



Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

- PRESENT: Councillor Eames-Petersen (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)
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| Councillor Mark Bolitho | Councillor Caron Juggins |
| Councillor Lenny Brandon | Councillor Hazel Laming |
| Councillor Jackie Brennan | Councillor John Percival |
| Councillor Richard Brisbin | Councillor Tristan Wiltshire |
| Councillor Richard Griffiths | Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri |
- OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)
Ali Ogilvie (Head of Estates)

97. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Linda Mendez (unable to get online), (unable to get into Zoom), Cllr A Mackay (working) and Councillor Lee Newman (working).

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Mayor after CoVid19 lockdown has finished.

99. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wiltshire declared an interest in the Local Plan as a potential owner of a nominated site and took no part in the discussion thereon.

100. RESPONSE TO WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Members considered the draft response by the Planning Committee on 28th April. Concern was raised at the College Lane Allotment site and further investigation was agreed.

Councillor Wiltshire requested that reference to sites in Brookman's Park be removed. Members agreed that specific site refence should be removed.

RESOLVED that subject to the above investigation and amendment the Council's comments be submitted to Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council by 1/5/2020.

19:50 Cllr Zhaveri left the meeting

101. TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO CO-VID 19

Members **RESOLVED** that this item be considered in Part 2 of the meeting due to commercial confidentiality.

102. REQUEST FOR £500 GRANT

Members noted the reply from CVS.

Moved by Cllrs Brennan and Griffiths that the grant be approved.

Councillor Juggins requested a recorded vote;

	FOR	AGAINST
Cllr Juggins		X
Cllr Griffiths	X	
Cllr Brennan	X	
Cllr Brandon		X
Cllr Bolitho	X	
Cllr Laming	X	
Cllr Eames-Petersen	X	
Cllr Brisbin		X
Cllr Wiltshire		X
Cllr Percival	X	

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Members **RESOLVED** that the £500 grant be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

103. DE HAVILLAND GRANGE WORKING GROUP MINUTES

RESOLVED that the terms of reference be amended as suggested by the Working Group, the Working Group to report to Resources & Policy Committee in normal circumstances and the Town Clerk arrange the next meeting.

(Action: Town Clerk)

104. RECOMMENDATION FROM SPORT & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members noted the recommendation from sport and Leisure Committee but **RESOLVED** that in the current climate they could not approve the expenditure from reserves.

(Action: Town Clerk)

105. ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Members noted the Annual Investment Strategy and **RESOLVED** that it be approved.

106. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Virtual Planning Committee 12th May at 7.30pm
Virtual Meeting of the Council 13th May at 7.30pm

107. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, further to s1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting, and the following matters dealt with in a subsequent Part 2 meeting on grounds of commercial sensitivity and staff confidentiality.

- (i) Response to CoVid19, Medium Term Financial Forecast and Staff Matters

108. RESPONSE TO COVID 19, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL FORECAST AND STAFF MATTERS

Members noted the report of officers . Some confusion arose regarding policy making by Members and delegation of action to officers, however, clarity of roles was achieved after some debate.

The Deputy Mayor requested that a copy of the actual letter sent to furloughed staff be circulated to all Members as she was not happy with the copy circulated by the Town Clerk which had been sent by the Council's Employment advisor's Ellis Whittam.

Members requested that Officers report back to the next meeting with suggestions on how to re-build the Council's reserves.

Members confirmed that no additional make up of furloughed employees' salary to 100% would be made at present, however, they would not receive any reduction if HMRC decided that the Council was not eligible for Furlough payments. This would be reassessed on 13th May.

RESOLVED that the actions detailed in the preamble to this minute be agreed.

(Action: Town Clerk)

Closure: 9.15pm

Mayor