

# Wisbech Town Council



## WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

**25 June 2018 – 7.30 pm – Council Chamber, Wisbech Town Hall**

**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.**

**Members of the public and press are welcome to attend the meeting.**

***(A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence (see notes at the end of the agenda).***

### AGENDA

1. To receive members' apologies for absence.
2. 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).
3. Vacancy in the membership of Wisbech Town Council – further to minute 5/18, the Clerk to report formally the outcome of the by-election held on 7 June 2018, i.e. the election of Ben Prest to membership of the council.
4. Committees of the council – further to minute 13/18,
  - (1) to fill the vacancies on the Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee and the Assets Management Committee (one vacancy on each).
  - (2) to revise the terms of reference of the council's committees to provide for creation of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee.
5. Deafblind UK – to receive a presentation from a representative of this organisation on how to spot the signs and to help people within the community with this lonely and isolating condition (of being both deaf and blind).
6. Cambridgeshire Constabulary - to receive information from the local policing team in relation to recent incidents of crime and disorder affecting the town.
7. Fenland District Council – to receive information in relation to District Council activities relevant to Wisbech.
8. Cambridgeshire County Council - to receive information in relation to County Council activities relevant to Wisbech and to consider the submission (by 31 July 2018) of an application (or applications) under the Local Highway Improvement (LHI) scheme for 2019/20:  
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/>
9. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Wisbech Town Council held on 18 and 21 May 2018 (attached).

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10. Minutes of committees – to receive, for information, the minutes of committee meetings held since the last meeting of the Town Council, as follows:
  - (1) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 21 May 2018 (circulated previously)
  - (2) Assets Management Committee – 22 May 2018 (attached)
  - (3) Wisbech Market Place Management Committee – 11 June 2018 (to be circulated)
  - (4) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 11 June 2018 (attached)
  - (5) Community Events and Festivals Committee – 18 June 2018 (attached).
11. Mayor's Report – to receive information in relation the activities and events attended by the Mayor since the last meeting of the Town Council.
12. Leader of the Council's Report – to receive information from the Leader of the Council on matters affecting the town.
13. Committee Chairmen's Reports – in accordance with minute 114/17, to receive information from the council's Committee Chairman on matters pertaining to the work of those committees.
14. Reports (if any) from the council's representatives on outside bodies.
15. Motion to Council: Planning and Conservation matters.

Councillor Tierney to propose:

"A local business, The Retreat, has been in a "tug of war" match with Fenland District Council over two issues.

The windows of the premises are continually being broken and the owners of the business would like to be able to install shutters to protect the windows from vandalism. The cost of replacing windows is very high and the local business would simply like a fair chance to protect its property; however, due to the location of the premises, within a Conservation Area, Fenland District Council (FDC) has refused to allow the installation of shutters.

The windows which were installed upstairs at this property several years ago, which the owners were led to believe by their contractor were in order, have also fallen foul of FDC. The owners of The Retreat are being told that they cannot have these windows, despite the fact that they look very nice and were never installed with any intention of breaking any rules. The cost is prohibitive.

Although Wisbech Town Council values the heritage of the town and understands the need for a Conservation area, it does feel that:

- (a) reasonable concessions should be made to allow businesses to protect themselves
- (b) the rules are not fairly enforced to all businesses, creating a feeling of unfairness
- (c) the Conservation Area rules have gone too far and are stifling business success and growth
- (d) a common sense approach should apply, where situations are unusual like this one.

Wisbech Town Council calls upon Fenland District Council to:

- (a) make an exception for The Retreat and allow retention of the very nice windows

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- (b) make an exception for The Retreat and allow the installation of security shutters over the windows to protect them from vandalism at times when the premises are closed
  - (c) consider a comprehensive review of the entire Conservation Area system, with a view to creating one where reasonable precautions like security shutters are within the rules, and to consider relaxing the rules and introducing some flexibility to allow for businesses to thrive and grow without undue and unreasonable bureaucracy”.
16. Correspondence - to be informed by the Clerk of correspondence received by the council which is of relevance to members.
17. Noticeboard/Information update – to be informed by the Clerk of any such information.
18. Date of next meeting - to note that the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council is scheduled for 23 July 2018 at 7.30 pm, at the offices of Wisbech Town Council.

**Members of the Town Council: Councillors Balsevics, Miss Cobb, Mrs Cox, Hill (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor), Hodgson, Miss Hoy, Human (Chairman Mayor), Lynn, Mrs MacRae, Maul, Oliver, Miss Oliver, Prest, Rackley, Schooling, Tibbs, Tierney and Wing.**

**Agenda issued and published (on 19 June 2018) by:**

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

**Mr T Jordan, MILCM  
Clerk to Wisbech Town Council  
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Website: [www.wisbechtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wisbechtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

## **NOTES:**

*The Council Chamber is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall and access is available via a stair-lift if required. However, if wheelchair access is required, please contact the office, on 01945 461333, so that the necessary arrangements (the installation of temporary ramping) can be made.*

*Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen. Those who wish to report on meetings in this way are advised to contact the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting so that any arrangements, if necessary, can be made. Further information regarding the situation is displayed on a notice at the entrance to the Council Chamber and in the guidance below.*

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## **Guidance for the public attending Town Council meetings**

### Open Forum

*A period not exceeding 15 minutes is made available at the beginning of the meeting, where residents so require, to raise issues relating to matters over which the council has duties, powers or influence.*

*There is no facility for a dialogue between members of the public and councillors during a meeting of the Town Council. If an issue raised by a member of the public during the Open Forum is the subject of an item on the agenda for the meeting, the comments of the member of the public may be taken into account by the council when discussing that item. If that is not the case, the matter could, if members consider appropriate, be the subject of an item on the agenda for a future meeting.*

*The Open Forum section of the agenda is not a mechanism for members of the public to make personal attacks upon members of Wisbech Town Council. Furthermore, if a member of the public is of the opinion that a Wisbech Town Councillor has, through his or her actions, brought the office of councillor into disrepute, the member of the public should refer the complaint to the Monitoring Officer at Fenland District Council; not raise it publicly at a meeting of the Town Council.*

### Recording of meetings

*Members of the public, representatives of the press and councillors may (under the provisions of the Local Government and Accountability Act 2014 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014) film, audio-record, take photographs and use social media to report on meetings as they take place and the council shall make reasonable provision for this to happen.*

*The legislation and regulations allow the recording, broadcasting and use of social media to report on council, committee and sub-committee meetings if conducted in a non-disruptive manner during the course of the meeting. Such rights do not extend to the recorded material being used: out of sequence; in a way that misinterprets the proceedings; in a manner that misinterprets the views of those speaking at the meeting.*

*This means that there is a possibility that proceedings at this meeting are being recorded in some way by persons in attendance.*

*The Chairman of the meeting (Town Mayor) has the right to ask any person to leave a meeting or to suspend a meeting if the actions of those in attendance, including councillors, are deemed to be sufficiently disruptive to impede the business of the meeting.*

### Disturbance to meetings

*The council's Standing Orders state that "If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting, the Chairman (Town Mayor) may, after warning, order that the person(s) be removed from the meeting and may adjourn the meeting for such period as is necessary to restore order.*

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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.