



**Minutes of the full council meeting held on 21st April 2022
At the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.**

- 66/22 To appoint a chair to open the meeting**
Cllr Birch was nominated by Cllr Reynolds. With no other nominations, Cllr Birch opened the meeting.
- 67/22 To receive nominations for the office of chairman.**
Cllr Birch was nominated by Cllr Reynolds and seconded by Cllr Cole. With no other nominations, Cllr Birch was nominated and signed the declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Locum Clerk.
- 68/22 Those present and apologies for absence.**
Chair Cllr Birch
Councillors Cole, Feetham, Mendoza, Reynolds, Shami, Vaz
Also present Locum Clerk, Press Officer, PC Shepherd, two members of the public.
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Freeman,
- 69/22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**
Cllrs Cole Reynolds and Feetham declared pecuniary interests in agenda item 80/22.
- 70/22 Public participation.**
There were two members of the public present, neither wished to speak.
- 71/22 To note the resignations of Cllrs Battersby, Bell, Mills, Piggott, Seffens, Wickstead.**
The notices of casual vacancy have been published. Residents have until 29th April to claim a poll, otherwise the Council will be free to co-opt.
- 72/22 Correspondence.**
Faulty lamppost at Fyfield.
The Council noted that the light fitting was beyond economic repair and had been replaced by Essex Highways lighting on the other side of the road.
- Community Payback offer.
The Council agreed in principle to consider using the service for litter picking, grass cutting and cleaning bus shelters.
- Churchyard buddleias.
The plants were self-set in a wall belonging to a neighbouring property. The Council's arboriculturist removed them free-of-charge while undertaking other works in the grounds.

Churchyard tree trimming, two letters.

Following a request from the Churchwardens to trim the trees in the closed churchyard, two complaints were received from residents that the trees had been trimmed too much. It was noted that the plants had been cut-back to a level where they could be managed without specialist equipment.

Wildlife ponds.

This was forwarded to the Ongar Wildlife Society

73/22 Consultations.
None this month.

74/22 Reports from District and County Councillors.
Cllrs Keska and Vaz have written articles for Ongar News about local reaction to the proposed Greensted Housing Development.

75/22 Police matters.
PC Shepherd reported there had been two hundred and seventy incidents recorded, of which one hundred and eight were crimes. Eight were thefts from vehicles, three were vehicle thefts, five were burglaries and three were attempted burglaries. There is no significant change from last year, other than a 12% reduction in calls and 16% reduction in crime. The new police recruited for Essex are not likely to affect Ongar. The Police have recovered images of children who were damaging the public toilets and will be speaking to the relevant school with a warning to the perpetrators.

It was confirmed that there was no special police cover arranged for the May festival.

PC Shepherd will not be able to attend future meetings and advised Councillors to send any questions or concerns to the Clerk.

76/22 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 17th March 2022
Resolved. The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Feetham and carried unanimously.

77/22 Finance reporting.
a. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of March 2022.
b. The Council received a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of 144,352.84 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Shami and carried unanimously.

78/22 To receive an update on the neighbourhood plan.
No update.

79/22 To note representation on Greensted Road development.
The Council was advised that the Neighbourhood Planning Group, Town, and District Councillors spoke on behalf of the residents. The result was a split vote with the

decision referred to Epping Forest D.C.'s District Development Management Committee in June.

80/22 Jubilee Park

- a. To note the lease has been signed.
The paperwork has been returned to the solicitor for countersignature.
- b. To consider an application to fund the rewiring of Jubilee Park Clubhouse.
With three councillors declaring pecuniary interest and unable to vote, this item was deferred to a later meeting.
- c. To consider a report on the drain damage.
The report was noted, and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for the remedial work and raise the matter with the insurance company.

81/22 To consider transferring S106 money earmarked reserve for bus shelters to revenue account for shelter cleaning.

Resolved. The council approves transferring from EMR 323 the whole sum of £5,196 to budget code 4420 Bus shelter maintenance. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Reynolds and carried unanimously.

82/22 To note revised prices for play equipment and to approve purchase of a 2-seat roundabout.

The Locum Clerk reminded the council that the original project proposed selecting parts of the quotation up to £20k. All contracts over £25k must be offered on contract finder and the current refurbishment is now more than £50k. The advice was noted.

The revised prices were accepted, and it was agreed that the roundabout repair will be the top priority. The Clerk will authorise the work.

83/22 To note the surrender of the skateboard lease.

Resolved. The Council approves the surrender of the skateboard lease for a payment of £1,000 with both parties paying their own legal costs. Proposed Feetham seconded mendoza and carried unanimously.

84/22 To consider proposals for Shelley Park improvements.

The proposals were noted, but further information will be required. With this proposal potentially taking-over the maintenance of the St Peters play area, the Clerk was asked to research options to repurpose the play area's Section 106 money towards a new skatepark.

85/22 To consider arrangements for the annual assembly.

The Council agreed to hold the event on Thursday 12th 7.30pm at Jubilee Park. Award plaques will be required for the Citizens of the Year. Ride London will be invited to speak after the assembly.

86/22 To consider tenders for repair and replacement of window blinds in Bansons

Resolved. The council will accept the quote from Grove Blinds to refurbish and replace the blinds at Bansons for £762. Proposed Cllr Shami seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

87/22 To note arrangements for Ride London.

At the drop-in meeting, residents and Councillors made several points concerning planning, health and safety, specifically escape routes and alternative ways around the town. Most visitors were positive about the event but there were concerns. Essex County Council want to arrange another drop-in session, but clarity is needed on who will pay for the hall hire.

88/22 Cemetery matters

- a. To consider grass cutting in the cemetery.

This item will be deferred pending a discussion with staff on the wider matter of grass cutting.

- b. The Council noted that gravestone testing is due by September 2023 at the latest and will consider preparations for the work.

- c. To consider a draft memorial inspection policy.

Resolved. The Council approves the memorial inspection policy as published. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Feetham and carried unanimously.

89/22 To note the minutes of the Staffing Committee

The minutes were not available.

90/22 Items for next agenda.

Year-end accounts

Approval of annual return

Internal Audit report

Replacement skatepark

Replacement town sign.

Provision of £5,000 towards regenerate Ongar

Meeting closed 9.20.