



Minutes of a meeting of the full council
Held on 16th February 2023 at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.

22/23 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair. Cllr Birch.

Councillors Barrell, Feetham, Griffiths, Gunn, Pigott, Vaz.

Also present The Locum Clerk, Press Officer one member of the public.

Not present Cllr Mendoza.

Resolved. The council accepts apologies for absence from Cllrs Cole and Shami.
Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Griffiths and carried unanimously.

23/23 To note the disqualification of Mr Freeman

Section 85 of the Local Government Act requires a councillor to attend a meeting or have apologies accepted at least once in six months. The Council noted that Mr Freeman had been a councillor since 2015 and thanked him for his work over the years.

24/23 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in 34/23 as a Director of Ongar Community Sports Ltd. and as director and trustee for 35/23.

25/23 Public participation.

One resident was present but did not wish to speak.

26/23 Project update.

Love Lane footway. Work authorised.

Playground upgrade – further quotes for alternative equipment has been requested.

Town Sign – quotes to replace like-for-like being sought.

Love Lane Office – current tenants leave at the end of February.

Council Van – to note trade-in and purchase of replacement.

Correspondence:

A letter continuing the dispute with the external auditor PKF Littlejohn was noted. Given the continued failures of the auditor, the Council asked the Clerk to raise their concerns about the external auditor with Alex Burghart MP.

The guidance on managing coronation events was noted.

27/23 Consultations.

The Epping Forest District Council Air Quality consultation was noted.

The Statement of Principles Under the Gambling Act 2005 was noted.

28/23 Reports from District and County Councillors.

Cllr Vaz reported that the Epping Forest District Council Local Plan has been approved subject to minor amendments. Concern was expressed that there was no provision for the development of a Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule. The Clerk will draft a letter for Cllr Vaz to raise the matter with the District Council.

29/23 Police matters.

Rural Policing newsletter noted.

It was noted that the Coffee with cops event was not happening in Fyfield.

The Clerk will enquire about progress with the recruitment of Special Constables

30/23 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 19th January 2023

Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Vaz seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously by those then present.

31/23 Finance reporting.

- a. The Council noted a list of all payments up to the end of January 2023.
- b. The Council noted a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance £87,136.75 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Feetham and carried unanimously.

32/23 To review governing documents

- a. **Resolved.** The Council approves revision 2.1 standing orders for 2023-4.
- b. **Resolved.** The Council approves revision 2.1 financial regulations for 2023-4.
- c. **Resolved.** The council adopts the 2023-4 Statement of Internal Control.

Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Griffith and carried unanimously.

33/23 Commonwealth war graves signage

Resolved. The Council authorises The Commonwealth War Graves Commission to locate a 'war graves within' sign at Love Lane burial ground main road entrance. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Feetham and carried unanimously.

34/23 Love Lane repairs.

Resolved. The Council approves expenditure of £290.00 as a contribution towards repairs to Love Lane being managed by Ongar Community Sports Ltd. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Gunn and carried with one abstention for declared interest.

35/23 Lease with Tennis Club

Cllr Reynolds left the room.

Following the decision in minute 20/22 confirming that the Tennis Club rent is to be paid to the Town Council, and the proposal in minute 161/22 that the lease and rent are transferred to the Sporting Trust, the following motion is to clarify the Council's

position.

It was noted that the trust has made a significant saving on a reduction on the rent, which more than offsets the expectation that the tennis rent would be received. Although there is a belief that the establishment of the trust has saved £60k but that has been returned to the residents in a freeze in precept since 2016.

Resolved. The Council confirms that the Tennis Club lease is with the Town Council, and it is to them that the rent shall be paid. This is effective from April 2023, and monies previously paid to the Trust will not be demanded. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Barrell and carried with one abstention.

36/23 Elections

The council noted the requirements for the elections in May 2023. Councillors were reminded that it was their responsibility to obtain and complete the necessary application forms if they wish to stand for election.

37/23 Bus services in Ongar.

- a. To consider a response to the consultation standards of bus services.
- b. Bus shelters

This item will be deferred to next month.

38/23 Speed indicator devices.

To consider latest information on speed indicator devices and speed reduction.

Prior research shows that there is not an issue with speeding in the community. If further evidence was sought, it was noted that Speederbot could collect information, but it was not clear how this could be used, nor if it would change the perception of speeding risk.

An alternative approach would be to consider installing signage to encourage sensible driving. If the Council can identify suitable locations for signage that would make a tangible difference, the matter could be taken to the Local Highways Panel.

39/23 Skatepark.

To consider the steps necessary to fund the design and installation of a skatepark.

In the first instance, the council will publish a proposal to the residents asking if there is an interest in the project and if so, would they be interested in becoming part of the steering group. As Epping Town Council has recently completed a similar project, the Clerk will enquire about outcomes and processes used.

40/23 Staffing Matters.

Update on temporary cover. Three applications have been received. The Staffing Committee will interview the candidates next week. Tuesday Afternoon.

41/23 Items for the next agenda.

Revised quote for roundabout.
Risk assessments.
Cemetery fees
Bus shelters.
Speeding.
ECC liability for tree maintenance.
Roof in Social Club boiler room.

Meeting Closed 9.04.