

Held in the Council Chamber

Thursday 7th October 2021 at 7.00pm

Present:	Cllrs J. Lovell (Mayor), M. Alexander, S. Evans, M. Hayes-Powell, D. Hill, P. Lawless, M. Leach (Deputy Mayor), Y. Olney, K. Robertson, J. Stanforth & L. Tarbox
In Attendance:	Mr R. Austen (Town Clerk), Mr M. Reynolds (Accountant), PCSO M. Diprose & Mr J. Pick (TVP), Ms C. Taylor & Mr A. Pearn-Rowe (EWVA), Mr D. Treder (Resident) & Messrs D. Lewandowski, S. Jagdev, N. Sotial & G. Sotial (part)
Apologies:	Cllrs M. Blightman & N. Howarth, Cllrs. S. Rayner & J. Bowden (RBWM), Dr R. Rivaz & Ms L. Bryant (ECA)

CM 5693 Welcome

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. The Covid-19 precautions in place in the Council Chamber had been circulated.

CM 5694 Apologies

The apologies noted above were recorded.

CM 5695 Finance

1. The Mayor presented the September monthly schedule of payments which had been circulated to Members ahead of the meeting. There being no questions, it was proposed by Cllr Tarbox and seconded by Cllr Hill that the schedule be approved, and this was agreed unanimously.
2. Mr Reynolds presented the September accounts to the meeting. There had been overspends due to unbudgeted expenditure on the ASB measures but expenditure otherwise was in line with budget. It was proposed by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Olney that the accounts be approved and this was agreed unanimously.
3. Expenditure of £390.00 with My Handyman for renovating the bus shelter at Eton Wick was considered. This expenditure could come from Eton Wick Section 106 funds (Community Facilities) still held. There was the possibility of a contribution from RBWM towards this expenditure, TBC. It was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Olney that this expenditure be approved and was agreed unanimously. **Action: Town Clerk**
4. Expenditure of £1,000.00 to Eton Wick Fireworks Association for the 2021 display was ratified. This was the amount set in the 2021/22 budget. **Action: Town Clerk**
5. Expenditure of £1,990.00 plus VAT to EWVA for the Christmas lights was ratified. The amount set in the 2021/22 budget was £2,500.00. **Action: Town Clerk**
6. Expenditure of £500.00 plus VAT with Greentouch Ltd for pruning trees on Haywards Mead Recreation Ground alongside Princes Close was considered. This expenditure would come from the Trees Maintenance & Sustainability budget. It was proposed by Cllr Tarbox and seconded by Cllr Hill that this expenditure be approved and was agreed unanimously. **Action: Town Clerk**

CM 5696 Public Forum

Mr David Treder shared his views on the proposal to return the benches to Windsor & Eton Bridge and the transcript of his presentation follows:

Later this evening, this Council is to take a vote on returning the benches to Windsor and Eton Bridge.

I am surprised their return requires a vote. It ought to be taken for granted.

Let us remember that there was one and only one reason the benches were removed with no consultation. It was to allow people to socially distance when crossing the bridge and slow the progress of the COVID pandemic.

When social distancing is no longer required in such settings (and it isn't now) the benches should be reinstated. There should be no argument about this. It would simply return to the status quo.

We accepted a number of unacceptable things to slow the progress of COVID. To assume that any such things can now be made permanent without full consultation would be a breach of the trust that people have placed with those that govern us.

If there are arguments to dispense with the benches, let us hear them in context with the benefits they bring – to our older folk who miss being able to sit down in a pleasant spot when returning from Windsor with shopping; to our valuable tourists who used to sit there and eat their packed lunches, to those of us – like me – that simply like to get out of the house and sit in the sun watching the river traffic.

I am aware there is an argument against returning benches based on segregating pedestrians and cyclists.

But let's also remember the bridge is a part of the national cycle network and if we are to act on segregating cyclists let's do it as a joined-up action rather than a knee jerk response looking at just one element of the picture. We might even come to the view the benches are desirable to create a chicane in which to slow bridge cyclists.

To conflate the reinstatement of the benches with other issues (cycling, ASB, scooters etc) and leave the bridge bare without any proper consultation with the people of Eton would be disingenuous.

I trust and hope this Council will come to the right conclusion this evening.

The Mayor thanked Mr Treder for his presentation and pointed out that the issue had arisen following comments expressed at a recent meeting with RBWM to discuss the Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

CM 5697 RBWM Councillors' Issues

The report from Cllr Rayner had been circulated to Members and there were no questions.

CM 5698 Thames Valley Police Liaison

PCSO Melita Diprose provided the September crime figures. There was very little crime to report:

- Windows damaged in High street, Eton
- Vehicle damaged in Eton

It was expected that crime will increase as we come into Winter.

PCSO Diprose covers Eton Wick once a month.

Mr Pick stressed the importance of reporting every incident to TVP to ensure that Eton and Eton Wick is given attention. Other points highlighted as follows:

- Details of the TVP Local Neighbourhood Team were made available.
- Mr Pick is organising local community meetings and one is planned for Eton Wick. It was suggested that a meeting could be held in the Council Chamber for Eton residents.
- Instances of new keyless car theft on the rise.
- A medical pack for use by the elderly was shown, which includes medical and personal information.
- Logging onto unsavoury websites can result in blackmail so do not be tempted.

The issue of drones over Eton Wick was brought up by the Mayor. PC Bullett was in charge of this at TVP. The Mayor read out the email received from Windsor Racecourse which indicated that drones would be banned from flying within a 1.5 nautical mile radius around Windsor Castle, although Mr Treder pointed out that Eton Wick was outside of this circle.

CM 5699 ECA & EWVA/EWWG Liaison.

- **ECA**

The report from ECA had been circulated to Members ahead of the meeting and there were no questions.

- **EWVA/EWWG**

Ms Taylor had attended an on-line meeting organised by Thames Water which proposed an underground pipeline from Slough Treatment Works to the River Thames. There will be community meetings to explain the proposal.

The next EWVA public meeting will be on 20.10.21.

CM 5700 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Town Council

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2021 had been circulated to Members, and with no changes required Cllr Hill proposed and Cllr Tarbox seconded that they be approved as a correct record. This was agreed unanimously.

CM 5701 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Town Clerk Actions:

- **CM 5678 Finance**
 - 1) Progress purchase of Stockdales welcome sign with Elementary Signs Ltd. **Actioned**
 - 2) Progress rent for football pitches from participating clubs **Actioned**
- **CM 5686 Correspondence**
 - 1) Progress drone situation with TVP. **Actioned**
 - 2) Progress situation with bi-laws ref drone flying. **Actioned**
- **CM 5669 Other Organisations**
 1. Advise Sue Milne of Baldwins Bridge Trust that Cllr Leach is the new ETC rep. **Actioned**

ETC Members' Actions:

- **CM 5678 Finance**
 - 1) Cllr Leach to progress the 'Meet Your Councillor' frame. **Actioned**
 - 2) EW members to consider ways to allocate EW CIL funds. **Actioned**
- **CM 5685 Reports from Committees**
 - 1) Cllrs Alexander & Hayes-Powell to investigate the potential for ETC to adopt the public hard/slipway. **Pending**
- **CM 5688 Development Control**
 - 1) Cllr Leach to progress a meeting with Lewandowski Architects ref 109 High Street. **Actioned**
- **CM 5690 Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces**
 - 1) The Mayor to investigate the entry point for the horse and cart on Stockdales. **Actioned**
 - 2) Cllr Olney to follow up grass cutting need on footpath 3. **Actioned**

RBWM Members' Actions:

- 1) Cllr Rayner to investigate what has happened to the Cockpit stocks. Town Clerk will send out reminder to Cllr Rayner. **Action: Town Clerk**

Cllr Hayes-Powell outlined what she believed was the current status regarding ownership of the Cockpit. The Town Clerk was directed to write to Victoria Goldberg for an update. **Action: Town Clerk**

CM 5702 Reports from Committees

- **Standing Committee Meeting on 22.9.21**

The report of this meeting had been circulated to Members.

- **Financial Regulations:** It was proposed by Cllr Olney and seconded by Cllr Alexander that the updated Financial Regulations be approved. This was agreed unanimously.
- **Risk Register:** It was proposed by Cllr Olney and seconded by Cllr Alexander that the updated ETC Risk Register be approved. This was agreed unanimously.

- **Planning Committee Meeting on 24.9.21 to discuss 109 High Street Planning Application**

Cllr Leach gave a brief overview of this meeting which had included the applicants and Mr Dan Lewandowski, the Architect. A report of this meeting had been circulated to Members.

Concerns had been expressed over the trend towards converting properties from retail/commercial to residential which was contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan.

This matter would be dealt with further under Item CM 5705 Development Control.

- **Environment Committee Meeting on 28.9.21**

The report of this meeting had been circulated to Members.

- 1) **RBWM Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:** a report had been circulated to Members.
- 2) **Drone Activity:** this matter had been covered earlier in CM 5698 TVP Liaison.
- 3) **Windsor & Eton Bridge Benches:** the following motion was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by the Mayor:

'This council approves the reinstatement of the benches on Windsor & Eton Bridge when RBWM considers it is completely safe to do so and if RBWM requests ETC's opinion.'

Cllr Evans made the following points in support of the motion:

- The benches were removed by RBWM due to the Covid-19 situation and now that this danger was reduced, the benches should be reinstated.
- The matter is Currently being assessed by RBWM Highways who are organising a structural survey.
- The elderly, tourists and local residents all use the benches and they are much appreciated.

Cllr Hill supported the motion and stressed the importance of the benches for the elderly when walking back from shopping in Windsor.

Cllr Hayes-Powell read out a statement from the residents of Windsor Bridge Court who are concerned about the impact of the benches with nighttime activity across the bridge. Late closing of nightclubs in Windsor causes much noise and ASB from young people returning to Slough and the absence of benches has reduced this impact. There are plenty of benches in other locations close to the bridge on the Windsor side that tourists can use. There is a need to wait until Covid-19 poses no risk; there is a duty of care to keep local residents safe. A risk assessment needs to be made.

Cllr Evans commented that the absence of benches will not stop the noise and ASB.

Cllr Olney agreed that ASB will occur regardless of the benches. TVP should deal with this when it happens.

Cllr Leach advised that Covid-19 still poses a risk. During the lockdown, numbers of cyclists across the bridge increased.

Cllr Hayes-Powell pointed out that ETC had funded ECA for the ASB programme and believed that the benches encourage late night revellers to hang around on the bridge.

Cllr Alexander recommended that should the benches be reinstated, a change of design could improve matters.

The Mayor asked for a vote and the motion was carried with a 6:3 majority. There were 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried. The Town Clerk will advise RBWM of this decision as and when ETC is consulted.

Action: Town Clerk

Cllr Evans advised that Chris Wheeler was the RBWM Highways officer dealing with this issue .

CM 5703 Correspondence

Items of correspondence received during September 2021 had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and there were no questions.

CM 5704 Website & Social Media/YouTube

The September 2021 website report from Cllr Blightman had been circulated to Members ahead of the meeting and there were no questions.

Cllr Stanforth advised the meeting that discussions were taking place in the IT Task & Finish Group regarding the management of the website and mailboxes.

Cllr Stanforth requested items from Members for the ETC facebook page.

CM 5705 Development Control – Town Council Consultation

The following planning applications had been received and circulated during September 2021 and ETC responses were invited. Cllr Stanforth declared an interest in all Eton College applications.

Application 21/02631/CONDIT: Eton College, Slough Road, Eton, Eton	No Comment
Application 21/02613/LBC: Land to the rear of Ballards House, Eton College, Eton	No Comment
Application 21/02612/FULL: Land to the rear of Ballards House, Eton College, Eton	No Comment
Application 21/02533/CONDIT: Eton College, Slough Road, Eton	Cllr Blightman is requested to provide further information. Action: Cllr Blightman
Application 21/02527/TCA: Eton Bank Court, Tangier Lane, Eton	No Comment

Eton College: Cllr Alexander requested the Town Clerk to chase up Ian Mellor regarding plans for public consultations on the proposed new Eton College boarding house.
Action: Town Clerk

109 High Street Planning Application: The Mayor invited Mr Lewandowski to speak:

- The application is retaining retail usage, unlike some previous developments in the High Street, namely Golden Flower restaurant.
- Flooding concerns are being addressed by RBWM.
- Retail will continue with rear car parking.
- There is a kitchen fitting company ready to move in to use the premises as a showroom, however if this does not materialise, the owner will use the retail space for his own commercial lettings business.
- With this assurance, there should be no need to call the application in.

Questions were sought from members and the following responses were provided by Mr Lewandowski:

The kitchen fitting company would occupy the whole of the front retail space.

The shop would be able to trade during the building works.

The retail frontage would be fully used and there would be no dividing wall.

Cllr Leach questioned whether the kitchen fitting company had been to see the building and how committed were they to moving in? What guarantees are there?

Cllr Alexandra emphasised the value of a Planning Panel which would focus officers' minds on the detail and would include the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Evans considered the risks associated with panels; if the application is refused and the applicant goes to appeal, then ETC and RBWM loses control of the process.

Cllr Alexander proposed the following motion: 'This Council allows the Windsor Planning Panel to determine the outcome of the 109 High Street planning application'. This was seconded by Cllr Leach and a vote was taken which resulted in 10:1 in favour of the motion.

The motion was therefore carried.

Mr Lewandowski and Messrs Jagdev, Sotial and Sotial were thanked for their attendance and their contribution to the discussion.

CM 5706 Other Organisations

The following reports were received from the nominated Members:

1. **Baldwins Bridge Trust:** Cllr Tarbox (in Cllr Bishop's absence) advised that a meeting was held on 14.9.21 and all was well.
2. **Eton Wick Football & Social Club:** Cllr Lawless advised that all was OK and business is picking up at the Club post-Covid. There is a need for new committee members.
3. **Eton Poors Estate:** Cllr Hill reported that a meeting was held on 4.10.21. The lack of attendance at the Charteris lunch club in Eton Wick was a concern; this might well be due to on-going Covid concerns. The club is now being held once a week instead of the previous 2. There are currently no attendees from Eton although lunches provided by Eton College kitchen might be impacting this.

A grant of £1,000.00 had been set aside for Christmas boxes.

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should approach Olivier Pickard, the pharmacist at Eton, to be the replacement ETC representative for George Fussey. **Action: Town Clerk**

CM 5707 Recreation Ground & Open Spaces Reports

The following reports were received from the nominated Members:

- 1) **Stockdales Recreation Ground:** Cllr Lawless reported that all was well. Only one problem was highlighted in the recent playground inspection
- 2) **Haywards Mead Recreation Ground:** The Mayor reported that all was well.
- 3) **South Meadow Lane Recreation Ground:** Cllr Hill reported that all was well with the recreation ground and the play area.
- 4) **Bell Lane Open Area:** Cllr Robertson advised that a date for the official opening of the bridge was awaited.

The Mayor advised that a memorial tree was being planned for a resident of Eton Wick and this is being progressed with Ms Taylor.

- 5) **Jubilee Square & Waterman's Arms:** Cllr Hayes-Powell reported that all was well. There have been instances of dog fouling at the Windsor & Eton Bridge/Brocas Street junction, and there is a need to identify the miscreant.
- 6) **Barnes Pool & Baldwins Shore:** The Town Clerk reported from a recent meeting of the Barnes Pool Group that there was good progress being made with Eton College with the western side.

- 7) **Allotments:** Cllr Olney advised that contact had been made with Brenda Richardson, the Chair of the Society, and she hoped to be able to attend the AGM on 13.10.21.

CM 5708 Windsor & Eton Facelift Project 2022

A report on the project had been circulated to Members.

It was understood that no RBWM funding was being made available; Cllr Leach indicated that the Windsor & Eton Society was progressing the initiative and are seeking contributions from sponsors and local businesses. One idea was to encourage purple and white window displays.

It was agreed that ETC should await contact from Susy Shearer of the Society.

Cllr Stanforth agreed to approach Eton College for support.

Action: Cllr Stanforth

CM 5709 Electric Charging Points Proposal

A report from the COM Group had been circulated to Members.

The proposal is to install 2 charging points in Eton and 2 in Eton Wick in the car parks.

Cllr Alexander pointed out that the spaces should be additional ones and not using existing ones.

It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with RBWM to further the proposal.

Action: Town Clerk

CM 5710 Minor Matters & Items to be Included in Future Agendas

- 1) CIL – The Mayor outlined the 5 most popular choices from Eton Wick councillors for spending Eton Wick CIL funds:
 - Village clock
 - Disabled parking outside shops
 - Grass verges cut more regularly
 - Install benches by the Boveney watercourse on Haywards Mead Recreation Ground
 - New Christmas lights

Subsequent to the meeting, Cllrs Tarbox and Howarth agreed to progress quotes for the various projects.

Action: Cllrs Tarbox & Howarth

Cllr Leach will ask for ideas from Eton Councillors, whilst recognising that the bulk of Eton CIL funds were already committed elsewhere.

- 2) The Town Clerk reminded Members to reply to him with any issues they have with RBWM, as per the request from Claire Shaw of RBWM.
- 3) The Town Clerk reminded Members about the offer of RBWM training on the Code of Conduct.
- 4) The issue of reinstating double yellow lines outside Wiggington House was discussed and it was agreed that this should take place. The Town Clerk will follow up. **Action: Town Clerk**
- 5) Cllr Evans advised Members of coffee mornings at Eton Wick Church Hall on Wednesday mornings. On the 4th Wednesday of the month a lunch will be served.
- 6) Bunces Close is not listed on councillors' responsibilities and Cllr Leach requests a volunteer to step forward. **Action: Eton Wick Members**

CM 5711 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 4th November 2021 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

The Meeting concluded at 9.15 and was followed by a Part 2 session.