

Ongar

Town Council

Bansons Way, Ongar, Essex. CM5 9AS
01277 365348



Email. clerk@ongartownCouncil.gov.uk
www.ongartownCouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the full Council to be held on 17th August 2023 at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.

162/23 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair Cllr Gunn

Councillors Cllrs Acornley, Barrell, Cllr Eydmann, Mendoza, O'Neill, Roberts, Walton.

Also present The Locum Clerk two members of the public.

Motion. The Council accepts apologies for absence from Cllrs Feetham, Cole, Vaz.
Proposed Cllr Gunn seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

163/23 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

164/23 Public participation.

There were two members of the public neither of whom wished to speak.

165/23 Project update.

Playground upgrade. Pending consultation for a new piece of equipment.

Litter bins. Four new bins delivered for installation at Shelley play area.

166/23 Correspondence

The correspondence between Stamford Rivers PC and Alex Burghart MP was noted and the Council agreed to add its active support to the proposal.

The Council considered the announcement of another Tour of Britain cycling race. It was noted that the road closure would only be for 90 minutes and would not involve the high street, as it will be following Stondon Road – Coopers Hill – Greensted Road.

Request for room hires at Bansons from Carers First and the Fire Service. Both applicants have been told that hire is feasible and if they can supply more information, it would help the Council accommodate their needs.

A letter from the externally appointed auditor requesting payment for unauthorised work was noted. The Council's position remains unchanged and no justification for the payment has been received. The matter will be settled in court.

167/23 Community updates

The planning application that will close Ongar Garden Centre is a matter for Brentwood Borough Council but will affect the residents of this parish. Although the main local concern is loss of amenity and jobs, there are planning matters to be considered with road infrastructure and access.

Councillors attended the unveiling of the Edwyn Gilmore commemorative seat in Cerizay park.

Residents of The Gables housing estate are having problems with children taking shortcuts through the residential area to get to the school. A fence has been proposed but this has been challenged by the County Councillor. The Clerk will write to the new Head of the Academy asking for a joint approach to understanding the risks of children crossing car parks and unsupervised roads.

168/23 Consultations.

Individual Councillors were again encouraged to complete Essex County Council bus routes consultation, with particular attention to the additional service requested by Stamford Rivers Parish Council. Residents will be reminded to complete the form via the Town Council's website or directly through the County Council's site.

169/23 Reports from District and County Councillors.

There was no update from District or County Councillors.

170/23 Police matters.

PC Shepherd's police report was noted.

The Rural Policing update was noted.

Progress on recruitment of a special constable was noted. Once the candidate has finished the initial training, they will be posted to the nearest District Police Station to complete their portfolio at which time they will contact the Town Council and start building the relationship.

171/23 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 20th July 2023

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

172/23 Finance reporting.

a. To receive a list of all payments up to the end of July 2023.

b. To receive a list of budgetary information on all accounts

Resolved. The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance £29,097.42 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Eydmann seconded Cllr Barrell and carried unanimously.

173/23 Insurance renewal for year three of three-year arrangement.

Resolved. The Council approves renewal of insurance via James Hallam Ltd Brokers with Aviva for a fee of £14,699.49. Proposed Cllr Gunn seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

174/23 To consider installing an anti-climb collar to the Shelley CCTV pole

Resolved. The Council approves expenditure of £790.00 for an anti-climb collar for the Shelley Play area CCTV pole. Proposed Cllr Barrell seconded Cllr Roberts and carried unanimously.

175/23 To approve a prototype design for the replacement town sign.

Resolved. The Council approves the design for production. Proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Eydmann and carried unanimously.

176/23 To consider a revised grant application pack.

Resolved. The Council approves version 0.1 of the grant application pack for publication. Proposed Cllr Mandoza seconded Cllr Barrell and carried unanimously.

177/23 To consider Council involvement in the Town Twinning process.

The Council could consider building capacity for the association and invite residents to get involved. This could include widening the Association's membership and looking for opportunities to involve the schools and academy. More could be made of the relationship with links being made between schools, societies, and businesses all of which could take advantage of physical and virtual meetings. The association will be invited to submit a grant application if they have a specific project in mind.

178/23 To consider Council support for joint litter-picks

It was noted that online interest in litter picking never translates into practical support so careful promotion will be required. Announcing the opportunities through social media and engaging with organisations that would be interested in working together.

Involving the children is an obvious starting point, not only by picking the litter but also impressing the importance of not dropping the litter in the first place.

As a starting point, the Clerk will purchase sufficient equipment for all the Councillors to participate in an inaugural pick.

Community payback

The Council could not see any opportunities use this service for the clean-ups.

179/23 To define the location and species of seven Jubilee trees and the location for two coronation benches in the nature reserve.

Following a review of the previous discussions it was confirmed that the Council will purchase seven specimen silver birch trees for the commemoration trees. A rowan to commemorate the Ongar-Cerizay twinning association's founder was considered, but dismissed as the rowan berries are harmful to dogs.

Resolved. The Council will close the Neighbourhood Planning EMR code 327 and transfer the residuum of £4,888 to general reserve for purchase of trees and benches. Proposed Cllr Roberts seconded Cllr Walton and carried unanimously.

Resolved The Council will purchase seven specimen 4m silver birch trees to be planted in a line separated by four metres apart between the east west ride and the brook. Proposed Cllr Eydmann seconded Cllr Walton and carried unanimously.

180/23 Ongar Community Sporting Trust.

To consider a request for replacement of damaged fences.

To consider a request for tree work. The request for a tree to be felled was noted and the trustees were advised that they should cordon-off the areas of potential risk.

To receive a report from a meeting between the Council and Trustee

To receive an insurance inspection report on the premises (if available)

It was agreed to defer discussion about the future of the pavilion pending the inspection report so Council can choose actions that will give the greatest benefit to the community. Deferral will give the Councillors an opportunity to study and question the business plan and assess the long-term viability of the Sporting Trust. Given the level of investment already made, the Council will be looking at ways to improve the return on investment and the social value of the site.

181/23 CCTV contract and policy

A copy of the contract has been requested but not yet supplied. The Councillors consider that external monitoring of events is the most important aspect of this project so understanding the current arrangement will allow a comparison with other contractors.

182/23 Significant planning updates.

Cllrs Vaz, Gunn and Roberts attended the Greensted Road housing estate appeal meeting and reported that the inspector will be visiting the site next week.

The Councillors thanked Mary Dadd for her outstanding work and noted that she will be invited to provide a report.

183/23 To set a date for further in-house Councillor training including Ongar Neighbourhood Plan.

A business planning session was agreed for 6.30 p.m. August 24th.

184/23 Items for later agendas.

Risk assessments.

Cemetery price structure.

Future Events.

Ongar in Bloom.

Emergency plan.

CCTV

Meeting closed at 21.58