



Minutes of the full council meeting 17th March 2022 Held at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.

Before the meeting opened the Council were advised that there would be a candlelight vigil for Ukraine 23rd March 7.30 in the High Street.

46/22 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair Cllr Piggott
Cllrs Battersby, Bell from minute 49/22, Birch, Cole, Feetham, Shami, Wickstead, Reynolds.

Also present The Locum Clerk, Press Officer, Mary Dadd on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

Not present Cllr Shami.

Resolved. The council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr Freeman, Mendoza, Seffens, Vaz. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

47/22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There was one declaration of interest: Cllr Birch declared a nonpecuniary interest in 57/22 Ongar Market.

48/22 Public participation.

There were no members of the public present.
Item 55/22 on the Neighbourhood Plan was considered here..

49/22 Correspondence.

Ride London.

Cllr Mclvor considers the event to be a positive experience, pointing out that as this is the first year, there will be a lot to learn. It was agreed that the Clerk will invite Ride London to a meeting in Ongar.

Essex House street lighting.

It was suggested that the intensity of light be reduced.

The Jubilee Park Boiler insurance claim was noted.

The town guide request was noted.

The concerns about weedkilling around the graves was noted. The Councillors will be considering the matter at the next meeting.

The treatment for Oak Processionary Moth was noted and it was confirmed that the Council's arboriculturist would carry-out the necessary inspections.

50/22 Consultations.

None this month

51/22 Reports from District and County Councillors.

To receive a five-minute report from District and County Councillors on matters relating to Ongar.

County Cllr Mclvor reported that he has a surgery meeting is scheduled at Budworth Hall 24th March that will address the Ride London event and other matters. He advised that the Ride London route will require improvement in the roads which may cause short-term disruption. He also noted concerns about kerbs and road maintenance.

High street was close to achieving a 20mph speed limit. A letter to the Essex County Councillor expressing the council's concern about the number of heavy vehicles.

Cllr Mclvor was thanked for his work in Poland.

52/22 Police matters.

PC Shepherd sent the following written report. In the last meeting I said about extra CCTV being put up in the High Rd to allow for better coverage, I will leave the council to decide where they can and can't put these up due to the power supply issue, but my suggestion would be in the bottleneck and then around the parade of shops opposite Ongar Bridge. I have spoken with the powers that be here and they are happy for this to happen, and I have submitted the necessary paperwork to try and get the idea passed by our IT department, this will obviously take some time but once I have a concrete yes or no then I will update the council.

One of the last items on the agenda from the last meeting was regarding a community committee being set up to run community events in Ongar, could I suggest that as and when this is set up that one of the events that's discussed is Remembrance Day. I laid the wreath last year at the War Memorial on behalf of Essex Police and I felt the turnout wasn't very good, in previous years I have had to police Remembrance Day at every other wreath laying in EFD and the turnouts for these are amazing. I appreciate that we don't have a Legion in Ongar to organise things like Epping and Loughton but neither does Roydon and they arrange a parade after a church service with Bugler and Roydon is half the size of Ongar. It just felt like we were there because it was what we were supposed to be doing and there was no real thought put behind it, I know that Councillor Mclvor is keen on sorting something for this as well so maybe he can be linked in on plans if it is something. We have army cadets, scouts etc in the Ongar and surrounding area so I am sure a parade is something that could be easily investigated.

I have also drawn up some crime figures for the last 3-month period which is dated 10th December 2021 to 10th March 2022. This shows 250 reported incidents to police, of these 250 incidents only 154 of these were recorded as crimes, then of that 154 only 34 crimes could be considered as affecting the community. This includes things like

Burglaries and Theft of Motor Vehicles etc. When this is compared to the same period last year so 10th December 2020 to 10th March 2021 there was still 250 reported incidents to police, of these 250 incidents 223 crimes were recorded. Again of this 223 crime figure only 27 are crimes that would be considered as affecting the community as a whole, again things like Burglaries and Theft of Motor Vehicles etc.

This does show a small increase in community-based crimes, this seems to be around vehicle-based crime like theft of motor vehicle and theft from a motor vehicle. However, whilst there is that small increase in those types of crimes, when you compare the overall figures, it shows that crime is actually down 31% in Ongar which is a fantastic figure.

The Council noted the comments about the remembrance parade.

53/22 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 17th February 2022

Resolved. The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Bell and carried five to two with three abstentions.

54/22 Finance reporting.

- a. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of February 2022.
- b. The Council received a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information for February and confirms that the account balance of £151,652.86 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

55/22 To receive an update on the neighbourhood plan.

Mary Dadd reported that the plan is with the external Examiner. ONPCG has answered the initial questions about Regulation 16 consultations. You can expect to have examiner's report in April. The delay was caused by her contracting covid.

The Steering Group was advised by Dave Chetwyn that it should be deemed sound with no reason to have any major modifications or go back to consultation.

Accordingly, Epping Forest District Council should be giving weight to ONP emerging policies in decision making for applications Para 48 NPPF and 007 guidance notes, there being no unresolved objections to policies. In other words, they are aligned with EFDC strategic policies. However. Epping Forest District Council isn't as per Greensted Rd EPF/2627/20 officers report.

We all need to be ready to respond when Ongar's allocated sites submit planning applications, particularly as we have been excluded from any pre-application discussions and no public consultations came forward to Greensted Rd ONG.R5 or ONG_R8 in contrast to Epping and Waltham Abbey and Loughton sites recently.

There is concern about how ONG. R5 went to Planning East without notifying the Town

Council as the statutory body or giving you an opportunity to comment on changes to layout and some designs as posted quietly On EFDC website in Jan and Feb 2022. There was no indication that the surface water flooding situation has been addressed. There was no consultation with the Town Council on s106 against Epping Forest District Council policy. The ONP contains priorities.

The Neighbourhood Plan adds more detail to the broad-brush Local plan policies. It's the first to come this far with the detail and justification for 15 policies.

ONPCG is concerned that various aspects in ONG R5 are contrary to strategic EFDC policies on Housing mix density and parking provision. If passed, not only will it make the Local Plan a complete sham but also could set a precedent for the other Ongar sites to accept inappropriate development out of character and not meeting the community needs.

There is concern that the planning procedure was not adhered to; as a community we should not put up with that. A decision was taken on 9th March to have a site visit even before hearing the objector and OTC case.

We have the backing of our Ongar and Epping Forest MP in that the due process should be adhered to. They can't comment on content.

The residents of Greensted are up in arms and not because of NIMBYism.

Now it is up to the Town Council to back its neighbourhood plan and stand up for Ongar residents to ensure policies are adhered to, procedures followed, and our voices heard early in the process including community engagement before an application has final detail to go to EFDC as per Epping Waltham and Loughton.

The Epping Forest District Council officers' report also maligns ONP and is incorrect and should be taken to task about it. To manage this, you are asked to appoint a small, delegated group to work with the ONPCG representative and the Town Clerk to make these responses concerning ONG.R5 urgently as it is likely to be back at Planning East on 6th April.

You are also asked item on your next agenda to consider the progress of the local plan and allocated sites for Ongar and to decide on the actions you will take. You are encouraged to go to and advertise the Fairfield and Fairbank Residents' open meeting on Monday at 7.30 pm in the Livingstone Hall (Reform Church Hall) in Stanley Place.

It was agreed that the Town Council will make representation to the Planning Authority raising concerns about their compliance to procedures. Cllr Battersby will work with Mary Dadd to prepare a response.

- 56/22 To consider amendments to the terms of reference**
Resolved. The council approves version 1.7 of the terms of reference increasing the membership of the staffing committee by one to eight and increasing the quorum to four. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Piggott and carried with two against.
- 57/22 Ongar Town Market**
Resolved. The Town Council will become the Market Authority for the parishes of Ongar. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Reynolds and carried with three abstentions.
- 58/22 To consider council involvement in the Town Festival.**
No change proposed.
- 59/22 To consider options to plant additional flowerbeds in the town.**
The matter will be deferred to a later meeting.
- 60/22 CCTV**
- a. To consider funding additional CCTV services to support the Police.
The matter will be considered when the problems highlighted below have been addressed.
 - b. To review services supplied by current provider and
 - i. consider withholding payment.
Resolved. The Council authorises payment of two years maintenance fees but will withhold the surveillance payment pending evidence of standard of service required that the council is receiving.
 - ii. Seeking an alternative provider.
To consider at a later meeting.
 - c. To consider a draft CCTV protocol.
Resolved. The CCTV protocol is approved as published. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.
- 61/22 To note entry to Essex Playing Fields Association 2022**
The Council has submitted Cerizay, Greensted Road, Shelley and the Recreation Ground to the competition.
- 62/22 To note the surrender of the skateboard lease.**
Brodie Developments now require the site for development and have made a surrender payment of £1,000 for immediate release of the lease. The Council's solicitor is validating the proposal, confirming that it covers legal costs, and acknowledges that the site will be returned as-is with no requirement to remove the skatepark. It was also confirmed that the Developer will be writing to the Planning Authority specifying that the Section 106 money would be ringfenced to provision of play facilities in Ongar.
- 63/22 To consider nominations for Ongar Town Council citizen of the year.**

There were four nominations: Carolyn Innocent, Kelly Stone, Mary Dadd and Lisa Portman.

It was recommended that as the award was not made in the Covid years, the council made three awards for three years: 2020 Carolyn Innocent for her work in creating the Ongar Town Festival, 2021 Kelly Stone for her tireless work promoting the town, 2022 Mary Dadd for her outstanding work leading and co-ordinating the Neighbourhood Plan and other planning matters.

In recognition of the Platinum Jubilee year an extra award was made to Lisa Portman for her work with the young people of Ongar.

Resolved. The Council makes three citizen of the year awards: 2020 Carolyn Innocent, 2021 Kelley Stone, 2022 Mary Dadd, Platinum award Lisa Portman. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

64/22 Committee matters

The Staffing Committee agreed to meet on 14th April 2022 at 7.30 pm.

65/22 Items for next agenda.

Grass cutting in the cemetery, gravestone testing. Installation of new headstone rafts. Progress of local plan and allocated sites for Ongar. Siting of flowerbeds. Design of replacement town sign.

Meeting closed 9.30