

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Bingham Town Council
held on Tuesday 15 December 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: J Riddle (Deputy Clerk)

Public: 17

At the opening of the meeting Councillor J Stockwood and Councillor F Purdue-Horan requested dispensations to participate in item 11, on the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

Queries were raised and Councillor T Wallace requested a recorded vote be taken.

For:	Against:	Abstain:
Councillor J Best	Councillor R Bird	Councillor G Williams
Councillor M Monni	Councillor J Lewis	
Councillor P Moskwa	Councillor G Simms	
Councillor F Purdue-Horan	Councillor T Wallace	
Councillor A Shelton		
Councillor W Stapleton		
Councillor J Stockwood		
Councillor M Stockwood		

Councillor V Leach was not present for the vote.

RESOLVED: that Councillor J Stockwood and Councillor F Purdue-Horan be granted dispensations for voting on item 11.

1. APOLOGIES

All Councillors were present, Councillor V Leach joined the meeting during item 3.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Williams declared an interest in item 8, Wynhill development project, as a coach at the Rugby Club. Councillor P Moskwa declared an interest in item 7 as Chair of the Bingham Community Parks Project.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

Queries were raised in relation to:

- The reasons for the vote at Policy & Resources to not suspend Standing Orders to allow a question from a resident
- Item 10 on the agenda regarding public speaking at Council meetings

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- The processes in place around a Clerk making a complaint against a Councillor for their conduct (a request was made for a response in writing) and what would be classed as exceptional circumstances to move the complaint outside of the Council
- Why no options for the Wynhill re-development were presented as stated in the Recreation & Amenities minutes
- The reason why the Emergency Plan was not on the agenda
- Concerns over why a Parish Council would wish to adopt item 10
- The dispensations granted at the start of the meeting for item 11
- A written question related to item 7 on the agenda regarding the new play area at Wychwood Road and the reasons for the delay

The following responses were provided:

- The Policy & Resources Committee voted against suspending Standing Orders so that a question could be asked
- Item 10 was being suggested to mirror Rushcliffe Borough Council's protocol for asking citizens questions and would assist in managing questions
- Bingham Town Council had adopted the best practice statements agreed by Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees including situations around making a complaint. Exceptional circumstances would be decided by the Monitoring Officer on receipt of a complaint
- The Wynhill re-development recommendation from the Recreation & Amenities Committee had altered due to issues arising from the pandemic. The options would be investigated in more detail and would be reported back to Committee.
- The Emergency Plan had not been completed in time for the agenda
- The dispensations had been voted on and had followed the procedures of the Council
- Information on the play area delays would be covered within item 7

A short break was taken at 7.50pm to allow the Chair to resolve an IT issue.

Councillor J Lewis requested that the agenda order be changed to take agenda items 7 onwards, before items 4 to 6. The Chair agreed to the change the order of business. The minutes are recorded in agenda order.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October (Folios 9634 to 9639), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and will be signed by the Mayor as an accurate record when the ongoing restrictions allow.

5. **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

(a) Recreation & Amenities Committee, 27 October 2020

RESOLVED: that the recommendations of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.

(b) Community & Environment Committee, 10 November 2020

RESOLVED: that the recommendations of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.

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- (c) Policy & Resources Committee, 01 December 2020
RESOLVED: that recommendations of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.
- (d) Planning Committee, 13 October 2020
RESOLVED: that the decisions of the meeting be noted.
- (e) Planning Committee, 10 November 2020
RESOLVED: that the decisions of the meeting be noted.

6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

- (a) Unqualified Audit from the external auditor –
This was **NOTED** by the Council.
- (b) Conclusion of the audit from the external auditor –
This was **NOTED** by the Council.

7. WYCHWOOD ROAD PLAY AREA

Councillor G Williams updated the Council on the play area, from it being closed in the first lockdown, to remaining closed due to works required. The re-development had begun in August and weekly meetings with the contractors and play area supplier, Kompan, were held with staff and Councillors in attendance.

Although the play area had looked completed for some time, there was a snagging list remaining to be completed and agreements were made over additional landscaping work. As an opening event could not take place due to government restrictions, a donation of £100 was made to Robert Miles Infants, as the closest school, towards an event.

Councillor P Moskwa explained that in the 2 years since the original design had been selected, there had been changes in regulations which meant elements of the design had to be altered and that this, along with discussions over designs, had caused some delays, the compensation for this was that the supplier had held on to its prices for 2 years and rather than risk delaying the opening further, a final snagging list had been agreed and the play area was due to be completed later in the week for opening prior to the Christmas break.

8. WYNHILL RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

- (a) Costs of £3750 plus VAT for the Structural Survey of the Town Pavilion -
RESOLVED: that the cost of £3750 plus VAT be accepted for a Structural Survey of the Town Pavilion.
- (b) Creation of a Working Group to progress the re-development of the Wynhill site -
RESOLVED: that a working group be created with the membership consisting of Councillors G Williams, F Purdue-Horan and W Stapleton, along with three representatives of Bingham Rugby Club.

9. INVOICES

RESOLVED: that a payment of £8320 plus VAT (£9984.00) be made to Gala Lights for the festive lighting contract and that a payment of £80,407.83 plus VAT (£96,489.40) be made to Kompan for the installation of the Wychwood Road Play Area.

10. COUNCILLOR MOTION

This Council recognises that not everyone may wish to speak during the public section and to encourage a more inclusive approach and potentially greater participation, Council approves a change to the format on a twelve-month trial basis.

Bingham Town Council will adopt the practice of the Rushcliffe Borough Council format of one written question only submitted by members of the public to the Town Clerk by 5.00pm on the Friday prior to the full Council meeting, i.e. two clear days Saturday and Monday, before a Tuesday meeting.

Questions that are accepted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Town Mayor may be read out by the author or if not present, by the Town Mayor. Answers will be provided by the Town Mayor or by written reply if an immediate answer is not possible at the meeting.

Proposer: Councillor F Purdue-Horan

Seconder: Councillor A Shelton

Councillor T Wallace proposed an amendment to the motion, this was seconded by Councillor R Bird. The Chair ruled that the amended motion was considered a direct negation of motion on the agenda, as the amendment described a system that already exists and therefore the amended motion was not accepted.

After a debate, a vote was taken on the motion. A split vote was recorded and the Chair used his casting vote. It was:

RESOLVED: that the motion carried.

11. COUNCILLOR MOTION

This agenda item was chaired by Councillor A Shelton.

Council has noted that our HR and Health & Safety Consultants will not accept future work from Council. Council is further concerned that Councillors J Stockwood and F Purdue-Horan continue to withhold correspondence belonging to Bingham Town Council despite numerous requests to make the material available.

Council resolves:

1. That Councillors Purdue-Horan and John Stockwood are instructed to deliver up to Council copies of all correspondence of whatsoever nature, paper or electronic, which have passed between themselves and our HR & Health and Safety consultants in relation to the Council's aborted staffing restructure programme.

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2. If the Councillors named refuse to deliver up to Council control all of the information and documents at paragraph 1, then Council instruct Solicitors to pursue the return of Council Property.

Proposer: Councillor A Wallace

Seconder: Councillor R Bird

After a debate, a recorded vote was requested by Councillor J Lewis:

For:

Councillor V Leach
Councillor J Lewis
Councillor G Simms
Councillor T Wallace

Against:

Councillor J Best
Councillor M Monni
Councillor P Moskwa
Councillor F Purdue-Horan
Councillor A Shelton
Councillor W Stapleton
Councillor J Stockwood
Councillor M Stockwood

Abstain:

Councillor G Williams

Councillor R Bird had lost internet connection for this part of the meeting.

RESOLVED: the motion was defeated.

12. SMALL CHRISTMAS TREES

RESOLVED: that the costs of £650 to remove the small Christmas trees be accepted.

13. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

RESOLVED: that Financial Regulations be altered to increase the limit from £500 to £1000 for the Clerk to authorise emergency expenditure (Paragraph 4.5)

The public meeting closed at 9.02pm

14. 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 13 October 2020

RESOLVED: that the notes be approved.

- Confidential Notes from the Policy & Resources held on 01 December 2020

RESOLVED: that the notes be approved.

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- Staff arrangements and Town Clerk update

RESOLVED: that the Council instruct ACAS at a flat rate of £860 plus VAT per day and £535 plus VAT for a 3 hr half day.

RESOLVED: that Castle Associates are instructed at a cost of £105 plus VAT per hour, to a maximum of £5000.

Council concluded its confidential session with the meeting closing at 9.45pm

.....CHAIRMAN

Date: