

RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2017

Present: Councillors Parsons - Mayor
Preece
Harris
Hodgson
Heap
Steggles
World
White
Croasdell
Bryant
Hadden
Spencer

In attendance: Ms. H. Lawler, Town Clerk
Mrs C. Ord, Assistant Town Clerk
Mr. Scott Lunn

01.07.17 Apologies: Councillors Lord and Cooke

Absent: Councillor Blease

02.07.17 Public Open Session:

The Mayor extended a belated warm welcome to Councillor Hadden who had joined the Town Council as an East Ward Councillor in June.

Two members of the local police force attended the meeting. Councillor World stated that police presence around the town centre on a regular basis would be appreciated.

03.07.17 County Councillor:

County Councillor Parsons reported on his meeting with the Crime Commissioner. He gave an overview on various issues discussed including proposed changes to the management of the Fire and Rescue Service and it was noted that a Scrutiny meeting has been arranged on Tuesday 8th August at 2.00 p.m. to discuss the issue. County Councillor Parsons drew members attention to an application received from Richmond School for an extension to Sports Pavilion opening times.

Proposed changes to Mental Health facilities and potential ward closures at the Friarage Hospital were debated. Councillor Hodgson handed out consultation questionnaires and urged those wishing to object to the changes to the provision of mental health services to complete one as promptly as possible. An update on the latest developments regarding the Lidl site was also given.

04.07.17 Richmondshire District Councillor:

Councillor World reported that residents of Queen's Court had not been successful in their endeavours to be supplied with smart meters and stop the proposed new charging scheme. He stated, however that this issue was far from closed.

05.07.17 Declarations of Interest:

As Chair of the Georgian Theatre Trust Councillor Bryant declared an interest in Item 17.

Councillor Spencer declared an interest as Secretary of the Duck Club in item 14 on the Agenda.

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor World

RESOLVED: it was agreed to operate the old and the new Declaration of Interest systems. Completed forms to be returned by the end of September.

06.07.17 Minutes:

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor Heap

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26 June 2017 be accepted as a true record.

07.07.17 Updates:

No updates.

08.07.17 Town Clerk's Report:

Brown Motorway Signs -

The Town Clerk reported that the original application for the renewal of the signs was made in April 2015. The current contractors for the A1 Leeming to Barton works are now endeavouring to pursue Highways England to ensure the application is processed.

Councillors wished to record their appreciation to the Town Clerk for her determination in getting a successful outcome regarding reinstatement of Richmond brown signs.

Councillor White reported that a new RAF Memorial plaque will be sited in Friary Gardens.

Re-decoration of Main Hall

Following completion of decoration works it was agreed that the Mayor, Councillors White and World meet to discuss the positioning of various pictures and photographs to be re-hung.

09.07.17 **Communications:** The correspondence was noted.

10.07.17 **Accounts:**
Proposed: Councillor Harris Seconded: Councillor Heap

RESOLVED: that the accounts for June 2017 be approved.

11.07.17 **Committees:**

Planning - 5 July 2017

Minutes of the above Planning Meetings were noted.

Community 17 July 2017

Christmas Lights C04.07.07

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Heap

RESOLVED: that the sum of £2,700 be transferred from the General Fund into the Christmas Lights Infrastructure Precept line to cover the extra costs.

Councillors Harris and Spencer requested that their votes against the resolution be recorded.

Donations

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED: that

- a) **the Duck Club be granted the use of the Town Hall free of charge for the children's Halloween Party on Saturday 28th October 2017.**
- b) **Round Table be granted use of the Town Hall free of charge for one event.**

That the Minutes of the Donations meeting held on 5th July were noted with the above amendment.

Allotments

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor World

RESOLVED: that

- a) **the sum of £254.50 plus VAT be approved for works to fit a new water tough at Westfields allotments.**

b) the sum of £300 plus VAT be approved for works to level two footpaths on Westfields allotments.

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor Croasdell

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the above Community Meetings be accepted as a true record.

Resources 10 July 2017

R07.04.17 Purchase of Chairs

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor Parsons

RESOLVED: that the cost of the purchase of 24 chairs be debited from the Repairs and Renewals precept line.

Proposed: Councillor Hodgson Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Resources Meeting be accepted as a true record subject to the above amendment.

12.07.17 Outside Bodies:

Norwegian Twinning Association

Councillor Spencer informed members that in 2018 the Norwegian Twinning Association will celebrate its 30 year anniversary. In partnership with the association invitations to visit Norway will be extended to the Mayor elect and Town Clerk.

It was noted that costs should be precepted accordingly.

Thompson Trust Charity

Councillor Spencer had provided Councillors with a copy of an inspection report on the Thompson Trust property for information purposes. Councillor Parsons requested that the Town Council be kept informed of developments regarding the sale of the property to enable the Town Council to remove the need to nominate a representative to serve on the Trust.

13.07.17 Resources Committee:

Election of Chairman

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor World
that Councillor Preece be elected as Chairman

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Hodgson
that Councillor Heap be elected as Chairman

As Councillors Heap and Preece had both been nominated a vote was taken which resulted in a tied vote. Councillor Preece subsequently withdrew his name from the ballot.

Proposed: Councillor Preece Seconded: Councillor Hodgson

RESOLVED: that Councillor Heap be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

Election of Vice Chair

Proposed: Councillor Heap Seconded: Councillor Hodgson

RESOLVED: that Councillor Preece be appointed as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

14.07.17 Friary Gardens - Electrical boxes:

Following lengthy discussions the Town Clerk reported that she had ascertained the total cost for replacement of electricity boxes in Friary Gardens. Richmondshire District Council's latest offer is that they would fund the cost of 4 No. boxes and 60% of the cost of for the remaining 9 No. Therefore, the shortfall of 40% amounting to a sum of £875 is to be sought.

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Hodgson

RESOLVED: that

- a) **Richmond Town Council fund the shortfall of £875 from the General Reserve Fund.**
- b) **the sockets are inspected at the point when the electricity meter reading takes place prior to the Christmas Lights switch on ceremony. All interested parties to be present and the same procedure will apply at the final meter reading.**
- c) **any damage through misuse or neglect of the sockets to be paid for by the Duck Club.**
- d) **all promotional and advertising material to recognize support given by Richmond Town Council.**

Members requested the Town Clerk send a letter to the Duck Club informing them of the above resolution. The Duck Club representative informed Councillors that they would discuss the matter at their meeting on Friday evening.

15.07.17 Baby Changing Facilities:

Members agreed that the best location for the facility would be in the disabled WC access area. Further investigation is required relating the size and cost of unit required. The Town Clerk was given designated authority to proceed with the purchase.

Councillor White gave his apologies and left the meeting to attend a prior engagement.

16.07.17 Richmond School Trustees:

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that a letter had been received from Richmond School asking that Councillor Lord relinquish his post as Trustee as he had been unable to attend any of the meetings. Councillor Lord agreed to relinquish the post and Councillor Bryant was nominated as replacement Trustee.

17.07.17 Georgian Theatre Royal:

Discussion took place relating to proposed changes to the Georgian Theatre Royal's Articles of Association. The Mayor informed members that a meeting had taken place with the Trustees of the GTR and he and the Town Clerk had subsequently attended the AGM. The new Articles of Association have not been adopted pending potential amendments. Richmond Town Council will continue to seek legal advice on their position.

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Hodgson

RESOLVED: that

- a) **the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to spend up to £1,000 to cover legal costs.**
- b) **a Rent Review take place**

Councillor Bryant requested that his vote against the resolution be recorded.

18.07.17 Proposed: Councillor Harris Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED: to move into Private Session

20.07.17 Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED: to move out of Private Session and returned to Open Session

20a.07.17 Resignation of Councillor Ian Croasdell – Central Ward

The Mayor informed members that Councillor Croasdell had tendered his resignation with immediate effect as he is leaving Richmond. Councillors thanked Councillor Croasdell for his services and added that he had been a valued member of the Council. Councillors wished him and his family every success in the future.