

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2020 AT 6.30 PM (via Zoom)

C023/20 Present: Cllr A Pollock (chair), Cllr S Barker, Cllr A Clamp, Cllr M Casselden, Cllr C Foster Phillips, Cllr G Gratton, Cllr A Jordan, Cllr J Stockell, Cllr P Taylor and Cllr C Whittall

In attendance: 3 members of public, District Cllr M Ratcliffe, D Cllr P Slack, C Cllr I Ratcliffe, A Fussell (WTC officer), S Gratton (WTC Officer) and Paul Jennings (Town Clerk)

C024/20 Apologies: Cllr E McDonagh

C025/20 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:

Cllr Whittall	Item 6 b,c regarding Blacks Head Personal Interest as Blacks Head sponsor Colts Football Team
Cllr Taylor	Item 10 Railway Liaison Group Personal Interest as resident adjacent to railway
Cllr Clamp	Item 7. Business resumption request to allow Farmers Market Personal Interest as Chair of NOW who contract out the running of FM to applicant

Open Forum opened 6:35pm

C026/20 Open Forum:

Mayor announcements: Cllr Pollock attended a socially distanced Twinning event in Stoney wood which was streamed to twin towns.

District Councillor Reports: Cllr P Slack provided a verbal report

County Councillor Reports: Cllr I Ratcliffe provided a verbal report

3 Members of the Wirksworth Community Response Group spoke regarding their request to understand how the Town Council felt the group and infrastructure created (100+ volunteers) might continue to support the town through Covid19 and beyond.

Open Forum closed 6:50pm

C027/20 Wirksworth Community Response Group

To consider how to harness this community support structure created in Wirksworth in response to government lockdown measures (introduced in March to minimise the spread of C19).

[In Bolehill/Steeple Grange, an existing community group, Bolehill Improvement Group mobilised in response to the situation]

RESOLVED That the council wished to thank the group for all their work (which still continues) and that initially Cllr Barker and Cllr Casselden would be assigned as Town Council representatives to liaise with the group. Councillors will look at how structure and volunteers might be used beyond supporting the community through C19.

C028/20 Emergency Plan for Wirksworth

Cllr Taylor asked the council to consider whether a plan could be created for the Town built on lessons learned from the response to C19

RESOLVED That the clerk would review the Town Council's own plan and that given the importance of communication(s) that these should be tested regularly. Particular attention should be paid to ensure flexibility in any such plan or mitigating measure. As these plans need to dovetail into the existing structures and support provided by DDDC/DCC that a representative of DCC Emergency Planning should be invited to speak to the council at a later date.

C029/20 Black Lives Matter Protests

In response to recent events at a local, regional and global level

RESOLVED: a) That the Town Council affirms its opposition to Racism and Inequality and..

- Commit to openly talking about racism within our community, as racism thrives in the company of silence.
- Work with other Local Authorities and community groups to tackle racism and the causes of racism.
- Work with the Police and local Law Enforcement to ensure a no tolerance policy is taken on all hate crime - including hate speech.
- To refer this for further discussion by the council on how this can be achieved.

Cllr Whittall temporarily left the meeting

Following 2 email enquiries to the Town Council regarding an image in the Black's Head public house. [It should be noted that the 2 emailed complaints received by the Town Council were not regarding the name of the Public House]

RESOLVED: b) To engage with landlord of the Black's Head to determine which elements (name/signage/imagery) have been a source of complaints and what steps might be taken to address this.

To consider a proposal from D Cllr P Slack to support a campaign to lobby the Brewery to rename the Blacks Head pub in Wirksworth, with a suggestion of "Captain Tom".

RESOLVED: That this matter is not progressed at this time.

Cllr Whittall re-joined meeting

C030/20 Business Resumption Plans

Resolution C009/20 on 18th June was that the council would consider the issue of the resumption of the various services and operations of the council at the 1st meeting July.

These include: Tuesday Market, Barmote Croft Toilet, Play Areas (Kingsfield/Washgreen), occasional lettings at Town & Memorial Halls.

RESOLVED: a) That the Tuesday Market resume on 14th July on a trial basis, with a reduced number of stalls and one-way flow of shoppers.

That Barmote Croft Toilets be re-opened, with limited operating hours to allow for an enhanced cleaning regime. Initially the facilities will be available Monday - Friday.

The provision of both services is subject to review (to ensure compliance with risk assessments and government guidelines)

The re-opening of the Town and Memorial Hall to bookings/use is a more complex issue, three councillors (who do not use the buildings for occasional lets) have been delegated to make a decisions regarding re-opening - Cllr Gratton, Cllr Barker and Cllr Stockell in conjunction with council officers.

Councillors will also review the re-opening of the play areas, this has been delegated Cllr Gratton, Barker and Stockell in conjunction with council officers.

Delegated powers remain in place to allow decisions on urgent matters, and these are Mayor, deputy Mayor and the two Committee Chairs (at present Cllr Pollock, Cllr Gratton, Cllr Clamp – no chair has yet been agreed for Environment and Town Committee)

Farmers Market is an occasional let and there is a request for a booking before the end of July.

RESOLVED: b) That given the resumption of the Tuesday Market that the request be agreed (Barmote Croft Toilets will remain closed at the weekend). The same considerations regarding access to Memorial Hall applied to Tuesday Market to be applied to Farmers Market. This matter will be reviewed at council meeting on 20th July (after 1st event) to determine whether further bookings should be agreed.

C031/20 Resumption of Committee Meetings & additional Council Meetings

To consider when to recommence the Environment and Town Committee and the Finance, Buildings and Personnel Committee meetings. [Resolution C180/19b made in March to cancel meetings until July]

Cllr Taylor has proposed that additional meetings be held in July, and that meetings continue through August during the period which would normally be recess.

RESOLVED that given the robust scheme of delegation established that a further council meeting be held on 20th July at which time the resumption of committee meetings be agreed. No scheduled council meeting to held in august, although an extraordinary meeting may be called should circumstances require.

C032/20 Market Town Liaison

To request (as one of the District's market towns) a change in the parking policy of Derbyshire Dales District Council. To call for the introduction of concessions/

reductions in the parking charges to actively encourage visitors/residents to use council owned parking in order to support the reignition of the economies of the markets towns and especially their retail and town centre businesses.

RESOLVED that Cllr Jordan and the Clerk prepare a letter for signature by the Mayor on this matter.

C033/20 Railway Liaison

Proposal to create a specific group to engage on issues related to the Railway in Wirksworth.

RESOLVED that Cllr Pollock approach the railway to investigate how we increase links and communication, initially seeking a meeting to discuss how this might be achieved.

C034/20 Climate Change

To consider what priorities the council should focus on as a guide to the working party.

RESOLVED that Cllr Taylor to arrange a zoom meeting (to include Cllr Pollock, Cllr Barker, Cllr Gratton, Cllr Stockell) to discuss the matter in more detail.

C035/20 Remedial Works to Play Areas

The recent RoSPA annual inspection has identified a number of issues with the play areas at Kingsfield and Washgreen.

Washgreen - Reduce chain length on basket swing to ensure a minimum of 400mm ground clearance & remove trip hazard in grass matting below basket swing.

Kingsfield – Rotting timber steps (remove), barked areas overgrown with weeds, replace one timber leg on junior swing, 5m wetpour safety surface band repair.

The previous repair works to Kingsfield (RoSPA recommendations in 2019 & vandalism) were interrupted by lockdown, and the additional works required at both sites could be combined with previously agreed repairs (to reduce overall day rate costs). The additional works will cost £2745+vat, if undertaken alongside remaining work.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk arrange for the works to be undertaken.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

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Chairman