

Wisbech Town Council



WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

1 February 2021 – 7.30 pm

(Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restriction placed by the Government on gatherings of people, this meeting will be held remotely; via the Zoom video conferencing system. Members of the public will be able to view the meeting live on the Wisbech Town Council You Tube channel. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk (details shown at the foot of this agenda)).

All members of the council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving the business to be transacted at the meeting, as set out below.

(A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where the public so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence. A member of the public wishing to make a representation to the meeting would need to submit the text in writing, to the Town Clerk, prior to the meeting, as there would be no opportunity for it to be raised in person by the member of the public).

AGENDA

1. To receive members' apologies for absence.
2. Open Forum/Public participation – Clerk to report.
3. To receive members' declarations of disclosable pecuniary, non-disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to any agenda item (see guidance notes at the end of the agenda).
4. The Vertical Gardens Project – to receive a presentation from a representative of Blackfield Creatives in relation to this project and to consider allowing the council's public toilets at Wisbech Park to be incorporated into the project.
5. Fenland District Council - to receive information in relation to District Council activities relevant to Wisbech.
6. Cambridgeshire County Council - to receive information in relation to County Council activities relevant to Wisbech.
7. To confirm, for signature by the Chairman when possible, the minutes of the meeting of Wisbech Town Council held on 14 December 2020 (attached).
8. Motions to Council:
 1. Call for Police action – the Clerk to report the response from the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (which had been informed directly by representatives of the Chief Constable and Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Fenland) in relation to the Motion adopted at minute 48/20.

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2. Council social media communications

Councillor Patrick to propose that:

- a) a working group be established to set out guidelines and protocols for the use of all of Wisbech Town Council's social media outlets, including Twitter and Facebook;
- b) in the interim, all posts to these social media sites be the responsibility of the Town Clerk and/or any officer so designated by him;
- c) a full report on how Twitter and Facebook have been used until now be compiled by the Town Clerk and circulated by him ahead of the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council;
- d) the Town Clerk be invited, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council and nominated councillors, to produce a social media strategy going forward and to bring their recommendations to the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council."

3. 50 Backpacks Vision

Councillor Patrick to propose that:

- a) Wisbech Town Council expresses publicly its regret that its social media comments on Facebook could have been interpreted as being disparaging of the work and efforts of 50 Backpacks Vision for its part in supporting homeless and vulnerable residents of Wisbech during the current lockdown;
- b) the town council makes an urgent donation of £1,000 to 50 Backpacks Vision to enable it to continue its well documented and hugely popular support of the homeless and vulnerable people within Wisbech".

4. Working with 50 Backpacks Vision

Councillor Patrick to propose that:

- a) Wisbech Town Council invites the organiser and/or committee of 50 Backpacks Vision to a virtual meeting to discuss the issues of homelessness within Wisbech and to discuss a closer working arrangement;
- b) the town council convenes and hosts a 'homelessness summit' to enable any organisation willing to offer help and support to the homeless and vulnerable members of our community to pool ideas and possible resources to help alleviate the dire consequences of being homeless.

9. Delegated powers – further to minute 51/20, to consider continuation of the power which was delegated to the Clerk (to be exercised in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the relevant Committee Chairman) and took effect from 24 March 2020.
10. Budget 2021/22 – to set a Wisbech Town Council budget and Precept for the financial year 2021/22 (a copy of the draft budget for 2021/22, agreed – for recommendation to council - at 18 January 2021 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee is attached).
11. Annual Risk Assessments – in accordance with minute R6/19, to consider any risks faced by the council and agree mitigating action(s).

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12. Clerk's report - to include: any updates on projects/initiatives; correspondence received by the council which is of relevance to members; advance notice of events/activities etc; minutes of the meetings of committees held since the last meeting of the council (those being: Wisbech Castle Management Committee held on 14 December 2020; Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee meetings held on 23 December 2020 and 4 and 18 January 2021; Policy and Resources Committee held on 18 January 2021).
13. Dates of future meetings - to agree dates for meetings of Wisbech Town Council for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/21 and for the Annual Meeting (including Mayor Making) for the municipal year 2021/22.

Members of the Town Council: Councillors Balsevics (Chairman/Mayor), Hill, Miss Hoy, Human, Ketteringham, Lynn (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor), Maul, Meekins, Oliver, Patrick, Mrs Pehlivanova, Prest, Rackley, Tibbs, Tierney, Topgood and Mrs Wallwork (plus one vacancy).

Agenda issued and published (on 26 January 2021) by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Jordan'.

***Mr T Jordan, PSLCC
Clerk to Wisbech Town Council
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Exclusion of the public from meetings for confidential items of business

To exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of the Council, it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted "that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated"

Notes on members' interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest and, unless the member has obtained a dispensation, he or she cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.
- (2) A member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it
 - (a) relates to him or her, or
 - (b) is an interest of -
 - (i) the member's spouse or civil partner; or
 - (ii) a person with whom the member is living as husband and wife; or
 - (iii) a person with whom the member is living as if civil partners and the member is aware that the other person has the interest.
- (3) Disclosable pecuniary interests include -
 - (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;
 - (b) any financial benefit received by the member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a member (except from the Council);
 - (c) any current contracts with the Council;
 - (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;
 - (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;
 - (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest;
 - (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

Other Interests

- (4) If a member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest, he or she is required to declare that interest but may remain and participate in discussion and voting.
- (5) A member has a non-disclosable pecuniary interest or a non-pecuniary interest where -
 - (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of the member or a member of his or her family or a person with whom the member has a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which the member has been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
 - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the descriptions referred to above but in respect of a member of the councillor's family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom the member has a close association and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.