

MINUTES of the meeting of **ROYSTON TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Heritage Hall, Town Hall, Royston at 7.30pm on Monday 17th June 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor Rees (Mayor) in the Chair
Councillors Adams, Antony, Beardwell, Brown, Harrison, Haugh, Jani, Langdon and Lockett

In attendance: Town Clerk
2 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being recorded.

Jonathan Scott from the Royston Evangelical Church led the meeting in prayer. The Chair reminded Members to be mindful of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declared by Royston Town Council when making decisions on behalf of the Council.

58/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public spoke in support of an application made to the Community Grants Scheme by Royston Photographic Society. She thanked members for the opportunity to speak.

59/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillor Birch (work commitments) and Councillors Compton, Freeman, Inwood and Squire-Smith (other commitments). Members **RESOLVED** to approve the apologies on the grounds stated.

60/25 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.

The Chair brought forward agenda item 16, Grant Application, for discussion next.

61/25 GRANT APPLICATION:

Members **RESOLVED** to award a £75.00 grant to Royston Photographic Society from the Community Grants Scheme.

62/25 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor detailed the engagements and events that he had attended since commencing the role:

- Opening of Royston Radio's Fat Jax Experience show
- Service of Commemoration at Nuthampstead Airfield Museum
- 4th birthday party of Melbourn Springs Care Home
- Royston Town Council's 50th Anniversary event
- Royston Community Forum and Royston Community Breakfast
- Carers Stepping Out at Margaret House Residential and Dementia Care Home
- MRTC at Bassingbourn Barracks for their summer event
- Opening of an art display at Curwens Solicitors

63/25 MINUTES:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20th May 2024 (minutes 01/25 to 23/25).

64/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes, which have already been adopted as a correct record, were adopted into the workings of the Council:

- a) The meetings of the Finance Committee held on:
 - 25th March 2024 (minutes 340/24 to 350/24)
 - 29th April 2024 (minutes 367/24 to 376/24)
- b) The meetings of the Planning Committee held on:
 - 8th April 2024 (minutes 351/24 to 356/24)
 - 20th May 2024 (minutes 46/25 to 50/25)
- c) The meeting of the General Purposes & Highways Committee held on:
 - 15th April 2024 (minutes 357/24 to 366/24)

65/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

It was **RESOLVED** that the following minutes, which have not already been adopted as a correct record, be adopted into the workings of the Council:

- a) The meeting of the Finance Committee held on:
 - 20th May 2024 (minutes 24/25 to 39/25)
- b) The meeting of the General Purposes and Highways Committee held on:
 - 20th May 2024 (minutes 40/25 to 45/25)
- c) The meeting of the Planning Committee held on:
 - 3rd June 2024 (minutes 51/25 to 57/25)

66/25 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY MEETINGS:

Members received the notes of the Communications Working Party meeting held on 11th April 2024 into the workings of the council.

67/25 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the internal audit report for the year ended 31st March 2024 into the workings of the council. Cllr Harrison congratulated staff on obtaining another exemplary audit. There were no matters requiring attention and no issues arising giving cause for concern.

68/25 ACCOUNTS 2023-2024:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 and the supporting statement.

69/25 ANNUAL RETURN 2023-2024:

1. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the Annual Governance Statement 2023-2024 (section 1) of the Annual Return and approve it for signing by the Chairman and Clerk.
2. Members **RESOLVED** to agree the Accounting Statements 2023-2024 (section 2) of the Annual Return and approve it for signing by the Chairman.
3. Members **NOTED** the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights as Friday 21st June 2024 to Thursday 1st August 2024.

70/25 ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Report for publication.

71/25 PRAYERS AT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the rota for prayers for the Civic year.

72/25 MINUTES OF ROYSTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION:

Members received the minutes of the Royston & District Twinning Association meetings held on 6th March 2024 and 3rd April 2024 into the workings of the Council.

73/25 NON-SMOKING AND NON-VAPING POLICY:

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy into the workings of the Council.

74/25 STATEMENT OF INTENT AS TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Statement of Intent as to Community Engagement into the workings of the Council.

75/25 PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT LAWNMOWER FOR GREEN STREET ALLOTMENTS:

An amendment was proposed to purchase the lawn mower from a local independent business even if it was more expensive than purchasing online. The budget should increase from £1,500 to £2,000 to cover this. If it could not be sourced locally for less than £2,000 it would be purchased online.

The amendment was seconded and duly carried.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Set a budget of £2,000 for the purchase of a new lawnmower for the allotments from earmarked reserves.
- b) Authorise the use of the debit card to make the purchase.

76/25 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS ON TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND AS REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS:

Councillor Harrison reported that he had been re-elected for a further 3 years to HAPTC. Discussions at their recent meeting included lack of public awareness of what each tier of local government is responsible for, a possible merger with Bedfordshire or Buckinghamshire, and civility and respect.

He reported on a meeting of the Royston Day Centre in which they concluded that they needed more volunteers, and it was revealed that the cost of community transport had almost trebled in one year. Many visitors to the Day Centre need to use community transport due to mobility issues. Their current charges aren't covering transport costs however they're reluctant to put prices up as this might lead to decreased visitor numbers. Their AGM is being held in September.

The Chair responded that the Town Crier published an article detailing the different tiers of local government and their responsibilities 18 months ago, but it could be included again and he would also mention it in his Mayor's Notebook radio show.

77/25 CLERK'S REPORT:

There was none.

Date of next meeting: 23rd September 2024

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

Signed: _____

Date _____

Chairman