



## **Minutes of the full council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 At the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS**

### **137/21 Those present and apologies for absence.**

**Chairman** Cllr Piggott

**Councillors** Battersby, Bell, Mendoza, Mills, Reynolds, Seffens.

**Also present** The Locum Clerk, Press Officer.

**Not present** Cllrs Freeman, Cole, Shami.

**Resolved.** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Birch, Feetham, Vaz. Proposed Cllr Seffen seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

### **138/21 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

There were no declarations.

### **139/21 Public participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

### **140/21 Correspondence.**

Complaint about the condition of roads and verges.

It was noted that the bus stops are now the responsibility of the County Council, but it was agreed that the town council should maintain them until their intentions should become clear.

### **141/21 Consultations.**

None this month

### **142/21 Reports from District and County Councillors.**

No reports received.

### **143/21 Police matters.**

Warren Shepherd reported that he has requested a popup stall at the farmer's market.

There have been some successes emerging from information received from the public, and more may arise from ongoing investigations.

It was agreed that matters of concern can be reported to the Town Council and recorded in the minutes of meetings and reported on social media.

There is a small increase in burglary and vehicle crime over the last year, but as the country was locked down at the time, this is to be expected.

The matter of special constables was raised, and the Council confirmed that it was seeing support from the Police in recruiting volunteers.

**144/21 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

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

**145/21 Finance reporting.**

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

**Resolved.** The Council notes the budgetary information for June and confirms that the account balance of £176,297.73 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Seffen seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

**146/21 To approve the terms of reference for Working Groups.**

- a. Regeneration
- b. Climate Change
- c. Projects and actions working group

It was agreed that the decision would be deferred to the August meeting and the Clerk would produce draft terms of reference for consideration.

**147/21 Grant Applications.**

Ongar Town F.C request £1,634.75

It was noted that the application did not break down the request or specify what equipment would be purchased with the grant. It was also noted that the team does not play in Ongar and the membership list has only a minority of players from the Parish.

**Motion.** The council approves a grant of £1634.75. With no proposer, the motion fails.

The Clerk was asked to get more information from the club about the specific needs to be met by the grant application.

Ongar Croquet Club request £4,250.00

In documentation previously supplied to the Council, it was made clear that the Croquet Club had £3,000 allocated and held by the Tennis Club. Their original intention was to be fully self-funding through their subscriptions. Cllr Reynolds advised the Council that the £3,000 allocated in the original documentation had already been spent on remedial work to the grounds. The application did not give any information about the level of interest in joining the club.

**A motion** to amend the grant offer to £2,000 was proposed by Cllr Reynolds. With no seconder the motion failed.

**Motion.** The council approves a grant of £4,250.00. With no proposer, the motion failed.

**148/21 Amendments to social media policy**

**Resolved.** The Council approves revision 2.0 of the policy for adoption. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

**149/21 Commemorations and celebrations.**

**a. 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations.**

It was agreed that the proposal would be referred to the Ongar Festival and Town Forum and offering support to any project that emerges.

**b. Jubilee beacon**

It was agreed to refer to the Ongar Community Sporting Trust marketing committee.

**150/21 Future use of chapel.**

A survey in 2009 estimated that £40,000 would be required for remedial work, but with no clear purpose for the building, it would be hard to justify the expenditure. Even if the building itself were deconsecrated, it is within a consecrated burial ground so the future uses would be extremely limited. It is currently used as a storeroom and has no value to the users of the cemetery. The Council agreed that the building had an aesthetic value and should be preserved but could not see a use for it. The Clerk will seek a partner to advise on future use.

**151/21 Items for next agenda.**

August - Burial Grounds

September – to review proposals for refurbishment of recreation ground play area.

**Meeting closed at 9.13.**