



EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane on Wednesday 27th March 2024 which commenced at 7.00pm.

Present

Chair – The Town Mayor, Councillor C Smith

Councillors: R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, N, Brock, R Cook, J Eastwell, D Hare, T Holton, M Iyengumwena, S Jordan, P Jorgensen, N Jorgensen, I Khayinza, G Littler, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Neal, S Newton, H Sarasan and M Smith

In Attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk) and E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk).

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Browne, M De Jong and B Owen.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

129 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

130. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of Earley Town Council (Minutes 106 – 126) held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 were a true and correct record and could be signed by the Chair.

131. APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Councillors considered the request to approve a period of absence to Cllr M De Jong on the grounds of ill health (LGA Act 1972, s.85(1) and (2).

It was **RESOLVED** that approval be granted and that the matter be reviewed at the Council meeting of 27th November 2024. Councillors expressed their best wishes to Cllr De Jong.

132. TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

Councillors received a written report from the Town Mayor detailing the events she had recently attended. These included a Berkshire Vision evening, Barkham Wives talk and the Reading Crown Court Mock Trials.

133. COMMITTEE REPORTS

133.1 Amenities and Leisure Committee

Councillor Brock presented the draft Minutes of the Amenities and Leisure Committee meeting (Minutes 91 - 105) held on 6th March 2024. The Council received the draft Minutes.

133.2 Planning Committee

Councillor M Smith presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting (Minutes 123 - 138) held on 6th February 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

Councillor M Smith presented the draft Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting (Minutes 139 - 152) held on 5th March 2024. The Council received the Minutes.

133.3 Policy and Resources Committee

Councillor Hare presented the draft Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting (Minutes 95 - 111) held on 13th March 2024. The Council received the draft Minutes.

134. REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

134.1 Wokingham Waterside Centre

Councillors received a written report from Councillor Jordan on Wokingham Waterside Centre's Board Meeting held on 13th February 2024, which she had compiled from the minutes of the meeting as she was unable to attend in person.

134.2 MoreArts

Councillors received a written report from Councillor Matthews on her attendance at the MoreArts Trustee meeting held on 20th February 2024.

134.3 Highwood Conference

Councillors received a written report from Councillor Matthews on her attendance and the attendance of Councillor Littler at Highwood Nature Reserve on 13th March 2024, for the installation of new interpretation boards.

135. FINANCE

135.1 Maiden Erlegh Lake

Councillors noted that a Section 10 Inspection (Reservoirs Act 1975), an enhanced inspection carried out every 10 years by a qualified Supervising Engineer, is required to be undertaken before July 2024. The cost of the Section 10 Inspection does not currently feature in the 2024/25 budget and councillors were therefore requested to approve expenditure of £3,995 for the inspection.

It was **RESOLVED** that expenditure of £3,995 for the Section 10 Inspection be approved.

136. CANADA GEESE POLICY

Councillor Brock presented the draft Canada Geese Policy which was based on recommendations from the Amenities & Leisure Committee.

Councillor Newton requested two amendments:

- Section 5 - Positive Actions: for the wording 'ETC can....' to be changed to 'ETC will...'

- Section 6, bullet point 4: for the line ‘Expert advice will be sought when necessary’ to be listed as a separate bullet point.

There were some suggestions for other measures the Council could consider implementing but councillors agreed that the policy contained a commitment to seek expert advice if required with regards to habitat management.

It was **RESOLVED** that the two amendments be accepted and the Canada Geese Policy be adopted.

137. COUNCILLORS’ ATTENDANCE

Record of Members’ Attendance

Councillors noted the details of Councillors’ attendance during 2023/24 at meetings of the Council and its Committees.

Councillor M Smith requested that an additional recording reference be introduced for councillors attending meetings as a Borough Councillor, which are not meetings of the Borough Council. He was referring to meetings of the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, at which he is WBC’s representative, as these require a significant time commitment.

It was agreed that the letter ‘F’ would be used to represent attendance at Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service meetings on future records of town councillors’ attendance.

138. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the details of Orders for Payment (Vouchers 6642 – 6645, 6646 – 6659 and 6660 - 6681 and Imprest vouchers 933 - 938).

139. PUBLICATIONS

Councillors noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal from the Council Offices:

Office of the PCC	E-newsletter March 2024
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 8 th March 2024

140. PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Councillor Jordan left the meeting.

The following press releases and posts were agreed:

- New Canada Geese Policy
- Huge Earley Litter Pick (H.E.L.P)

Councillor Jordan re-joined the meeting.

141. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

PART II

142. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

143. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

144. **STAFFING MATTERS**

145. **CEMETERY EXTENSION**

146. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 7.32pm.

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Town Mayor