

Ongar

Town Council



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**Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting
Held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, BANSONS, BANSONS WAY, ONGAR
18th July 2019**

283/19 Those present and apologies for absence

Chairman Cllr Birch

Councillors Azzopardi (from 287/19), Battersby, Browning, Dadd, Freeman, Feetham, Mendoza, Reynolds & Vaz.

Also present Locum Clerk Michael Letch, Office Manager Kate Smiles & four members of the public.

Resolved. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Cole. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

284/19 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

Cllrs Browning declared an interest in 298/19a Cricket

Cllrs Freeman and Feetham declared an interest in 289/19

285/19 There were no Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda previously notified to the Clerk.

286/19 Correspondence

A letter of complaint from an allotment tenant referred to seeding from poorly maintained plots nearby. The concerns were noted and it was agreed that the problem should not recur now the office inspections have been reinstated. The Council also considered that the plot in question should be taken of use as it is not a good site.

A report from the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit was noted.

Letter of complaint about vehicles using the unadopted stretch of Bansons Lane to access the King's Head Public House. The Council noted that the road is not adopted beyond the first exit from the car park, and has been made-up at private expense. It was also noted that the road is a public right of way.

Resolved. The Clerk will write to the interested parties; The Kings Head, Martin Pattie and Sainsbury's requesting their understanding of the legal position and notifying ECC about the PROW. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning carried with one abstention.

Item 295/19 was moved to be considered at this point

Two residents attended to consider being selected for co-option. One potential co-optee has advised the council of their interest; Danella Azzopardi is a local resident who works in the high street. She has extensive knowledge of the community and has worked with several local groups. She also has experience of business and committee work.

Resolved. Ms Azzopardi was nominated by Cllr Vaz seconded by Cllr Battersby and the nominations was carried unanimously. Cllr Azzopardi signed the declaration of acceptance in the presence of the Proper Officer who countersigned.

287/19 Consultations

The consultation on revised Statement of Community Involvement was noted.

288/19 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Vaz reported that there was nothing to report.

289/19 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 9th May 2019

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

290/19 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 20th June 2019

Resolved. The minutes of Full Council Meeting held on are approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning and carried with one abstention.

291/19 Finance Reporting.

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

Resolved. The Council approves the budgetary information for June and notes the account balance of £21,539.60 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Reynold and carried unanimously.

292/19 Action report

To consider the actions due on current tasks and projects.

1.5 Contractor onsite w/c 22/07 when Church representative can assess grave content

2.1 Confirmed that the gates are to be maintained only. Upgrades are to be paid by the Charity

The Council noted the action list.

293/19 To consider requests for the installation of a hearing loop at Bansons.

The Clerk reminded the Council of a decision made in December 2015 to appoint Audio Minutes to live-stream council meeting and archive them online for permanent access. If this is still required, then the equipment could be specified to cover both objectives. It was considered useful to suspend the meeting and hear what the public thought about audibility.

Resolved. The meeting will be suspended to hear comments from the public. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

Those present in the public seating confirmed that they could hear most councillors, but not all and it was difficult to follow the debate when soft-spoken councillors were participating. The Council were reminded that there had been previous requests to re-arrange the room. Cllr Browning suggested that the public be consulted on the suitability of the venue. It was agreed to defer the item while the Clerk gathered more information.

Resolved. The meeting will be reinstated. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

294/19 To consider expanding the citizen and young citizen of the year award into a more general award open to all residents, and an award for organisations.

It was recognized that the impact of the previous scheme was diminishing and there were very few nominations. It was also noted that there are many organization that do valuable work in the community and no way of recognizing them

Resolved. The Council will have one award that recognizes people or organizations that have contributed to the community. Proposed Cllr Dadd seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

295/19 To receive applications for co-option. Considered after item 286/19

296/19 To consider the legal position on granting wayleaves.

The Council noted the advice from the Essex Association and agreed to seek legal advice in preparing an appropriate document.

Resolved. The Council authorised expenditure of up to £500 in the preparation of a wayleave agreement permitting access across council land, but without accruing any permanent rights. Proposed Cllr Browning seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

297/19 To consider a draft response to the review of Parking in the District

Following District Cllr Keska's report to the last meeting, it was noted that a speedy response was needed; the Committee thanked the working group for their quick work in preparing the report which was approved for immediate dispatch to the Epping Forest Chief Executive, Cllr Lyon and Cllr Keska with copy to County Cllr McEwen. Cllr Browning suggested the document is circulated widely among the business community.

Resolved. The parking report was approved for publication. Proposed Cllr Battersby seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

298/19 To consider grant applications.

Cllr Browning left the meeting.

- a. To consider a grant application made by the Ongar Cricket Club for improvements to the Community Sports Trust toilets.
- b. To consider a grant application made by the Ongar Rugby Club for improvements to the Community Sports Trust toilets.

Cllr Reynolds supported the application by reminding the council that the Charity has saved the Town Council money, and the facilities are being used by more residents who would benefit from the improvements. Cllr Freeman considered that the waterless urinals were installed at the Town Council's insistence and they should take responsibility.

The Clerk reminded the Council that these applications had both been considered and rejected at the previous Council. Standing Order 7a states that decision may not be revisited for six months unless requested in writing by five Councillors. The applications will not be considered

Cllr Browning returned to the meeting.

Cllrs Feetham and Freeman left the meeting.

- c. To consider a grant application made by Ongar Tennis Club for stacking chairs and tables
- The Council noted the application but considered that sufficient money had been allocated to carry the charity over its set-up period.

The Council were informed that the tennis club is one of the few sections who use any quantity of chairs. It was agreed that the clerk would ask for more information about usage, storage and specifics of the application.

Cllrs Freeman and Feetham returned to the meeting.

299/19 Works to Jubilee Park site.

- a. To consider a quote for replacing up-and-over garage doors
The garage doors are the responsibility of the lessee.

- b. To consider a quote for installing new gates

The Council was reminded that under clause 10.1 of the lease, the gates were to be maintained "in no worse state of repair and condition than at the date of this lease" and improvements would be at the expense of the Charity. This matter will be deferred while the Clerk gets alternative quotes for repairing the gates to their current specification.

300/19 Update on noise and environmental impact of car wash.

There was no update this month.

301/19 Traffic weight restriction working group.

The next Local Highway Panel meeting is on 3rd September. Two documents have been prepared for submission which were circulated, considered and approved.

Resolved. The Council approves the submission on weight restrictions in the Parish to be completed by the Clerk and sent to the Local Highway Panel. Proposed Cllr Dadd seconded Cllr Browning and carried unanimously.

302/19 Car Parking Working Group

Previously covered in 297/19.

303/19 Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee

Work continues and draft NP will be ready for approval in September at an extra council meeting devoted to considering the document.

304/19 Items for later agendas.

A request to consider amending the terms of reference to allow substitution of attendees at Neighbourhood Plan meetings.

Highways defects in Ongar. Members are requested to catalogue the problems in their wards. These will be collated and presented to Highways and ECC.

Installation of hearing loop

Meeting closed 21.50