



**Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting
Held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, BANSONS, BANSONS WAY, ONGAR
21st February 2019**

182/18 Those present and apologies for absence

Chair Cllr Birch
Cllrs Cllrs Devonald Feetham, Freeman, Mendoza, Reynolds.
Apologies Cllrs Cole, Battersby, Vaz, Browning, Keska.
Also present Locum Clerk, Michael Letch. Office Manager Kate Smiles
Fifteen members of the public for item 185/18. Five remained for the meeting.

Resolved. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Cole, Battersby, Vaz, Browning and Keska. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Reynolds and carried unanimously.

183/18 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

The following declarations of non-pecuniary interest were made.
185/18 Cllr Reynolds as an allotment tenant and objector, Cllr Birch as an objector.
198/18 Cllr Freeman personal involvement.

184/18 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda previously notified to the Clerk.

With reference to minute number 185/18 and planning reference EPF/1963/17, the Locum Clerk summarised the correspondence already received by confirming that the pitch construction and lighting installation went ahead without planning permission, so the neighbours have been able to experience the disruption that is caused by an early morning or late night fixture with problems caused by noisy games and balls being kicked into gardens.

There are three main areas for objection;

- Noise and light pollution with associated harm to wildlife at all times and residents, particularly at weekends. The light pollution is of particular concern to neighbours who will need screening from it.
- Increased traffic movement and on-street parking when games are being held.
- Inappropriate development in the green belt, in a residential area which is adjacent to a conservation area and an ancient monument.

Although it may not be a planning consideration, the Castle Street allotment holders and the residents consider that noise, pollution, disturbance and increased traffic constitutes a risk to the quiet enjoyment of their property and has had an adverse effect on the value of their land.

A resident welcomed the consideration of planning applications by the Town Council and urged Members to reinstate the regular planning meetings.

185/18 Planning

[EPF/1963/17](#)

Address: 42 Castle Street, Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JS
Proposal: Formation of an all weather surface sports pitch (for personal use) with associated fencing and lighting.

Resolved.

The Council object to the application as inappropriate development in a residential area and adjacent to a heritage site. The light and noise pollution would be unacceptable to residents and damaging to wildlife. The council is also concerned that run-off from the pitch will contaminate the water course in general and the allotments in particular.

Proposed. Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Freeman and carried with two abstentions from Councillors who had previously commented.

[EPF/3415/18](#)

Address: Springfield Close Ongar Essex CM5 0BB
The Clerk advised the Council that the application had been refused by Epping Forest District Council.

186/18 Correspondence

A Complaint about road maintenance was noted and it was confirmed that work on the High Street was scheduled by Essex Highways following consultation with the council.
A letter acknowledging with thanks, the grant to Ongar in Bloom was noted.

187/18 Consultations

The Essex libraries strategy and highways service delivery consultations were noted.

188/18 Reports from District and County Councillors

There were no updates this month. It was noted that there was a problem with communication at a process level and the Clerk will write to the District Council's new Chief Executive requesting better information on matters relating to Ongar.

189/18 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 17th January 2019

Resolved. The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 17th January are approved as a true record.
Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Reynolds and carried unanimously.

190/18 Finance Reporting.

- a. The Council noted a list of all payments up to the end of January 2019
- b. The Council noted a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Resolved. The Council approves the budgetary information for January and notes that the account balance of £30,240.72 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Freeman and carried unanimously.

191/18 To note the Great British Spring Clean on 22nd March - 23rd April and schedule litter picks.

Cllr Mendoza will liaise with all interested parties and advise the office of times, dates and locations with a preference for dates close to the festival.

192/18 To note the response from the Community Infrastructure Fund for Jubilee Park Grant

The response was noted and Councillors were reminded to prepare options for the next round of bids with the deadline of 26th October 2019.

193/18 Promoting Ongar

To consider the following items and consider a course of action on each, ready for the new financial year.

- a. The provision of direction signage, indicating Town Centre and positioned at 90° to the existing brown Epping-Ongar finger sign, opposite Station Approach.
- b. Pleasance Car Park - reactivate previous investigations to replace the Castle information board.
- c. "Visit Historical Ongar" brochure - assess the distribution requirement and need for a brochure reprint.

- d. "Ongar Business Directory" brochure - approach Ongar Town Forum regarding an updated edition.
- e. Ongar Street / information maps - approach Ongar Town Forum regarding provision of additional maps and replacing existing motion.

As the neighbourhood plan is nearing completion, the council considered that it would be prudent to delay any expenditure until the results were known. However, there are some low-cost tasks that could be undertaken immediately; reprinting "visit historic Ongar", investigating locating direction signage at the railway station, asking Epping Forest District Council about the castle information board Pleasance Car Park and asking the Town Forum about the Business Directory and the street information map.

194/18 To appoint an ice cream vendor for the Town Festival.

Cllr Mendoza confirmed that the Town Festival Committee have appointed a vendor.

195/18 To consider options for purchase of freehold for council office

Given that the Council is committed to a loan for the development of Bansons, it was agreed that the Epping Forest District Council as the landlord would be asked about acquiring the site permanently and the clerk would make an initial enquiry.

Resolved. The Council will investigate options to permanently acquire Bansons Hall from the Landlord, Epping Forest District Council. Proposed Cllr Reynold seconded Cllr Freeman and carried unanimously.

196/18 To consider a response to the revised car park tariff.

The Clerk was asked to write requesting the District Council car parking portfolio holder to request that Bansons lane and Sainsbury's car park offer two free hours. Pleasance car park is free all day Saturday and all the car parks are free on Sundays. The District Council also be asked to consider other initiatives by which discounted parking scheme can be used to stimulate the local economy.

197/18 To receive an update from Epping Forest District Councillors on the provision of a splash park.

There were no District Councillors present and Cllr Mendoza was following-up an enquiry about the cost of installation.

198/18 CASTLE STREET ALLOTMENTS

- a. Update from Full Council on the 18th. October 2018 (122/18)
- b. Refund from contractor
- c. Quotations for work.
- d. Situation with the Tesco grant.

Cllr Reynolds reported that the area was being used as an unofficial car park and the Allotment Society will be reminded not to park there. The allotment is also deteriorating and the matter is becoming urgent.

199/18 Neighbourhood Plan Community Group.

The Council received an update on progress.

200/18 Items for next agenda.

Update on Splash Park
 Castle Street Allotments
 Seating at Ongar Bridge bus stop.
 Fees for donkey rides
 Road sweeping programme
 Castle Street allotment lease.
 Cost of servicing dog bins