

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
HELD ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2022, TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA.**

PRESENT: Councillors Nick Wilkins (Chair), Janet Alty, Alan Boad, Sarah Boad, David Brunson, Will Bryce, Mubarik Chowdry, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, Louisa Radice, Ruggy Singh and Amanda Stevens.

Officers: Town Clerk

Absent: Cllr Jade McGhee.

40. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Julija Boulton, Judith Clarke, Susan Rasmussen.

41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr S Boad declared a personal interest as WCC Cllr in agenda item 6 Cycling and Walking Infrastructure and a personal interest as Transformation Board member in item 4 – Town Hall Creative Hub.

Cllr B Gifford declared a pecuniary interest as WDC Cllr for item 4 Town Hall Creative Hub and will leave the room. Also a non-pecuniary interest as WCC Councillor in Item 6 Cycling and Walking infrastructure.

Cllr A Boad declared a pecuniary interest as a WDC Cllr in item 4 Town Hall Creative Hub.

42. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

43. **TOWN HALL CREATIVE HUB PROJECT**

Cllrs A Boad and B Gifford left the room for this item.

WDC's Programme co-ordinator gave an overview of the Town Hall Creative Hub project, which forms part of the wider Creative Quarter project.

A number of points were made / noted:

£1.7m future high street fund money was secured for the project, to be spent by March 2024.

Creative / digital industries are a big part of the future of Leamington Spa.

WDC leading the project – have appointed Purcell Architects who are looking at Town Hall building / project.

Holding stakeholder conversations – eg with current tenants / creative industries / local orgs.

Looking at Jan23 for a planning permission.

As tenants, the Town Council will need to be assured of suitable office accommodation, even if this is in another part of the Town Hall.

Maintaining suitable records of the Civic History within the building will need to be considered.

The Creative Quarter Partnership Board will be making recommendations in relation to the Town Hall.

Resolved

- i) That authority be delegated to Policy & Resources Committee to respond to WDC if not practical to bring the matter back to full Town Council due to timescales / deadlines.
- ii) That the Town Clerk convene a meeting of the accommodation working party if deemed necessary.

44. **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FORUM**

Cllr S Boad noted that:

SB attended meeting of WALC with WCC leader and directors to discuss 'levelling up'.

WCC coming under pressure on capital spending / inflation – allocated extra funds for capital projects to continue.

WCC passed a motion on cost of living crisis.

Cllr B Gifford noted that WDC waste service is still bedding in.

Cllr A Boad noted that WDC have put in a bid to UK shared prosperity fund for £3.5 million – approx. 47 projects. To be delivered by March 2025. Another bid for levelling up fund has gone in for £12 million.

Motion on the energy crisis and fuel poverty – looking at warm rooms.

45. **CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE**

SM introduced – noted the overview of work on cycling infrastructure.

Agreed to convene a meeting of Community Infrastructure Levy working group and ask Dan Morris to come along to give update and perhaps identify specific infrastructure that Town Council could consider paying for.

Resolved – That the Town Council supports the WCC proposals for the K2L scheme

46. **EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN**

The Town Council considered report number 7 relating to the Annual Governance Return and the external audit.

Resolved that the Town Council notes the outcome of the external review of the Council's Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended March 2022 and the publishing of the relevant documents.

47. EXTERNAL AUDIT – OPT OUT OPTION

Resolved that the Town Council does not opt out of the central external auditor appointment arrangements for the next 5 years.

48. MEETING ROOMS

The Council considered the use of meeting room 5 for future committee meetings.

Resolved that committee meetings are held in room 5 for next few weeks and that arrangement is reviewed at the meeting on 10Nov22

49. MAYORAL CAR UPDATE

Noted that the new full electric car had been received and was in use.

50. REVIEW OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Resolved that delegations to the Clerk continue and it be reviewed after elections in May23.

51. UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL BODIES

The Town Council noted the updates provided by its representatives on external bodies.

It was noted that the Leamington Chamber of Trade will cease to operation in the near future.

Resolved that the updates are noted.

52. HATE CRIME

Resolved that

- i) the Town Council notes the information contained in the report, specifically the information regarding Hate Crimes and the sources of additional information identified.
- ii) The Mayor writes to the chair of WDC to commend her for raising the issue of racial abuse and expressing the Town Council's support.

53. MINUTES OF COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES / MEETINGS

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council on 21 July 22 are approved as a correct record.

that the minutes of the following meetings are received and noted:
Cultural & Community Committee 13Jun22

54. FINANCE / PAYMENTS

Resolved that the following payments are approved:

V2Payments for approval					
Cheque / Electronic payment	Payee	Details	Amount	VAT	Total
Electronic	Shopmobility	2nd Quarter grant	£6,500.00	£0.00	£6,500.00
Electronic	Pinners	Phone Box repairs - inv 25240	£997.10	£199.42	£1,196.52
Electronic	Pinners	Art box - Panel and noticeboard installation - 25239	£379.24	£75.85	£455.09
Electronic	P Rourke	Re-imburement of expenses - Mayoral Car number plates	£34.00	£0.00	£34.00
Electronic	Toyota	Road tax costs - inv 8393330			£0.00
Electronic	WALC	Cllr Training inv 22423	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
Electronic	WALC	Cllr Training inv 22424	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
Electronic	Leander Architectural	Blue Plaque (Heynes) - Inv Q11982b	£429.50	£85.90	£515.40
Electronic	Leamington Internation Twinning Society	Contribution / grant - 22/23	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00
Cheque	Stephen Marks	Expenses re-imburement - civic events (receipts provided)	£15.98	£0.00	£15.98
					£0.00
					£0.00
					£0.00
			£11,415.82	£373.17	£11,788.99

Meeting finished at approximately 19:37