

Eton Town Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Held in the Youth Club Meeting Room, Eton Wick

Thursday 7th July 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs J. Lovell (Mayor), M. Alexander, S. Evans, M. Hayes-Powell, N. Howarth, P. Lawless, M. Leach, A. Maciver, Y. Olney, & L. Tarbox

In Attendance: Mr R. Austen (Town Clerk), Mr M. Reynolds (Accountant), Cllr S. Rayner (RBWM), Mr J. Pick (TVP), Ms H. Branscombe-Davies (EWVA) & Ms L. Regazzacci (EWWG)

Apologies: Cllrs M. Blightman, D. Hill, K. Robertson & J. Stanforth, J. Bowden (RBWM), Dr R. Rivaz (ECA) & Ms C. Taylor (EWVA)

CM 5861 Welcome

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and advised those that wished to should wear their face masks.

Cllr Angus Maciver was introduced and warmly welcomed by all Members.

CM 5862 Apologies

The apologies listed above were recorded.

CM 5863 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

Cllrs Alexander, Evans, Hayes-Powell & Leach regarding planning application 22/01620.

Cllrs Leach & Tarbox regarding planning application 22/01738.

CM 5864 Confirmation of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the ETC Meeting held on 9th June 2022 had been circulated to Members and with no alterations requested, Cllr Tarbox proposed and Cllr Evans seconded that they be filed as a true record of that meeting and this was agreed unanimously.

CM 5865 Matters Arising

Town Clerk Actions:

CM 5847 Finance:

1. Expenditure of £800 with Eton Gardening Services (David Gorton) for cutting back undergrowth alongside Eton Wick Road in Eton Wick (as specified by Cllr Tarbox) was considered. Cllr Alexander proposed and Cllr Olney seconded that this expenditure be approved and this was agreed unanimously. Funding from CIL.

The Town Clerk was directed to write to RBWM pointing out that this work is really their responsibility. ETC is taking this action as a one-off exercise and RBWM should include a follow up maintenance plan in their annual groundwork contract. The invoice from David Gorton to be included.

Actioned

2. The proposed expenditure on reprofiling the front entry ramp for disabled access to Eton Wick Football & Social Club (held over from May ETC meeting) was discussed. The Club has decided to change the access ramp to the side of the building and before agreeing to contribute to this, the Town Clerk was directed to write and obtain the specification of the ramp and the door to reassure Members that the work conforms to disabled access legislation. **Actioned**

CM 5849 Vacancy on Eton Town Council:

The Town Clerk had circulated Members regarding the proposed co-option of Angus Maciver to the vacant position on the Council, following the resignation of Derek Bishop. The Deputy Mayor explained the background and confirmed that Mr Maciver was considered to be an excellent choice in the view of the interviewing panel of Eton Ward members, Cllrs Lovell, Leach, Hill and Hayes-Powell. It was proposed by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Hayes-Powell that the appointment of Mr Maciver be confirmed, and this was agreed unanimously. The Town Clerk will write to Mr Maciver and RBWM accordingly. **Actioned**

CM 5841 TVP:

Attendance at Meetings: Mr Pick would be included on the circulation list for future ETC meetings. **Actioned**

CM 5857 Other Organisations:

Eton Wick Allotment Society: Cllr Olney had attended the Society AGM and will be attending the next committee meeting on 13.7.22. There may be opportunities for ETC to support the Society and Cllr Olney would be looking at ways this can be achieved, for example a community orchard, buying a rotavator so that the elderly can take on an allotment etc. The Society has expressed interest in extending their lease with ETC and Members will review this as and when a formal request has been received from the Society. In the meantime, the Town Clerk would check on the ETC lease with RBWM. **Actioned**

CM 5858 Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces:

Bell Lane Open Area: Cllr Tarbox had reported a fallen tree by the entrance to the Common. The Town Clerk will write to Eton College as it is believed it is on their ground. **Actioned**

Members' Actions:

CM 5853 Reports from Committees & Working Groups:

Council Offices Team:

Cllr Alexander will check the Council Offices lease to determine whether hiring out the Council Chamber for commercial purposes is permitted. **Pending**

CM 5866 Finance

1. The Town Clerk presented the June monthly schedule of payments to the Meeting and there being no questions, Cllr Leach proposed and Cllr Hayes-Powell seconded that the schedule be approved and this was agreed unanimously.
2. Mr Reynolds presented the June monthly and YTD accounts to the Meeting. There was an over-spend for the month which was due to the unbudgeted expenditure on the Jubilee mugs. There being no questions, Cllr Olney proposed and Cllr Tarbox seconded that the accounts be approved and this was agreed unanimously.
3. Expenditure of £1,000.00 to Eton Wick Fireworks Association for the 2022 display was considered. This is budgeted in the Eton Wick Community Events column, and it was proposed by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Howarth that the expenditure be approved, and this was agreed unanimously. **Action: Town Clerk**

4. A quotation for £4,975.00 plus VAT from Adamson Construction Ltd for installing a disabled ramp to the side entrance of the Eton Wick Football & Social Club was considered (this followed the request made at the June ETC meeting for a detailed specification). Members highlighted the following issues:

- Cllr Tarbox considered that there is an additional need to fit a new door, which has Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) approval, as this is the main fire exit (double) doors from the Club. It is though not our position to make judgements on this and any re-configuration of the fire exit/disabled ramp would need approval from the FPO.
- There was general agreement that a ramp at the front entrance was the best solution as the side entrance is within the smokers' area. The Town Clerk was directed to write to Adamson Construction Ltd to suggest that they contact RBWM for approval to build a new ramp at that location as the first option. If this fails, then the side entrance ramp would be reconsidered.

Action: Town Clerk

CM 5867 Public Forum

There had been no requests received from members of the public.

CM 5868 RBWM Councillors' issues

Cllr Rayner reported on the following:

- 1) The Braywick Leisure Centre had won an award and it was the Borough's intention to bring all its leisure centres up to that standard.
- 2) A pop-up library had been introduced into Sunningdale which was jointly funded by Sunningdale Parish Council. This may be followed by another in Horton.

Cllr Leach questioned whether a pop-up library could be introduced into Eton, utilising an empty shop? Cllr Rayner responded that this may be possible as a partnership with RBWM, with ETC providing the staff and facility and RBWM providing the books.

- 3) The cost of living crisis is being addressed by RBWM by the following initiatives:
 - Advice provided on the RBWM website.
 - The World Café programme, which will eventually include all parishes, to offer information and advice to local residents. The Café's is staffed by RBWM officers and support agencies and is effectively a one-stop shop. Cllr Lawless is progressing this for ETC.
- 4) The Queen's Jubilee celebrations were highly successful throughout the Borough, including Eton and Eton Wick.
- 5) The Windsor Partnership Board has highlighted the need for better information available for the disabled and this will bring benefits to both Windsor and Eton.
- 6) The rejuvenation of Windsor Yard Shopping Centre is a major proposed development and public engagements have been organised on 7.7.22 and 9.7.22 in Windsor. Cllr Maciver attended the 7.7.22 event and confirmed that it had been well supported. The Town Clerk was directed to request a visit by Duncan Flynn to the next ETC meeting on 1.9.22. **Action: Town Clerk**
- 7) The proposed re-opening of the Eton Wick Sports Hall was warmly welcomed.
- 8) RBWM finances are much improved and there was a £2.35m underspend in 2021/22 financial year. There is £8.75m in reserves which will help in supporting the likely budget gap of £4.85m in the financial year 2023/24 as a result of increased social care needs. Borough Councils are capped on their precepts and so RBWM will need to operate more efficiently in order to balance the books.
- 9) The Windsor Tourist Office has re-opened, now operating from Wednesday to Sunday.

Cllr Hayes-Powell asked what is happening with the homeless on the streets in Eton and Windsor? Cllr Rayner responded that RBWM offers help and support but not everyone on the streets wants it. There are many issues involved including alcohol and drug dependency. The Windsor Homeless Project also helps where it can.

Mr Pick of TVP confirmed the difficulties that TVP faces with the homeless, with so many different issues involved.

Ms Regazzacci questioned whether the threshold for free school transport could be raised in the light of the current cost of living crisis. Cllr Rayner responded that very few parents pay full price and it was suggested that Ms Regazzacci communicate directly with Cllr Rayner on the subject.

Cllr Hayes-Powell expressed ETC appreciation to RBWM for the signage by the Bridge for drivers to turn engines off when stationary.

The Mayor expressed thanks to Cllr Rayner for her attendance.

CM 5869 Thames Valley Police (TVP) Liaison

The Crime Report from Mr Pick had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and Mr Pick highlighted the following points:

- 1) Crime in Eton and Eton Wick is very low when compared to other areas.
- 2) It is essential that all incidences are reported as TVP support on the ground is dependant on the number of incidents reported. Ring 101.
- 3) An updated TVP Neighbourhood Team list was distributed. A replacement for Inspector Darrah has not yet been appointed.
- 4) It is recommended that councillors get to know the PCSO's.

The Mayor thanked Mr Pick for his attendance.

CM 5870 Eton Community Association (ECA) & Eton Wick Village Association (EWVA & EWWG)

- **EWWG:**

The report from EWWG had been circulated to Members ahead of the meeting and Ms Regazzacci was thanked for this excellent document. Ms Regazzacci highlighted the following points:

- 1) The maintenance work being undertaken by Maydencroft Ltd was of a high standard but more time was needed to complete the task than originally envisaged.
- 2) The cost of future maintenance will need to be borne by the various riparian owners, including ETC.
- 3) There are significant problems with mink intrusion and many young birds are being killed.
- 4) The Cain Report is awaited which will address the issues of localised flooding in both Eton and Eton Wick.
- 5) The pipeline project is still on the drawing board as it will be needed for future storms and flooding relief. Thames Water will need to conform to Environment Agency standards regarding effluent and flow.

The Mayor expressed ETC appreciation to Ms Regazzacci for all her endeavours and for her attendance at the Meeting.

- **ECA**

The report from ECA had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and in the absence of Dr Rivaz and Ms Bryant, Cllr Leach highlighted the following:

- 1) The jet-washing on the Bridge had been very effective but it will need regular attention in the future.
- 2) The Cockpit development was only two weeks from being re-started.
- 3) Works to 89/90 High Street were underway.
- 4) An estate agency is looking at the vacant 104/105 High Street premises, and another estate agency is looking at 61 High Street.
- 5) Work to 53 High Street is scheduled to re-start soon.

- **EWVA**

The report from Ms Branscombe-Davies had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and the following points were highlighted:

- 1) The Shepherds Hut development would be included on the agenda of the EWVA meeting on 20.7.22. Cllr Tarbox advised that the application will hopefully be attended to at the RBWM Panel in August.
- 2) Thames Water will be attending the meeting on 20.7.22.

The Mayor thanked Ms Branscombe-Davies for her report.

CM 5871 Reports from Committees & Working Groups

1. Standing Committee

The Committee met on 28.6.22 and notes of that meeting had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting. The following points were raised:

- 1) Cllr Hayes-Powell had attended the Scribe webinar on 'Generating Revenue from your Facilities' and felt confident about the future prospects. Particular points of note were the need to use google maps and social media. Ms Branscombe-Davies also suggested the use of good 360 degree photographs in the marketing. Any estate agent could assist with this.
- 2) The ETC Royal Protocol – Operation London Bridge document had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and it was agreed that Cllr Maciver would join Cllr Hill as the team responsible for managing the process.

2. Environment Committee

The Committee met on 28.6.22 and notes of that meeting had been circulated to Members prior to the Meeting. The following points were raised:

- 1) The Eton Community Emergency Plan had been circulated to Members ahead of the Meeting and it was proposed by Cllr Tarbox and seconded by Cllr Lawless that this plan be ratified, and this was agreed unanimously.
- 2) The proposed Car Boot Sale at Haywards Mead was not now going ahead and a Street Safari would be held instead.

3. Facilities Management Working Group

The Town Clerk updated the Meeting on progress with the various teams:

1) South Meadow Lane (SML) Pavilion Working Group

Cllr Leach advised the Meeting that he had arranged for John Wood of the FA to meet with Paul Mitchell of WFCY to agree on what facilities are needed at the pavilion. Once this has been established and the FA is in agreement, the outcome will be directed to Philip Tilbury to prepare revised plans.

2) Council Offices Team:

Cllr Leach advised that he had contacted a decorator to provide a quotation for the rearrangement of the Council Offices, including redecoration and new furniture required.

It was established that ETC is responsible for all internal work to the Offices.

A meeting of the Facilities Management Working Group will be arranged in the next days to progress the various initiatives. **Action: Cllr Leach**

3) ETC Sports Hall & Meeting Room Team:

The Mayor advised that the future use of the Meeting Room would be dependant on the outcome of talks with EWHV trustees, who are awaiting confirmation from RBWM of their position.

Enquiries for the use of the Sports Hall have been coming in and the future looks very positive.

Cllr Hayes-Powell is working on hiring rates.

4) IT & Social Media Working Group:

In the absence of Cllrs Stanforth and Blightman, the Mayor confirmed that we are awaiting confirmation from Jas regarding her future plans with ETC.

CM 5872 Correspondence

The list of correspondence received during June 2022 had been circulated to Members and there were no questions.

CM 5873 Website

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

CM 5874 Development Management – Town Council Consultation

The following planning applications had been received in June:

RECEIVED	NUMBER	DATED	TYPE	ADDRESS	RESPONSE	COMMENTS
ETON						
16.6.22	22/01620	15.6.22	VARIATION	97 HIGH STREET	14.7.22	NO OBJECTION
24.6.22	22/01700/01	23.6.22	FULL/LBC	127/128 HIGH STREET	22.7.22	

NO OBJECTION BUT CONCERNS ABOUT CROWDED AREA; A NEED TO REVIEW THE DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE WORKS DO NOT CAUSE EXCESSIVE INCONVENIENCE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES & RESIDENTS.

30.6.22	22/01738	28.6.22	FULL	24 TANGIER LANE	28.7.22	NO OBJECTION
1.7.22	22/01642	30.6.22	TREES	6 TURKS HEAD COURT	29.7.22	NO OBJECTION

ETON WICK

15.6.22	22/01580	10.6.22	FULL	51 ETON WICK ROAD	13.7.22	NO OBJECTION
21.6.22	22/01647	17.6.22	FULL	2 CORNWALL CLOSE	19.7.22	NO OBJECTION
29.6.22	22/01734	28.6.22	VARIATION	49 VICTORIA ROAD	27.7.22	NO OBJECTION

Cllr Alexander raised concerns that some planning applications are not being sent to ETC and quoted 22/00959/FP as an example. The Town Clerk will follow up with RBWM.

Action: Town Clerk

CM 5875 Other Organisations

The following reports were received from the nominated Members:

- Baldwins Bridge Trust:** Cllr Tarbox advised that a new trustee was being interviewed. Two grants had been awarded to Eton Wick School.
- Eton Wick Football & Social Club:** Cllr Lawless informed the Meeting that the AGM was scheduled for 11.7.22. The issue of staffing arrangements would be raised then.
- Eton Poors Estate:** In the absence of Cllr Hill, Cllr Olney advised that the next meeting would be in October.
- Eton Wick Allotment Society:** Cllr Olney reported that the next meeting will be held on 13.7.22 and she will report back on that meeting.
- EWVG:** Cllr Howarth informed the Meeting that the matters had already been discussed in the EWVG report earlier.

CM 5876 Recreation Ground & Open Spaces Reports

- Stockdales Recreation Ground:** Cllr Lawless advised that all was well.
- Bell Lane Open Area:** In the absence of Cllr Robertson, the Town Clerk reported that the plastic containers of oil had been removed. It is understood that Cllr Robertson is in discussion with Mr Lewandowski regarding some issues.
- Haywards Mead Recreation Ground:** The Mayor reported that Cllr Robertson had met with the Football Club and it was established that an under 6/7 group was being formed and wished to use the Recreation Ground. The area to be used would be created from the realigning of the two existing football pitches. It was agreed that ETC would not charge this group for the first season 2022/23 and the situation would be reviewed at the end of that season. This was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Howarth and was agreed unanimously. The Town Clerk will inform the organisers accordingly.

Action: Town Clerk

Ms Branscombe-Davies expressed EWVG concerns over the lack of space in the storage area with the addition of the new goalposts. The Mayor responded that the Football Club was planning to install a gate in the area to the west of the building which it is understood is RBWM land. The Mayor will write to Cllr Rayner to confirm that this is indeed the case, however Cllr Rayner felt it unlikely that there would be any objection.

Action: The Mayor

- South Meadow Lane Recreation Ground:** In the absence of Cllr Hill, Cllr Leach confirmed that that all was well.
- Jubilee Square, Watermans Arms, Public Hard/Slipway & Memorial Garden:** Cllr Hayes-Powell reported that the flower beds, including the new planters on the Bridge, are all looking fine. The draft agreement on the public hard/slipway which the Town Clerk had composed was being considered by Windsor Bridge Court Management Company. Night-time activities were causing annoyance to local residents and these would be reported to TVP. There was concern over the state of the roof of Cotes and she would be following this up with Eton College.

6. **Barnes Pool:** Cllr Leach reported that the east side, which ETC manages on behalf of Eton College and Baldwins Bridge Trust, is looking fine. The west side, which is managed by Eton College, is looking unkempt and the water flow may be a problem. It is understood that Ms Regazzacci is progressing this with Eton College.
7. **Public Rights of Way:** Cllr Olney reported that the footpath alongside the cattle grid in Eton Wick had been cut back, and she would be walking the paths in the next month to check on their condition.

CM 5877 Minor Matters & Items to be included in Future Agendas

- 1) Cllr Leach reported on the profusion of waste bags at the Queen Elizabeth Arch and he would write to RBWM requesting they contact Yardley to stop them from this practice. **Action: Cllr Leach**
- 2) Cllr Leach updated the Meeting on the Eton Trade Waste initiative and he was arranging a meeting with Grundons.

CM 5878 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber.

The Meeting concluded at 9.20pm.