

**MINUTES** of the **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Room 11, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm.

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

**In attendance:** Town Clerk  
County Councillor Hill, District Councillors Green and Hunter

The Reverend John Fidler led the meeting in Prayer.

**82/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**83/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harrison and Hughes.

**84/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

There were none.

**85/20 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Mayor reported that he had attended several events recently, including visiting the Business Babble group, a women's business collective, and previewing an art exhibition at the Museum. The Mayor also attended Friday prayers with the local Muslim community and said he was overwhelmed at the support from local residents that has been received regarding this. There has been a lot of discussion on social media and also he has been approached in the street and congratulated on this positive experience.

The Mayor also attended a twinning function with residents from La Loupe and visited the Garden House Hospice which is one of the Mayor's Charities this year. His meeting produced lots of ideas to raise awareness of the Charity.

Finally, last weekend he attended the Royston Summer Market which was a fantastic event enjoyed by local people, and the Royston in Blue fun run.

The Mayor advised Members that his Civic Reception would be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Town Hall.

**86/20 MINUTES:**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (minutes 01/20 to 21/20) subject to, in minute 14/20, substituting Conservators for Conservation and North Herts for Bureau.

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**87/20 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 meetings of the Planning Committee held on:
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 (minutes 406/19 to 411/19).
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (minutes 48/20 to 57/20).

- (b) The meetings of the Finance Committee held on:
- 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (minutes 392/19 to 401/19).
  - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (minutes 412/19 to 419/19).

**88/20 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD:**

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

- (a) The meetings of the General Purpose and Highways Committee held on:
- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (minutes 359/19 to 368/19)
  - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (minutes 41/20 to 47/20)
- (b) The meetings of the Finance Committee held on:
- 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (minutes 22/20 to 40/20)
  - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (minutes 58/20 to 68/20)
- (c) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on:
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 (minutes 69/20 to 74/20)

**89/20 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the report from the Internal Auditor for the audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and to accept it into the workings of the Council.

**90/20 ACCOUNTS 2018-2019:**

In response to questions raised, The Town Clerk confirmed that the fixed assets were held at cost and were not depreciated, and the expenditure on the market place included £20,000 of loan costs, the market manager's salary and expenditure on equipment, a more detailed breakdown could only be given with more detailed figures available.

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Year End Accounts and Supporting Statement for 2018 -2019. These were signed by the Chairman.

**91/20 ANNUAL RETURN 2018-2019:**

- i. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the AGAR Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019 (Section 1) and approve it for signing by the Chairman and Clerk.
- ii. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the AGAR Accounting Statements 2018/2019 (Section 2) and approve them for signing by the Chairman.
- iii. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights as Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Councillor Davison advised Members that it is a huge amount of work to complete the accounts and papers for the year-end audit. He congratulated the Clerk and proposed that the Council should write to the Clerk and thank her for all of her work to complete the procedures in time. Members unanimously **RESOLVED** this.

**92/20 ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019:**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the annual report for publication, subject to the money budgeted for the Legacy Project being stated separately from other expenses in the budget for 2019-2020.

**93/20 FOUR YEAR PLAN WORKING PARTY:**

Members **AGREED** to accept the notes from the Four Year Plan Working Party meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 into the workings of the Council.

**94/20 YOUTH COUNCIL:**

The Mayor spoke about his idea to set up a Royston Youth Council. He wants to give the youth of the town a voice, and in other towns this had led to benefits such as a decrease in vandalism. Other local organisations will be invited to be involved and it is envisaged that it will be a long term project.

The Mayor would like to set up a steering group for the project and would like to involve all political parties and councillors from Town, District and County level.

Members were very supportive of the initiative and the following councillors agreed to join the steering group:-

Town Councillors: Bourke-Waite, Brown, Inwood, Phillips, Squire-Smith, Stanier and Swallow. County Councillor: Fiona Hill. District Councillors: Jean Green and Tony Hunter. The Town Clerk advised that admin support may be able to be provided for the meetings depending on when they take place. The clerk will send out literature on youth councils to all Members.

**95/20 HONORARY FREEMAN:**

Members discussed the merits of introducing a Town Council Honorary Freeman award. The honour would be used sparingly. The criteria, procedures and arrangements would all be agreed at a later date with a policy being presented to Council for adoption. Members suggested that nominations for the award should be open to the public.

Members **RESOLVED** that an Honorary Freeman award should be introduced by Royston Town Council.

A recorded vote was requested.

Councillors Bourke-Waite, Coll, Davison, Inwood, Leggett, Perry, Phillips, F Smith, P Smith, Squire-Smith and Swallow voted for the proposal and Councillors Brown and Stanier voted against the proposal.

**96/20 CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk thanked Members for their responses on the draft Royston Town Guide. The amendments have been sent to the publisher and the guide should be distributed in July. Members were advised that the Mayor's civic reception would be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and a Mayor's quiz night will be held in November.

Next year's early May Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This may have implications for next year's May Fayre and this will be discussed by the working party at the next meeting.

There is a Royston Councillors surgery on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 10am and all are invited to attend if they wish.

The Clerk thanked all Councillors that attended the Royston Summer Market last Saturday. It was an excellent event with free music, food, drink and face painting.

**97/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:**

Councillor Brown reported on her attendance at the Conservators public meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The rugby and tennis clubs and the health walks are all thriving. Cricket is remaining at the Therfield rec. Grazing didn't happen in 2018 but there are already

sheep on the Heath this year. The Friends of the Heath have run successful events and have installed bird and bat boxes. Further events are planned and there is a steady

uptake in membership. Councillor Brown commended the group to Members and encouraged them to join. Car parking charges were discussed and there was a proposal that a voluntary charge is introduced which was generally welcomed. There was also a proposal that there should be a consultation on updating the bye-laws on dog walking.

Councillor Stanier reported on her attendance at the Royston & District Scouts Council AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The scouts have good levels of volunteers although more are always welcome. Finances are extremely healthy and they plan to spend some on training their leaders. Some scouts are currently attending a jamboree which took two years to plan for. In Hertfordshire in the last year there has been a 1% reduction in members but in Royston there has been an 8% increase in members and 16% increase in adult support. There are 3500 people on the waiting list across the county.

Date of the next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33pm.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT