

## WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WIRKSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21 October 2024 AT 6.30 PM

**C24/62 Present:** Cllr E McDonagh (chair), Cllr A Clamp, Cllr S Barker, Cllr A Jordan, Cllr S Maskrey, Cllr A Pollock, Cllr F Rostron, Cllr S Thompson, Cllr P Taylor, and Cllr C Whittall.

In attendance: 6 Members of public, 1 Parish Councillor of Blackwell and member of Homeland Party, D Cllr P Slack, D Cllr L Peacock, 2 members of Derbyshire Constabulary and Paul Jennings (Town Clerk),

**C24/63 Apologies:** Cllr P Carr, D Cllr D Greatorex, C Cllr Murphy

**C24/64 Variation of Order of Business:** to take item 9 Booking (Lettings) Policy immediately after Town Mayors Announcements.

**C24/65 Members' Pecuniary Interests in Agenda Items:**

None declared.

*Open Forum opened 6:35pm*

**C24/66 Open Forum:**

A resident spoke about some suggestions to improve the existing booking policy  
A representative of the Homeland Party spoke about their recent private booking of the Town Hall and the protest that occurred outside the building.  
D Cllr Peacock and D Cllr Slack provided a verbal report to support their written report.

*Open Forum closed 6:55pm*

**C24/67 Minutes of the meeting of the Wirksworth Town Council 16 September 2024:**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Wirksworth Town Council dated 16 September 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

**C24/68 Town Mayor's Announcements:** The Mayor thanked those that attended the Civic Service.

**C24/69 Booking (Lettings) Policy**  
To discuss what actions might be taken to address concerns regarding the current process and procedures which are applied when accepting bookings of the Town Council facilities.

*Proposed Resolution from Cllr McDonagh & Cllr Jordan*

**RESOLVED** In the light of the recent events surrounding a booking of Town Hall premises, this Council:  
**Confirms its absolute faith in its staff and their decision-making processes;**  
**Fully accepts that the decision to accept the booking in the Town Hall was totally in line with the policies laid down by councillors and confirmed by them annually;**  
**Is confident that its policy on bookings was applied with rigour and that officers acted very professionally and with painstaking diligence;**  
**Is horrified by the abuse received by staff;**  
**Is saddened that the outcome is likely to be an overall reduction in the availability to organisations in Wirksworth of space for free and open discussion.**

**The Council resolved in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press whilst staff (contractual) matters relating to the booking policy were discussed.**

*Public and Press excluded*

The Clerk answered questions from councillors regarding the application of council procedures and policy in relation to a recent booking where there was a protest which also resulted in police attending the Town Hall. The clerk provided an update on the consequences to staff wellbeing (under duty of care).

*Public and press returned*

**RESOLVED not to accept bookings from Political Parties for a period of 6 months to allow time to look into the matter and to review advice from insurers and other bodies.**

**C24/70 To receive the committee recommendations**

- Environment and Town dated 7 October 2024
- Finance Buildings and Personnel dated 14 October 2024 (meeting inquorate)

**RESOLVED to refer ET24/59 back to committee and to adopt all the recommendations of the Environment and Town Committee dated 7 October 2024.**

**C24/71 Accounts Paid**

September 2024 in the sum of £20,115.91

**RESOLVED that payment of the attached accounts in the sums of £20,115.91 be approved.**

**C24/72 Duty of Care to Staff**

All employers have a duty of care towards their workers, by definition, 'duty of care' means the moral or legal obligation to ensure the safety

and wellbeing of others. The Town Council has a Bullying and Harassment policy, following the Civility & Respect Campaign it is recommended that this be updated to a Dignity at Work policy.

**RESOLVED That the council agree the adoption of the policy in principle and that the policy should now be drafted in Town Council format and presented at the next full council meeting for approval and adoption.**

**C24/73 Flooding in Wirksworth**

E&T Resolution (ET24/60) to refer this issue to full council in order to seek a meeting with District and County Councillors for clarification on what actions have been taken and what are proposed to address these issues within the Town.

**RESOLVED That the Town Council request the District Councillors and County Councillor attend a meeting with the Town Councillors to discuss the issue. The agenda for the meeting to be agreed at the next E&T committee meeting.**

**C24/74 External Audit (attached)**

To receive the auditor's report for 2023-24.

**RESOLVED That it be noted that the External Auditor raised no concerns.**

**C24/75 Budget and Precept 2025-26**

To consider any issues that should be considered or included in the initial draft budget.

**RESOLVED That the budget be referred for further discussion by committee and full council. That consideration be given to the impact of recent exceptional expenditure on the level of reserves held by the council including a policy on whether (and how quickly) this should be replenished.**

**C24/76 Derbyshire County Council Draft Council Plan 2025-29**

DCC are consulting on their new 4 year plan.

**RESOLVED That the matter be noted.**

**C24/77 Request for Funding**

Request for £2000 from Town Council to pay for an evaluation and strategic plan from Esther Morrison following a series of meetings with DDDC Business Advisor Christina Trindade with the Wirksworth Traders Group - "Wirksworth Placemaking - how to increase footfall in the town".

**RESOLVED That the council welcome and congratulate the group on their work. The Town Council like many local authorities is under unprecedented financial pressure in the case of the Town Council it**

**has drawn on its reserves to fund repair works to the roof at the Town Hall and to match fund the project works to the Meadows and therefore is not currently in a position to provide the level of financial support requested. The Town Council would encourage the group to seek alternative sources of funding such a support grants for economic development. Councillors would invite the group to present at future council meeting to help understand the proposed scope of the works.**

*The meeting closed at 8:05pm*

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Chairman

# Wirksworth Town Council

## PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
263	Maintenance	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Sanitary disposal/ service	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	S	69.67	13.93	83.60
237	Barmote Croft Toilets	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	20.88		20.88
259	Fannyshaw Community	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Internet	W3Z	S	29.16	5.83	34.99
261	Rates	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Rates	DDDC	Z	686.00		686.00
263	Maintenance	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Sanitary disposal/ service	Cathedral Leasing Ltd	S	69.00	13.80	82.80
264	Barmote Croft Toilets	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Internet	Smarty	S	15.00	3.00	18.00
288	Maintenance	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Furniture	Office Furniture Direct	S	262.31	52.46	314.77
257	General Administration	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		HR Support	Castle Associates	S	43.00	8.60	51.60
260	General Administration	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Payroll	Sage	S	85.00	17.00	102.00
262	General Administration	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		IT Support	Software Into Action	S	392.00	78.40	470.40
265	Telephone	02/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Telephony	Smarty	S	4.50	0.90	5.40
279	Fannyshaw Community	03/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	SSE	L	222.76	11.14	233.90
289	Fuel	05/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Gas	Corona Energy	L	245.93	12.30	258.23
289	Fuel	05/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Gas	Corona Energy	L	89.70	4.49	94.19
270	Maintenance	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Refuse collection	CPP	S	31.20	6.24	37.44
273	Maintenance	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Consumables	Complete	S	332.90	66.58	399.48
272	Kingsfield Play Area	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Grass & verge cutting	JM Stevenson (Roy)	Z	94.00		94.00
272	Wash Green Play Area	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Grass & verge cutting	JM Stevenson (Roy)	Z	60.00		60.00
272	Environmental	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Grass & verge cutting	JM Stevenson (Roy)	Z	44.00		44.00
271	General Administration	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Advert	Community Fayre	Z	81.00		81.00
273	General Administration	10/09/2024		Unity Trust		Consumables	Complete	S	36.00	7.20	43.20
267	Market Stall Set-up &	11/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Market stalls	Janus Ridgeway	S	106.29	21.26	127.55
298	Maintenance	12/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Furniture	Wayfair.co.uk	S	141.65	28.33	169.98
269	Barmote Croft Toilets	12/09/2024		Unity Trust		Cleaning	KeptKleen Ltd	S	180.00	36.00	216.00
268	Training	12/09/2024		Unity Trust		Training	One Call Training	S	250.00	50.00	300.00
293	Occasional Lettings	18/09/2024		Lloyds Current	3721	Town Hall Lettings	Anthony Gell	S	22.08	4.42	26.50
284	Rates	21/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	87.99		87.99
283	Rates	21/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	298.59		298.59
277	Fuel	23/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	82.44	4.12	86.56
278	Fuel	23/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	227.17	11.36	238.53
274	Barmote Croft Toilets	23/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	TotalEnergies	L	24.29	1.21	25.50
275	Fuel	23/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	123.61	6.18	129.79
276	Fuel	23/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Electricity	EDF Energy	L	100.56	5.03	105.59
294	General Administration	23/09/2024		Unity Trust		Annual license	PPL PRS	S	367.67	73.54	441.21

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Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
295	Meadows Phase 1	23/09/2024		Unity Trust		Meadows works	Urban Wilderness	S	500.00	100.00	600.00
296	Meadows Phase 1	23/09/2024		Unity Trust		Meadows works	Thompson Tree	S	146.00	29.20	175.20
297	Donations	23/09/2024	FBP 24/37	Unity Trust		Grant	Wirksworth Festival	Z	1,000.00		1,000.00
280	General Administration	24/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	Z	25.00		25.00
290	Salaries	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Tax & NI	HMRC	Z	1,273.09		1,273.09
290	Wages	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Tax & NI	HMRC	Z	224.79		224.79
291	Wages	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Salaries	Wirksworth Town	Z	3,541.03		3,541.03
291	Salaries	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Salaries	Wirksworth Town	Z	4,962.63		4,962.63
292	Salaries	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Pension contributions	DCC	Z	1,596.31		1,596.31
292	Wages	25/09/2024		Unity Trust		Pension contributions	DCC	Z	980.17		980.17
258	Managed Telecoms	26/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Internet	Emtel	S	43.95	8.79	52.74
299	Maintenance	27/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Furniture	GO PAK	S	15.00	3.00	18.00
281	Barmote Croft Toilets	27/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	41.76		41.76
282	Rates	27/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	41.87		41.87
299	Maintenance	27/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Furniture	GO PAK	S	15.00	3.00	18.00
302	General Administration	27/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	Z	7.00		7.00
285	Rates	30/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	11.95		11.95
286	Rates	30/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	11.95		11.95
287	Rates	30/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Water	Water Plus	Z	11.95		11.95
256	General Administration	30/09/2024		Lloyds Current		Internet	Zen	S	29.00	5.80	34.80
301	General Administration	30/09/2024		Unity Trust		Bank charges	Unity Trust	Z	18.00		18.00
<b>Total</b>									<b>19,422.80</b>	<b>693.11</b>	<b>20,115.91</b>