



EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Berkshire on Wednesday, 28th November 2018 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chairman – The Mayor, Councillor B Wedge

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, Dr N Brock, Mrs L Chambers, D Chopping, Mrs J Clark, Mrs M De-Jong, Ms P Dunn, M Firmager, G Grandison, T Holton, R. Houlbrook, N Jorgensen, Mrs P Jorgensen, W Luck, Mrs S Matthews, Ms J Rance JP, J Russell, Mrs A Swaddle, and P Willis

In Attendance: Jo Friend (Town Clerk), Jo Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), Matthew Barber (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner at Thames Valley Police) and one member of the Public

65. DEPUTY POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Matthew Barber, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner (DP&CC) for Thames Valley Police explained the role of the office of Police and Crime Commissioner. It holds the Chief Constable to account; develops and publishes a Police & Crime Plan; scrutinises, supports and challenges performance; sets the precept to fund local policing; and engages with communities, seeking their views on policing and crime. Mr Barber underlined the close working relationship between the police and the other emergency services and explained that future plans include giving the office greater powers within the prison services. He suggested that budgetary constraints meant the larger Thames Valley Police Force was under pressure but was not suffering significant difficulties unlike some other smaller forces. He highlighted that the oath of office prevents his direct involvement in police matters but that the P&CC office had scrutiny and oversight of them until 2021.

Following questions Mr Barber explained that although the police force was experiencing budget restraints, financing for neighbourhood policing teams had been ring-fenced and these officers were no longer routinely re-directed to attend emergency response. It was considered that local relationships are important. He pointed out that currently a significant number of vacancies existed for PCSO's, Officers and call answering staff for the 101 service, and it was hoped that public perception of police presence would improve once recruitment and training had taken place, and these posts were operational.

Matthew indicated that Reading Police Station would be closed in the future, and whilst a small presence would remain in Reading, Loddon Valley Police station would become the main station and the main location for custody arrangements. These are due to be brought back in-house from next year.

The DP&CC explained that whilst burglary is the top priority force wide, more people were affected by vandalism and anti-social behaviour (ASB) which may increase the perception that there was a lack of police presence on the ground. Many of these incidents were not crimes, but the police force are still dealing with these issues despite reducing number of officers and an increase in population which, unfortunately, adds to this public perception. Matthew considered that the solution lay within neighbourhood policing teams and re-iterated that current numbers would be maintained.

Mr Barber suggested that local councils could assist neighbourhood teams and increase public confidence by raising awareness of the neighbourhood teams and disseminating the message that these teams exist to help local residents.

The Town Clerk informed Councillors of a recent meeting she had arranged with Sgt. Matt Foskett where they discussed ways in which the local police team and the Town Council could work together in the future.

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Armstrong, A Bradley, T Chambers

67. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 17th October 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

68. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor announced that since the last meeting of the Town Council he had attended the following events:

3 rd Nov	Armistice Centenary, Reading Minster of St. Mary the Virgin
11 th Nov	Remembrance Service, St. Peter's Church
18 th Nov	St. Vincent and Grenadines Association Independence Thanksgiving Service at St. Peter's Church
23 rd Nov	Wokingham Borough Sports Council Sports Award 2018, Bulmershe School

69. TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

69.1 Planning Committee

69.1.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th October 2018 were presented by Councillor M Firmager

On the proposition of Councillor M Firmager and seconded by Councillor W Luck, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 9th October 2018 (Minutes 56 - 65) be received.

69.1.2 The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13th November 2018 were presented by Councillor W Luck

On the proposition of Councillor W Luck and seconded by Councillor J Russell, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 13th November 2018 (Minutes 66 - 77) be received.

69.2 Amenities & Leisure Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held on 7th November 2018 were presented by Councillor Mrs L Chambers

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs L Chambers and seconded by Councillor Miss J Rance, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held on 7th November 2018 (Minutes 29 – 40) be received.

70. STAFFING REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that in view of the subject matter, Councillors would discuss this item under confidential business.

71. RADSTOCK LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Town Clerk reported that no further information was available.

72. BOROUGH PLAN – WOKINGHAM 2025

In considering Wokingham Borough Council's request that Parish and Town Councils identify their top three priorities in preparation for the partnership engagement event due to be held in December, Members noted Earley Town Council's Standing Committees' top three priorities. Following further discussions, it was

RESOLVED that the top three Council priorities to be put forward would be:

1. Tackling traffic congestion
2. Clean, green and enjoyable spaces
3. Affordable housing

73. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Members noted the Wokingham Borough Council consultation on future housing requirements, "Homes for the Future", which would run until 15th February 2019 www.wokingham.gov.uk/localplanupdate. They further noted the drop-in event to be held at Trinity Church on 6th February 2019 between 7pm and 9pm.

74. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Councillors noted the request for a contribution from Town Council CIL which had been received from Wokingham Borough Council. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that whilst Earley Town Council strongly support the idea of a consultation on parking restrictions on roads adjacent to Earley station, Councillors considered that the consultation should be conducted and led by Wokingham Borough Highways Department at no cost to Earley Town Council.

75. M4 SMART MOTORWAY

Councillors noted Councillor Firmager's request that an invitation be issued to Highways England to attend a future meeting of the Council so that they could provide an update on the Smart Motorway project. The Town Clerk will send an invitation asking them to attend at the earliest opportunity.

76. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

76.1 Reports of Representatives

76.1.1 Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau

Councillors noted a report on a meeting of the Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau held on 8th October 2018, prepared by Councillor Pam Dunn previously attached to the agenda.

76.1.2 Readibus

Councillors noted a report on a meeting of Readibus held on 8th November 2018, prepared by Councillor Brian Wedge previously attached to the agenda.

76.1.3 Wokingham Borough Sports' Awards

Councillors noted a report on the Wokingham Borough Sports' Awards event held on 23rd November 2018, prepared by Councillor Michael Firmager previously attached to the agenda.

77. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCES

77.1 Record of Members' Attendance

Members noted the Record of Councillors' Attendance 2018/19, as attached to these Minutes. It was further noted that the leave of absence granted to Councillor T Chambers would expire shortly and should be reviewed. The Town Clerk will add a category to the report to reflect future 'leave of absence' situations.

78. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Councillors noted details of the Imprest account since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 268 - 274) as attached to these Minutes.

79. PUBLICATIONS

It was noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal in the Council Offices:

Me2 Club :	November 2018 Newsletter.
Earley Community Minibus:	Minutes of Meeting held 23 rd October 2018.
Lower Earley Way Dualling:	October Newsletter received.

80. PRESS RELEASES

RESOLVED that the following should form the subject of special press attention

1. The visit from Matthew Barber, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner at Thames Valley Police
2. The Mayor's visit to the Wokingham Borough Sports Council Awards Ceremony

81. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.08pm.