



WISBECH TOWN COUNCIL

23 September 2019 – 7.30pm

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Councillor Hill, Chairman (and Town Mayor); Councillors Balsevics, Miss Hoy, Human, Ketteringham, Lynn, Maul, Meekins, Oliver, Patrick, Mrs Pehlivanova, Prest, Rackley, Tierney, Topgood and Mrs Wallwork.

Apologies: Councillors Tibbs and Wing.

Public participation: None requested.

67/19 Gerald Fleming

The Mayor referred to the recent death (at 100 years of age) of Gerald Fleming, one of the three War Veterans who had been awarded the Freedom of the Town of Wisbech in 2017.

Members stood in silence for one minute in memory of Mr Fleming.

68/19 The Bobby Scheme

Further to minutes R17/18 and 38/19, members received a presentation from Mrs P Luparia, the Trust Manager, in relation to the support that the Cambridgeshire Shrievally Trust (the Bobby Scheme) provides to the victims of crime and those who are concerned about home and personal safety.

Members had decided at minute R17/18 that the council would consider, in the light of this presentation, awarding grant aid to the Bobby Scheme.

Mrs Luparia informed the council that the Trust had been established in 2001 (as a result of discussions between the High Sheriff and the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire) to help, mainly elderly, victims of crime; since 2001, almost 29,000 people – most of whom had been the victims of crime - had been supported by the Bobby Scheme. She mentioned that the Trust works very closely with the Constabulary across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Mrs Luparia explained that the operational side of the Bobby Scheme consists of two men (known as Bobbies) with white vans; some of the work that they undertake is the fitting of security devices (such as intruder alarms, door chains and window locks (all of “secure by design” standard) in crime victims’ homes. The service is looking to become more “high tech” in its approach; looking to offer CCTV systems etc; this would, however, be more expensive than current security measures. The Bobby Scheme also undertakes works to secure the homes of victims of domestic abuse and provides information and advice to over 65s who have not been victims of burglary

The council’s attention was drawn to various statistics in relation to the numbers of people who had been supported by the Bobby Scheme in Wisbech between December 2018 and September 2019. Across Cambridgeshire, during that period, the Bobby Scheme had supported, on average, 53 elderly victims per month and 23 victims of domestic abuse. The cost to the Bobby Scheme of supporting people in Wisbech during that period had been £6,650. The Bobby Scheme receives £50,000 per annum from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; approximately £8,000 is spent in Wisbech (to support approximately 40 people). Mrs Luparia shared with councillors a number of case studies, which included feedback from people who had been supported by the Bobby Scheme.



Mrs Luparia asked the council to consider awarding grant aid to the Bobby Scheme in the current and future financial years.

Mrs Luparia responded to members' questions.

Councillor Mrs Wallwork thanked Mrs Luparia for the presentation and commented that the services of the Bobby Scheme are needed in Wisbech, both for the elderly and the victims of domestic abuse.

Councillor Tierney also expressed his thanks for the presentation and commented that he knows people who had been assisted by the Bobby Scheme. He expressed the opinion that it is important for people to feel that someone is "on their side" in times of difficulty.

Councillor Oliver suggested that Wisbech Town Council awards the Bobby Scheme a grant of £1,000 in the current financial year and asks the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the allocation of special grants funding from the financial year 2020/21 onwards.

Members decided, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Meekins, that

- (1) the information presented be noted;
- (2) the Bobby Scheme be awarded a grant of £1,000 in the current financial year and that the Policy and Resources Committee be asked to consider the allocation of special grants funding to the Bobby Scheme from the financial year 2020/21 onwards.

69/19 Cameo

Members received a presentation from two representatives of Cameo (Shannon Taylor, Team Leader and Lydia Shreeve, Support Worker), which is an Early Intervention service operated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, on the work of the organisation in supporting and aiding the recovery of people suffering from the early symptoms of psychosis.

Mrs Taylor informed the council that the service is based at Peterborough but covers the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (with the exclusion of the city of Cambridge). Cameo supports people aged between 14 and 35 years of age who are experiencing the symptoms of psychosis for the first time. She described the types of symptoms which a sufferer of psychosis is likely to experience (such as hearing voices, being suspicious of authority, paranoia) and commented that when a person's "stress bucket" becomes full, it leads to psychosis.

The council was informed by Mrs Taylor of the current caseload of the service, the level of staffing resource within the team, what is meant by early intervention and the criteria applying to accessing support from the service. The support operates on an outreach basis; clients can be seen in their own homes or at locations within their local community. Miss Shreeve explained the importance of meeting people in places where they feel safe.

Mrs Taylor explained how the referrals process operates. People are able to self-refer or be referred to the service by a family member or friend; there is no need for referrals to be via a "professional" agency.

Miss Shreeve explained the assessment process. She gave examples of the direct support which can be provided directly by Cameo and the types of support and agencies to which Cameo "signposts" its clients. She commented that attempts by Cameo to hold group sessions in Wisbech had not proved successful; they had attracted very small numbers of attendees.



The council was informed by Miss Shreeve that Cameo is able to assist with medications management, to ensure that sufferers of psychosis are being prescribed the most appropriate medications to address their specific symptoms. Cameo undertakes work to improve social inclusion – including various groups (for walking, cooking, swimming, gym sessions, snooker and other physical activity) - and to help address other issues being faced by its clients (such as drug and alcohol dependency). The team members at Cameo are also able to assist with tackling the benefits “challenges” which are faced by some of the team’s clients, as well as providing debt advice.

Mrs Taylor and Miss Shreeve responded to members’ questions.

Councillor Mrs Wallwork expressed the opinion that mental illness is a major issue in the community and she made a plea for members to try to identify the signs of such illness, especially as they are often a person’s “first port of call” when that person is seeking assistance/support.

Councillor Maul expressed his thanks for this presentation and commented that concurs with the comments which had been made by Councillor Mrs Wallwork. He expressed the opinion that it is often difficult for a person to admit to having a problem and also councillors are not qualified to make an assessment as to whether someone needs particular support.

In relation to Councillor Maul’s comments, Miss Shreeve suggested that in cases where a councillor has concerns about a person’s mental health, it may be worth him or her having a conversation with a member of the person’s family.

Members decided that the information presented be noted.

70/19 Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Although no officer of Cambridgeshire Constabulary attended the meeting, the Constabulary had provided to the Clerk, via e-mail, the new Fenland Neighbourhood Policing Team Monthly Review report (minute 4/18 refers) on recent incidents of crime and disorder and other matters in Wisbech and the northern villages in Fenland. The Clerk summarised briefly the report.

The report mentions that the Neighbourhood Policing Team’s priorities over the last month had been:

1. continued work in relation to the recent series of burglaries in Wisbech
2. continuing to tackle anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

The report mentions that the Neighbourhood Policing team had been assisting the burglary team in connection with the recent series of burglaries in Wisbech. Officers had reviewed the offences to ensure that any trends were identified for a quick response. Five arrests had been made and two of those arrested had been sentenced in court for 2 and 3 years respectively; the other three are still under investigation, whereby old offences had been re-opened due to new evidence coming to light.

In addition, there had been on-going work by the local team in relation to the youths who are involved in the anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the town centre. The police are actively seeking interventions against those involved and some Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Parenting Contracts had been issued and are being monitored.

There is also mention in the report that work is currently being undertaken in relation to the highest risk ASB nominal to seek a Criminal Behaviour Order, which would allow the police to apply reasonable conditions to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and provides the power of arrest if breached.



In the report, the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant comments that Wisbech is no longer suffering the level of burglaries that had been the case recently; the number of such incidents has returned to the levels that police have come to expect. The Sergeant mentions also that over the last month PCSOs and Special Constables had been spending one day each week dedicated to undertaking parking patrols; consequently, in excess of 100 tickets had been issued last month in respect of parking matters in the town centre. The Sergeant comments that, although this matter cannot be adopted as a priority, he is committed to maintaining this activity when time and resources allow.

Councillor Tierney commented that he had noticed an increase in the number of police “on the beat” recently, for which he is thankful; this presence has certainly had a positive effect (reducing the level of street drinking and addressing illegal and inconsiderate parking).

Councillor Tierney mentioned that he had received reports from members of the public regarding young people on cycles performing “wheelies” in the town; this is, apparently a national trend, not unique to Wisbech. He mentioned that there had been some near-misses in the town; he expressed the opinion that it is only a matter of time before someone is injured. He asked that the local police develop a plan of action to tackle this issue.

Members decided that the situation be noted and that the comments made and issue raised by Councillor Tierney be referred by the Clerk to the local Policing Inspector.

71/19 Fenland District Council

(1) Information

The Clerk reported that information in respect of CCTV performance, Section 106 Planning Obligations details and the council’s Environment newsletter, had been forwarded, last week by e-mail, to all members of the council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

(2) 11 – 12 High Street, Wisbech

Further to minute 42/19 (2), the Clerk informed members that it had been necessary for the temporary closure of High Street again (commencing today) for further urgent demolition works to be undertaken to 11 – 12 High Street. The road closure, which has been implemented by Cambridgeshire County Council, at the request of Fenland District Council, and is anticipated to be in place for approximately one week, requires vehicles which enter the Market Place area to exit via Market Street.

Councillor Topgood mentioned that, when this temporary road closure had been put in place previously, there had initially been a number of issues relating to traffic management in the Market Place area; Councillors Miss Hoy and Tierney and he and the Clerk had pursued those issues with relevant officers at Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council; consequently, the issues had been addressed. The arrangement which has been put in place on this latest occasion seems to have benefitted from the lessons learned from the previous occasion.

Members decided that the situation be noted.



72/19 Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Miss Hoy, in her capacity as a member of Cambridgeshire County Council, informed members that the Brooke Weston Trust had distributed a press release recently in relation to a proposed new secondary school for Wisbech; she expressed the opinion that the wording of the press release could potentially be read as suggesting that there would, in future, be two secondary schools in Wisbech in addition to the Thomas Clarkson Academy; that is not the case; there would only be two in total. In addition, she mentioned that the new Free School would be funded by the Government and not by the County Council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

73/19 Motion to Council – Audio recording and publishing of Wisbech Town Council meetings

Councillor Patrick proposed the following Motion to Council:

“That meetings of the full Town Council be recorded on an audio device and subsequently posted on the Wisbech Town Council website”.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Meekins.

Councillor Human made the point that the recording of meetings by anyone is permitted under the provisions of the Local Government and Accountability Act 2014 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations and, therefore, he could see no reason why Wisbech Town Council would need to audio record its meetings.

In response to the comments of Councillor Human, Councillor Patrick expressed the opinion that the audio recording of meetings would provide the public with more detail of what happens at meetings; minutes of meetings provide only a summary of the meeting. He commented that he is aware that a number of other councils record, for the benefit of the public, their meetings.

Councillor Miss Hoy commented that she knows the reason for Councillor Patrick’s proposal; it relates to the content of the Leader’s Report that she gave at the last meeting. She reiterated the point that had been made by Councillor Human with regard to the public’s rights to record council meetings. Councillor Miss Hoy stated that she is unaware of any other councils locally which audio record their meetings.

Councillor Miss Hoy made the point that putting in place arrangements for audio of recording of meetings would incur the council in costs for purchasing both recording equipment and additional website capacity; costs which she considers to be unnecessary. She expressed the opinion that the Clerk produces high quality and accurate minutes of meetings, which are sufficient to show the matters which had been considered by the council and the decisions reached.

Councillor Tierney commented that this matter had been considered previously by the council. He expressed the opinion that the majority of people would not be interested in listening to audio recordings of meetings of Wisbech Town Council; also, he is of the opinion that such a measure would have Data Protection/GDPR issues. He mentioned that Fenland District Council does not record its meetings; he questioned why the Town Council would wish to record its meetings if the District Council does not.

Councillor Tierney expressed the opinion that it is not worth spending money and time on pursuing this matter. He expressed the opinion that the Clerk produces very accurate minutes of meetings, including enough information to inform the public of the issues discussed by the Town Council and



the decisions reached as a result. If members of the public wish to hear each councillors' comments at meetings, they have the option to attend the meetings.

Councillor Maul suggested that the council may wish to investigate the cost of introducing audio recordings of meetings before reaching a decision on the matter. He commented that he shares Councillor Tierney's concerns regarding the potential Data Protection/GDPR issues.

In response to Councillor Maul's comments, Councillor Miss Hoy stated that she has no issues with regard to obtaining quotations but the council does currently possess a sufficient level of staffing resource to pursue such a matter at this time.

Members decided, on a majority of 11 votes to 2, that the Motion be not supported.

74/19 Town Council ICT equipment

Members considered upgrading the council's current ICT equipment (including the allocation of budgetary provision), as an aid to ensuring efficient and effective service provision.

The Clerk informed members that the council's current ICT provision is old and in need of "bringing up-to-date". The council's three PCs and one laptop run slowly, are using dated operating systems and are prone to occasional operational failure.

Councillor Tierney mentioned that he had witnessed during a recent a meeting in the Clerk's office the need for the council to upgrade its ICT equipment. He expressed his surprise that the council's staff are able to work so efficiently with the current ICT equipment and he stressed the importance of ensuring that staff are provided with the "correct tools for the job". To that end, he had produced, following appropriate investigations/research, a package of new ICT equipment for the council, which he explained in summary to members. He estimated that the cost would be no more than £2,500; possibly no more than £1,800.

Members decided, unanimously, on the proposal of Councillor Meekins, seconded by Councillor Rackley, that the council would purchase new ICT equipment and that a sum of £2,500 be allocated for such purchases.

75/19 Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19 August 2019

Members decided, on the proposal of Councillor Balsevics, seconded by Councillor Oliver, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 19 August 2019 be confirmed and signed.

76/19 Minutes of Committees

Members received, for information, the minutes of committee meetings held since the last meeting of the Town Council, as follows:

- (1) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 19 August 2019
- (2) Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee – 2 September 2019
- (3) Wisbech Market Place Management Committee – 2 September 2019.

Members decided that the contents of these minutes, including the decisions made by the committees, be noted.



77/19 Mayor's Report

The Mayor informed members that August had been a relatively "quiet" month for civic engagements but in September, he had already attended 15 events; he commented that all of these events had been both successful and enjoyable.

The Mayor commented that the most enjoyable event had been the presentation lunch for the Wisbech in Bloom awards. He is pleased that, once again, Wisbech had received a number of Gold awards. He expressed his disappointment at the coverage which had been provided by the Wisbech Standard newspaper in relation to this success.

The Mayor mentioned that he would be making presentations at the council's Allotments awards on the evening of 26 September 2019 and he encouraged other members of the council to attend the event.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending events which he had been unable to attend.

Members decided that the information reported by the Mayor be noted.

78/19 Leader of the Council's report

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Miss Hoy, commented that, given that each of the council's Committee Chairmen would be providing an update at minute 80/19 on the work of their respective committees, she would be providing only a very brief update on certain matters.

Councillor Miss Hoy informed members that one of the issues being considered by the Wisbech 2020 Steering Group is arrangements for the next Wisbech 2020 Summit. On this occasion, the event would be more community-focussed than has been the case in the past. Instead of it being a formal event, generally attended by members and officers of public organisations, it would be delivered as a community event - with family fun activities, entertainment, food and drink - but showcasing what is happening in the town as a result of the Wisbech 2020 Vision. The proposed date and venue are 7 December 2019 (the day before the Wisbech Christmas Fayre) and the Queen Mary Centre.

The Leader of the Council reminded members that she had mentioned at the last meeting of the Town Council that the Clerk would be meeting again with representatives of the Wisbech Branch of the Royal British Legion to have further discussions regarding the arrangements for this year's Remembrance Day event (on 10 November). The aim of the meetings has been to "refresh" the arrangements in a way which will "modernise" the event, whilst, at the same time, maintain the act of remembering those who had given their lives for this country. The principle change from what had happened in previous years is for the Civic Party to "inspect the troops" prior to the service at the war memorial, rather than after the church service which follows the service at the war memorial.

Members were informed by Councillor Miss Hoy that the Wisbech International Food Day event, which had taken place at the Queen Mary Centre on 14 September 2019 - which had been supported by the council through grant aid (allocated by the Policy and Resources Committee) and in-kind (through the Clerk being a member of the organising group and helping-out on the day) - was very successful, with more than 220 attendees.



Councillor Miss Hoy commented that the opening of the Statute Fair, which had taken place last Wednesday, had, once again, been very successful. There had been a good “turn out” of councillors and she stated that she does not think that she had seen it busier on an opening night.

Members were informed by the Leader of the Council that members would be receiving, at the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council – on 21 October 2019 – a report on the Growing Fenland initiative insofar as it affects Wisbech.

Members decided that the comments of the Leader of the Council be noted.

79/19 Questions to the Leader of the Council

In accordance with minute 127/16, Councillor Maul asked a question of the Leader of the Council regarding the current situation relating to Community Speed Watch activity in Wisbech.

Councillor Maul commented that he had been trying, since June of this year, to achieve Community Speed Watch activity in the Waterlees ward of the town. He mentioned that he had been told, when trying to pursue such activity, that the council’s speed monitoring device is not being used currently as it is need of some repair work; he asked whether the Leader of the Council could inform him of the latest situation. He also enquired as to the possibility of additional people being trained in the use of the device.

In addition, Councillor Maul asked whether the County Council, as Local Highway Authority (LHA), had agreed locations where the council’s mobile “flashing” speed sign could be utilised.

Councillor Miss Hoy, the Leader of the Council, responded to Councillor Maul’s questions. She confirmed that the council’s speed monitoring device which is used for Community Speed Watch activity is currently in need of some repair works and that locations for utilising the flashing” speed sign still need to be agreed with the LHA. She mentioned that it is possible to borrow Community Speed Watch equipment from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, which has an officer who delivers the necessary training.

Members decided that the questions asked and the responses given be noted and that a Speed Watch Working Group, membership to be agreed at the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council, be appointed.

80/19 Quarterly reports to Council by Committee Chairmen

In accordance with minute 114/17, members received reports, in turn, from the council’s Committee Chairmen on matters pertaining to the work of those committee, as follows:

Policy and Resources Committee

Councillor Oliver, the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, informed members that, through its meetings on 8 April and 8 July 2019 meeting, the Policy and Resources Committee had allocated the majority of its Small Grants and Special Grants budgets for the financial year 2019/20, to support the work which is undertaken by various community groups and charitable organisations for the benefit of the local community. As part of that decision-making, an invitation had been extended to the Bobby Scheme to make the presentation which members had received earlier this evening (at minute 68/19); as a result, members had decide to award a grant of £1,000 for the current financial year.

Members were informed by Councillor Oliver that the Policy and Resources Committee continues to monitor the council’s budgetary situation - all was well at the end of Quarter 1 - and at the



committee's next meeting, scheduled for 7 October 2019, it would be examining the Quarter 2 (half-year) position with regard to income and expenditure in 2019/20.

It is anticipated that the committee would also be considering at its 7 October meeting the report of the External Auditor (which should be published by 30 September 2019) in relation to the council's accounts for the financial year 2018/19. The committee would also be asked, at that meeting, to appoint an Internal Auditor for the council's 2019/20 accounts.

Councillor Oliver informed members that, at its meeting scheduled for 25 November 2019, the committee would have initial discussions in relation budget-setting for the financial year 2020/21; it would then produce a draft 2020/21 budget at its January 2020 meeting, for recommendation to full Council later that month.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee be noted.

Staffing Committee

Councillor Mrs Wallwork, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee, informed members that, the Staffing Committee only meets on a "when necessary" basis. The most recent meeting of the committee had taken place on 10 June 2019, for the purpose of producing a new staffing structure, to operate with effect from 1 June 2019) in the light of the resignation of the holder of the post of Operations Manager (minute S3/19 refers).

Members were reminded by Councillor Mrs Wallwork that the committee had decided, in summary, at minute S3/19, that

- (1) the post of Operations Manager would be deleted from the Council's staffing structure;
- (2) the post of Administrator and Civics Officer would be re-designed to a post of Administrative Services and Civics Officer (no change in weekly working hours);
- (3) the post of Assets Supervisor would be re-designed to a post of Operations and Assets Officer (increased from 20 to 30 hours per week);
- (4) the weekly working hours of the Clerk (and Responsible Financial Officer) would be increased from 25 to 32;
- (5) the financial savings identified as a result of the revised staffing structure would be made available for use in the event of needing to "buy-in", on an occasional basis, resource (such as Locum cover, specific research, project management assistance) and/or the creation of an additional part-time post (or posts);
- (6) the situation would be kept under review for a period of three months, for the Clerk to assess whether the new staffing arrangement provides to be efficient and effective in terms of the necessary service delivery.

Councillor Mrs Wallwork commented that one of the matters which had been included in the post of Operations Manager but not included in any of the three re-designed posts was "to be responsible for maintenance and development of the Council's on-line presence; including website (in liaison with the provider), and social media accounts". This is a matter to be considered further by councillors in due course.

Members were informed by Councillor Mrs Wallwork that, in accordance with part (6) of the committee's decision, the Clerk and she met on 4 September 2019 to undertake a review of the staffing situation following three months of operation. As a result of that review, she and the Clerk had concluded that, in general, the new arrangement was working well. Consequently, she had intended to propose that the arrangement be reviewed again after a further three months of operation. However, on 12 September 2019 the council's Operations and Assets Officer resigned



from her post. Given both the resignation of the Operations and Assets Officer and the outstanding issue of how to address the council's "communications" functions, the Leader of the Council, the Clerk and her are discussing further possible revisions to the staffing structure; as soon as draft proposals are produced, they will be referred to a meeting of the Staffing Committee (to be convened).

Councillor Mrs Wallwork mentioned also that the Clerk continues to look for relevant training and learning opportunities for the council's staff, so that they remain best placed to deliver efficient and effective service for both the council and the local community.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman of the Staffing Committee be noted.

Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee

Councillor Prest, the Chairman of the Planning and Community Infrastructure Committee, informed members that he had nothing to report to them at this time.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

Wisbech Market Place Management Committee

Councillor Lynn, the Chairman of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee, informed members that the Clerk and he had sought, in accordance with the committee's decision (at minute M9/19), additional quotations in relation to the new "lids" for the electrical installations on the Market Place; however, the original contractor has now informed him that the first lid would be ready for installation within the next four weeks. A quotation for the associated electrical works has now been received.

Members were informed by Councillor Lynn that the Leader of the Council, the Clerk and he would be meeting with two representatives of the Local Highway Authority on 30 September 2019 to discuss the Town Council's proposed traffic management proposals; also, a meeting with officers of the Local Planning Authority has been arranged for 10 October 2019, with the aim of "moving forward" with an enhancement scheme for the Market Place. The Chairman commented that he is hopeful of a positive outcome from both meetings.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman of the Wisbech Market Place Management Committee be noted.

Community Events and Festivals Committee

Councillor Miss Hoy, the Chairman of the Community Events and Festivals Committee, informed members that the council had already delivered a number of community events and festivals so far this year; the next event would be a Halloween Fun Day at Wisbech Castle on 2 November 2019.

Members were informed that some initial planning had begun in relation to the Christmas lights switch-on event (on 24 November on the Market Place) and that more detailed planning is about to commence.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman of the Community Events and Festivals Committee be noted.



Wisbech Castle Management Committee

Councillor Tierney, the Chairman of the Wisbech Castle Management Committee, informed members that Wisbech Castle is open to the public at least two days each week and is attracting a good number of visitors. The number of room bookings for private events had increased over recent months and the Castle and its garden had been used for five consecutive days (Monday to Friday) in July as part of this year's Wisbech Reads Festival.

Members were informed by Councillor Tierney that Wisbech Castle is used as the base for the Wisbech Words project and is receiving a number of bookings from groups which deliver paranormal experiences. He mentioned that the British Black Bee Conservation Project had begun.

Councillor Tierney mentioned that volunteers continue to undertake maintenance and improvements works to the property and the garden is being maintained well; some works to trees are required.

Members were reminded by Councillor Tierney that the Halloween event which had been held last year had sold-out and he informed them that, based upon the level of ticket sales so far, it is anticipated that the event which has been arranged for this year would achieve the same level of success.

Councillor Tierney commented that Wisbech Castle is generating an income for the council and, because of the time and effort devoted by volunteers, its operational costs are being kept to a minimum. He expressed the opinion that Wisbech Castle is now a valuable asset for the town.

Members decided that the information reported by the Chairman of the Wisbech Castle Management Committee be noted.

Assets Management Committee

There was no report from the Chairman of the committee, due to his absence from the meeting, in respect of the recent work of the Assets Management Committee.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

81/19 Correspondence

The Clerk informed members that there are currently no such items in need of reporting to council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

82/19 Notice board/information update

The Clerk informed members that there are currently no such items in need of reporting to council.

Members decided that the situation be noted.

83/19 Date of next meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of Wisbech Town Council is scheduled for 21 October 2019 at 7.30 pm, at the offices of Wisbech Town Council.



Meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

Signed

Date

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