

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7 PM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

Councillors: K. Walker (Chairman)
E. Benner, E. Blackshaw, P. Harris, S. Haywood, S. Holyoake,
A. Lackey, C. O'Neill, K. Phillips, M. Pirt

Borough Councillor J. Capleton

Parish Clerk

15 Members of the Public

77. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman announced that Bond Lane was now open, the Library was currently operating on a click and collect basis but it was anticipated that it would operate on a browsing basis from the beginning of October 2020. Unfortunately, due to a freeze on recruitment by Leicestershire County Council the post of School Crossing Operative is still vacant. However, there is now an online petition on Change.org which residents are able to sign up to.

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Lemon, F. Newitt, Borough Councillors L. Harper-Davies and R. Shepherd and the Police.

79. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors P. Harris and S. Haywood declared an interest in Agenda item 9 – Mountsorrel United Charities.

80. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

81. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 were confirmed as being a true record and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

82. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor J. Capleton reported that there was very little to report from the Borough Council except to say that the Council were still dealing with the ongoing issues raised by the Covid 19 Pandemic and reported the number of cases particularly in the Birstall, Syston and Loughborough areas. Specific advice had been supplied to landlords of local public houses in anticipation of the return of students to Loughborough University. He referred to the anticipate changes in planning legislation to encourage house building and that he would be attending a training session on the proposed changes next week.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

83. PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor M. Pirt be appointed to the Council's Planning and Policy Committee with immediate effect.

(Councillor K. Phillips here joined the meeting)

84. MOUNTSORREL UNITED CHARITIES

Following the resignation of the Council's representative, L. Harper-Davies, the Council considered the appointment of a replacement for a four year term of office commencing 21 September 2020.

RESOLVED that Councillor E. Blackshaw be appointed as the Council's representative on the Mountsorrel United Charities and the Clerk advise the Secretary to the Charity.

85. MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS

The Clerk submitted the reports of the Monitoring Officer on the outcome of a Code of Conduct complaints against Councillors S. Haywood, E. Benner and K. Walker (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) and advised that the Monitoring Officer had concluded that there was no further action to be taken.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

86. PEER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 7 – the Clerk submitted a draft public consultation Statement of Intent for approval and adoption (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members)

Recommendation 10 – the Clerk submitted a draft training policy for both staff and Councillors for approval and adoption (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members)

Recommendation 4 – The Clerk submitted the quotation received from the Society of Local Council Clerks to assist the Council in preparing a Business Plan (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) and confirmed that this expenditure would need to be met from the Council’s Contingency budget.

RESOLVED that

(1) The draft public consultation Statement of Intent be approved subject to the following amendments:

Section 1 – bullet point number 4 – delete the words “of opportunity”

Section 2 – bullet point number 6 – delete the word “local” and add “operating within the Community”

Section 5 – add the War Memorial Trust

(2) The draft training policy be approved subject to the section on Councillor training be amended to delete the word “expected” and insert the word “required” across all bullet points.

(3) The quotation received from the Society of Local Council Clerks be approved at a cost of £2080.00 subject to clarification that the outlined proposal includes the production of a Business Plan for the Council to consider and adopt.

87. TWINNING

Further to Minute 69, the Clerk submitted the proposals received from the Chateaux de Montsoreau-Musee d’art contemporain Passage du Marquis de Goffre in connection with the proposed Twinning framework including the offer to draft a cultural co-operation agreement (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members).

RESOLVED that the Chateaux de Montsoreau-Musee d’art contemporain Passage du Marquis de Goffre be requested to draft the cultural co-operation agreement for the Council’s consideration at a future meeting.

88. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Clerk submitted, for information, the following Minutes of the Council’s Standing Committees (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members);

(a) Planning and Policy Committee – 3 August 2020

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 10 August 2020

(c) Memorial Centre Committee – 24 August 2020

(d) Memorial Centre Committee – 3 September 2020

- (e) Planning and Policy Committee – 7 September 2020
- (f) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 14 September 2020

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Resolutions be noted.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section (1) and (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

89. GRAPES GARDEN CLOSE/LITTLE LANE, MOUNTSORREL

The Clerk

- (A) Reported that following receipt of a letter from the purchaser's solicitors regarding the transfer of a property located on Grapes Garden Close, the Council's legal advisors had submitted a request to allow them to issue whatever certificate was required without further reference to the Council provided they were satisfied that the Council's interests were protected and that no expense fell on the Council (copies of which had previously been circulate to Members);
- (B) Advised that the Council's legal representatives had been in contact with the developer regarding the restrictive covenants in favour of the Council and had requested the authority to engage the services of a valuer at a cost of £200.

RESOLVED that

- (1) The request of the Council's legal advisors to issue appropriate certificates in relation to the restrictive covenants covering the properties on Grapes Garden Close be approved.
- (2) Authority be granted to the Council's legal advisors to engage the services of a Valuer at a cost of £200.

90. PEER REVIEW RECOMMENDATION 27 – MEMORIAL CENTRE LEASE

The Clerk submitted the legal advice received following a review of the Memorial Centre Lease (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members).

RESOLVED that the Clerk

- (1) Circulate to Members all appropriate documentation relating to the legal advice received in 2015/16
- (2) Contact Wellers Hedleys to request recommended amendments
- (3) On receipt of the recommended amendments, to arrange a meeting with representatives of the War Memorials Trust and Members of the Memorial Centre Committee.

91. PEER REVIEW REPORT

Further to Minute 52, the Clerk submitted the legal advice received regarding the publication of the Peer Review Report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members).

RESOLVED that the Peer Review Report be published on the Council's website.

The meeting concluded at 8.27 pm

Chairman