



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILDENHALL HIGH TOWN COUNCIL
FENLAND ROOM, THE PAVILION, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL

Thursday 28th April 2022 – 7pm

Present:

Cllr. Bloodworth	Cllr. Littlechild
Cllr. Bowman	Cllr. Neal
Cllr. Bristow	Cllr. Peachey
Cllr. Busuttil (Mayor)	Cllr. Roman
Cllr. Leaman	Cllr. Sulman

Also in attendance was the Town Manager.

211. APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Alecock and Shipp none were received from Cllr. Martin or Sykes.

212. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Neal: West Suffolk District Council

213. TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31st MARCH 2022 FROM THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting on the 31st March 2022 with some grammatical changes. Proposed by Cllr. Leaman and seconded by Cllr. Sulman. All in favour.

214. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

215a. REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Cllr. Busuttil reported that there had been no activities over the past month, but that she would be

taking part in the Festival of Suffolk Torch Relay on Friday 13th May 2022 which would pass through the town.

215b. REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Shipp was not in attendance.

216. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

County Cllr. L. Stanbury was not in attendance.

217. REPORT FROM DESIGNATED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Neal reported that there had been several maker's markets across the area, but there had been none yet in Mildenhall due to the market currently being full. But a change in date might facilitate this in the future.

It was also reported that a senior officer had recently left the planning department which has led to a delay in tree applications and responses. It was hoped this would be rectified soon.

The £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate was being rolled out with 42,000 households benefiting from £6.3m in payments. It was also noted that those not currently paying by direct debit would have to fill out a form to claim this rebate.

Issues surrounding the payment and maintenance of streetlighting in the town would be resolved by July which would potentially be a big saving for the town, this is after a broad agreement across the District Council that the current system is unfair.

Grass cutting has also started again in the town on a three-week rolling schedule, with some areas being left to grow to encourage biodiversity.

The Local Plan was proceeding as scheduled with the National Planning Policy Framework needing to find 66 plots for travellers, this draft plan would go out to consultation in May and will be delivered by 2040.

Foliage had also been removed on West Row Road which has increased visibility.

Cllr. Leaman asked if St. John's Playground would be open in time for Easter, but it was reported that this would not be until July due to supply issues.

It was also clarified that Cllr. Shipp sits on the Parish Council Alliance to represent the Town Council, this would also be ratified or reallocated at the May Annual Town Council Meeting.

218. REPORT FROM POLICE

Cllr. Busuttill reported that a meeting had taken place with Inspector Lyon which confirmed that every incident which had been reported had led to an arrest. But that some crimes which had appeared on social media had not resulted in an official report from residents. It

was again strongly urged that everyone experiencing crime should report it at the time of the offence so this can be logged.

It was also confirmed that all arrests are sensitively reported on social media, but that the Town Manager would engage with the local PCSO to encourage more communication.

219. REPORT FROM RAF MILDENHALL BASE

Sq. Leader Al Balmer was not in attendance.

220. FINANCIAL MATTERS 2021/22

220.1 To receive and note the bank reconciliation up to 31st March 2022.

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

220.2a Approval of Accounts – Payments – 1st to 31st March 2022

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

220.2b Approval of Accounts – Receipts – 1st to 31st March 2022

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

220.3 To receive an update regarding current debtors to the Town Council

It was reported that four invoices were being chased in respect of the Suffolk County Council recharge agreement for the Jubilee Centre and Pavilion. This was **NOTED**.

220.4 To receive the 4th quarterly budget monitoring report 1st January to 31st March 2022

The document was discussed and it was also reported that this would be presented in a clearer manner in the future and include capital purchases and income.

It was then **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the figures, proposed by Cllr. Busuttil, seconded by Cllr. Bowman, all in favour.

220.5 To approve a quote for £1,500 regarding the Jubilee Fields pumps

The quote was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase the replacement pumps due to the current ones being beyond repair. Proposed by Cllr. Sulman, seconded by Cllr. Bowman, all in favour.

221. GENERAL MATTERS

221.1 Update from Town Manager regarding Action Sheet

The document was presented and **NOTED**. A second village gateway sign was discussed and it was **AGREED** that this would be put to the Council when exact costs of the first one was known.

221.2 Verbal update on Lark in the Park

Cllr. Bowman reported that several group meetings had taken place, roughly every fortnight. There were two events planned for the town which included a beacon lighting, singing and fireworks display on Thursday 2nd June and a more traditional Lark in the Park on Sunday 5th June which would have a Royal street party theme.

Additional events would include the dressing of the town with approximately four miles of bunting, corex decorations on lamp posts and planters which would be done on Sunday 29th May 2022 with assistance with the local USAF base personnel.

The beacon is a bespoke item and was currently being made with a pole on order. A meeting with the fireworks contractor would also soon take place to take care of the health and safety aspects.

The Sunday event was also going well with lots of work done in booking events, inviting local stalls, food vendors and a tea tent run by a local company. A funfair would also be present all weekend to encourage an ongoing theme of celebration.

A complete redig of all Council planters was also underway with new plants and adequate maintenance scheme in place as well, which would all be in place and complete by the day itself.

221.3 To consider and approve the quotes for a replacement item of play equipment

The quotes were considered and it was **AGREED** that option 1 would be purchased to replace the heavily vandalised kitchen play unit at the Recreation Way Play Area. This option was a more open Red Train item which would discourage vandalism and be easier to maintain as well as providing amenity to smaller children using the playground. The cost being £5,502.00 (exc. VAT). Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Bloodworth, all in favour.

It was also thought appropriate for local schools to be considered in the future when such decisions are being taken.

222. PLANNING COMMITTEE

222.1 To receive the minutes from the meetings of this committee from the 12th April 2022

Cllr. Leaman presented the minutes and it was **AGREED** to **ADOPT** with no

changes, proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Neal, all in favour.

222.2 To note the Planning Scheme of Delegation paper

The paper and procedure were **NOTED**.

223. COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

223.1 To receive the minutes from the meeting of this committee from the 7th April 2022

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

223.2 Verbal update on the Annual Town Meeting (Forum)

Cllr. Bowman reported that the event would focus heavily on the proposed work along the riverbank with a speaker from the Environment Agency in attendance to give a presentation and take feedback. There would also be representation from local groups and a display for the recently completed Thetford Road Cemetery Extension. All Councillors were encouraged to attend as residents of the town.

224. 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**.

228. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

With regret Cllr. Bowman announced her resignation from the Council with immediate effect due to personal reasons. She thanked those present for all their help and support over the years and was particularly proud of the lighting of Merry Mildenhall, the completion of the Cemetery Extension and the appointment of the Town Manager in 2019. She reported that she would continue to serve as a community volunteer for Lark in the Park and several smaller projects. It was explained that the timing of the resignation would give a newly elected Councillor the chance to start the new Civic year in May on whatever committees they wished to serve on.

Cllr. Peachey thanked Cllr. Bowman for her service over the years which was roundly echoed by all present.

Cllr. Busuttil asked Cllr. Peachey about any events planned for the Royal British Legion, it was reported that these were yet to be confirmed.

229. Date of Next Full Council Meeting

This next meeting of the Full Council will be on 26th May 2022 at 6pm, in the Fenland Room of The Pavilion.

225. To receive approval of confidential minutes of the Full Town Council held on 31st March 2022 from those members present at the meeting.

The minutes were discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes, proposed by Cllr. Bowman, seconded by Cllr. Busuttil, all in favour.

226. To approve the job application pack for a staffing position

The pack was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the pack and timeline for recruitment. Proposed by Cllr. Leaman, seconded by Cllr. Roman, all in favour.

227. Update on Council communications

The matter was discussed and it was **AGREED** that alternatives should be sourced and submitted as a recommendation to the Communications and Events Committee in June. All in favour.

The meeting then closed at 8.05pm.