

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 16th MAY 2022 AT 7:30PM
TOWCESTER TOWN HALL

Present: Cllr M. Johns (Chair), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr D. Carmichael, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr I. Macaulay, Cllr L. Samiotis, Cllr D. Tarbun, 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 C. Askew, Cllr K. Bond, Cllr M. Clubley, Cllr P. Conquest, Cllr R. Dando L'Olive, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr D. Reynolds, and Cllr 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 back from the Town Mayor on events he has recently attended

Newly-elected Town Mayor, Cllr Johns, reported that he'd had the pleasure of attending Brackley Town Council's Mayor Making Ceremony on Saturday, 24th May, which was a very pleasant outdoor event.

5. Report back from representatives of West Northamptonshire Council

Report back from Cllr Samiotis

A new partnership brokered with Barclays Bank means customers will continue to have access to banking services at the libraries in Weston Favell, Daventry and Towcester where physical banks have closed. This enables residents to access advice and support around banking issues locally and is bringing in an additional £25,000 income for the service in hire charges. Partnership working with the Adult Learning Service has led to investment in library spaces to create learner-friendly spaces for customers. Public Health and Adult Learning have used some of this funding to refurbish dedicated areas and install smart screens for teaching at Weston Favell Library, Brackley Library and East Hunsbury Library.

Plans to introduce a kerbside collection of small electrical items in the Daventry area are coming to fruition. Cages have been fitted to the refuse collection vehicles and promotional bin stickers about the service are due to be delivered to Daventry residents. The new service commenced in April. All implementation costs of this new service have been funded by an external grant from VALPAK.

In March, school admissions for places in year 7 were co-ordinated by WNC and the allocations sent to parents. WNC is not an admissions authority for any West Northamptonshire secondary school, and therefore its sole role is to co-ordinate the admissions process according to the individual admissions policies of the 17 academy trusts with secondary schools in our area

Further detailed survey work has been undertaken for the Sponne Arcade Car Park to refine the scope of the works ahead of the specification being finalised. A principal contractor has been selected with a report to approve this appointment being brought forward to the WNC Cabinet meeting in May.

Feasibility work is currently underway regarding the construction of a new care home with circa 80-100 bedrooms to enhance provision in the Towcester area.

6. Meetings

a) To approve the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11th April 2022 for signing by the Chair

Proposal

Cllr Tarbun proposed that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday, 11th April 2022 be signed by the Chair as a true record; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour.

b) To approve the corrected schedule of meetings for 2022/23

It had been drawn to the Clerk's attention that a meeting had been scheduled for Bank Holiday Easter Monday 2023; which has now been corrected.

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that the corrected schedule of meetings for 2022/23 be approved. The Clerk will circulate the new version in due course; seconded by Cllr Wright; all in favour.

7. Matters Arising from the MinutesMinute Page 22.04.065

The Clerk confirmed she is awaiting a reply from the Leader of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), Cllr Jonathan Nunn, to the TC request for his attendance at a future TC Meeting, along with other senior figures from WNC, to discuss a number of important issues affecting Towcester.

The Clerk reminded TC members of the meeting scheduled for 7pm on Monday, 23rd May at the Town Hall to discuss the TC Vision for Towcester town centre and to progress the TC proposal to produce a Community Plan.

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

Cllr Tarbun had nothing to report.

Premises Committee

Vice-Chair, Cllr Macaulay, had nothing to report.

Recreation & Leisure Committee

Cllr Tarbun had nothing to report.

Cemetery & Allotments Committee

Cllr Godwin had nothing to report.

9. Reports back from Local Bodies & the Police Liaison Representative for Towcester

Cllr Carmichael – Reported that he and Cllr Bond had attended an event at Sponne School to assist students with writing their CVs.

Cllr Macaulay – Reported that Silverstone UTC had held a well-attended employers EXPO on Thursday, 12th May which resulted in three job offers for students.

Cllr Allen – Reported his attendance of the latest Northants CALC Board Meeting on 14th April at Kettering Conference Centre.

Cllr Tarbun – Commended Assistant to the Clerk, Lizzi Bucklow-Holt, on her charity sky dive on Sunday 15th May, which raised £200.00 for the Northamptonshire Health Charity. He also reminded TC members that, starting from 25th May, he will be walking 120 miles in 4 days along Watling Street from Kent to Towcester to raise funds for the incoming Mayor's charity, Cynthia Spencer Hospice. He will circulate sponsorship links for anyone interested in supporting him.

Cllr Lisa Samiotis – Is making preparations for the forthcoming Towcester Town Football Club's Annual Tournament over the weekend of 18th and 19th June. A record 120 teams will be participating from as far afield as Basingstoke and including Luton Town Girls' Clubs.

The Town Clerk is the TC-nominated Police Liaison Representative for Towcester. She reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out a 'Day of Action' at Sponne School on 27th April, working with the school and GYM (Guiding Young Minds) to discuss issues around knife crime and county lines across various workshops and assemblies. The school funded a dog handler to spontaneously search bags throughout the day; nothing was found, which was a very positive outcome. PCSO Charlotte Morris will be arranging a further day, to include input from CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) and this work will feed into concerns raised through Facebook in recent weeks concerning local gangs.

In addition, the Neighbourhood Policing Team carried out a Road Safety Event on 12th May and a Crime Prevention Event on 14th May in the Town Hall.

There have been a number of shoplifting incidents involving young people and vapes and the SN Policing Team will be working with WNC Licensing on this issue.

10. Sponne & Bickerstaffe Charity

To consider nominations for the vacancy for a Town Council-nominated Feoffee on the charity

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Wright had expressed an interest in this role.

Proposal

Cllr Tarbun proposed that Cllr Wright be nominated for the role of Town Council-nominated Feoffee on the Sponne & Bickerstaffe Charity; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour.

11. Town Council Committees

a) To consider nominations for the vacancy on the Personnel Committee

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that, following his term as ex-officio member of the committee, Cllr Reynolds continues on the Personnel Committee as this will be closely linked to the outcomes of discussions concerning the Community Plan; seconded by Cllr Tarbun; all in favour.

b) To consider nominations for the vacancy on the Personnel Committee Appeals Panel

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that Cllr Carmichael be nominated for the vacancy on the Personnel Committee Appeals Panel; seconded by Cllr Tarbun; all in favour.

12. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To receive an update from members of the Platinum Jubilee Working Group on events planned for Towcester and related items.

The main Jubilee Fayre event will take place from 11am-5pm on Saturday, 4th June on Towcester Recreation Ground. Islington Road will be formally closed from 9am to 7pm, except for access. A limited number of volunteers has meant that it will be an informal community event but hopefully a great day for everyone who attends. A variety of stallholders from crafts and foods to community organisations will be allocated space on the TYCC car park for ease of litter collection. There are no stall fees but a 10% donation from takings has been requested towards the Town Mayor's Charities. Attractions secured, to date, include a Static Motorcycle Display, a visit from the Police, Fire & Rescue Team, the Towcester Rotary Club Duck Race and a Fun Dog Show with entertainment from The Songbirds and Aspire Singers in the morning and Towcester Studio Band in the afternoon.

Associated events:

Towcester Library – Already has an exhibition on display and is running a quiz throughout May. It has an arts & crafts session planned for Tuesday, 31st May from 2-4pm.

Towcester Museum – Will have free entry throughout the weekend with a Crown Making craft session on the morning of 4th June, which can be entered into a competition at the Fayre.

Renew169 – Will have a WI window display and have afternoon tea on Monday 6th June at £5.00 per head.

The Jubilee Beacon is ready to go live on Thursday, 2nd June at 9:45pm

Towcester Rotary Club is organising a Town Trail

Rotarian Steph Jones has applied for a £150.00 grant from the Co-op which will be in the form of vouchers for the store.

Letters have been delivered to local businesses requesting sponsorship/raffle prizes and for their participation in a judged window display.

The next meeting of the working party meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 18th May at 1:30pm

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm