

**WBTC/8/2009-2010**

**WOOTTON BASSETT TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Wootton Bassett Town Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Station Road, Wootton Bassett.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Steve Bucknell, Mary Champion, Peter Doyle, Susan Doyle, Linda Frost, Owen Gibbs, Paul Heaphy, Mike Leighfield, Peter Roberts, Bill Roberts, Ernie Taylor, Steve Walls and Chris Wannell

Officers in Attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk  
and Susan Huish, Administrative  
Assistant

**QUESTION TIME**

**To receive questions from members of the public for a period not exceeding 10 minutes.**

*Mr Geoff Yates, 2 Branscome Drive, Wootton Bassett, thanked the Planning Committee for its support with the Brynards Hill appeal.*

**81. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sanjay Soni, Jenny Stratton and Audrey Wannell.

**82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

RESOLVED to note that no declarations were made.

## **82. WRITTEN REPORTS**

Sergeant Jo Spencer was in attendance at the meeting to present a report from the Wiltshire Constabulary.

Sergeant Spencer was pleased to report the continued drop in overall reported crime.

“Violent crime has seen a decrease of 7.2%, robbery a 60.0% reduction, burglary dwelling a 4.8% reduction, theft from motor vehicle a 52.6% reduction and theft of a motor vehicle has seen a 34.6% reduction. All other crime has seen a 14.3% reduction.”

“With regard to Otter Way Play Area, this will continue to be a priority area and will be visited nightly by officers from both the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the General Police Patrol Team. By working closely with the the Wootton Bassett Town Council, they hope to seek a long term resolution to tackle this issue. It is important that individuals are robustly dealt with and not allowed to move to a different location to cause problems”

“The front door of the Wootton Bassett Police Station is now open for public access between 10am and 2pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Police Information Point can be used to discuss local issues, to deal with lost property, to arrange appointments with a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and to seek advice. They are also able to offer a discreet telephone service to assist persons in reporting crimes. The Police have already had a good response to this service.”

Finally, Sergeant Spencer announced the arrival of Police Constable Nick Spargo. PC Spargo will be the Community Beat Manager for the Wootton Bassett Town Neighbourhood Policing Team. To provide reassurance to local businesses and members of the community, PC

Spargo, along with PCSO Wale, will dedicated two or three hours of every shift to conduct foot patrol in the town centre.

The Mayor thanked Sergeant Jo Spencer for her attendance at the meeting.

James Gray submitted a written report as a Member of Parliament.

Councillors Peter Doyle, Mollie Groom and Bill Roberts submitted written reports as representatives of Wiltshire Council.

Councillor Bill Roberts reported on the disbursement of funds by Parochial Charities.

Councillor Paul Heaphy reported briefly on the last Area Board meeting.

#### **84. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (WBTC/7/2009-2010). Copy previously circulated.

#### **85. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor drew attention to the following;-

- The Mayors variety show which will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the Memorial Hall at the cost of £15.00 per ticket
- A discussion of where the 'Millie Award' should be housed, will take place at the Annual Town meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010
- Forever Young, a CD recorded by a local artist, is due to go on sale in the next few days. Proceeds to Help 4 Heroes
- We will be kept informed by local police of the plans of the 'bikers' who wish to ride through Wootton Bassett on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

RESOLVED to record a vote of thanks to Town Council staff and other agencies in respect of the Royal visit.

**86. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS**

No questions were raised either with notice under Standing Order 43(a) or without notice under Standing Order 43(b)

**87. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Report on meetings of the Planning Committee held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 (P/7/2009-2010) and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 (P/8/2009-2010). Copies previously circulated.

RESOLVED the reports be adopted.

**88. AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Report on a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010 (A/5/2009-2010). Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED the report be adopted.

**89. REVENUE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Report on a meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (R&R/5/2009-2010). Copy previously circulated.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

Further RESOLVED to

- (a) note the next date of the Revenue and Resources meeting with be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and not 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 as currently advertised
- (b) establish a Task Group comprising Councillors Mike Leighfield, Paul Heaphy, Steve Walls and Chris Wannell, to launch the new Community Group and report back to Revenue and Resources. The

Task Group be allowed free accommodation for this purpose, initially for up to six months.

#### **90. NOMINATION OF MAYOR ELECT**

It is normal practice at the February Council Meeting in a non-election year to nominate a Mayor Elect for the forthcoming year. Election years are excluded as it is not clear whether the Mayor Elect would retain their seat at the May Election, or if the political composition of the Council might change.

The advantage of nominating a Mayor Elect is that it not only allows the incoming Mayor to plan their diary, but also provides forewarning for those clubs, groups and organisations wishing to invite the Mayor to attend functions.

It is now the practice of the Council, confirmed in its Standing Orders, that the Deputy Mayor should normally become the Mayor.

The Council was asked to consider nominating the Deputy Mayor Councillor Mary Champion as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

RESOLVED to nominate the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mary Champion, as Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

#### **91. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT**

The Council was asked to consider nominating a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

At the December 2004 Council Meeting it became policy for the Deputy Mayor to normally become the Mayor in the following Civic Year. The appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor must still be made at the Annual Meeting and can therefore be changed at that time.

The Council was asked to nominate a Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Paul Heaphy as Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Civic Year.

**92. RED FRIDAYS**

At the last meeting of the Revenue and Resources Committee, Mr Brian Pickering spoke during the question time to promote the 'RED FRIDAYS' campaign. Circulated was a short background paper which detailed the campaigns objectives. The Council was asked to give this its formal backing.

At that meeting, the Mayor, Councillor Steve Bucknell, reminded Members that the decision to support the campaign by wearing something visibly red on Fridays is an individual one and not a corporate one.

The Council was asked to consider this item.

Resolved that whilst the Council is supportive to the idea behind the campaign, it is outside its powers to corporately offer substantive support for a campaign which is about individual choice.

**93. PRESS RELEASES**

The Committee was asked to consider whether it would like any Press Releases issued in respect of the Committee Agenda items.

RESOLVED to issue Press Releases on the following:-

- The election of the New Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- The Annual Town meeting to be held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010
- Mayors Variety show
- Parking restrictions outside the Town Hall

*The meeting closed at 8.45pm.*