

WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

Extraordinary Meeting of Council held in the Town Hall, Wallingford on
Monday 17th July 2017

PRESENT

The Mayor, Councillor Michael Kidley

Councillors Beatty, Cockman, Cripps, Davidson, Dolton, Holland, Hughes, Lester, Lloyd,
McGregor, Norton and Upcraft.

The Town Clerk, Mrs Paula Lopez

The Responsible Finance Officer: Mrs Jennipher Jeje

Officers Present: Mrs Barbara Atkins and Miss Rachel Rae

145. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Titchener (Holiday).

1902 Hours – Councillor Davidson Arrived

1905 Hours – Councillor Beatty Arrived

The Mayor reported that there was a member of Public who wished to speak.

Mrs Judy Dewey was introduced and she reported on the important history of the Portcullis and Coat of Arms, stating that it was very much a part of Wallingford.

146. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

There were no items for inclusion in Part II confidential minutes.

147. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Information for each Member was available at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

148. RESERVES

The Responsible Finance Officer updated Councillors on the allocation of reserves and the funds available to spend. Copy of Report attached. The Responsible Finance Officer answered Councillors queries and concluded that as of 30th June the General Reserves stand at £68,606 and some of this money has already been allocated. The Capital Reserves come from Capital Sales and therefore by law may only be used for capital expenditure. The Precept is a separate identity and any expenditure within this is covered by the precept itself. The Grants Working Party will be searching for grants that could help to cover the lack of general reserves.

149. REGAL CENTRE

Councillors have previously been sent a report from the Project Manager regarding remedial work following the fire risk assessment. Some Councillors have visited the Regal Centre with Councillor Lloyd to see for themselves the remedial work that is required. A copy of the report summary is attached. This report includes not only the fire exit doors and the replacement of the fire alarm system but other necessary work following this report. For example, changing the position of the ventilation fan in the kitchen and the ventilation grill in the boiler room, (item 5 in the fire officers' report). Also, other relatively minor repairs which are required to the emergency lighting and fire exit signs. The Town Clerk advised councillors that if a commitment was made to spend the money on the fire doors and fire alarm the council would also be committing to carrying out the other works required to comply with the fire officers report which must be completed this financial year, no quotes have been obtained for this extra work. The Town Clerk drew councillor's attention to the reserves and the RFO's report on this.

Councillors discussed in detail and concluded that they wished to keep the building open whilst a working party is set up to look at what is required in the medium and long term for the Regal Centre.

It was Proposed by Councillor Dolton, Seconded by Councillor Lester and

RESOLVED:

THAT the following work is progressed immediately:

1: To carry out the works on the fire exit doors in the Regal: **£11,663.00 + VAT**

2: To replace the fire alarm system in the Regal: **£4,200.00 + VAT**

**Total estimated costs: £15,863.00 + VAT
plus**

AND THAT a working party consisting of Councillors Beatty, Dolton, Lester, Lloyd and Norton plus Neighbourhood Plan Representatives is set up to look at both the medium and long-term plans for the Regal Centre.

Councillor Cockman opposed the above resolution.

150. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

i) Councillor Lloyd has withdrawn from the personnel committee and a Councillor is required to take his place. Councillor McGregor offered to stand on this committee and It was Proposed by Councillor Lloyd, Seconded by Councillor Norton and

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor McGregor joins the Personnel Committee.

ii) Following Councillor Goddard's resignation, a Councillor is required to take his place on the planning committee. It was agreed that this would be deferred until the 2 new councillors are co-elected.

151. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Council Responsibilities – Councillor Holland emphasized in the report that she gave for all Councillors to be involved with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors Lester and McGregor thanked Councillor Holland for her commitment and dedication to the Neighbourhood Plan and Councillor Lloyd stated that Councillors should consider helping Councillor Holland with the heavy burden of work that is involved within the Neighbourhood Plan.

152. SITE B

Councillors had previously been sent a report from Councillor Lloyd following a meeting with St Edwards. Councillor Lloyd showed and explained further plans relating to changes to sewage and footpath. Councillor Lloyd stated that he required Council approval to continue his discussions with St Edwards.

To summarise: Between the new allotments on Site B and the Town Council's allotments a new tarmac footpath is proposed (OCC) along with a solid wooden fence this will mean taking out the hedge but it may be possible to create some more allotments on the existing site. In addition a bridge is being proposed between the two sites so that the

Town Council's park tractor can access both easily. Proposals regarding the sewage pipeline are to be discussed with Thames Water. Councillors discussed, expressing their concern over the proposed site of the new pipeline along with the fence being solid (although any type of fence may be suggested), all discussions must be clear and transparent especially so that current allotment holders are kept fully informed. The Archaeologists are now on Site B and the Museum are aware.

The Developers will bear the cost of the bridge, solicitor's fees and there will be a management company.

It was Proposed by Councillor Upcraft, Seconded by Councillor McGregor and

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor Lloyd may act on behalf of the Town Council and continue his discussions with St Edwards on the following:

1. Footpath – widening & tarmac
2. New sewage pipe
3. Fencing and transfer of Land

153. COMMS WORKING PARTY

Councillor Lester led the discussion on branding for Wallingford Town Council referring to Mrs Dewey's talk earlier in the meeting. Councillor Lester reported that the majority of Comms Working Party had been favour of having the Portcullis used in the branding and that Councillor Upcraft had produced a printable version of the Portcullis with the wording Wallingford Town Council in blue as the proposed new branding. A policy relating to the use of the branding will be discussed at a later date and it is unknown if there is any copyright relating to the Portcullis. Councillors discussed and it was Proposed by Councillor Lester, Seconded by Councillor Cripps and

RESOLVED:

THAT the new proposed branding for Wallingford Town Council is approved.

It was Proposed by Councillor McGregor, Seconded by Councillor Lloyd and

RESOLVED:

THAT The policy relating to the use/criteria of the Portcullis is drafted and brought back to Council at a later date.

Meeting Closed at 2000 Hours

2017.07.17 Extraordinary Council ba

Chairman