

**MINUTES** of the **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Leggett (Town Mayor) in the Chair  
Councillors Bourke-Waite, Brown, Coll, Davison, Harrison, Hughes, Inwood, Perry, Phillips, FJ Smith, P Smith, Stanier and Swallow

**In attendance:** Town Clerk  
County Councillor Hill, District Councillors Dingley and Green  
2 members of the public

The Reverend John Fidler led the meeting in Prayer.

Members received a Presentation from Royston Community Health CIC:

The presentation began with an introduction from one of the Directors of Royston Community Health CIC, who thanked the members for receiving the presentation. Their aims are to represent the views and needs of Royston and the surrounding area, and to get the best health and social care services. Their proposal is to provide a Health Hub on a 6 acre site on the A10 (currently the site of Royston Hospital which is owned and run by NHS), incorporating GPs, District Nurses, Physiotherapy, phlebotomy and social care. There is no plan to provide beds at the Health Hub at this stage. The site could also house an on-site care home, providing respite care and step up/step down beds.

Social Prescribing could also be incorporated on the site but there is currently a lack of GP referrals for this. The hospital site is the best of all the sites looked at in Royston.

Members were asked to support the project by visiting their Facebook site, making them aware of suitable alternative land, supporting s106 money for Health and working with the County Council to achieve a Care Home.

The Chairman asked members if they had any questions for the Royston Community Health CIC regarding the presentation.

- Councillor Harrison said that he felt that Royston needed a halfway house for psychiatric patients. He said that mental health had not been mentioned, what arrangements do we have in Royston for mental health?  
CIC response was: Not a great deal of provision in Royston currently, if they get the hospital they could bear this in mind, but they are at the early stages.
- Councillor Inwood asked if the care home would be nursing or residential, what size would it be and would it be run by a private company?  
CIC response was: They do not yet have a site and can argue the case later on, but it was likely to be nursing and residential. Some rooms would be paid for privately and some would be council funded, no firm comment on size. The County Council would sort it out, they pay a private company to build it and they work with them. Councillor Hill confirmed that it would be residential and nursing care.
- Councillor F Smith talked about the background of the Hospital building and asked if it was worth harnessing the fact that we have just been commemorating the end of the 1918 conflict, following which the Hospital building was built, to get people of the town thinking more about it?

CIC response was: That might be an idea, but they have nothing solid to offer them at the moment as they are not past the first step with the NHS.

- Councillor Bourke-Waite asked if they were managing to get answers from CCG as she noted that they previously were having difficulty getting hold of people, and is there anything the members can help with regarding this?  
CIC response: The NHS are very difficult to get hold of and get replies from, because of staff changing jobs. They have new contact names and have sent presentations showing plans and pictures. When they need help they will ask.

The Chairman thanked the Directors of Royston Community Health for their work and presentation.

**237/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**238/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Councillor Squire-Smith.

**239/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

There were none.

**240/19 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Mayor reported that he had attended several events recently, including Silver Sunday on 7<sup>th</sup> October. On 12<sup>th</sup> October he hosted the Civic Reception at the Town Hall and he thought that it was a great night with very good attendance and thanked the Town Clerk, her staff and other helpers for organising a really good evening. On 26<sup>th</sup> October he attended the Pirate Trail presentation and on 3<sup>rd</sup> November he launched Icknield Walk School's firework evening.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> November he attended Bassingbourn Barracks with Councillor Swallow, a 91<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group event, where he met the RSM who advised that the barracks should be reopening on 10<sup>th</sup> December as a combat training base. On the 11<sup>th</sup> December he attended the Remembrance Service at the American Memorial in Priory Memorial Gardens, followed by the Parade and Service on Melbourn Road, Royston. The event was very well attended and a special mention should go to Chris Murphy from the Royston branch of the British Legion for his part in its organisation.

Events coming up include a 'Bake Off' at Margaret House, Barley and residential home visits for Christmas Day and the New Year. On 17<sup>th</sup> December the 'Mayor's Christmas Party' at the Old Bull Inn, with a live band, costing £6 per ticket, raising funds for the Town Mayor's Community Trust Fund.

## 241/19 MINUTES:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 (minutes 143/19 to 158/19), subject to the following amendment:

- 154/19 Street Food Heroes Event in Priory Memorial Gardens: Point c) becomes b), point d) becomes c), point b) becomes d) and is reworded to say “Established Royston traders should be allowed to take part, on a concessionary basis.”

The minutes, including the amendment, were signed by the Chairman.

## 242/19 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes be adopted into the workings of the council:

- (a) The meeting of the Finance Committee held on:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 (minutes 159/19 to 167/19).
  - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (minutes 185/19 to 196/19).
- (b) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on:
  - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (minutes 168/19 to 176/19).
  - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 (minutes 201/19 to 207/19).

## 243/19 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD:

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of Committee meetings, which have not already been adopted as a correct record, into the workings of the Council:

- (a) The meeting of the General Purpose and Highways Committee held on:
  - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (minutes 208/19 to 219/19)

Exclusion of Press and Public:

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, that, in the public interest, the public and press be excluded from the next part of the meeting, under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960.

Members discussed the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018. It was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the following meeting into the workings of the Council:

- (b) The meeting of the Finance Committee held on:
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 (minutes 220/19 to 231/19)

Members **RESOLVED** that the exclusion of Press and Public had ended and those in attendance re-entered the room.

## 244/19 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2017-2018:

It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual Return and Auditors Certificate for 2017-2018 be accepted into the workings of the Town Council. There were no matters for action or to bring

to the council's attention. The Town Clerk and her staff were thanked for their hard work to ensure a successful audit was achieved.

**245/19 PROCEDURAL REMINDERS:**

The Chairman read out information regarding procedures for the approval of minutes, adding agenda items and the use of Council emails. Members were reminded that these procedures must be followed.

**246/19 DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the Council's Documentation Retention Policy into the workings of the Council.

**247/19 COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME:**

Members discussed the current community toilet scheme. Councillor Stanier had spoken to some businesses in town that had expressed an interest in joining the scheme. Members **RESOLVED** that The Banyers would be formally approached and invited to join the scheme as it is in a different location to the existing toilet facilities, has accessible toilets and is open before 10am. Members thanked Councillor Stanier for her work with regard to this project.

**248/19 CLERK'S REPORT:**

There was none.

**249/19 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

Councillor Harrison presented a report on an HAPTC meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at Kimpton. Financial information such as accounts, receipts and payments, budgets and staff salaries were discussed. It was also agreed there would be no change in the formula on which membership fees were calculated.

Attendees were then advised that induction courses will be run for clerks and new councillors, also, Councillor Neville of Welwyn Parish Council has been elected as Chairman of HAPTC and will start in March 2019.

Bus subsidies were discussed; a letter had been received from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) in which they refused to approach the government on behalf of HAPTC to increase bus subsidies for rural areas, as it was unlikely to succeed. The committee decided to write back to NALC to express their disappointment and objection to their position. There then followed a discussion of local bus routes.

The member for Flamstead (close to Luton Airport) reported about the noise the area suffered, and how they were in discussions with the airport authorities to change aeroplane flight paths.

Councillor Brown presented a report on the AGM of North Herts Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

Over the last 2 years CAB have set a deficit budget due to reductions in grant funding, and it has been a very challenging time for them. The deficit was not as bad as forecast, so they hope that going forward this will continue to be the case.

In the last year, the CAB have helped 5,400 people, which has saved the Government £1.1 million. This year, they have been heavily involved with the Universal Credit campaign and there has been a big increase in volunteer intake, and in fact the new CEO started as a volunteer. Another highlight is their finance inclusion project, and they have been increasing help through their money matters team.

The main objectives in 3 to 5 years are, diversifying funding streams and not being so reliant on council funding, promoting the service more, working in partnership with other organisations and simplifying systems and processes in which they work.

The focus of their work is to move people from reliant to self-reliant, from crisis to stability, from vulnerable to secure and from disengaged to engaged.

Councillor Brown added that they are an amazing organisation doing amazing work.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their reports and for attending the meetings.

Date of the next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_