

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Daventry Town Council held via Video Conference (Zoom) on Monday, 26th April 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr Lynne Taylor (Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillors:

Mike Arnold
Dawn Branigan
Matthew Churchley
Lynn Jones
Peter Luke
Maureen Luke
Malcolm Ogle
Wendy Randall
John Tippett
Katie Thurston
Karen Tweedale

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Jewell – Chief Officer (CO)
Sarah Fox – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

1 Members of the public
0 Member of the press

OPEN FORUM

None.

TC2104.1 APOLOGIES.

Apologies received from Cllrs Fox, Knape and Nicholl.

TC2104.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

No pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests declared.

TC2104.3 MINUTES.

RESOLVED:	That the minutes (Appendix 1) of the Town Council meeting held on Monday, 29 th March 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.
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TC2104.4 COMMITTEE MINUTES.

RESOLVED:	<p>That the reports of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Community Services Committee – 6th April 2021(ii) Finance & Policy Committee – 12th April 2021(iii) Planning & Development Committee – 14th April 2021(iv) Museum Committee -22nd April 2021 <p>Be received (Appendix 2).</p> <p>That the recommendations from the Finance & Policy Committee on 12th April be approved;</p> <p><i>Reference FP2104.5 – POLICIES.</i></p>
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	<p>(i) Freedom of Information Policy, be approved.</p> <p><i>Reference FP2104.6 – DONATIONS.</i></p> <p>That the donations received of £3401 be earmarked for cleaning/restoration works to be carried out on the war memorial.</p>
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TC2104.5 COVID – 19 OPENING THE MUSEUM AND COUNCIL OFFICE SAFELY.

The Chief Officer advised the following the official guidance, issued by the UK Government, that the Museum would be open as of 18th May 2021 and confirmed that all the necessary adjustment and risk assessments had been completed to ensure that both the council office and the museum comply with Covid-secure regulations.

The CO explained that the government legislation that currently enables councils to hold virtual meetings would cease as of 7th May and advised that this presented the Town Council with a problem as the Council Chamber is not big enough to hold a Town Council meeting under Covid-secure regulations.

The CO advised that she was currently seeking an alternative venue in relation to the Annual Town Assembly.

RESOLVED:	That approval be given for the Chief Officer to take any necessary action, that legislation allows, to ensure the Town council meeting goes ahead within the legal timeframe to enable members to make their declaration of office and the Annual Town Meeting is held before 1 st June 2021.
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TC2104.6 OPERATIONAL MATTERS – OPEN SPACES.

The Chief Officer referred to the report advising that summer grounds maintenance programme was underway and would proceed until October and provided details of a trial that had commenced on Northern Valley Way to explore options to leave some of the open grassland uncut to create a habitat benefiting insects including butterflies and providing protection for wildflowers.

The CO advised that software had been acquired at the request of the Town Council, through the West Northants Norse to record and document the tree stock which has been transferred to the Town Council. The CO also advised that works identified following the annual playground inspection had been completed on numerous pieces of equipment and play surfaces.

Cllr Peter Luke highlighted concerns with there not being enough litter bins at Welton Road Cemetery and commented that they had not been emptied prior to the bank holiday weekend.

The CO advised members that an additional bin was being installed at Welton Road Cemetery this week and that she would follow up the concern regarding the emptying of the bins prior to the bank holiday.

The CO advised that as part of the Southbrook Consultation areas of concern and or in need of repair on the estate had been identified and plans had been drawn up by Futures Housing to install new play equipment, benches and planting, but on further investigation these pieces of land belong to the Town Council so the project came to a halt, a solution was suggested that the Town Council might like to consider disposing of the land or leasing the land so that Futures Housing could include the areas within the grounds maintenance programme and invest in these areas to enhance them for the local community.

Members concurred that they were supportive of exploring options to secure investment in the play areas but raised concerns in relation to the disposal of land and wanting to ensure that the land was protected as open space, and it was

RESOLVED:	That authority be given for the Chief Officer to continue talks with Futures Housing in relation to disposing or leasing specific areas of land on Southbrook estate and report back to Council with an analysis and options report.
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TC2104.7 PREMISES.

The Chief Officer advised of maintenance works, at a cost of approximately £1500, to be carried out to repair and resolve issues with the sewage pipes leading to the main drains.

The CO further advised of works, at a cost of approximately £700, to repair the floor in the Museum Shop.

Members noted and concurred with the CO's actions to repair.

TC2104.8 DAVENTRY ROTARY – CONTEMPLATION GARDEN.

Cllr Taylor advised members that the project was to be known as the Rotary Refection Garden.

Cllr Tippet advised members that following meetings with the Chief Officer and Operations Officer an area for planting had been agreed and this area had now been rotavated and seeded, once the planting was established two benches would also be installed, one to be donated by West Northants Norse and the other from Daventry Rotary.

The CO commented that the area was a work in progress and that future planting would be dependent on the success of the growth of the with wildflowers.

TC2104.9 SOCIAL CAPITAL – CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU DAVENTRY AND DISTRICT.

Members noted the performance report received on services that had been provided in Daventry with funds granted by Daventry Town Council.

TC2104.10 SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998.

- (i) **COMMUNITY SAFETY.** Members considered the reports from the PCSO and Town Ranger. Councillors concurred that the Town Rangers report highlighted the varied work of the Ranger and the need to invest in community. The CO advised members that Operation Challenge had seen additional police presence with the Town had received positive feedback and the Town Ranger and sponsored PCSO had received additional support dealing with various issues through this campaign.
- (ii) **CCTV.** Members noted the report. The CO advised that the partnership was working well but raised concerns that over the weekend the retailers had used the service to highlight issues that should have gone through other channels and discussions are taking place to resolve this issue.
- (iii) **DAVENTRY DISTRICT AND SOUTH NORTHANTS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP.** Members noted the performance report.

TC2104.11 CORRESPONDENCE.


KT.

The Chair wished those members standing again the best of luck in the upcoming election and, on behalf of the Council thanked Cllrs Peter and Maureen Luke, who had chosen to retire, for their service both to the council and the residents of the town.

TC2104.12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting Monday 17th May 2021.

The meeting closed at 19:43 hrs.

SIGNED..........DATED.....17/5/21.....