

MINUTES of the meeting of **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** held virtually via Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 26th April 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Inwood (Town Mayor) in the Chair
Councillors Bylett, Harrison, Hughes, Perry, Phillips, FJ Smith, P Smith, Squire-Smith and Stanier.

In attendance: Town Clerk
County Councillor Hill, District Councillor Green

210/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

211/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Brown, Davison and Leggett.

212/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Members were advised to declare any interests at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. No requests for dispensations were received.

213/21 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor reported that the non-essential market traders had returned and the market was doing very well. He had been out and about at the weekend and had received many positive comments about the market and the town.

214/21 MINUTES:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th March 2021 (minutes 181/21 to 203/21).

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

215/21 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN APPROVED AS A CORRECT RECORD:

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th April 2021 (minutes 204/21 to 209/21) into the workings of the Council.

216/21 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

a) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the March 2021 (supplementary) accounts for payment.

In response to Members' questions, the Town Clerk clarified that the payment for the cinema server was the full payment and that the VAT would be recoverable as the equipment will be a Town Council asset.

It was confirmed that printer cartridges were being purchased from the cheapest available supplier but the option of a combined photocopier and printer was currently being investigated which would be more cost effective and better for the environment.

- b) Members **RESOLVED** to approve the April 2021 accounts for payment and the transfers between the Town Council accounts.

217/21 FLAGPOLE ON THE TOWN HALL:

Members **RESOLVED** to take over responsibility for the flagpole in the Großalmerode Gardens from NHDC.

Members **RESOLVED** to further investigate the costs and feasibility of mounting of a flagpole on the Town Hall in order to fly the Union flag permanently.

218/21 CCTV POLICY 2021:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the CCTV Policy into the general policies of the Town Council.

219/21 NHDC REQUEST FOR FREE HIRE OF THE TOWN HALL FOR TOWN TALKS:

Councillor Stanier declared an interest in this item and was placed in the waiting room for the duration of the discussion and vote.

After a lengthy discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to approve a 50% discount for NHDC when hiring the Town Hall for Town Talks, for meetings in June 2021, October 2021, December 2021 and March 2022.

Councillor Stanier re-joined the meeting.

220/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

Councillor Phillips reported on Creative Royston. The committee is continuing to promote the 2021 Royston Arts Festival, which is to be held from 24th to 26th September 2021 and celebrates local talent. The festival usually includes workshops, exhibitions, theatre, dance, and music amongst others. Some responses have been received for this year but final arrangements will still very much depend on the COVID situation. Possible participants and venues were discussed and the Chair will pursue these. They are also calling for more members of the committee and are very short on numbers so please can councillors spread the word. They would also welcome volunteers for future events. The chair can be contacted via their website creativeroyston.org or email chair@creativeroyston.org.

221/21 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that a bus shelter is going to be installed in Icknield Walk in May. This project was started by the Town Council's GP and Highways committee in January 2019 but stalled due to COVID.

Investigations are ongoing for the bus shelter next to the Town Hall. Test digs have been carried out at the site. NHDC have agreed to move the recycling bin that has recently been installed in the area where the shelter is due to go.

Legislation to hold remote meetings runs out on 6th May. Although there are no plans to extend it, a legal challenge by the Local Government Association and HCC has been heard at court and a decision is expected before the end of April. The Clerk will keep members informed, but if face to face meetings begin they will be in the Town Hall with social distancing measures in place. More detailed plans will be provided in due course.

The Mayor announced that this was his last full meeting in the role and thanked members for their support.

The Mayor was thanked by councillors on behalf of the residents of Royston for doing an amazing job.

Date of next meeting: 17th May 2021.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date _____

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