



**Minutes of the FULL COUNCIL meeting  
Held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, BANSONS, BANSONS WAY, ONGAR  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**1/20 Those present and apologies for absence**

Chairman Cllr Birch  
Councillors Azzopardi, Battersby, Browning, Dadd, Freeman, Mendoza, Piggott, Reynolds, Vaz.  
Also present The Clerk, Office Manager.

**Resolved.** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Cole and Feetham. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Vaz and carried unanimously

**2/20 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

Cllrs Reynolds and Browning declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application at minute 4/20

**3/20 Public participation.**

There were no members of the public present.

**4/20 To consider grant applications**

Additional parking at Ongar Community Sports Trust.

Cllr Birch reminded the Council that there was no place for visitors to the cemetery or recreation ground to park when the gates were shut, and this could be remedied as part of this proposal: there is a strip of land outside the John Holness garden that could be adapted for parking that can be used by the public in general, and visitors to the cemetery in particular. With current demand, there is only a need for the additional parking at weekends but this proposal would take care of future requirements and would protect a piece of land that is used for parking anyway. Councillors were advised that the proposed surface was permeable.

**Resolved.** The Council will earmark the sum of £5,000 for up to three years pending the acquisition of the balance of the money required for the proposal presented to council. Proposed Cllr Mendoza seconded Cllr Azzopardi and carried unanimously.

**Resolved.** The Council will grant landlords consent to submit a planning application for the car park extension. Proposed Cllr Freeman seconded Cllr Piggott and carried unanimously.

**Correspondence**

The Transport Representative Meetings March 2020 was noted. Cllr Browning will attend.

The letter and response to an Email about toilets, parking and resurfacing was noted.

The letter and response to an Email Parking on verges was noted.

Letter and response to an Email Objections to application EPF/2784/19 (29 Great Lawn, extension) was noted. There is a precedent as others in the road have extended in similar manner, the planning objections will be addressed by the District Council. The Councillors understand the concerns about drainage but it is known that the Water Authority has taken ownership of this problem. An invitation to join the Rural Services Network was noted. Cllrs Mendoza and Browning will be the representatives.

The correspondence on Moreton Road allotments was noted. The enquirer was informed that the Council has allocated money to improve both allotment sites.

Greensted road safety. It was noted that there are more houses planned in this area which will increase the traffic density. When the matter was raised before, Essex Highways cited average speeds but this figure merges the slow and congested roads at peak times with the higher speeds at other times. The average masks both the speeding and the congestion. The Council will build a case to ask the Local Highways Panel to consider putting in additional signage for traffic control around the three schools.

The Council agreed to present a united front from all the affected parties. This will take information from schools, Parent-Teacher groups, District and County Councillors so the Town Council can co-ordinate a request to the LHP. Cllr Dadd agreed to co-ordinate the enquiries and make contact with the interested parties. Cllr Feetham will be asked to represent the Shelley Schools.

**5/20 Consultations**

The Local Councils' Liaison Committee was noted  
The consultation from Post Office Ltd about the Fyfield Road branch was noted.

**6/20 Reports from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Vaz reported that Epping Forest District Council have only been able to approve 16 applications out of 100 in the Epping Forest conservation area.

**7/20 To agree the Full Council meeting minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Resolved.** With one correction to record the presence of Cllr Reynolds, the minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed Cllr Dadd seconded Cllr Lawrence and carried with one abstention who was not present.

**8/20 Finance Reporting.**

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

**Resolved.** The Council notes the budgetary information for November and confirms that the account balance of £13,281.59 agrees with the reconciliation. Proposed Mendoza seconded Browning and carried unanimously.

**9/20 Chain of office**

To consider purchasing a chain for the current badge of office.  
It was reported that the current ribbon was in need of replacement, and the Council should consider purchasing a metal chain that would make a more substantial statement about the town. Although the Council could consider a more substantial ribbon with metal bars to record previous Chairmen, this would not be as durable.

**Resolved.** The Council will allocate up to £2,500 for purchase of a chain, and will also allocate the funds for a storage box. The funds will be taken from general reserve. Proposed Cllr Reynolds seconded Cllr Freeman and carried by 5 votes to 4.

**10/20 To consider replacement of bridge at the Nature Reserve.**

Essex Highways have agreed to provide a basic 1m pedestrian bridge free of charge. If the Town Council requires anything wider or more elaborate. Anything more must be provided by the Town Council.

**Resolved.** The Council will accept the Highways Bridge. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Battersby and carried unanimously.

**11/20 CCTV contract update.**

To note progress on installation and activation of equipment. Broadband and CCTV equipment have been installed at St Peter's Road and at the Library site. The Contractor encountered problems when attempting to install the CCTV equipment at the Love Lane office and an alternative site for the monitoring equipment was needed. It was proposed that the installation was relocated to the pavilion, although this would require additional infrastructure to provide a clear line of site for the hub to communicate with the cameras. There would be a small cost implication for this, but as the project is currently under budget, this would be acceptable.

**Resolved.** The Council approves the relocation of CCTV. Proposed Cllr Birch seconded Cllr Mendoza and carried unanimously.

**12/20 Action report and council chasing list.**

To consider the actions due on current tasks and projects. Verbal report only. The Clerk reported that the office redecoration had been done over the Christmas break. The Four Wantz bus shelter has had the damaged panel removed prior to replacement with a new one.

**13/20 Car Parking Working Group.**

To note progress and agree future actions. The group are waiting for Epping Forest District Council to complete their review.

**14/20 Neighbourhood Plan.**

To receive feedback from the last Working Group meeting, to note progress and agree future actions. Following meeting with representatives of Bloor Homes, the working group are very unhappy about the flyer distributed by the developer. It claimed that the working group and the Town Council were in agreement with the developer's proposals and it implied that their designs have been agreed and will happen. When this information was filtered out to social media, residents were concerned that the Town Council and the Neighbourhood Plan had agreed with the proposals. The Council will write to Bloor and make it clear that they must not assume support from either organisation. Council and NP must be evaluators and not partners.

The Neighbourhood Plan will not allocate any more housing for Ongar. The Council and the Neighbourhood Plan working group will make it clear that the Neighbourhood Plan is there to shape the community in a way that the Developers will have to follow. Any application for additional development is extremely unlikely to succeed, and the plan may be used to designate additional protection to the green belt and offer further protection to open land. Councillors were asked to propose any areas of open space that would benefit additional protection.

The Neighbourhood Plan working group will need additional funding to complete their work: Locality may be able to help but the council could underwrite any shortfall if needed.

**15/20 Items for next agenda.**

Extractor fan for Jubilee Park  
Shelley park playground.  
Consider funding and appointing a special Police Constable to the Town.  
Car parking space in high street  
Climate Change working party update.

**Meeting closed 9.42.**