

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 AT 7:30PM**  
**TOWCESTER TOWN HALL**

**Present:** Cllr D. Reynolds (Chairman), Cllr C. Askew, Cllr D. Carmichael, Cllr M. Clubley, P. Conquest, Cllr R. Dando L'Olive, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr M. Johns, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr I. Macaulay, Cllr L. Samiotis, Cllr C. Wright

**Also present:** Miss E. Cox (Town Clerk), Mrs E. Bucklow-Holt (Assistant)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P. Allen, Cllr K. Bond, Cllr D. Tarbun and Cllr M. Wixon

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Open to the Public (maximum 15-minute session)

No members of the public were present.

4. Town Mayor's Items

To receive a report from the Town Mayor on events he has recently attended

Cllr Reynolds was delighted to be invited to reopen both the Towcester Gift Bazaar and the Towcester Handmade Fayre held in the Town Hall. He had also attended the 'Big Fun Day' at the Tove Valley Centre (TVC) on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September and returned to the TVC on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September for the formal commissioning ceremony. On behalf of the Renew169 Wellbeing Café, he invited all TC members to attend a 'Pie & Pint' fundraising evening on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October in the Town Hall, also to participate in a Virtual Santa Fun Run on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> December in aid of the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.

5. Report back from representatives of West Northamptonshire Council

Cllr Clubley reported back, as follows:-

She had resolved complaints from residents of Hunt Close on the Shires that the postcode for the covid testing site in the Northampton Road car park directs traffic to the residential estate.

She had recently attended a tea party, organised by the Chairman of WNC, in aid of the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

She will be attending a meeting with representatives of the local Policing Team and Towcester Neighbourhood Watch at the end of October to discuss local issues.

WNC had voted in favour of granting parental leave for members; free broadband for carers and committed to recycling redundant computer equipment. It had voted against implementing the 'White Ribbon Campaign' which requires male WNC members and staff to commit to the 'White Ribbon Promise' to end violence against women, its stance being that everyone should be against violence, regardless of gender. Finally, that WNC intends to introduce a 'No Smoking' policy for its country parks, which will include The Watermeadows.

Cllr Samiotis reported back, as follows:-

She had recently spoken with the WNC Director of Finance, Martin Henry, concerning completion of work to develop the former Co-operative site for additional car parking and has been advised that the cost to demolish the store exceeds the funds available. This project is due to be discussed at a future WNC Capital Assets panel meeting and is likely to then require Cabinet approval. TC members believed sufficient funds had been earmarked by SNC from the overage from the sale of its former site on Springfields.

WNC has proposed Community Funding grants of up to £15k with applications needing to meet a set of requirements to be considered. Cllr Johns complained that it is impossible to find any information regarding grant funding on the WNC website and its search function is not fit for purpose. Also, that most telephone enquiries go straight through to an answer phone. Cllr Samiotis confirmed that many WNC Officers continue to work from home.

6. Minutes of Meetings

To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 for signing by the Chairman



08-11-2021

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a true record; seconded by Cllr Godwin. All in favour.

7. Matters Arising from the MinutesMinute Page 21/09/112

**Queen's Jubilee Beacons:** The Clerk has written to WNC and Towcester Racecourse to enquire about using the Bury Mount and the Racecourse site for this event and is awaiting a reply.

Minute page 21.09.113

**Tove Play Area Lease Agreement:** The Clerk has forwarded the draft lease agreement to the TC Solicitor for review. She has notified WNC of the issues with splinters from the equipment, which were reported by Cllr Tarbun at the last meeting, and this was resolved by its contractors within 24 hours.

**Town Council Community Plan:** The Clerk has submitted the TC request for a Whole Council Training Session with Northants CALC Chief Executive, Danny Moody, to progress the Community/Business Plan and is awaiting potential dates.

8. Reports back from Chairman of the:-Resources & Planning Committee

Cllr Johns had nothing to report. All those present had attended the earlier Resources & Planning Committee Meeting.

The conclusion of the PKF Littlejohn External Audit of the TC Accounts for the 2020/21 Financial Year was noted. There were no 'except for' matters.

Premises Committee

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Lynch and Cllr Macaulay are due to attend a briefing with the TC Surveyor on 13<sup>th</sup> October to receive a summary of the works included in the Town Hall Phase 1 emergency works.

Recreation & Leisure Committee

Cllr Tarbun had forwarded his apologies for the meeting. The Clerk had nothing to report.

Cemetery & Allotments Committee

Cllr Godwin summarised items considered at the last meeting. Aerial photographs of the Cemetery, captured by Ben Bucklow of Yakkin Photography, were circulated. These provide a helpful insight into the amount of burial space remaining and how much of this could potentially be taken up by creation of a third Garden of Rest.

9. Reports back from Local Bodies

**Towcester Community Fridge** – Cllr Dando L'Olive was pleased to report that the Community Fridge had celebrated its first anniversary with cakes and coffee for all visitors. Also, it recently became a collection point for resources for Afghan refugees.

**Silverstone UTC** – Cllr Macaulay reported that the school had its highest intake for this academic year and now supports 530 students.

**NCALC** – Cllr Lynch reported his attendance of the Northants CALC AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> October at which interesting presentations were made by the Leaders of the new WNC and NNC on progress since formation of the new unitary authorities on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. This was followed by Q&A session for questions submitted in advance.

**TBS** – Cllr Godwin reported that Towcester Building Supplies (TBS), which was established in Towcester in 1978, has recently been taken over by Huws Gray Group, a company from Anglesey.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence detailing the Tove Benefice Parade Services for the remainder of 2021 had been circulated to all TC members prior to the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:00pm

