

Minutes of the Meeting of Bingham Town Council
held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 7:15pm
in the Council Chamber at the Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham

PRESENT:

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

Officers: J Riddle (Town Clerk)

Members of the public: 17

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors J Best and M Monni.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Williams declared an interest in item 8 as a Rushcliffe Borough Councillor and confirmed that he did not participate in the debate on the report at the Borough Council and therefore stated that he was approaching the item with an open mind and without predetermination.

Note: The chair agreed to alter the order of the agenda. Item 9 was taken after item 2 on the agenda. The minutes have been recorded in agenda order.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

The first question heard had been submitted by a resident prior to the meeting. The question related to the reputation of the Town Council and if the Mayor, as a conservative, would continue to support colleagues removed from the party.

The Mayor responded that some of the points were internal to the Conservative Party and that there were a small number of official Conservative Councillors.

A request was received from a resident to move item 8 on the agenda forward to allow members of the public to listen to the item earlier in the agenda. This request was accepted at the end of the public session.

The Mayor was asked to confirm how many official Conservative Party members were on the Council and if membership of the committees would change as a result of this.

The Mayor confirmed that he would have to contact the Conservative branch to confirm and that decisions on membership of Committees remained with Council, not himself.

A resident asked for assurance from the Town Council that the appointment of the Clerk has followed a correct procedure with advice available to all Councillors. Another resident further queried if advice was now received in writing, rather than verbally.

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The Mayor and Councillors assured the resident that the appointment of Clerk had been made following written independent HR advice available to all Councillors and that all HR advice was given in writing and was available to all members of the HR Committee.

Some Councillors requested that HR advice be available to all Councillors.

Note: The chair agreed to alter the order of the agenda. Item 8 was taken after item 3 on the agenda. The minutes have been recorded in agenda order.

4. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor confirmed that he had attended a ceremony for Merchant Navy Day at the Old Court House.

5. MINUTES

- (a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 03 August 2021 (Folios 9801 to 9803), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and were signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.
- (b) **RE SOLVED:** that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 17 August 2021 (Folios 9804 to 9805), having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and were signed by the Mayor as an accurate record.

6. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (a) Policy, Resources and Major Projects Committee, 05 October 2021 and to include its sub-committees
RESOLVED: that the recommendations of the meeting of this Committee and its Sub-Committees be accepted and the decisions be noted.
- (b) Planning Committee, 17 August 2021
RESOLVED: that the decisions of the meeting be noted.
- (c) Planning Committee, 14 September 2021
RESOLVED: that the decisions of the meeting be noted.

7. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

The Council resolved on 17 August to appoint a new Clerk firstly by internal promotion, subject to the satisfactory completion of appropriate pre-appointment conditions as recommended by the Council's HR advisor. The process had been successfully completed and J Riddle had been appointed as Town Clerk with the responsibilities of the role as described in the previously resolved job description.

RESOLVED: that the Council noted the appointment of J Riddle as Town Clerk.

8. IMPROVEMENT BOARD

The letter received from Rushcliffe Borough Council was considered, asking to work collaboratively with the Town Council to establish an independent improvement board.

RESOLVED: that the Council agrees in principle to work collaboratively with Rushcliffe Borough Council to establish an independent improvement board.

It was requested that the Clerk writes to Rushcliffe Borough Council to accept the offer of a meeting.

9. COUNCILLOR MOTION – PUBLIC SPEAKING

Bingham Town Council recognise that the changes made to the town's rules on public participation at meetings was an error and was one of the principal drivers of the Bingham Deserves Better petition. Town Council resolves immediately to set aside the provisions passed at Full Council in December 2020 and to revert to the previous procedures in place governing questions from the public:

- Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at meetings which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
- The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 20 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
- Subject to standing order 3(f) a member of the public shall not speak for more than 5 minutes.
- In accordance with standing order 3(e) a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman may direct that a written or oral answer be given.
- A person shall raise their hand when requesting to speak and stand when speaking (except where a person has a disability or is likely to suffer discomfort). The chairman at the meeting may at any time permit a person to be seated when speaking
- A person who speaks at a meeting shall direct their comments to the chairman of the meeting.
- Only one person is permitted to speak at a time. If more than one person wants to speak the chairman of the meeting shall direct the order of speaking.

Proposed: Councillor Anthony Wallace

Seconded: Councillor Gareth Williams

RESOLVED: that the motion be carried and the Council immediately revert to the previous procedures in place for governing questions from the public.

10. CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

RESOLVED: to note the conclusion of Audit for the year ending 31 March 2021.

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11. INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Major Projects committee to instruct CA Plus as the internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2022, at a cost of £425.00 plus VAT

12. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LCOAL COUNCILS 76TH AGM

Notification of the 76th Annual General meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 November 2021 has been given with the following options:

(a) To appoint one voting delegate

RESOLVED: to appoint Cllr J Lewis as the voting delegate for Bingham Town Council

(b) Nominations for the election of Officers

No nominations were received for the election of officers.

(c) Nominations for the election of the Executive Committee

No nominations were received for the election of the Executive Committee

(d) Nominations for Long Service certificate recognising 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50 years of continuous service

There were no eligible Councillors for the Long Service Certificate

13. INVOICES

RESOLVED: to make payment of £5664.00 to DAO Structural UK Ltd for repairs to the Linear Park Bridge.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Manor House – Councillors had received complaints from members of the public in relation to the empty Manor House. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Rushcliffe Borough Council to request details of the actions that are being taken to bring the Manor House back into use. Any response would be considered by the Community & Environment Committee.

(b) Councillor Bird gave a reminder of the Police Priority Setting Group meeting that was to be held on 21 October 2021, at the Old Court House.

(c) Growth Board – it was requested that the Bingham Growth Board needs more representation from Bingham Town Council and it was agreed a request be made to Rushcliffe Borough Council.

15. 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:

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“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 meeting held on 03 August 2021
RESOLVED: that the notes be approved.
- Confidential notes from the extra ordinary meeting held on 17 August 2021
RESOLVED: that the notes be approved.
- Confidential notes and recommendations from the Policy & Resources and Major Projects Committee held on 05 October 2021 and its Sub-Committees
RESOLVED: that the recommendations of this Committee and its Sub-Committees be approved.
- Staff Matters

RESOLVED: the delegated authority be given to the Clerk to work with the interview panel to advertise the Deputy Clerk role

RESOLVED: that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to work with East Midlands Councils, in consultation with Councillor T Wallace and Councillor J Stockwood, to progress the new model contract recommended by East Midlands Councils.

RESOLVED: that delegated authority be given to the next appropriate committee to confirm the back pay calculation.

The Council concluded its public session at 8.46pm and its confidential session at 8.57pm.

.....CHAIRMAN

Date: