



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILDENHALL HIGH TOWN COUNCIL
MAIN HALL, THE JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL

Thursday 27th January 2022 – 7pm

Present:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cllr. Bloodworth | Cllr. Neal |
| Cllr. Bowman | Cllr. Peachey |
| Cllr. Bristow | Cllr. Shipp (Deputy Mayor) |
| Cllr. Busuttil (Mayor) | Cllr. Sulman |
| Cllr. Leaman | Cllr. Sykes |
| Cllr. Littlechild | |

Also in attendance was the Town Manager and Sq. Leader Al Balmer.

The Mayor welcomed those present and it was **AGREED** to move item 173 to be discussed immediately after item 167 so as to give more detail on finance matters.

Following this the Twinning Charter with Frickenhausen was signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

159. APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Alecock, Brotchie and Martin.

Cllr. Roman has a dispensation not to attend Council meetings until the end of March 2022, due to ill-health.

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Shipp: West Suffolk District Council.

Cllr. Neal: West Suffolk District Council.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

A request from Cllr. Alecock for a three-month dispensation due to ill-health was **GRANTED**, all in favour.

161. TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2021 FROM THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on the 9th December 2021 with some grammatical changes. Proposed by Cllr. Neal and seconded by Cllr. Bloodworth. All in favour.

162. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

163a. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Cllr. Busuttill reported that she had recently attended the opening of the Mallards Bridge with County Councillor Stanbury.

163b. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Shipp had nothing further to report.

164. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. L. Stanbury was not in attendance

165. REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Shipp reported that the bus station in Mildenhall had been closed due to a cost saving exercise and to address staffing and vandalism issues. But it was conceded that this might not have been apparent that this closure was a permanent and not temporary measure.

There has been 84 parking tickets issues in Mildenhall in the last month as a result of 160 patrols. A particular area of concern was around St. Mary's School, but it was agreed that the enforcement was working well.

Several dispersal orders had been issues in the town addressing anti-social behaviour and vandalism, with the core of the problem being around ten young people. It was reported that it was notoriously difficult to deal with this problem, even with the involvement of parents. It was hoped that with frequent reporting and the appointment of a new inspector at the end of January the problem would improve.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Finally, it was reported that a development in Bury St. Edmunds at the Western Way hub was underway and would cost in the region of £130m.

Questions were asked about the plans for the bus station building, and it was stated that this was still in process but that it had the potential for a local business.

Questions were also asked about the problems with police cars and access around the entrance to the Mildenhall Hub which Cllr. Shipp would follow up on.

166. REPORT FROM POLICE

Cllr. Busuttill reported that the meeting with Inspector Shipton did not take place, although questions had been forwarded to him from Members.

167. REPORT FROM RAF MILDENHALL BASE

Sq. Leader Al Balmer reported that Covid-19 cases on the base seemed to have peaked with no noticeable difference between RAF Mildenhall or Lakenheath.

There was also more traffic in the area due to international events which was to be expected.

It was also hoped that Sq. Leader Balmer would take part in the upcoming Platinum Jubilee celebrations which Cllr. Shipp would follow up on.

Sq. Leader Balmer then left the meeting at 7.19pm.

173. Finance Strategy Working Group

173.1 To receive the notes from the meeting of this group from the 20th January 2022

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the notes from the meeting, proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

168. FINANCIAL MATTERS 2021/22

168.1 To receive and note the bank reconciliation up to 31st December 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the figures as presented. Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

168.2a Approval of Accounts – Payments – 1st to 31st December 2021

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Cllr. Littlechild declared an interest in this item as his company was detailed in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments, proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Sykes, all in favour.

168.2b Approval of Accounts – Receipts – 1st to 31st December 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the receipts, proposed by Cllr. Littlechild seconded by Cllr. Neal, all in favour.

168.3 To receive the quarterly budget figures from 1st October to 31st December 2021

The document was received and **ACCEPTED**, proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

168.4 To approve the proposed virements

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the virements as detailed in the document with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Sulman, all in favour.

168.5 To receive and note the Interim Internal Audit report

The report was received and **NOTED**. Cllr. Sulman extended his thanks to the staff for achieving the clear audit with no recommendations, this was echoed by the Members present.

168.6 To review the Earmarked Reserves pertaining to a contribution to the replacement of the Mallards Bridge

The reserves report was examined and it was **RESOLVED** to take the £15,000 contribution to the replacement of the Mallards Bridge from the Riverbank and Jubilee Field Reserve reducing it to £132,789.68. It was further **RESOLVED** not to make any further changes to the Earmarked Reserves before the end of the current financial year, proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Sykes, all in favour.

169. GENERAL MATTERS

169.1 Update from Town Manager regarding Action Sheet

The document was presented and **NOTED**. It was reported that the fence was damaged at the end of the Thetford Road Cemetery which was letting deer in. Cllr.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Sulman asked if a plan was in train to address the planting issues now the bulk of the project was complete. It was reported that there would be a site visit on the 3rd February to address these concerns.

169.2 Verbal update on the West Mildenhall development consultation

Cllr. Shipp reported that the current consultation was now over and it was now up to Suffolk County Council to give consent and then to get planning permission for the master plan. The Council would be able to comment further at this stage and would be consulted throughout. It was also reported that there were a great number of submissions for this consultation, even despite Covid-19 restrictions being in place.

169.3 To discuss options for the speed limit on the Thetford Road regarding the Cemetery Extension

The Town Manager explained the issues surrounding the speed limit on the Thetford Road relating to the recent opening of the car park in the Cemetery Extension. It was reported that this would need to be addressed and two options were available at this stage.

One option was an official application to change the speed limit officially and the second was for the design, purchase and installation of a 'Town Gateway' structure which would not be legally enforceable but would clearly indicate the speed limit a lot further out which would lead to cars slowing down in good time before they reached the car park splay.

Although there were no exact costs available at this point it was reported that the Town Manager was working with County Cllr. Stanbury on this issue and initial thoughts were that the 'Town Gateway' option would be substantially less and would also be part-funded by a Locality Grant from Cllr. Stanbury if the Town Council chose to go down this route. It was further reported that this option would take considerably less time than a formal application to change the speed limit.

It was then **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Manager to work with County Cllr. Stanbury on the 'Town Gateway' option to address the speeding and safety issues on the Thetford Road and to report back to Council with exact costs and logistics when available. Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Peachey, all in favour.

170. PLANNING COMMITTEE

170.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 14th December 2021 and 11th January 2022

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Cllr. Leaman presented the minutes and it was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Busuttil, all in favour.

171. ESTABLISHMENT AND POLICY COMMITTEE

171.1 To review and adopt the CCTV Policy

The policy was reviewed and **ADOPTED** with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Bristow, all in favour.

171.2 To review and approve the Grant Awarding Policy and Application Form

The policy and form was considered in need of a more thorough review and so was delegated to the Establishment and Policy Committee to discuss at their February meeting and represent to the Full Council shortly after. All in favour.

172. COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

172.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 13th January 2022

The minutes were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes with some grammatical changes Proposed by Cllr,. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

172.2 To receive a verbal update regarding Lark in the Park 2022

Cllr. Shipp reported that the working group had now met twice and suggested that the Lark in the Park event would be combined with HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This would be over the weekend of the 2nd to 5th June 2022. The theme of the event to be a 'Right Royal Lark in the Park'.

This would involve the purchase, installation and lighting of a bespoke beacon on the Thursday evening, with a fireworks display and a funfair, local groups, a performance area, displays and attractions on Sunday 5th June. This to also involve a great deal of decoration, floral displays and bunting across the whole town. It was also hoped that RAF Mildenhall and the schools would also be involved.

It was then to **RESOLVED** to change the date of the Lark in the Park to run over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend of the 2nd to the 5th June 2022. Proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Leaman, all in favour.

It was further **RESOLVED** to approve the extra event and cost of the fireworks

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Dated:.....

display on Thursday 2nd June. Proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Bloodworth, all in favour.

It was then reported that the next meeting would be on the 31st January at 7pm and all councillors were invited to attend.

172.3 To receive a verbal update regarding the Welcome Back Funding

The Town Manager reported that several events had taken place before Christmas using this funding which included Merry Mildenhall and a themed Christmas Market working in partnership with West Suffolk Council.

Work was still underway on the Loyal Free Scheme, social media enhancements, the Council website and a marketing strategy. This would be the focus for the Projects Officer for the remainder of her contract which runs up until the end of March 2022.

- 174. To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.**

This was so **RESOLVED**.

176. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Town Manager reported on the recent appointment of a Caretaker and an Assistant Groundsman.

177. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

This next meeting of the Full Council will be on 24th February 2022 at 7pm, in the Fenland Room of The Pavilion.

175. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

175.1 To receive the minutes from the meeting of this committee from the 21st December 2021

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes with no changes, proposed by Cllr. Shipp, seconded by Cllr. Bristow, all in favour.

The meeting then closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

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