

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Bingham Town Council  
held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 at 7:15pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Stockwood, M Stockwood, F Purdue-Horan, A Shelton, W Stapleton, P Moskwa, G Williams, V Leach, T Wallace, M Monni, J Best, R Bird, G Simms and J Lewis.

Officers: S Pyke (Town Clerk) and J Riddle (Deputy Clerk)

Public: 23

**1. APOLOGIES**

All Councillors were present.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**3. PUBLIC SESSION**

Queries were raised in relation to the request for assistance, the stopping of the redundancy and recruitment process, the staff shortages noted in the staffing review, employment of additional staff, the Monitoring Officer's recommendations not being supported by Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council's Standards Committee comments.

The Mayor confirmed that the item relating to assistance would be discussed under confidential business to protect the resident's personal information. The employment processes had followed the ACAS procedures and additional office support was on the agenda. The recognised process of the Local Councils Award Scheme had been agreed in response to the letter received from the Monitoring Officer.

**4. MINUTES**

- (a) The Clerk apologised to Council that incomplete minutes had been sent with the agenda. The amendments were noted and updated minutes would be circulated to Councillors.

**RESOLVED:** that subject to the amendments read by the Clerk, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2020 (Folios 9583 to 9596), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

- (b) The Clerk made Council aware that 'storm drain' should be amended to 'land drains' on item 5.

**RESOLVED:** that subject to the amendment noted, the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 18 August 2020 (Folios 9600 to 9603), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

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- (c) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 01 September 2020 (Folios 9604 to 9605), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

**5. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Mayor's announcements. The format of Remembrance services would be reviewed once guidance had been received.

**6. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- (a) Community & Environment Committee, 01 September 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.
- (b) Policy & Resources Committee, 15 September 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the meeting of this Committee be accepted apart from item 15 which was on tonight's agenda at item 9.
- (c) Extra-Ordinary Planning Committee, 18 August 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the decisions of the meeting be noted.
- (d) Planning Committee, 15 September 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the decisions of the meeting be noted.

**7. SUB-COMMITTEE NOTES**

- (a) Resilience Sub-Committee, 02 October 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the meeting of this Sub-Committee be accepted apart from the request for assistance which would be discussed under confidential business to protect the resident's personal information.
- (b) Car Park Sub-Committee, 09 October 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the meeting of this Sub-Committee be accepted.
- (c) Policy Sub-Committee, 09 October 2020  
Concerns over the minutes were raised by Councillor Bird and the Clerk raised queries on several of the recommendations that conflicted with Council documents and best practice. The meeting had been held in the Clerk's absence. Queries would be discussed with the Clerk on her return from leave.  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the meeting of this Sub-Committee be accepted.

**8. COUNCILLOR MOTION – ELLIS WHITTAM INVOICE**

In view of the concerns raised by Councillor Purdue-Horan at Policy and Resource over the inconsistent quality of the work provided by Ellis-Whittam, for which Council has been

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invoiced over £5,000, and in his continuing failure to provide members of Policy and Resources with full details of the work done by Ellis Whittam. Council resolve that full payment of this invoice be withheld until Councillor Purdue-Horan releases all of the documents he is currently withholding from Council along with a clear statement to explain why the invoice should be met in full.

Proposed: Councillor Tony Wallace

Seconded: Councillor John Lewis

After a debate, it was:

**RESOLVED**: that the motion was defeated.

**9. INVOICES**

**RESOLVED**: that a payment of £5343.00 to Ellis Whittam for HR advice.

**10. COUNCILLOR MOTION – ELECTION OF MAYOR**

Councillor John Stockwood's term as Mayor should have ended in May. It is now October and Councillor Stockwood's term shows every sign of extending indefinitely. Council is further concerned by recent statements from the Mayor that he will block emails from, and no longer respond to legitimate questions from fellow Councillors. This Council resolves that Councillor Stockwood now stand down and that an election for a new Mayor be held without any further delay.

Proposed: Councillor Tony Wallace

Seconded: Councillor John Lewis

After a debate, it was:

**RESOLVED**: that the motion was defeated.

**11. COUNCILLOR MOTION – GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

That this Council do adopt and implement the recommendations contained in the letter to this Council from the Rushcliffe Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer dated the 14th July 2020, and in particular that the Town Clerk as Proper Officer be authorised and instructed to engage independent advisors to give advice and support to this Council on the following matters:-

- (a) The Council's Standing Orders and governance arrangements and procedures with particular regard to calling extraordinary meetings, motions for meetings and their inclusion on the agenda, the publication of public notices and agendas and decisions of the Chair of a meeting on the application of standing orders
- (b) When and in what circumstances it is appropriate to move the Council into a closed session on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and what business is properly classed as confidential in the light of the Access to Information Procedure Rules at Part 4 of the Council's Constitution

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- (c) How best to respond to the issues and differences that have arisen in respect of Human Resources and Staffing issues and review the Council's practices in line with best practice and ACAS guidance
- (d) How to reduce the number of behavioural complaints made about Bingham Town Councillors and to work to build more positive interpersonal relationships between Councillors and each other and with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Proposed: Councillor John Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Tony Wallace

After a debate, it was:

**RESOLVED:** that the motion was defeated.

**12. LETTER FROM RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The letter was noted by the Council.

A 5 minute break was taken at this point.

**13. COUNCILLOR MOTION – MEDIATION**

That this Council do adopt and implement the recommendation of the Standards Committee of Rushcliffe Borough Council, that this Council do with the assistance of the National Association of Local Councils and the agreement of all affected parties appoint an independent arbitrator to assist in resolving the issues raised in the said letter to this Council from the Rushcliffe Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and abide by and implement any award made by such arbitrator.

Proposed: Councillor John Lewis

Seconded: Councillor Tony Wallace

After a debate, it was:

**RESOLVED:** that the motion was defeated.

Councillor Simms requested that a note be made in the minutes that Councillor Purdue-Horan informed Councillor Best to vote against.

**14. MEMORIAL BENCH**

- (a) Siting of a memorial bench at the cemetery

**RESOLVED:** that the siting of the bench be approved.

- (b) The plans for the Recreation and Amenities Committee to consider alternative memorials to benches as there is a full complement, were noted by the Council.

**15. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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The suggestion to increase the limit from £500 to £1000 for the Clerk to authorise emergency expenditure (paragraph 4.5), was deferred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**16. PROJECT SUPPORT**

A temporary trained person was put forward as suggestion to assist the office. More details and costings were raised as a query.

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources progress the employment of a temporary trained person.

**17. DEEP CLEANING AND FOGGING SERVICE**

The deep cleaning and fogging of the office was noted by the Council.

**18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

The Deputy Mayor's virtual attendance at the focus group for Town and Parish Councils was noted.

The public meeting closed at 10:05pm

**CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960  
PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT BUSINESS, THE FOLLOWING  
RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw”

- Confidential Notes from the Full Council held on 28 July 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the notes be approved.
- Confidential Notes from the extra-ordinary Full Council held on 18 August 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the notes be approved.
- Confidential Notes from the Policy and Resources meeting on held on 15 September 2020  
**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of this committee be approved.
- Resilience Sub-Committee Request (moved from item 7a)  
**RESOLVED:** that the request was not approved.
- Staff Matters

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**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources progress the contract and job description update and job evaluation.

**RESOLVED:** that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources progress the contract and job description update.

Council concluded its confidential session with the meeting closing at 10.45pm

.....CHAIRMAN

Date: .....