

**PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN THE PRINCES CENTRE,
CLIFFORD ROAD, PRINCES RISBOROUGH AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT

Cllr G Hall (Chairman),
Cllrs W Streule, P Williams, W Woolf, A Rolfe, P Summerbell, R Orsler
I McLauchlan and A Turner (acting clerk)
3 members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bendyshe-Brown, Cllr Coombs, Cllr Swanson and D Green.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meetings of the Town Council 14th August 2012 having been circulated were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. None were declared.

4. A REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

The officer gave an update on "ShopWatch". There has been an increase in ASB, particularly in the KVG, including graffiti. In one graffiti incident 4 teenagers were dealt with by the police. One of whom received a reprimand via the justice system. All 4 were made to remove the graffiti. The officer concluded with a further update on other anti-social incidents.

5. A REPORT FROM BCC - CLLR C ETHOLEN, ON MATTERS CONCERNING PRINCES RISBOROUGH

Cllr Etholen reported that Duke Street and Church Street were to be resurfaced overnight during the next 48 hours. The NWLAF have agreed funding for pavement works at the end of Brook Road. Cllr Etholen also reported that funding has been agreed for a second VAS.

6. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Streule gave a report on a previous matter.

7. COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF RECENT MINUTES.

Cllr Orsler requested information with regard to the building work carried out on the new offices.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

LETTER FROM RESIDENT RE BY-ELECTION.

All present agreed for Cllr Turner to draft a response for circulate to other members for approval.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARDED- BUCKS BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Noted.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM RESIDENT RE – RENTING OF RAG PIT

Noted

EMAIL RE "POLLS AND PETITIONS" – FROM MPH

All present agreed for this to be referred to the PR Committee.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE RE: RENT REVIEW OF SURGERY IN WADE'S PARK.

All agreed to refer back to the surveyor. Clarification was requested for the accuracy of the figures quoted in the email.

AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2012.

Cllr Turner requested that the members should record the councils thanks to the Clerk for her hard work and effort in achieving another clear audit.

EMAIL FROM BCC RE TREES ON WHITELEAF CROSS.

All agreed for a letter to be sent to Roger Newman of the Chiltern Society to establish the current position regarding ownership and to arrange a meeting with the working group.

ANNUAL REPORT OF BUCKS PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION AND INVITATION TO AGM.

Noted.

EMAIL (13/9) FROM RESIDENT RE BY-ELECTION.

Noted and a response has been formulated from the office with assistance from WDC.

EMAIL FROM PARKWOOD RE NEW NOTICE BOARD AT RISBOROUGH SPRINGS.

Refer to Town Committee.

EMAIL FROM COUNCIL MEMBER RE: COMPLAINT AGAINST ANOTHER COUNCIL MEMBER

Discussed under agenda item 18.

9. ON WHETHER TO EMPLOY A LOCUM CLERK TO COVER THE CLERKS TEMPORARY ABSENCE

Following a lengthy discussion relating to the Clerk's absence, during which several councillors expressed their concern of the underlying issue involved. It was agreed that further investigation in to the matter was required and a closed meeting is to be held at a date to be confirmed. It was further agreed, Cllr Woolf proposed, seconded by Cllr Rolfe that the Deputy Clerk should be paid the higher rate (Clerk's hourly rate) of pay whilst covering for the Clerk's current absence. A vote was taken, with 8 in favour and 1 abstention. The motion was therefore carried.

10. ON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ADMIN/HR COMMITTEE TO ADOPT A POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND HARASSMENT.

With one minor amendment, all present agreed to adopt this policy. A further suggestion was made by Cllr McLauchlan to investigate the production of a "whistle-blowing" policy. It was agreed to refer this to the HR/Admin committee for further consideration.

11. WHETHER THE TOWN COUNCIL WISHES TO ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE AND AGREE THAT IT MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.

A vote was taken, with 8 in favour and 1 abstention. The motion was therefore carried.

12. ON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOWN COMMITTEE TO VIRE THE SUM OF £1600 FROM RESERVES TO THE TOWN COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF POLLARDING THE WILLOW TREES AT WADES PARK, DUE TO HEALTH & SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

All present agreed.

13. ON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOWN COMMITTEE TO VIRE THE SUM OF £2200 FROM RESERVES TO THE TOWN COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING THE CHERRY TREES ALONG STATION ROAD.

All present agreed.

14. ON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOWN COMMITTEE TO VIRE THE SUM OF £275 FROM RESERVES TO THE TOWN COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING A VANDALISED BENCH IN WADES PARK.

All present agreed.

15. ON THE THREE FREE PARKING DATES FOR 2012.

The following dates were proposed 8th, 15th and the 22nd December. A vote was taken, with 8 in favour, 1 abstention. The motion was therefore carried. The Clerk to inform WDC.

16. ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ADMIN/HR COMMITTEE TO EMPLOY AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER OF STAFF TO ASSIST WITH THE WORK AT THE PRINCES CENTRE.

Cllr Rolfe proposed, seconded by Cllr Woolf. A vote was taken, with 7 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention. The motion was therefore carried.

17. ON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE TOWN COMMITTEE TO CHARGE £325 FOR A FULL BURIAL PLOT AND £56.50 FOR AN ASHES PLOT FOR A 25 YEAR EXTENSION ON AN EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL AT STRATTON MEMORIAL GARDEN.

All present agreed, the Clerk is requested to update the Fees.

18. ON THE PROTOCOL FOR WEARING THE MAYOR'S CHAIN.

Following a lengthy discussion, all present agreed that the Council adopt a protocol whereby only the serving Chairman of the council will wear the official chain and the Vice-Chairman, or if not available the selected council member (chosen by the Chairman) will wear the Vice-Chairman's pendant at such time one is available. It was also noted, in relation to a recent incident at a formal reception in High Wycombe, that Cllr Bendyshe-Brown attitude towards Cllr Woolf was unacceptable behaviour.

19. ON THE DISPARITY OF FOOTWAY LIGHTING IN PRINCES RISBOROUGH AND OTHER PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY.

Further verification was requested from BCC. Cllr Etholen to arrange for the relevant BCC officer to meet with the Town Committee.

20. ON REVIEWING AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTRACTS AND STANDING ORDERS

Each committee to review their standing orders and circulate to all council members. A detailed description to of the contract between the Town Council and the Princes Centre to be requested.

21. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.

To be advised.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Town Council will take place on Tuesday 23rd October 2012 at 7.00pm in the Princes Centre, Clifford Road, Princes Risborough.

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman..... Date.....