
Officers present: Mrs L Elliott (Managing Director), Mr S Darcy, (Director/S151 Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mr A Piper and Mr E Symons (Assistant Directors), Miss S Gibson (Mayor’s Deputy Sergeant) and Mrs C A Mundy (Democratic Services Officer - Committees).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anslow, Bone, Ekins, Lloyd, Patel, Stevenson, Walia, M Waters, V Waters, Weatherill and York.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council’s code of conduct and the council’s constitution, the following declarations were made:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G Lawman</td>
<td>Resource Committee</td>
<td>Personal - is a member of the Hemmingwell Community Skills Centre, as detailed on register of interest form.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 10 19, min 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Greatwell Homes land</td>
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<td></td>
<td>rationalisation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarborough</td>
<td>Resources Committee</td>
<td>DPI – Wife has contract with Santander Bank.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 10 19, min 9, Mid</td>
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<td></td>
<td>year report on treasury</td>
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<td></td>
<td>management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watts</td>
<td>Resources Committee</td>
<td>Prejudicial – employed by Morrisons</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 12 19, min 4,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morrisons Car Park</td>
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3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 OCTOBER 2019

The minutes of the council meeting held on 15 October 2019 were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting of 15 October 2019, be confirmed and signed.
4. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

The mayor had received one request to address the meeting, from Marion Turner-Hawes, in relation to item 8 of the agenda - options for the transfer of service to Wellingborough Town Council. The mayor decided to bring forward item 8 of the agenda for discussion and debate.

5. OPTIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF SERVICES TO WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received in relation to the work undertaken, to date, to form Wellingborough Town Council along with the options for the transfer of services from the Borough Council of Wellingborough to the town council with effect from 1 April 2020.

The mayor allowed Marion Turner-Hawes to address the meeting. She spoke expressing her disappointment over the content of the report and the very limited services, if any, that were to be transferred to the town council. In her opinion the town of Wellingborough has a number of assets which she felt should be passed to the town council, rather than being transferred to the North Northamptonshire Unitary Council, who may decide to dispose of them in the future. She considered that the precept proposed for year one was very low and that this would considerably limit what the town council could do. She referred to Rushden town council and the numerous services that it deals with and felt that Wellingborough town council should have the opportunity to do likewise.

The mayor thanked Ms Turner-Hawes for her comments.

The mayor referred to the report and informed members that additional legal advice had been received and the powers listed below had been added to the report:

- Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence Part 1;
- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;

The leader of the council addressed the meeting and explained the background to the creation of the town council; he wanted the town council to succeed and thrive but considered that in year one, particularly as the Borough Council of Wellingborough was still in existence, that the new town council, and the councillors appointed thereto, should be able to make its own decisions in relation to the services it wished to take on. Such services would have a reflection on the precept charged for the town council.

Whilst assets could be transferred to the town council, some could come with considerable liabilities, and the town council needed to consider this and decide what it wished to do.
The leader proposed that it be agreed that no services be transferred in year one, to allow the town council to decide what services it wishes to undertake once it is formed.

The mayor put the report and proposal to the debate.

Councillor Scarborough shared some of the concerns of the speaker and had hoped that there would have been a larger transfer of services in year one than indicated in the report. The town council would be formed from 1 April 2020, with the town councillors being elected in May 2020, and felt that the town clerk should be appointed, as soon as possible so that decisions on its future could be made as soon as possible.

Councillor Bell reminded members that whilst Rushden Town Council currently carried out a lot of services, when it had been established some 12 years ago, it had no services. Over the subsequent years it had taken on more and more services and was now well established; he expected that this would be the same for Wellingborough Town Council in years to come. He seconded the leader's proposal.

Councillor Carr also cautioned that the town council should take things slowly to ensure it didn’t incur liabilities that were onerous to it.

The mayor put the motion as proposed by Councillor Griffiths, and seconded by Councillor Bell, to the meeting:

“that no services be transferred in year one, to allow the town council to decide what services it wishes to undertake once it is formed.”

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that it be agreed not to transfer any services to Wellingborough town council in year one, to allow the town council to decide what services it wished to undertake once it is formed.

6. MINUTES TO NOTE

The minutes of the following meetings were received to note:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>16 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>20 November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planning Committee</td>
<td>18 December 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licensing (Regulatory) Sub-Committee</td>
<td>25 November 2019</td>
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The minutes of the full licensing committee of 25 November 2019 were received with a recommendation to adopt the licensing policy; this was put to the vote and declared carried.
RESOLVED that:

(i) the minutes of the above meetings be noted;
(ii) the licensing policy, as reviewed, be adopted.

7. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 28 OCTOBER 2019

The minutes of the development committee of 28 October 2019 were received; reference was made to minute 4 and the adoption of the revised statement of community involvement, the chairman confirmed that following discussions with the Joint Planning Unit, officers he had been informed that the title page of the document would be re-designed and that each district/borough could undertake additional consultation if it so wished. The recommendation, that the statement of community involvement be adopted, was put to the vote and declared carried.

Councillor Carr proposed the adoption of the development committee minutes, which was seconded by Councillor Skittrall; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

(i) the statement of community involvement, as revised in July 2019, be adopted;
(ii) the minutes of the development committee of 28 October 2019, be adopted.

8. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 OCTOBER 2019

The minutes of the resources committee of 30 October 2019 were received.

Councillor Scarborough referenced minute 5 Greatwell Homes land rationalisation and thanked officers for the report, and members, for the decision made, which he considered to be very sensible. Councillor Partridge-Underwood asked for an update in relation to the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre, and the receipt of the business case it had promised.

The leader responded, thanking Councillor Scarborough for his words, and informed the meeting that the business case was still awaited from the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre, he had received an assurance that it was being progressed and that it would be submitted in due course. He thanked members for their support and consensus in the decision making process on this item.

Councillor Scanlon referenced minute 8 Capital Programme monitoring, and asked if it was necessary to install CCTV at Redwell Leisure Centre, taking into account the proposals for its future. The MD clarified that security was required and any future proposals would take some time to come to fruition. Councillor Scanlon also referred to the drainage issues as detailed in the
same report and was informed that the assistant director would reply to her query in writing.
Councillor Griffiths proposed the adoption of the resources committee minutes which was seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the resources committee of 30 October 2019 be adopted.

(Councillor Watts, having declared an interest in the following item, left the room.)

9. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 DECEMBER 2019

The minutes of the resources committee of 17 December 2019 were received.

Councillor Emerson made reference to minute 4 Morrisons Car Park, Wellingborough. He thanked the assistant director for his help and confirmed that the fines charged by Euro Car Parks had been repaid. He expressed ongoing concern over the way Euro Car Parks generally managed car parks, which had recently been the subject of a report on Radio 4; he appreciated the additional signage at the site which he hoped would alleviate some of his concerns in relation to people being fined.

Councillor Aslam also expressed his concern over the actual time that the ANPR system recorded people entering the car park, particularly those with disabled badges, who have to show the time of arrival, rather than entry, on their badge, as this could result in a discrepancy. His concern was noted.

The leader responded, and was not surprised that the public reaction to Euro Car Parks was poor, parking fines were generally not popular. Whilst understanding the concern of members he considered that ANPR controlled car parks were now found across the whole country and despite not being popular had some benefits, such as in tackling crime, and ensuring that car parks were available for relevant users. Morrisons had agreed to place improved signage at the site, so users were aware that they could not park all day, and had agreed to work with the council, it was important for their business to thrive and prosper in the town centre and for the council to support them in this.

Councillor Griffiths proposed the adoption of the resources committee minutes which was seconded by Councillor Carr; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the resources committee of 17 December 2019, be adopted.

(Councillor Watts returned to the meeting.)
10. ARTS & LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the arts and leisure sub-committee of 5 November 2019 were received.

Members asked when the restaurant would be open the Castle Theatre; the chairman believed that the facility would be open by March as a considerable amount of work had been taking place in the kitchen and seating area.

Clarity was also sought about the type of food that would be served, as it was believed it would be more of a snack bar, than a proper restaurant facility. The chairman clarified that it would be a pizza style restaurant. He would arrange for a member briefing note to be issued giving the timeline.

Members praised the new seating in the theatre, which had recently been installed, and was considered to be a big improvement.

The chairman thanked members for their positive comments.

Councillor Harrington proposed the adoption of the minutes of the arts and leisure sub-committee, which was seconded by Councillor Griffiths; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the arts and leisure sub-committee of 5 November 2019, be adopted.

11. PARTNERSHIPS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 13 January 2020 were received.

The leader made particular reference to the excellent presentation by Northamptonshire Police, and expressed the wish that more members had been present to hear it.

The chairman also confirmed that Tresham College would open in September and the syllabus it would provide was excellent and commented that it was a credit to all concerned that the facility had been saved for the people of the borough.

Councillor Graves proposed the adoption of the minutes, which was seconded by Councillor Maguire; on being put to the vote this was declared carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 13 January 2020, be adopted.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM SUB-COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the local government reform sub-committee of 14 January 2020 were received.
The leader referenced minute 5 North Northamptonshire Joint Committee and the list of forthcoming meetings, informing the meeting that whilst the minutes were accurate, the days listed were incorrect and should read as follows:


Councillor Griffiths proposed the adoption of the minutes of the local government reform sub-committee, which was seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the local government reform sub-committee of 14 January 2020 be adopted.

13. SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY 2020

The minutes of the services committee of 14 January 2020 were received.

The leader referred to minute 6 and the options appraisal for Redwell Leisure Centre; he had received a considerable amount of support to the proposal to retain and develop Redwell Leisure Centre, particularly from health partners, as the combination of health and wellbeing, along with the leisure offer, would be extremely beneficial for residents. A report would be submitted to resources committee in March 2020.

Councillor Allebone proposed the adoption of the minutes of the services committee, which was seconded by Councillor Abram; and on being put to the vote declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the services committee, of 14 January 2020 be adopted.

14. QUESTIONS AND/OR MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

**RESOLVED** that no questions or motions had been received.

15. REPORT OF THE LEADER/MANAGING DIRECTOR – COMMITTEE SEAT APPOINTMENTS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR 2019-20

The annexed circulated report of the leader/managing director was received to propose amendments to the committee seat appointments for the remainder of the municipal year 2019-20.

The leader proposed the following changes:

**Audit Committee** - Councillors Graves and Ekins to step down and be replaced by Councillors Bell and Weatherill; Councillor Simmons to step down as chairman, but remain on the committee, and Councillor Weatherill to be appointed as chairman, with Councillor Bell appointed as vice-chairman.
Resources Committee - Councillor Bone to step down from the committee and be replaced by Councillor Weatherill.

In proposing these changes the leader paid tribute to Councillor Simmons, who had been the chairman of Audit Committee for some time, and whose advice was well respected by the committee. He thanked him for his services to the committee, but respected his wish to step down from the chairmanship of the committee. Councillor Henley also extended his gratitude to Councillor Simmons for his excellent chairmanship of the audit committee.

Councillor Simmons thanked his fellow members for their kind words and support.

These proposed changes were seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED that approval be given to:

(i) Councillors Graves and Ekins stepping down from audit committee and Councillors Bell and Weatherill being appointed thereto; Councillor Simmons stepping down as chairman, but remaining on the committee; and Councillor Weatherill being appointed as chairman with Councillor Bell being appointed as vice-chairman;

(ii) Councillor Bone stepping down from resources committee, and Councillor Weatherill being appointed thereto.

16. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTOR OR THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

The mayor confirmed that the next scheduled meeting was to be held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 and clarified that the March meeting had been moved to Thursday 26 March 2020.

Mayor

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm