

LUDGERSHALL TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 9th February 2021 at 7pm, remotely using Microsoft Teams.

Present: Cllr M Giles (Chair), Cllr B Cordery (Vice Chair), Cllr M Williams, Cllr N Allingham, Cllr J White, Cllr C Giles, Cllr V Dixon, Cllr CA Allan, Cllr B Dance, Cllr P Burgon, Cllr CA Moore, Cllr D Downie, Cllr J Langley

Representatives: Cllr Christopher Williams, Wiltshire Councillor; WO1 RSM Marc Elliott – 26 Engineer Regiment; Lt Col Nick Turner, Garrison Engagement

Public: 2 x members of the public attended the meeting

AGENDA ITEM

112-20/21: 1. Apologies – none. Cllr M Giles reported that although Cllr J Langley was present at the meeting, she would not be taking part in any discussion or voting. All Cllrs in agreement.

113-20/21: 2. Declaration of Interests – none.

114-20/21: 3. General Public Questions - none

115-20/21: 4. Chairman's Report – Cllr M Giles advised that due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions there is nothing to report to the Council. However, he wanted to say how well organized the local Vaccination Centers are and that it was great to see so many Cllrs and local residents volunteering to help at the Memorial Hall and Tidworth Leisure Centre.

116-20/21: 5. Police Report – this was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr CA Moore asked if an article can be added into the Parish magazine that warns of the current Covid-19 Vaccination scams highlighted in the report as many elderly people do not use Social Media. Cllr M Giles advised he is currently writing a piece for the February Edition of the magazine so this will be added in as well. Cllr M Giles also asked to move item 16 on the agenda to item 12 and to place item 20 under the Public Bodies Section of the agenda. All in favour.

117-20/21: 6. St. James's Church Report – no report was received from Rev T Laundon prior to the meeting.

118-20/21: 7. 26 Engineer Regiment Report – WO1 RSM Marc Elliott reported that they are continuing with training/support and involvement with NATO. They are also continuing to protect the force at home and to offer support to the NHS. Some soldiers whose wives/partners are front line/key workers have stayed home to help the effort with the pandemic. The focus also remains on trying to keep fit physically and mentally. The new Commanding Officer sends their regards and is hoping to be able to meet up virtually with LTC over the next month or so. Questions were invited and there were none, however Cllr B Dance offered his congratulations on WO1 RSM Marc Elliott's recent commissioning. All Cllrs and staff also passed on their congratulations.

119-20/21: 8. Garrison Engagement Report – LtCol Nick Turner reported that he met with outgoing Garrison Commander Lt Col Jamie Balls this morning as he will very soon be moving on; the handover to Lt Col Rupert Whiteleg is due to take place on 17th March. Ash Dieback work in the Salisbury Plain area is well underway and should be completed by the end of March 2021. 5% of trees have been repleved, which is good news. There is currently a large undertaking of spoil movement from Bulford/Larkhill to the old vehicle track at the former Corunna Barracks. Feedback is requested if anyone has any issues with spoil spillage or general safety problems as a result of this.

He also went on to offer his congratulations to WO1 RSM Marc Elliott on his recent commissioning and heralded him as a great ambassador for the Army. Cllr M Giles asked Lt Col Nick Turner to pass on best wishes from all at LTC to Lt Col Jamie Balls for the future.

120-20/21: 9. [Wiltshire Council Report](#) – Cllr C Williams opened by also offering his congratulations to WO1 RSM Marc Elliott on his recent commissioning and echoed the comments made by Cllr M Giles regarding the local Vaccination Centers and the number of Town Councillors and local residents that have volunteered to make it so successful at both the Memorial Hall and Tidworth Leisure Centre. It is Wiltshire Council budget time and there is a full council meeting on 23rd February to finalise the figures. There is a proposed 1.9% increase on the standard figure and a 3% adult social care increase which has been forced upon them by Government. The Council have decided to put this onto the bill as 3% in one go (that covers 2 years) rather than splitting it 2% this year and 1% next year which means there will be no increase for this element of Council Tax next year. Wiltshire Council have been able to deliver a balanced budget with no reduction in services and no cuts to the planned budgets. He re-iterated that all the figures above are not finalised at this stage though. Regarding the Castledown Business Park, the tendering process has not yet begun on Phase 3 and it will be marketed in the Spring for business use under the old categories. Wiltshire Council continue to operate in response mode – many staff have been re-deployed so there may be a delay to response times. The Elections are planned to go ahead in May 2021. The plan to pass on the charge for the Elections to Town/Parish Councils has been withdrawn and there will be no retrospective charges. This may happen from next year onwards though and LTC need to precept for this potential cost in next years' budget. The Area Board is next due to meet on 1st March 2021 and as usual all Councillors are welcome. Cllr Williams also advised that he has “called-in” the Planning Application for the Crown Garage site on Andover Road and this will go to the Wiltshire Council Planning Committee for a decision. Regarding the Parnham’s Planning Application, he spoke to the Planning Officer this morning who confirmed that the Reserved Matters planning application is separate to the Application for the dwellings hence why the plan shows the bungalow area excluded etc (as per the LTC questions submitted to the Planning Officer by email). Unfortunately, he cannot “call-in” a Reserved Matters Planning Application. Lorrywatch has been posted on his Facebook page and volunteers have been requested – so far around a dozen people have volunteered and training is due to take place in March. He ended by stating that the breakdown of Council Tax does need to be clear to residents so they can see what funds go where.

121-20/21: 10. [Memorial Hall Committee Report](#) – Cllr B Dance confirmed that as previously mentioned the Memorial Hall is being used as a Vaccination Centre (from last week) and they are doing 3 days a week at present. He wanted to offer his thanks to all the volunteers. He also advised that he has applied for another Grant to cover the period of this lockdown and they have successfully secured the funding from this.

122-20/21: 11. [Minutes of the previous meeting held 12/01/2021](#) – these had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further comments were made. Cllr M Giles proposed they be accepted, Cllr B Dance seconded, all in favour. Office to publish on the website.

123-20/21: 12. [Grounds Maintenance Contract](#) – The paperwork summarizing the quotes/tenders received and recommendation from the Finance and Policy Committee had been sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting in the agenda pack. The Clerk talked through the figures and the recommendation made. Cllr V Dixon proposed that LTC appoint Gavin Jones as the Grounds Maintenance Contractors for the next 3 years, Cllr CA Allan seconded, all in favour. Office to notify Gavin Jones and to thank all other who submitted a tender for their interest.

124-20/21: 13. [Committee Reports: Ratification of minutes for the following meetings:](#)

Planning meetings 12th January 2021 & 1st February 2021 - minutes have been circulated, there were no questions or comments; Cllr P Burgon proposed the minutes, Cllr B Dance seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41; **Recreation, Leisure and Environment meeting 18th**

January 2021 - minutes have been circulated there were no questions or comments; Cllr J White proposed the minutes, Cllr C Giles seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41; **Allotment,**

Cemetery and Car Park meeting 19th January 2021 - minutes have been circulated there were

no questions or comments; Cllr B Dance proposed the minutes, Cllr CA Moore seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41: **January Finance & Policy meeting 3rd February 2021** - minutes have been circulated. Cllr M Giles asked for a couple of volunteers to look at the current Committee remit and number of Councillors to see if things are running as efficiently as possible. Cllrs CA Allan, P Burgon and CA Moore all volunteered. Cllr M Giles proposed the minutes, Cllr CA Allan seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41. **Civic Events** – no January meeting was held as nothing can be planned due to lockdown. Office to publish all ratified minutes on the website.

125-20/21: 14. Bills for Payment- these had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting, no comments were made. Cllr B Cordery proposed they be paid, Cllr CA Allan seconded, all in favour. Office to make payments.

126-20/21: 15. Parnham's Covenant – The Clerk advised that Counsel's opinion has been received and the recommendation is to send the information to the Covenant Valuer Iain Skinner to continue negotiations on behalf of LTC. The Clerk advised she would send Counsel's report to all Councillors to have a look at and all agreed to instruct Iain Skinner to continue on our behalf.

127-20/21: 16. PCC update following meeting regarding trees – Cllr M Giles advised that he had recently attended a meeting with Mike Dunning along with Cllr P Burgon and Cllr B Cordery. They looked at the Churchyard and in particular the trees that require attention. Cllr M Giles said that in his opinion LTC cannot give more money to the Church for several reasons: Firstly, it is not inclusive to only offer public monies to a Church of England Church and not include other faiths/religious denominations. He stated that LTC already give an annual grant to the Church for the maintenance of the closed churchyard (graves) and pay for the green wate removal throughout the year following their volunteer days. The funds requested are for a horse-chestnut tree that collapsed last year, requiring removal and it is not possible to pay Grant monies retrospectively. Lastly, when the Churchyard was closed it was offered to the (then) Parish Council who declined to take responsibility for it, so the Diocese handed the Churchyard and the responsibility for maintenance back to the Church. The Diocese provide an annual grant to cover the costs of the Churchyard maintenance and Cllr M Giles said that if additional funds are needed, they should be sought from the Diocese.

128-20/21: 17. Tablets – The tablets purchased in 2019 that have been replaced with iPads (funded by the Grant LTC received for Covid-19 to allow remote meetings to happen) are now surplus to requirements. Cllr M Giles proposed that they be wiped and given to the local Primary School. The Clerk advised that putting them back to a factory reset is simple enough and she will arrange for this to happen (they cannot be passed outside of LTC due to any information contained on them at present). The accounts for these items need to be written off (approx. £1700 inc VAT). Cllr B Dance proposed the write off, Cllr B Cordery seconded, all in favour. Clerk to do write off, collect remaining tablet, factory re-set and arrange them to be taken to Castle Primary school to help local children struggling with access to online learning.

129-20/21: 18. Traffic Surveys – results from Andover Road and Empress Way counts and information regarding future survey requests – The results of the traffic surveys carried out on these roads and on Simonds Road had been sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Unfortunately, all 3 recorded an average speed at the 85th percentile under the threshold for Community Speedwatch action, so no further action can be taken. The Councillors were also advised that no further survey requests will be actioned during lockdown. Cllr C Williams asked when the Andover Road survey was carried out and Admin advised it was in December 2020. He asked to be emailed the results of all 3 surveys and Cllr M Williams suggested that they are put on the LTC Facebook age and website. All in agreement, office to action.

130- 20/21: 19. 7.5 ton weight limit – why PSV are allowed. The response from Wiltshire Council Highways had been circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting in the agenda pack: The restriction in operation is a "prohibition of a goods vehicle", however they are commonly referred to as a "weight limit" which can be misinterpreted. The various classifications of vehicles are set by the Department for Transport i.e. Passenger (PSV), Light Good (LGV), Heavy Goods (HGV) etc, as there

are differencing requirements for each type (Road Traffic Act 1988 s.185). This includes different licence requirements, testing regimes and also the particular exemptions from differing restrictions. There was no decision to actively public service vehicles from the restriction, there are exempt as they are classified because they are Public Service, rather than Goods. To prevent this type of vehicle from using a particular road requires traffic orders specifically for that type of vehicle i.e., Prohibition of Buses. This in turn would not prevent use by a "Goods" vehicle for example.

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda items were closed to the public due to their confidential nature. All attendees other than Councillors and staff left the meeting at 1953hrs.

131-20/21: 20. Local Plan Review – Cllr M Giles reported that having attended a recent meeting with reps from Tidworth Town Council and Tidworth Area Chamber of Commerce, along with Cllr P Burgon (Chair of Planning) that there is the requirement for another 167 houses to be built in the Tidworth/Ludgershall Area to meet the quota of housebuilding within the Local Plan published by Wiltshire Council. At this meeting, also discussed was the funding being made available by Wiltshire Council to regenerate Market Towns, Cllr M Giles proposed that Ludgershall make their own application for the funding. All Cllrs in favour. LTC needs to reply to the q's within the local plan leaflets that have been sent to all Cllrs prior to the live discussion with Wiltshire Council on 20th January 2021 – a number of Cllrs attended this discussion. The office will forward the local plan leaflets and any other information sent to the Office regarding both of these subjects to all Councillors. The Council all agreed that these should be discussed as part of the Town Plan – Clerk to arrange a meeting.

132-20/21: 21. Staff Hours of work – The office staff have been working 35-hour weeks since August 2020 when it was agreed as a 6 month trial period this has now ended and the work has not decreased, Cllr M Giles proposed that there be a further 6 month extension. All Cllrs in favour.

133-20/21: 22. Agenda Points for next month – Census 2021.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.15pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7pm using Microsoft Teams.

Signed.....

Date.....