



**Minutes of the meeting of the FULL COUNCIL.  
Held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom.**

**25/21 Those present and apologies for absence**

Chairman Cllr Piggott  
Councillors Battersby, Cole, Feetham, Mendoza, Vaz.  
Bell, Birch, Seffens from item 27/21  
Also present The Locum Clerk, three members of the public.  
Not present Cllr Freeman

**Resolved.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Reynolds, Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**26/21 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

There were no declarations of interest

**27/21 To consider co-option applications from Derek Birch, Adam Steffens, Mark Lennard, Jack Bell**

- a. Short introductions were received from Jack Bell, Derek Birch and Adam Seffens. The Clerk confirmed that Mark Lennard had withdrawn his application.
- b. **Resolved.** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2), the council resolves to close the meeting to press and public to consider the co-option submissions made in the preceding item. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.
- c. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Birch would be a welcome return and the two new candidates would bring new talents and insights to the council. All three candidates were **nominated** by Cllr Piggott and seconded by Cllr Cole. with no-one against the nominations all were elected unopposed.
- d. **Resolved.** Having concluded the confidential discussion, the council resolves to open the meeting to press and public. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.
- e. The three co-option candidates sign their declaration of acceptance in sight of the Clerk, who countersigned the document later.

**28/21 Public participation.**

Three members of the public were present but did not wish to speak.

### **29/21 Correspondence**

A complaint about new play equipment in Shelley Play Area was noted. The Clerk will write to the complainant explaining that the Council owns the hedge so it will be allowed to grow for shielding. Should there be problems in the summer, the matter will be reviewed.

A letter from Alex Burghart M.P. concerning local flooding was noted.

### **30/21 Consultations**

EPC 1-21 right to regenerate survey. The Council noted the consultation and agreed to reply individually.

### **31/21 Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Paul Keska reported on the Greensted road development, reminding the Councillors that they must put in a strong objection based on planning concerns. Cllr Battersby confirmed that the council has already put in a strong objection to the development.

Cllr Keska noted that the site is in the Local Plan but there have been many objections to the proposals, so the matter has been delayed and the decision will be called in for review by the District Councillors. There are many improvements to the application that could be made.

There has been a delay with Government support to local business being channelled through the District Council but has now been dealt with.

High street regeneration project. Ongar will share a town project manager with Waltham Abbey. The budget has yet to be approved but the Manager's post is now permanently funded.

### **32/21 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

**Resolved.** The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously, by councillors present. Cllrs Birch, Steffens and Bell were not present and so abstained from the vote.

### **33/21 Finance Reporting.**

- a. The list of all payments up to the end of January 2021 was received.
- b. The budgetary information on all accounts was noted.

**Resolved.** The Council notes the budgetary information for January and confirms that the account balance of £29,788.00 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

### **34/21 To consider a policy for management of Councillor absence and apologies**

**Resolved.** The Council approves sickness, carer responsibilities, work commitments as acceptable reasons for absence from a council meeting when given to the Clerk or meeting chair in advance of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Piggott and carried with one abstention.

**35/21 To review the asset register for 2021**

It was noted that the new play equipment in Shelley will be added to the 2021 – 22 asset register.

**Resolved.** The council approves the asset register for year ending March 2021 as published. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**36/21 To consider a request for a salt bin in Greensted.**

**Motion.** The council approves expenditure of up to £200 for a salt bin.

Although there is a case for installing a bin at the Penson's Lane – Greensted Road junction, it was not clear if there is a suitable place so the matter will be deferred subject to a site survey.

**37/21 To set the timetable for planting of tree whips as a replacement for fencing at Jubilee Park.**

As agreed in minute 68/20 the existing fencing at Jubilee Park will be reinforced with tree whips. The intention is to create a natural barrier of hawthorn and blackthorn in preference to a metal barrier. This was to have been done between October and March 2020 but prevented by lockdown. The work will be programmed for October 2021.

**38/21 To consider a request for replacement fencing at Jubilee Park.**

The Council has received a request from the tenant to have a new fence installed. Quotes in the order of £20,000 have been received for improving the fence but the lease only specifies that the fence is maintained in the same condition as at time of handover. With many other calls on its funds, the council needs to take a wider view of its liability and this item will be moved to 47/21 to be addressed as part of a broad recovery plan for the Trust.

**39/21 To consider criteria for the Ongar Citizen of the Year award.**

Many people have done some remarkable things over the last year and the Council wishes to recognise their achievements. It was agreed that the award scheme should be open to organisations as well as individuals with separate awards for each category. There is a form available online and that will be supplemented by paper versions from shops. The Council will advertise in the Ongar News.

**40/21 To consider methods of supporting voluntary and non-profit groups in Ongar.**

The Council was reminded that there is already a grant award scheme which has limited uptake. The Council's list of eligible organisations will be refreshed and used as a starting point for more targeted advertising.

**41/21 To consider joint working with other authorities and agencies to alleviate flooding. (see also Vojan correspondence)**

Essex Highways work has started at Vojan and Tracey's Farm to make a temporary fix, but a long-term solution will be needed. The Clerk reported that an initial meeting between Parish Clerks and the District Council was a promising start to a collaborative

approach to flood management, but without the active involvement of County Council's Highways Department, progress would be slow.

**42/21 To receive a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Two public Q&A sessions have been set-up and the online consultation remains open until 17<sup>th</sup> March. The statutory consultees have been approached for comments.

**43/21 To receive any updates on the Regenerate Ongar project.**

See 31/21 District Cllr Keska's notes.

**44/21 To note the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> February Planning and Environmental Committee.**

The minutes were noted.

**45/21 To consider the following planning applications**

There are no applications to be considered at this meeting

**46/21 Climate Change working party update.**

No update this month. Cllrs Bell and Seffens will join the group.

As the meeting was about to exceed two hours, a motion was proposed to suspend standing order 3(x) to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

**47/21 To receive update from projects and actions working group.**

No update this month, another working strategy session will be arranged to consider the needs and priorities. Noting the maintenance requirements of the Jubilee Park lease and the requests for funds to enhance the current facilities, the Council agreed that that a longer-term plan is needed to consider the future of the trust. It was agreed that the trust would be asked to prepare a post-covid recovery plan which would be the starting point of a discussion about how the trust can support the community, and how the council can support the trust in doing so.

**48/21 Items for next agenda.**

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

**Meeting closed at 10.15**

**Date of next meeting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**