

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER 2016**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor M Waters and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Walia, Ward and V Waters.

**Officers present:** Mr J T Campbell, (Chief Executive), Mrs L Elliott, (Head of Finance), Mrs B Gamble, (Head of Resources), Miss S Lyons, (Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, District Law), Mr G Betts, (Mayor's Sergeant), Miss S Gibson, (Mayor's Deputy Sergeant) and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maguire, Scanlon, Stevenson, Watts 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.

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Allebone	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis	Personal - Lay chairman of Wellingborough Deanery (speaker present from Churches Together)
Abram	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis Minute 12 - Waendel Leisure Centre	Other – member of the Victoria Centre Other – member of the Waendel Centre
Anslow	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis	Other – member of a church, who is a member of Churches Together
Bell	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis	Other – member of a church, who is a member of Churches Together

Emerson	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis	Other – member of a church, who is a member of Churches Together
Francis	Minute 12 – Waendel Leisure Centre	Other – personal member of the leisure centre
Gough	Minute 12 – Waendel Leisure Centre	Other – personal member of the leisure centre
Henley	Minute 12 – Waendel Leisure Centre	Other – personal member of the leisure centre
G Lawman	Resources 7 12 16 – minute 16 - Wellingborough Norse Business Plan	Other - director of primary school that has a contract with Wellingborough Norse
Partridge-Underwood	Minute 13 – The Castle Theatre	Personal – daughter works at the Castle Theatre
Scarborough	Resources 2 11 16 - Minute 5 Mid-year report on treasury management	DPI – wife has contract with principality building society
	Resources 7 12 16 - Minute 16 - Wellingborough Norse Business Plan	Other – chairman of governors of a school that has a contract with Wellingborough Norse
	Minute 11 – Motion on voluntary sector funding crisis	Other – ordinary member of Victoria Centre

### 3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 OCTOBER 2016

The minutes of the council meeting held on 11 October 2016 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 11 October 2016 be confirmed and signed.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2016 AND 22 NOVEMBER 2016

The minutes of the extraordinary council meetings held on 28 October 2016 and 22 November 2016 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary council meetings held on 28 October 2016 and 22 November 2016 be confirmed and signed.

**5. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that, in relation to the motion, a number of requests to address the meeting had been received. The mayor informed the speakers that he would allow them to address the meeting at the relevant item.

**6. MINUTES TO NOTE**

The minutes of the following meetings were received to note:

Licensing Sub-Committee	11 October 2016
Licensing Sub-Committee	28 November 2016
Planning Committee	12 October 2016
Planning Committee	16 November 2016

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the above meetings be noted.

**7. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2016**

The minutes of the Development Committee of 31 October 2016 were received.

Councillor Simmons made reference to minute 7 – Wollaston Neighbourhood Plan and thanked officers on behalf of the Wollaston Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for their invaluable assistance in the making of the plan.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Wollaston Neighbourhood Plan be formally made to become part of the borough's statutory development plan;
- (ii) the Mitigation Strategy be adopted as an addendum to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document;
- (iii) the minutes of the Development Committee of 31 October 2016 be adopted.

**8. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 5 DECEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the Development Committee of 5 December 2016 were received.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the following matters related to Neighbourhood Planning be delegated to the Head of Planning and Local Development:
  - (a) the determination of neighbourhood area applications, unless there are objections and the neighbourhood area is not the same as the parish boundary in a parished area, when it should be determined at Development Committee;
  - (b) the determination of Neighbourhood Forum applications;
  - (c) the carrying out of the legal check;

- (d) the decision to proceed to referendum where the decision accords with the examiners, if the decision differs from that of the examiner it should be made at Development committee;
  - (e) the setting of the referendum date in consultation with the Head of Resources
  - (f) the scheme of delegation to officers be amended accordingly.
- (ii) The minutes of the Development Committee of 5 December 2016 be adopted.

**9. REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 2 November 2016 were received.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to the polling place for polling district BC being amended to polling district BA;
- (ii) approval be given to the polling place for polling district IC being amended to Irchester Ward;
- (iii) approval be given to the schemes outlined in the report to the Resources Committee being included in the ongoing agreed capital programme for 2016-17 and beyond;
- (iv) the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 2 November 2016 be adopted.

**10. REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 7 DECEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the Resources Committee of 7 December 2016 were received.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) there be no change to the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Local Council Tax Support scheme (CTS) for 2017-18;
- (ii) approval be given to the creation of a wholly owned property company for the management of all council property;
- (iii) the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 7 December 2016 be adopted.

**11. MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS SCARBOROUGH AND EMERSON IN RELATION TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING CRISIS**

The annexed circulated motion of Councillors Scarborough and Emerson was received.

The mayor allowed seven speakers to address the meeting. Each speaker shared their concern regarding various issues including the general reduction in funding to the voluntary sector and the closure of services dealing with those in need and who were vulnerable. They cited in particular the elderly, homeless, victims of domestic violence, those suffering with mental health

issues, and families who were suffering from financial hardship who were reliant on foodbanks.

The mayor thanked the speakers for their comments.

Councillor Scarborough addressed the meeting and expressed his concern in relation to the nature and level of support given by the council to the voluntary sector to ensure the continuance of the services which were provided by the sector to the people of the borough. The closure of the Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire Refuge had been a shock and further cuts in funding would result in more and more provision being withdrawn from those who were already vulnerable and in need of help. He considered that Wellingborough needed to be a more compassionate place and that the approach to funding needed to be reconsidered along with other policies; in particular the one relating to the temperature levels for homeless shelters to be opened.

He proposed that the council resolve to review the nature and level of support it gives to the voluntary sector to help ensure the continuation of as many as possible of the vital services which the sector provides to the people of the borough. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Emerson who also expressed his concern over the potential closure of the current services provided by the voluntary sector because of the lack of funding.

The leader, Councillor Griffiths, thanked the speakers and volunteers for their work in the voluntary sector. He confirmed that the Grants Working Group would be meeting in January 2017 where applications for funding would be considered. There had been huge reductions in funding to local government and there needed to be different ways of working to ensure that funding was provided and used in the best way by the voluntary sector.

He proposed the following amendment to the motion:

The council notes with concern the funding situation facing many voluntary organisations both in the borough of Wellingborough and across the country as support from central and local government grants is changing and general fundraising can become challenging.

The council, therefore, resolves to continue with its review of the nature and level of support it gives to the voluntary sector and this will help ensure the continuation of as many as possible of the vital services which the sector provides to the people of the borough subject, of course, to the increasing constraints on the council's own finances.

This amendment was seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood.

A lengthy debate ensued.

Some members considered the amendment to be unacceptable whilst others felt that there was a certain amount of duplication between organisations in

the voluntary sector. It was suggested that this could be reviewed, along with encouragement to seek funding from outside organisations rather than the continued reliance on council funding.

Before the mayor put the amendment to the meeting seven councillors requested a recorded vote under rule 4.1.6(d) of the constitution.

On being put to the vote there were 23 votes in favour of the amendment and seven against. The amendment was therefore declared carried and became the substantive motion.

The following votes were cast in favour:

Councillors Allebone, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, G Lawman, L Laeman, Lloyd, Morrall Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Simmons, Skittrall, Walia, Ward and V Waters (no.23).

The following votes were cast against:

Councillors Abram, Anslow, Aslam, Emerson, Francis, Henley and Scarborough (no.7).

Before the mayor put the substantive motion to the vote seven councillors requested a recorded vote under rule 4.1.6(d) of the constitution.

The mayor put the substantive motion to the vote. This was declared carried with 30 votes in favour.

The following votes were cast in favour:

Councillors Abram, Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bell, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Walia, Ward and V Waters (no. 30).

**RESOLVED** to continue with the review of the nature and level of support to the voluntary sector to help to ensure the continuation of as many as possible of the vital services which the sector provides to the people of the borough, subject, of course, to the increasing constraints on the council's own finances.

## **12. WAENDEL LEISURE CENTRE SWIMMING POOL REFURBISHMENT**

The annexed circulated report of the Head of Finance was received in relation to the refurbishment of the pool tank at Waendel Leisure Centre which needed urgent major repair work.

The report detailed the repair work that was required and the five options available in regard to mitigating the potential disruption to users in respect of the proposed closure period proposed for summer 2017. The contractor, Places for People, had indicated that they could take the opportunity to

refresh the pool area whilst the pool was not being used. Members discussed the options.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) it be noted that the capital funding be drawn down from the agreed capital programme for 2017-18 for the refurbishment of the main swimming pool tank at Waendel Leisure Centre and other associated maintenance work;
- (ii) it be noted that work will commence on the project to carry out the planned refurbishment of the swimming pool during summer 2017, subject to pool contractor availability;
- (iii) approval be given to no alternative council funded facilities being provided during the Waendel Centre pool closure;
- (iv) approval be given for up to £270,000 of revenue funding being drawn from reserves to be used to cover the cost of any mitigating actions and any compensation claims arising from loss of income of the contractor for the period of pool closure.

(Councillor Partridge-Underwood left the meeting and did not return.)

### **13. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CASTLE THEATRE, WELLINGBOROUGH**

The mayor informed council that since the agenda had been published it had been determined that there was no requirement for exempt appendices and therefore the report could be discussed in the open part of the meeting.

The annexed circulated joint report of the Head of Finance and Head of Resources was received in relation to the future operation of the Castle Theatre, Wellingborough following its closure by the Administrator in June 2016 and its re-opening under temporary management arrangements by the council. The report also proposed plans for the medium-term management from January 2017 whilst new permanent arrangements were considered.

Appended to the report was an extract from the options appraisal report from Clover Theatre Management, along with an overview of theatres with similar capacity to the Castle Theatre.

Members considered the report and praised the work of the Interim Theatre Manager, employees, volunteers and friends of The Castle who had worked tirelessly to ensure that the theatre had reopened with productions now taking place and a programme of events.

The leader moved the proposals 4.1 to 4.5 inclusive contained within the report and this was seconded by Councillor Morrall.

Councillor Scarborough proposed an amendment to 4.1 only of the proposal to read as follows:

To resolve to agree that officers submit a report in the New Year to advise the council on the actions required to:

- (a) produce a cultural/arts strategy which supports a coherent approach to the support of community arts provision across the borough;
- (b) determine the extent of funding of the arts in the borough;
- (c) seek a trust, company or organisation to manage and operate the Castle Theatre.

This was seconded by Councillor Emerson.

The amendment, as detailed above, was accepted by the leader and put to the vote along with the remainder of the proposal as detailed in the report and declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) officers submit a report in the new year to advise council on the actions required to:
  - (a) produce a cultural/arts strategy which supports a coherent approach to the support of community arts provision across the borough;
  - (b) determine the extent of funding of the arts in the borough;
  - (c) seek a trust, company or organisation to manage and operate the Castle Theatre;
- (ii) an advisory group be set up to make recommendations in respect of (i) above, with terms of reference approved by the chief executive and the leader of the council;
- (iii) officers be instructed to engage a theatre specialist to work with the advisory group and produce a brief and tender specification with a view to advertising in March 2017 and a contract being awarded by December 2017, or as soon as possible afterwards, in compliance with procurement rules;
- (iv) delegation be given to the chief executive, in consultation with the existing members appointed as consultees on Castle issues, to deal with the staffing and management of the theatre to enable the Castle Theatre to continue to operate while the process for the long-term operation of the theatre is determined;
- (v) the existing revenue budget for the Castle Theatre in 2016/17 be retained, subject to further reports outlining requirements for supplementary revenue and capital estimates, if appropriate and necessary.

#### **14. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**



## **APPOINTMENT TO WELLINGBOROUGH HOMES BOARD**

The leader proposed that Councillor Lloyd be appointed to the vacant position on Wellingborough Homes Board. This was seconded by Councillor Hallam and being put to the vote was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Lloyd be appointed to Wellingborough Homes Board.

## **COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 2017**

The mayor reminded members that the next council meeting which had been due to be held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 had been moved to Thursday 23 February 2017 to fit in with the county council's budget setting timetable.

There being no further business the mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and closed the meeting.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

