



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 11TH MARCH 2021 AT 7.00PM.

Membership: G. Bonner, J. Ling (Committee Chairman), Mrs S. Coote, Mrs P. Furness (Deputy Committee Chairman), G. Waite (Town Mayor), S. Basra & S. Bowman (Deputy Town Mayor)

Present: G. Bonner, G. Waite, J. Ling, Mrs P. Furness & S. Bowman

Officer in attendance: J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer).

295. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

Apologies from Councillor S. Basra.

296. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NOTICE OF ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED.

No declarations.

297. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (INFORMATION ONLY).

The Chairman stated that he had nothing to report aside from aspects that will be raised during the meeting.

298. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

299. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman stated that there is much being said about the status of Neale Drive, Councillor Bonner reported that the road works to re-designate priorities on Neale Drive were supposed to start the previous Friday but have been delayed by the contractor: the reason is unclear. The Chairman stated that if Neale Drive does not become a major road into and out of Buntingford, there will be an opportunity to ask County Highways for the dangerous bollards on the Buntingford Bypass, opposite the western end of Neale Drive, to be removed.

Councillor Mrs Furness stated that she had reported the potholes on the A10 roundabout but was not sure if they have been repaired.

The Chairman stated that there have been some worries regarding the public consultation for London Road/Station Road, particularly in regard to the inclusion of traffic lights in the latest description being asked for comment by members of the public, on-line. He had been led to understand that a formal presentation will be made by County Council Highways, to the Town Council at a later date.

300. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PHOENIX PROJECT GROUP.

The Chairman stated that he needs a detailed 6 inches to the mile (or 10.000 to 1) map of Buntingford and its immediately surrounding areas to use as an environmental planning tool: so enabling the Phoenix Project plans to be shown in detail: in the High Street, across the town and as proposed for the Town entrance Gateways. He asked that the Clerk's office looked into the

possibility of obtaining such an up-to-date map from a source such as HCC. As soon as lock down is over we will re-open the subject, the membership of the group needs agreement.

301. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR WALLACE REGARDING PRIORITISATION OF SECURITY MEASURES.

The Clerk explained that although the Council has accepted the recommendations in the Security Audit, the report did recommend further discussion on the feasibility of electric gates at The Manor House, this debate has not yet happened. The existing gates are in a state of disrepair and a decision is needed on the way forward.

Councillor Bonner stated that electric gates may cause problems, Councillor Waite responded that it depends on whether or not the Council wants a secure site or one that is completely open. The Chairman stated that a rational decision is needed and there should be a specific meeting to discuss the issue.

Councillor Mrs Furness added that when the gates had first been discussed one or two Councillors stated that they had experienced how frequently electric gates can malfunction and could there not be automatic bollards, such as rising butts. Councillor Waite responded that it is the same thing, everything is controlled from the entrance, tenants would issue a number to call on arrival and the tenants would open the gates for their visitors. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That a group is formed to meet, discuss and form a recommendation on the gates at The Manor House, consisting of Councillors Ling, Waite and Mrs Furness. Alex Georgiou to provide administration as Manor House Manager.

The meeting was agreed for 10am 16th March 2021 via Zoom.

The remaining recommendations within the Security Audit have been accepted. by Full Council.

302. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Councillor Bowman reported that the footpath between the pitches and the Centre is damaged, as is an overhanging silver birch. It was noted that this is a matter for the Amenities Committee.

303. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED

No requests.

304. PLASTIC FREE BUNTINGFORD

The Chairman reported that the group has currently completed its initial work and that there has been a new group set up in connection with the environment associated with Buntingford in Transition. The Chairman stated that having been asked, he is happy to represent the Council on this new group. However, he did not intend to take a pro-active role. The new group's work could usefully inform the Phoenix Project: he would keep the Council fully informed of developments.

305. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Chairman reported that there have been no recent meetings.

306. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY.

Councillor Bonner stated that there has not been a recent meeting but one would have to be called soon, although there are no pressing issues.

Meeting closed at 19.37

Next meeting: Thursday 8th April 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom