

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 at 8pm on 18th January 2024 at 8pm Held at the Council Offices, Bansons Way CM5 9AS

1/24 Those present and apologies for absence.

Chair Cllr Gunn

Present Cllrs Walton, Barrell, Vaz, Feetham, Eydmann, Cole and O'Neill

Also present Acting Clerk, Press officer, Police representative, ECC Cllr McIvor, 2 representatives from Ongar Town Forum.

Resolved. The council accepts apologies for absence from Cllr Mendoza and Roberts.

2/24 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

There were no declarations of interests made.

3/24 Public participation.

Two members of the Ongar Town Forum addressed the meeting regarding item 15/24.

For the convenience of the public attending, it was **Resolved** that item **15/24** is brought forward for consideration here. Proposed Cllr Gunn seconded Cllr O'Neill and carried unanimously.

4/24 Project update.

External Auditor's challenge.

Deferred until next meeting.

5/24 Correspondence

A complaint about un co-ordinated road repairs was noted.

6/24 Reports from District and County Councillors.

No update from EFDC.

ECC Cllr McIvor reported as follows:-

- Thanks to Essex Highways for their help in facilitating the erection of the Menorah in the High Street.
- Flooding - made representation to ECC to establish short- and long-term solutions. Major areas prone to flooding are outside Vojan, around Hallsford Bridge and by Abridge. MP has become involved. With demand for developments nothing happens until flood plan in place.

- Ride London grants available. Grant for Town councils, to decorate, sell tea and coffee.
- Highways - pot holes – increase in filling in. Encourage residents to report online.
- Reforms in adult social care A&E waiting times.
- The poppies in the High Street will be taken down end of January 2024.

7/24 Consultations.

The Brentwood Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Adoption Statement was noted.

8/24 Police matters.

- a. Update from PC Shepherd – *Funding has been received for police constable. Stats 587 crimes, etc. down 16% - (publish figures on website and include in Ongar News).*
- b. Police, Fire and Crime e-Bulletin – *Noted.*
- c. Introduction from Police rural engagement team – *Noted.*
- d. To note progress on special constables – *Waiting to hear when potential police constable has completed his/her training.*

9/24 To agree the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 21st December 2023.

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

10/24 Finance reporting.

- a. The Council received a list of all payments up to the end of December 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 £85,495.08 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Vaz seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

11/24 To note the submission of the precept demand for 2024 – 25 being £312,000

The precept demand for £312,000 was noted.

12/24 To consider appointment of an independent auditor to review the Community Sporting Trust and Community Sports Ltd Accounts.

Upon the receipt of accounts for the trust and business, it was agreed that more information was needed before the Council could commit to part-funding their application for Government Levelling-Up money. To speed the process, the council has offered to appoint an independent auditor to review their books.

Resolved. Subject to consent from the Trust and Business, the council will allocate up to £1,500 to audit the books of both organisations. Proposed Cllr Eydmann seconded Cllr O’Neill and carried with one against.

13/24 To consider adopting a revised grants allocation policy.

Deferred until next meeting to allow councillors to make recommendations for further revisions.

- 14/24 To note the launch of the Ride London Community Activation Fund.**
It was noted that the fund was designed to support community event that were being organised to participate in the event. Should the Councillors become aware of one being planned, they will consider applying for funding to support it. (promote Ongar for them to use its facilities).
- 15/24 To consider a proposal to establish a Community Interest Company to take over the management of public events for the community.**
It was agreed to defer this item until next meeting to allow proposal and business plan to be considered. If necessary, it may be required to hold an extra council meeting as the Ongar festival is scheduled to be held at the beginning of May 2024.
Proposed Cllr Eydmann seconded Cllr Feetham carried unanimously.
- 16/24 To consider a grant application from Carers First.**
Motion. The Council will award £750 towards their work in the Ongar Parish.
Reject pending additional information from Carers First on the amount of care given in the Ongar area.
- 17/24 To consider a grant application from Ongar Town Twinning.**
Defer pending additional information regarding self-financing arrangements for travel to Cerizay.
- 18/24 To consider purchase of an amended advertising sign for the Pétanque pistes**
Motion. The council will purchase a revised advertising sign and gift it to the pétanque club.
Reject pending re-design of the advertising sign so that it is clearly more proportioned.
- 19/24 To consider a motion requesting immediate support from Essex Highways in flood mitigation.**
The council support the motion requesting support from Essex Highways in flood mitigation, whilst noting the full and comprehensive response from County Councillor Cunningham'.
Proposed Cllr Cole, seconded Cllr Walton carried with one abstention.
- 20/24 Community Updates.**
Councillors to provide reports on interactions with constituents.
Cllr Barrell noted that the CCTV is not working in Shelley.
Cllr Vaz regarding the Youth Council.
Cllr Gunn communicating with the Ongar Academy.
- 21/24 Date of next meeting.**
15th February 2024.
- 22/24 Items for later agendas.**
Risk assessments.
Cemetery price structure – profile for the year.
Memorial management.

Future Events.
Emergency plan – profile for the year.
Free service 'Coffee with Cops'.

Meeting closed – 9.45pm