



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00PM.

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

132. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES

Apologies from Councillor Mrs S. Coote.

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

None

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

The Chairman stated that an additional item would be added at the end of the meeting to discuss comments from the 20's Plenty campaign.

135. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2020.

Following a proposal, second and unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

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

136. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

The Clerk referred to emails she had received that day regarding an incident on Bowling Green Lane the previous day where a young child had almost been involved in an accident.

Concern was expressed that there were no school crossing patrols. A crossing would be better, this needs to be explored.

It was noted that the road may be safer when the turning circle on the Redrow Estate is in use.

It was agreed that the Council contacts the County Council asking for school crossing patrol and if necessary, the Council will part-fund this.

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

The Chairman reported that there has not been a meeting of the PPG in recent months however, thought has gone into this as a result of the Highways report supporting the project. Because of what is happening with the southern roundabout, we ought to have a re-look at the aims and objectives of the project.

He suggested that we produce an interim report, early in 2021, ready for the end of the COVID crisis. There is a need to look at the whole of Buntingford, road systems, gateways etc., as well as the social implications. He would continue to report as Phoenix Group Chairman and stated that we must impress upon the District and County Councils and, in particular, County Highways, the importance of Buntingford as a community and its need for an improved road system.

138. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE

It was reported that the Security Working Party is now putting together a final version of their report.

The Clerk reported that the damaged window is to be replaced on Monday. The tenants concerned, have indicated that they do not wish to occupy their offices until they are more secure. A quotation has been obtained for shutters to be fitted, the shutters match those already in place in other parts of the building.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the quotation for shutters in the Regency House Publishing office in the sum of £1,305 be accepted.

In response to a question regarding an email from one of the tenants, the Clerk stated that the market traders are not permitted to use the facilities in the Manor House during the COVID pandemic.

The condition of the public toilets in the car park was referred to. The Clerk was asked to include this on the next Amenities agenda, Councillors Furness and Ling will attend this meeting.

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

Councillor Waite reported that he had arranged for a plumber to attend the following week to service the overhead heaters, fix a leak and possibly run hot water to the upstairs kitchen.

140. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED

Buntings Nursery

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That a grant of £1,000 be made to Buntings Nursery towards the creation of a sensory garden.

141. PLASTIC FREE BUNTINGFORD

The Chairman reported that although there is no further progress on this initiative at this time, most of the local schools had been visited and presentations made by last March. He mentioned that need for DBS checks to be arranged, for PFB members working with young people if the school staff are not present during presentations at the schools.

142. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Chairman reported that contact is being maintained between the three towns (Buntingford, Luynes and Ólvega) but nothing else for the present.

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

Councillor Bonner reported that discussions continue on how to best utilise the legacy from Mrs Eunice Woods.

144. 20's PLENTY CAMPAIGN.

The Chairman reported that there have been several emails regarding this issue, the situation is clear, we do need to have a strong view on speed limits in Buntingford. The Phoenix Project currently recommends that speed limits are appropriate and low.

20's plenty calls for a blanket 20mph limit, there are areas where the speed could be less.

Councillor Bonner stated that if you take Buntingford, there is no reason why it could not be 20mph limit, however, this is not currently enforceable: as it is, probably 80% would adhere to it. Other Councillors were in favour of a flexible system. Councillor Bonner stated that he could see no reason not to support the campaign but without the caveat in the resolution included by the Resources Committee and ratified by Full Council, relating to HCC's policy. HCC will implement whatever limits that they see fit.

Councillor Waite stated that the Speed Management strategy is only a draft, but it does come down quite heavily on the concept of 20mph zones.

Following further discussion, the following recommendation was proposed by the Chairman, seconded, and accepted by a unanimous vote. Accordingly, it is:

RECOMMENDED

That the County Council be informed that Buntingford Town Council is in favour of a maximum 20mph speed limit throughout the town.

The Meeting closed at 8.08pm

Next meeting: Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.00pm via Zoom