



Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting Held on 18th March 2021 via Zoom,

49/21 Those present and apologies for absence

Chairman Cllr Piggott
Councillors Battersby, Bell, Birch, Cole, Feetham, Mendoza, Seffens, Vaz.
Shami and Mills from minute 51/21
Also present The Locum Clerk, Admin Assistant three members of the public.
Not present Cllr Freeman

Resolved. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Reynolds, Proposed Cllr feetham seconded Cllr Cole and carried with two abstentions

50/21 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interest

51/21 To consider co-option applications from Shukri Shami and David Mills. Craig Tavinder withdrew his application.

- a. To receive introductions from co-option candidates.
- 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 Piggott and carried unanimously.
- c. The two co-optees submissions were considered
- d. **Resolved.** Having concluded the confidential discussion, the council resolves to open the meeting to press and public. Proposed Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

Shukri Shami was nominated by Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

David Mills was nominated by Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Bell and carried unanimously.

- e. Both co-optees signed the declaration of acceptance in sight of the Clerk, who will countersign later.

52/21 Public participation.

On behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, Mary Dadd informed the Council

the plan will give the town the opportunity to include actions that will access Coronavirus recovery funds. The group has ideas to regenerate the town with commercial and cultural projects like events in the castle grounds using heritage recovery funding. It was suggested that the Council considers the matter on a future agenda.

On behalf of the Civic Trust, Dean Walton spoke to raise awareness of their work in making the town an attractive and vibrant place. A charity will have access to grants and recovery funding. They are in the process of establishing the charity will send documentation to make A bid for £2 million Heritage Action Zone has been considered.

Resolved. Items 64 and 65 will be brought forward for discussion at this point following representations from the Neighbourhood Planning Group and the Ongar Civic Trust. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded carried unanimously.

53/21 Correspondence

Complaints about lack of distancing at the farmer's market were noted. The matter was referred to the District Council who have responsibility for enforcing compliance with CoVID regulations.

Complaint about kerbstone damage in Shelley Estate

Complaint about kerbstone damage in Mayflower way.

The Council is aware that is mainly due to dustcart damage. Highways are monitoring the problem but there is no clear plan to remedy the matter. The problem is widespread throughout the parish and remedial action will be needed in many areas

An enquiry about private allotments in Moreton Road was noted. It was confirmed that they were not under the Town Council's control and there were no plans to consider adopting them if they came available.

54/21 Consultations

The Love Essex Fund was noted and referred to the town forum.

55/21 Reports from District and County Councillors

The bench in Cerizay garden that was destroyed belongs to Epping Forest District Council who will be repairing it in the coming financial year. The Town Council's CCTV recorded the event with the images being forwarded to the police. There was a plaque on the broken bench which will be restored when the is repaired.

Concerning the Greensted development, it is suggested that a meeting is organised with developers, the Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan working group and District Councillors. The planning officers will not be involved. The planning application will be considered by District Council Planning Committee by June at the earliest. The Development is in the local plan, so it cannot be stopped but it can be improved. The guidelines established here can be applied to other local developments. CoVID regulations do not currently permit site visits but one may be arranged when restrictions are relaxed.

56/21 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 18th February 2021

Resolved. The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Bell seconded Cllr Birch and carried unanimously.

57/21 Finance Reporting.

- a. To receive a list of all payments up to the end of February 2021.
- b. To receive a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information for February and confirms that the account balance of £71,302.05 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

Cllr Keska left the meeting.

58/21 To consider a proposal for media support from Everything Local News

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 Birch seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

Following a detailed discussion of the potential benefits and costs of the proposal it was agreed to appoint Everything Local News to provide media support to the Council.

Resolved. Having concluded the confidential discussion, the council resolves to open the meeting to press and public. Proposed Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

Resolved. The Council appoints David Jackman of Everything Local News Epping to provide media support for the Council at an annual fee of £900. Proposed Cllr Vaz seconded Battersby. Carried five to three with one abstention.

59/21 To consider a proposal for renewed HR Cover.

Resolved. The Council approves the renewal of HR support by Ellis Whittam for £2,000. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

60/21 To review standing orders and financial regulations.

Both documents comply with the current 2018 model provided by the National Association

- a. **Resolved.** The Council approves revision 2.1 of standing orders for adoption in 2021 -2 Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Bell and carried unanimously.
- b. **Resolved.** The Council approved revision 2.1 of financial regulation for adoption in 2021-2 Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

61/21 To consider actions necessary for a return to in-person meetings.

a. Normal parish meetings.

The Council does not have sufficient space in Bansons to meet, and an

alternative venue will have to be found if the CoVID regulations are not renewed.

b. Annual Assembly.

The Clerk reminded the Council that the annual parish meeting should be held between 1st March and 1st June. The CoVID regulations excused councils from holding a meeting in 2020 but would be obliged to hold one in 2021. Given that remote meetings are now better understood and have been popular with the residents, there is an opportunity to hold meeting online before the regulations expire in preference to meeting a requirement to hold them in person after. The Council can convene a physical meeting at any time later in the year once restrictions have been lifted.

Resolved. The Council will hold an online annual assembly on April 29th at 7.00 p.m. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Bell and carried unanimously.

62/21 To consider entering the best-kept playing fields competition

Resolved. The Council approves entry for all eligible categories of playing field. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

63/21 To consider making a request to the District Council for a formal process of consultation on decisions affecting Ongar.

Resolved. A letter will be written to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive requiring the District Council to consult with the Town Council before making decisions that affect the Town. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

64/21 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. (item bought forward for consideration after public comments.)

Cllr Feetham attended the Local Councils liaison meeting and noted a presentation on rural and affordable housing. Ongar has too many residents to get involved. The District Plan is still out for consultation and will be adopted later this year. The Clean Air Zone working group will be a cross party committee.

65/21 To receive any updates on the Regenerate Ongar project. (item bought forward for consideration after public comments.)

Epping Forest District Council has approved the funding of a Town Centre Project Manager who will be partly working for Ongar. Cllr Mendoza requested that the project manager works with the Town Council. It is not yet known how much time or money will be specifically allocated to Ongar

66/21 The minutes of the 4th March Planning and Environmental Committee were noted.

67/21 Climate Change working party update.

Cllr Birch has stepped down from the chairman's post. Cllr Mendoza will become chairman. Cllr Dadd will be invited to be a co-optee.

68/21 To receive update from projects and actions working group.

A refresh of membership and meetings will be arranged.

69/21 Items for next agenda.

Meeting with Town Regeneration Officer.

Schemes to be considered for section 106 money,

Representation on Broadband service to Ongar

Meeting closed at 9.47