



**Minutes of a meeting of the full council**  
**Held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.**

**64/23 Those present and apologies for absence.**

**Chair.** Cllr Reynolds

**Councillors** Barrell, Cole, Feetham, Mendoza, Piggott, Vaz

**Resolved.** The council accepts apologies for absence from Cllrs Birch, Griffin, Gunn, Shami. Proposed Cllr Reynold and carried unanimously.

**65/23 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

Cllr Vaz declared an interest in item 79/23.

**66/23 Public participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

**67/23 To note the unopposed election of councillors.**

Greensted ward. Simon Cole, Diana Roberts.

Shelly ward. Tom Acornley, Debra Barrell, Lawrence Mendoza. Two vacancies.

Chipping Ongar ward. Christine Feetham. Three vacancies.

Marden Ash. Basil Vaz, Jason Gunn. Two vacancies.

All seven vacancies can be advertised for co-option from May 2023. The current council dissolves on 4<sup>th</sup> May and the new council forms on 11<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors are reminded to have their registers of interest ready for submission, their declarations of acceptance ready for countersigning and their expenses forms ready for submission to the District Council. Even if there are no expenses to report, a null response is required.

**68/23 Project update.**

Love Lane footway. Work to be managed by Ongar Community Sports Ltd.

Playground upgrade – further quotes for alternative equipment to be considered at a later meeting.

Town Sign – quotes to replace like-for-like being sought. The remaining sign is being sent for repair with a view to creating a mould to produce a replacement.

Love Lane Office – the tenancy has been let, the lease is under preparation and occupancy to start in May.

**69/23 Correspondence**

Ride London.

- The letter to County Council was noted.
- The Facebook comments were noted.

Concern about tendering process and competence of contractors. In view of the gravity of the allegations, the Clerk has requested more information from the complainant

before taking the matter further. The 20-day response time for the Environmental Information Request is paused until the response is received.

The Council noted the concern about demolition of weighbridge hut but noted that they were private property with no protection as listed building. It was recalled that the Council did offer support to the Museum if they wished to make a bid for the demolition and re-erection of the buildings on their site.

Rat infestation at Zinc

- The comments from neighbours were noted.
- The comments from Zinc Management were noted.

As the landowner has confirmed that the container should be removed, there does not appear to be a role for the council in resolving the matter.

**70/23 Consultations.**

The infrastructure levy consultation was noted.

**71/23 Reports from District and County Councillors.**

As both councils were in the pre-election period, there were no reports.

**72/23 Police matters.**

The update on Special Constable recruitment was noted. There has been no progress in recruiting a Special Constable for Ongar.

The Rural Policing bulletin was noted.

**73/23 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Cllr Reynolds recorded his objection to the comment that the repairs to the building were subject to payment of rent arrears.

**Resolved.** The minutes of the Full Council Meeting are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

**74/23 Finance reporting.**

- a. The council received a list of all payments up to the end of March 2023.
- 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 £18,020.42 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

The end-of year procedures are under way. The accounts will be closed on 18<sup>th</sup> May and the internal audit report received along with the AGAR at the June meeting.

**75/23 Essex Association of Local Councils.**

**Resolved.** The council approves renewal of membership of the Essex and National Associations for 2023-24 at £1,027.21. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

**76/23 Essex Playing Fields Association**

**Resolved.** The council approves renewal of membership for 2023 -24 at £30. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

**Resolved.** The council will enter the Shelley, Cerizay, Greensted and Recreation Ground play areas in the EPFA best-kept playing fields competition. Proposed Cllr Piggott seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**77/23 Citizen of the year.**

To consider nominations for organisations and individuals.

**Resolved.** The Council will make awards to Andrew Bacon for his contribution towards the Ongar Community Sporting Trust, Catherine Honeywell for her work on Ongar Town Festival, Karen Bush for her work on the Ongar News. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**78/23 Ongar - Cerizay twinning event.**

The civic reception was a successful event.

It was noted that next year will be the fortieth anniversary, and the Council would like to encourage younger people to get involved. Although this is not the Council's programme, there should be an effort to engage with the local schools and sporting groups and encourage participation.

**79/23 To consider a grant application for coronation event.**

Cllr Vaz left the room.

It was noted that the organisation had sufficient funds to cover the event, and there was no proposal to match the grant funding. The council would require a clear indication that the event was secular.

The Council approves an award of £+++ to support the coronation event St. Helen's Catholic Church. With no proposer, the motion failed.

**80/23 To note that the next meeting will be the annual meeting of the council and will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> May at 8 p.m.**

**81/23 To note the Elector's meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 8 pm in the Council Chamber.**

**82/23 Items for later agendas.**

Risk assessments.

Cemetery price structure.

Year-end closedown.

Project Progress.

**Meeting closed 9.03**