



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE BUNTERS SUITE, THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 13TH MAY 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. Bowman (Deputy Town Mayor)
Present: G. Waite, Mrs P. Furness, J. Ling, S. Bowman and Mrs S. Coote
Officer in attendance: J. Jones (Town Clerk) and Alex Georgiou (Admin Officer)

382. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Councillor G. Bonner.

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

No declarations.

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

The Chairman reported that there was a twinning meeting the previous night, which will be discussed under agenda item 11. The Chairman also reported that a discussion will need to take place regarding the traffic calming measure on the High Street. The Chairman asked the Town Clerk about the vacancy on the Council. The Clerk stated that the Council have received 1 application and a further two forms have been sent off.

The Chairman also reported that an email had been circulated regarding the temporary closure of the public toilets for maintenance. The Town Clerk explained that the maintenance of the toilets is a joint service between East Herts District Council and North Herts District Council, and that they will endeavour to keep the disabled toilet accessible for everyone to use whilst the other toilets are closed. The Clerks also stated that District Councillor Jones had asked the property department at East Herts if it would be possible for a temporary facility to be put in place. It was suggested that it was a possibility that East Herts would ask Buntingford Town Council to take control of the public toilets in the future.

385. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a vote of 4 in favour and 1 abstention it was

RESOLVED

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

386. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS INCLUDING FURTHER DISCUSSION ON PLAN FOR FURNITURE IN THE HIGH STREET.

Councillor Waite reported that as part of reopening the High Streets, East Herts District Council have offered planters to the Town Council. These may take up to 2 months to be installed, however Ringway have 2 larger planters that have been offered to the Town Council and can be installed sooner. The plan for the planters is for them to be put on Church Street, to narrow the road, therefore discouraging people to go the wrong way down the one way street.

A question was raised regarding the planters outside number 100 High Street. The Town Clerk explained that the planters are part of the planning application, but this was not immediately obvious and may have been missed by East Herts Planning Department. There was concern with this as it could establish a precedent in the town, which could see the High Street be overwhelmed with private planters in the future. The Clerk agreed to email East Herts planning department and make them aware of the planters on the application.

A question was raised on whether there had been any feedback from the new seating areas on the High Street. Councillor Waite stated that he had received lots of positive feedback from both venues and customers using the space. It was reported that Queenies, on the corner of the High Street and Baldock Road will be putting in a licence application to have seating down the side of the property on Baldock Road.

Councillor Ling stated that he was very impressed with District and County Councillor Jeff Jones for being the main protagonist in the improvements to the High Street during the past year, and stated that it has been a fantastic example on how the High Street should and can be used in the future to encourage more trade.

Councillor Ling expressed his thanks to Councillor Waite for execution of his duty as mayor.

A question was raised as to what was going to happen to the Brambles pub, as in its current form it detracts from the High Street. It was explained that the pub as well as the two neighbouring properties are privately owned.

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

There was a meeting of the Phoenix Project Group on 20th April 2020, which Councillor Waite attended and possible funding was looked into, it was suggested that funding is imminent and interest needs to be expressed to Andrew Figgis attaching the Opus Arup report pointing to page 28 asking for funds for the three surveys mentioned.

Related to the Phoenix Project, Councillor Ling distributed a report with what needs to be looked at and investigated when considering a one way system in the High Street. Potential issues with a one way system were discussed.

388. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE

No matters.

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

More classes are due to start from Monday 17th April, however these classes must still remain socially distanced.

390. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED

Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce had requested £2,000 to help fund events such as the classic car show. It was noted that since the request has been put in, the Chamber of Commerce have received £1,000 from Dandara, but would still request the full £2,000.

Councillor P. Furness stated that the events run by the Chamber of Commerce are always fantastic, and many new residents missed out on events last year due to COVID-19.

Councillor Waite stated that he has been involved in events like the classic car show and late night shopping, and he is aware that cost can slowly creep up.

Councillor Mrs Coote suggested that even with the extra £1,000 if the requested £2,000 does not cover the cost of the event/events it should be given. It was agreed that funds beyond the £2,000 could be discussed further.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was RESOLVED

That a grant of £2,000 be paid to the Chamber of Commerce.

391. BUNTINGFORD'S ENVIRONMENT REPORT AND UPDATE

It was reported that there has still been no meetings with Plastic Free Buntingford. It was also suggested that the whole environmental issue needs to be widened, as plastic is only one issue.

Councillor Mrs P. Furness explained that Governors of schools have been asked to report on what they are doing to encourage schools to be more proactive on reducing climate change.

It was suggested that Councils should liaise with schools more in the future on environmental issues.

392. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Wednesday 12th May was the first meeting of the Twinning Association in 18 months. It was stated that we must respect our own position regarding the COVID-19 situation as well as the position of both Spain and France. It was reported that discussions are still taking place on the best way to restart.

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

It was reported that there has still been no meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:32

Next meeting: Thursday 10th June 2021 at 7.00pm venue Seth Ward Community Centre