

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 held on 21st September 2023 at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS.

185/23 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chairman Cllr Gunn.

Councillors Barrell, Cole, Eydmann, Feetham, Mendoza, O'Neill, Roberts, Vaz Walton.

Also present Locum Clerk, Press Officer and 5 members of the public.

Resolved. The council accepts apologies for absence from Cllr Acornley. Proposed Cllr Gunn seconded Cllr Eydmann and carried unanimously.

186/23 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were declarations of interest from Cllr Roberts as a member of the town twinning society and Cllr Cole as an allotment tenant and chair of the Allotment Society.

187/23 Public participation.

A Trustee of Ongar Community Sporting Trust gave a presentation on matters of concern with requests for maintenance and improvements which were summarised in a statement handed out at the meeting. The Council thanked the Trust for their research and would consider their report at the budget planning meeting.

The Chair of the pétanque club made a short presentation supporting their application for funding to develop more pétanque pistes. He reported that the club is growing, and more space is required to allow them to hold more and bigger events.

The Secretary of the Ongar Community Sporting Trust spoke on behalf of the Tennis Club, reinforcing their application for a variation to their lease reducing the rent to a peppercorn, reminding the Councillors of significant events in the history of the lease, and stating their belief that the Tennis Club's lease is included in the land managed by Fields in Trust.

The Chair of the Twinning Association gave a summary of the history the society, noting that membership has diminished. A request was made for financial support to fund a gift for the mayor and people of Cerizay. All Councillors were invited to take part in the next visit, which is scheduled for Easter 2024.

A resident passed on thanks to Cllr. Diana Roberts for her recent attendance at the 3food4U depot at Zinc, for staying to help, and for the interest she showed in the whole

set up. 3food4U would like to thank the council for their support and asks that they continue to support the organisation in any way they can. All Councillors are welcome to see the work and learn how the need for this service has increased substantially since it started. Volunteers are always welcome on Thursday.

Resolved. Items 199, 203 and 204 will be considered here for the convenience of visiting members of the public. Proposed Cllr Gunn and carried unanimously.

188/23 Project update.

- The Clerk confirmed that the town sign is now being remade and the insurance company has agreed to pay for the works. Installation will be included in the insurance claim.
- Recreation ground playground improvements. Pending consultation for a new piece of equipment.
- The installation of an anti-climb collar for the St Peters Road CCTV pole has been paused as it is now clear that the adjacent light pole would give almost as good an access to the cameras. The Clerk will get a cost for fitting collars to both poles.
- The locations for the commemorative jubilee tree have been agreed, funds are available and now waiting for the correct time to plant.
- Locations for the coronation benches is still to be agreed.

189/23 Correspondence

- A request for an additional pedestrian crossing in the High Street was noted and referred to the Local Highways Panel based on the locations identified in the neighbourhood plan.
- A request for reinstatement of Epping – Ongar railway line was noted, and the enquirer was directed to the TfL comments on the subject.
- A letter of thanks following the dedication of the Edwyn Gilmore bench was noted.
- A complaint about a refuse heap in land to the rear of the High Street was noted and will be referred to the landowner and the fire service.

190/23 Community updates

- Residents from The Gables housing estate are trying to engage with the school staff and the County Council's education department concerning the children who take shortcut through the estate towards school. The children are at risk walking through the car park and a risk assessment should be requested.
- Anti-social behaviour outside the Shelley parade of shops will be reported on the community trigger website. Poor standard of cleansing from the District Council.
- Near neighbours of Jubilee Park have reported their concerns about youths gathering on benches.

191/23 Consultations.

The Brentwood Borough CIL Charging Schedule was noted, and District Cllr Vaz was asked to provide an update on Epping Forest District Council's progress toward the same goal.

192/23 ZReports from District and County Councillors.

District Council - no update.
County Council – no representative.

Essex Association of Local Councils' Epping Forest meeting was attended by Cllr Feetham who reported that fifteen Parish and Town members attended along with representative of the Economic Development team from the District Council. Councillors were advised that levelling up funding available is available for small towns like Ongar. Such a fund could be used to improve accessibility of Basons or contribute to the redevelopment of the Burial Ground Chapel.

193/23 Police matters.

The Rural Policing newsletter was noted.
Progress on recruitment of Special Constable was noted.

194/23 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 17th August 2023

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

195/23 Finance reporting.

- a. To receive a list of all payments up to the end of August 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 £17,899.19 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Eydman seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

196/23 To consider draft budget for 2024 -25

The draft budget was noted, and a date of September 26th at 7.30 pm was set for the next budget planning meeting.

197/23 To appoint an additional bank signatory.

Resolved. The council will appoint Cllr Roberts as an additional signatory to authorise payments on the Unity Trust Bank. Proposed Cllr Walton seconded Cllr Gunn and carried unanimously.

198/23 To consider applying for a winter warmth grant from Essex County Council.

The Locum Clerk reported that the award criteria had changed this year and was now directed towards the provision of warm clothing and equipment. Other grant money may be available for warm space project, but the Council could still consider an application.

Motion. The Council will submit an application for winter warmth grant funding.
Proposed Cllr Eydman seconded Cllr Barrell and carried unanimously.

199/23 To consider a grant application from the Ongar Pétanque Club.

Following a brief presentation of the history and the future of the club, the council agreed to contribute to the development of new facilities, provided Epping Forest District Council approved as the landlord of the site.

Resolved. The council approves a grant of £1,400 to support the construction of additional pétanque pistes subject to landlords' consent. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Walton and carried unanimously.

200/23 To consider an appeal against burial ground fees on behalf of Mr Eames.

Resolved. The Council will apply the standard non-resident fee. Proposed Cllr Cole seconded Cllr Roberts and carried unanimously.

201/23 To consider a request to publish draft minutes in advance of meetings.

Motion. The Council will publish draft minutes in advance of approval.

With no proposer, the motion failed.

202/23 To consider Council involvement in the Town Twinning process.

At the last meeting it was agreed that building capacity, widening the Association's membership, and looking for opportunities to involve other bodies were necessary to ensure the future of twinning. The association will be invited to submit a grant application if they have a specific project in mind. As an additional proposal, it was suggested that the Association approaches the Arts Society to commission an original gift.

203/23 To consider correspondence from Ongar Community Sports Club on fixtures and maintenance.

A prepared statement was delivered by one of the trustees in the public comments section. The contents were noted and will be addressed as part of the budget planning process.

204/23 Ongar Tennis Club.

It was noted that the requirement to carry-out an annual review of rents had been allowed to lapse. Starting January 2024, the Council will carry out the review of rents as specified in clause 1.1 of all the leases.

205/23 Allotment price review.

Resolved. The Council approves an increase in allotments fees as published. effective from November 2024. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Eydmann and carried unanimously.

206/23 Items for later agendas.

Risk assessments.

Future Events.

Emergency plan.

Remembrance tree.

Cemetery price structure.

Ongar in Bloom.

Marking bicycle cycles

School engagement – Cllr Gunn.

Meeting closed at 9.40