



Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting  
Held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, BANSONS, BANSONS WAY, ONGAR  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Those present and apologies for absence**

<b>Chairman</b>	Cllr Birch
<b>Councillors</b>	Battersby, Browning, Cole, Dadd, Freeman, Feetham, Mendoza & Vaz.
<b>Also present</b>	County Councillor McEwen, Locum Clerk Michael Letch, Office Manager Kate Smiles & one members of the public.

**Resolved.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Reynolds. Proposed Cllr Browning seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

**265/19 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

Cllrs Browning, Cole and Feetham declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 280/19

**266/19 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda previously notified to the Clerk.**

A resident wrote to the council expressing concerns about the proposed development of 162 – 164 High Street. The concerns related to prevention of public noise nuisance, the potential for crime & disorder and the intrusiveness of the activity. The resident notes that there is no identified need for the facility which would stay open until midnight, and cause noise which would disturb neighbours. In summary

- The application proposes an intrusive activity in a long-established residential area.
- Noise levels are likely to be unacceptable.
- The premises themselves and neighbouring properties are not soundproofed to modern standards.
- There is no need for another live music outlet in the area.
- Late-night drinking (for an hour after other local venues have closed) could give rise to additional public order issues.

**267/19 Correspondence**

A Victim of Crime letter from Essex Police was noted.

A request from High Ongar Parish Council to oppose a music festival was considered. It was noted that the venue was on the boundary of Ongar Parish and although the Town Council had not been consulted. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the licencing authority to request more information.

**268/19 Consultations**

The EALC strategic plan consultation was noted.

**269/19 Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr McEwen reported on the weight restrictions item mentioned at minute 279.

Cllr Keska left a report with the Clerk advising Councillors to make any comments about the Town Parking review as soon as possible because the portfolio holder will be considering the matter short and wishes to soon. The market is to be revitalised, and the parking authority is now expecting the stall holders to pay for parking.

A site visit has been arranged to inspect the proposed development at Cloverly road.

**270/19 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The Council declined to approve the minutes, requiring lists supporting decisions made in Minutes 250 and 251 are removed from the appendix and recorded in the body of the minutes.

**271/19 Finance Reporting.**

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

**Resolved.** The Council approves the budgetary information for June and notes the account balance of £36,949.87 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Feetham seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

The Council noted that the bank statement still referred to the previous clerk and requested that the contact details be updated.

**272/19 Clerk's report**

It was noted that the lease on Cerizay Play area expired in June 2018. Cllr Dadd recommended that the Council waited before renewing the lease as it might be advantageous in negotiations. Cllr Browning considered that it would be prudent to renew now.

**Resolved.** The Council will renew the lease. Proposed Browning seconded Cole carried by five votes with three against and two abstentions.

Van Purchase. As agreed, the council has purchased a Ford Connect van for £6,800. The vehicle is a late 16 registration with 30,000 miles on the clock. The insurance has been transferred but the road fund license must be paid by cheque before the vehicle is roadworthy.

The council has been advised that there is £8,000 of unclaimed money from the Community Initiative Fund for two projects. The Clerk will be completing the application forms to receive the grants -

CIF069 – Kickwall Project - £5000  
CIF70 – Play Equipment - £3000

The Council has signed-up for the ESPO framework agreement for self-drive vehicles.

**273/19 Vehicle weight restrictions throughout Ongar.**

To establish a working party gather information and present a strategy for the management of HGVs along the high street.

The Council understands that there has been another survey of vehicles in the high street, but the findings have not been disclosed so the Clerk was asked to obtain them. Using this and other information, the Council will need to develop clear proposals, which will be done by a working group, but with input from all councillors and interested parties.

**Resolved.** The Council will appoint a working group comprising Cllrs Dadd, Freeman and Birch to gather information and represent the interests of residents by introducing weight restrictions to the High Street. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Cole and carried unanimously.

**274/19 Car parking in Ongar**

To establish a working party to gather information and present a strategy to EFDC and ECC that addresses the problem of excessive parking fees and abuse of parking times. It was noted that there is significant development but inadequate provision for residential parking. Parking is an important part of the drive to

attract more people to visit the town, and there is evidence to support this

**Resolved.** The Council will appoint a working group comprising Cllr Mendoza, Feetham, and Battersby to gather information and represent the interests of residents in the management of car parking in the town. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

**275/19 To consider adoption of a co-option policy**

As there are several unfilled vacancies, and potentially more candidates than vacancies, the council considered a co-option policy. The Clerk advised that as there had recently been an election, there would not be a requirement to advertise for a poll and the council could proceed directly to the advertisement.

**Resolved.** The Council adopts the co-option policy as published. Proposed Cllr Feetham seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried with one against.

**276/19 To note the advertisement of co-option vacancies.**

Having established the policy for co-option, it was noted that advertisements would be placed for two weeks with potential candidates invited to attend the July council meeting.

**277/19 To consider an invitation to Roger Hurst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to review the final year of their four year strategic plan.**

**Resolved.** The Council will extend an Invitation for the Commissioner to attend a public meeting. Proposed Cllr Browning seconded Cllr Dadd and carried unanimously.

**278/19 To consider a request for a memorial bench.**

Having considered several options; the Council shortlisted three sites. Longfields had one supporter, Love lane play area had four supporters, and the recreation field had four supporters.

**Resolved.** The Council approves the installation of a phoenix plaswood bench at the play area at the recreation field. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

**279/19 To consider grant applications.**

**Cllrs Reynolds and Feetham left the meeting**

- a. To consider an application to undertake works on the toilets, bar and cellar of the Sports Club

**Motion.** The council approves the grant. Proposed Cllr Freeman. With no seconder, **the motion fails.**

- b. To consider a grant application made by Barnes Court.

**Resolved.** The Council grant policy cannot be extended to businesses. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**280/19 Allotments**

To consider a request to erect a 12' x 8' fence on allotment 13 Castle Street.

The council would not consider allowing an exception to the published regulations and the tenant would be restricted to the approved 6"x4".

**Resolved.** The request for a 12"x 8" is refused. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

**281/19 Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee**

To note progress and agree future actions.

**Resolved.** The Council Appoint Members of OMPCG Barker Vanavich Mott. Proposed Cllr Mendoza,

seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

There has been 20% return from the survey which delivered a strong mandate for the policies that were proposed. The consultant is now working on the policies to finalise them. Have been advised to minimise the number of policies to speed the plan through the examination and consultation. Cllr Dadd will be circulating a report later.

**282/19 Items for next agenda.**

To consider issues relating to Ongar that have not been addressed by Essex CC and EFDC. The Councillors were asked to report any outstanding matters to the office. Cllr Dadd recommended that the Councillors used [placechecker](#) to monitor the work.

Noise and environmental impact of car wash

Cost of servicing dog bins carried forward from May.

Cllr Cole requested that the action list be reinstated.

Cllr Cole reminded the council that it was obliged to provide a minibus for the allotments association.