hatfield Neighbourhood Plan, with a core team from Hatfield Town Council members who wish to be involved and would form a temporary sub committee for consideration of the scope, guidance and commitment involved. It was noted that Ellenbrook Residents Association would be willing to be involved in the process. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group request a review of the use (number of times used and what events), costs and profits of the new Catering Trailer bought last year - with a view to future cost effectiveness. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group wishes request that plans and costs are put into place for mains water and power to be supplied to the Nast Hyde play area to report back to next Sport and Leisure Committee.

It was noted that the Play Area referred to by the Labour Group was Ellenbrook Recreation Ground.

Members condemned the inflammatory language used against Mike Izzard on Social media and expressed their deep regret that a community spirited local resident should be treated in this manner.

Ellenbrook Residents' Association disassociated themselves from the social media abuse and from other correspondence sent to Councillors, however, they raised concerns regarding proper local resident consultation on this proposed scheme, light pollution from the proposed play area lighting, disturbance to local residents, parking issues caused by increased usage and the potential to attract anti-social behaviour and criminal activity by lighting the recreation ground.

Mike Izzard advised that he may not carry out his Open Days in future on site due to the level of concern raised by local residents regarding disturbance caused to their residential area and the abuse he had received on social media.

The Clerk was requested to investigate the health and safety issues regarding light levels in play areas.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Proposed By Cllr Eames-Petersen and seconded by Cllr Brandon that the Labour Group wishes action to be taken to publicise the Hatfield Town Council celebration of VE day on May 8th with Rev Darren Collins and Hatfield House.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 76. 2020 EVENTS

It was noted that the Interfaith Group would like to be involved in Hatfield's VE Day celebrations and Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Members noted the report of officers and the breakdown of previous years' costs for the Music Festival.

Councillor Brandon queried the true cost of the events in previous years, he further queried how the 3 senior officers could possibly spend 90 hours a year between them on the event. He advised that he believed that it would be a travesty if it did not proceed in 2020. He could slash previous costs and as he already undertook 75% of the work for the Event he advised that he would organise this year's Music Festival.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Brandon's offer to organise Hatfield's Music Festival be accepted and 2020 events be as follows;

- Lemsford Village Fete – 4<sup>th</sup> May
- VE Day – 8<sup>th</sup> May

- South Hatfield Fete – 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Newgate Street Village Fayre – 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May
- Music Festival – date to be advised at Sport & Leisure Committee
- Hatfield Rail Crash Memorial – 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Poppy Appeal Launch – 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Fireworks Display – 7<sup>th</sup> November
- Remembrance Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> November
- Armistice Day – 11<sup>th</sup> November
- Santa's Rounds – 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December

Councillors would be circulated with a rota requesting their help nearer each event.

#### **77. RISK ASSESSMENTS AND EXCEPTION REPORTING**

Members noted the report and any outstanding items. It was noted that the Council were compliant and Members requested that the Health and Safety Sub Committee meet as soon as possible to discuss a Stress Policy.

(Action: Town Clerk)

#### **78. 2020 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Members noted the draft calendar and **RESOLVED** that it be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

Councillor Griffiths left the meeting

#### **79. WAR MEMORIAL CLEANING**

Members noted the quotes received. Councillor Brandon was concerned that Mike Woodford who had cleaned the War Memorial on two previous occasions had not been asked to quoted.

The Town Clerk advised that although she was aware that he had cleaned the wall around the gardens she was not aware that any authority had been given to him to clean the War Memorial itself.

**RESOLVED** that this item be adjourned to the next meeting of the Council and the Town Clerk obtain a quotation from Enviroclean.

(Action: Town Clerk)

Councillor Griffiths returned to the meeting

**80. RESPONSE TO WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

Members deferred this item to a Special Meeting of the Council following the Annual Town Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**81. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Special Meeting of the Council following the Annual Town Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Noted that the next Council meeting would be 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Councillors Juggins and Brisbin left the meeting.

**82. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Motion from the Liberal Democratic Group
- (ii) Legal advice
- (iii) Lease
- (iv) Lemsford Village Hall – financial advice
- (v) Business Continuity Planning

**83. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Moved by Councillor Brennan and seconded by Councillor Griffiths that the following motion be approved;

“There are three proposals for the Birchwood development. Why has the design from Bryant and Moore from 2016 not been included in the discussions held since May 2019?

Documents show payments of over £35,000 to Bryant and Moore during the period of 2016 to 2018 with respect of a development of stadium for Hatfield Town FC. Why has the current council not seen details of this proposal?

We propose that an urgent review of the remit and all spending on the Birchwood project from 2016 to the present day be conducted by a cross party group before we go any further.”

Councillor Brandon responded. Following on from the Labour Group motions and their resolution, he considered that the schemes could move forward whilst learning from past mistakes. He saw no need to return to the past when the Town Council should be moving forward with its ambitious capital programme.

No vote was taken.

**84. LEGAL ADVICE**

Members considered the legal advice sought. Councillor Brandon requested the cost of the legal advice. The Town Clerk undertook to circulate the information to Members after the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk ask the solicitor for more information regarding her comments on “liabilities”. Further clarification was sought on companies controlled or under the influence of a Local Authority and whether the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and subsequent 1995 Regulations would affect the solicitor’s advice.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**85. LEASE**

Members noted that following legal advice the facility should be offered for tender.

**RESOLVED** that Mr Highton be offered an annual lease to August 2021 and a three year lease be advertised on contracts finder for 2021 – 2024.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**86. LEMS FORD VILLAGE HALL – FINANCIAL ADVICE**

Members noted the report from Castele Consultancy. Saunders Architects suggested that they could provide an achievable proposal on site and would bring the costs for doing that back to Sport & Leisure Committee.

**87. BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING**

Members noted the Plan and **RESOLVED** that it be approved.

Closure: 11,08pm

Mayor