

Draft Minutes
Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council
18th March 2020 at 10am

Present: Councillors: T McMahon Town Mayor
D Abbott
D Dixon-Wilkinson
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
R Morgan
S Thorne
K Wattingham

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Sarah Gelsthorp Civic and Events Officer

Public: None

Apologies: Councillors: J Carroll
C Copleston,
DJ Jones
A Slough

Absent: M Kennedy

11204 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Carroll, Copleston, Jones and Slough.

11205 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Councillor Morgan asked members if they knew of anyone who had contracted Covid-19 or had been in contact with someone who had. A show of hands revealed that one member knew of someone who had contracted the virus and another member had been in contact with someone who was unwell. Councillor Morgan passed on his best wishes to all.

11206 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

11207 CONTINGENCY PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Members were asked to consider whether the meeting should be conducted in private but were in agreement that the discussion should be continued in public session. This was proposed, seconded and voted on unanimously.

In light of the escalating threat from the coronavirus, a report was presented to enable members to consider the council's position in relation to Town Council services and operations and options for support from the council to the local community.

(10.07am, Cllr Farrell arrived at this point)

The Corporate Services Manager asked if an additional recommendation could be added as follows: *To delegate planning application responses to the Corporate Services Manager and Chair of the Planning Committee, should Planning Committee meetings not be held.* This motion was proposed by Councillor Goodchild, seconded by Councillor Thorne and voted on unanimously.

The following recommendations were discussed, proposed, seconded and vote on unanimously:

Resolved:

- 1. To delegate authority to the Clerk and the Chair of the council to undertake any measures / make any decisions deemed necessary to provide support to the community and to protect the health and wellbeing of Councillors and staff based on government and NALC advice;**
- 2. To postpone the Annual Town's Meeting until 21st May;**
- 3. To seek to hold the Town Council AGM on 13th May as scheduled (pending Government legislation at the time) at the Town Council offices. To note that should the AGM not proceed the current arrangements are to continue, depending on legislation;**
- 4. To cancel the Easter Egg Hunt on 4th April and to distribute the eggs to suitable local organisations and local schools;**
- 5. To cancel the Civic Service on 26th April;**
- 6. For the Chair and the Clerk to determine at the end of March / early April whether the VE Day Celebration planned for 8th May will proceed, (pending Government advice at the time);**
- 7. To hold the Mayoral Inauguration later in the year;**
- 8. To hold the Eco Event later in the year;**
- 9. To liaise with the Youth Council over future meetings;**
- 10. To put on hold the provision of the Pop-up café and to re-launch at a more suitable time.**
- 11. To delegate planning application responses to the Corporate Services Manager and Chair of the Planning Committee, should Planning Committee meetings not be held.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.35am

Dated this day of 2020

Chairman

DRAFT