

PARISH OF GODALMING

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

OF THE PARISH OF GODALMING HELD VIA ZOOM

ON THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM

- * Town Mayor (Cllr PMA Rivers)
- * Deputy Town Mayor (Cllr Steel)

* Councillor P Martin	* Councillor Stubbs
* Councillor Cosser	* Councillor PS Rivers
* Councillor Welland	* Councillor Follows
* Councillor Adam	* Councillor Ashworth
* Councillor Boyle	* Councillor Crooks
0 Councillor Duce	* Councillor Heagin
* Councillor Hullah	* Councillor Neill
* Councillor Purvis	0 Councillor Rosoman
* Councillor Wardell	* Councillor Williams

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

The Mayor preceded the meeting by informing Members of mayoral activities since the previous meeting and requested that her vote of thanks to Godalming Town Council staff, for their hard work and dedication, be recorded and the Mayor's personal thanks to everyone in our community who has provided help and assistance to others.

289. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 September 2020 were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

290. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and recorded as above.

291. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members made no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda for this meeting, which is required to be disclosed by the Localism Act 2011 and the Godalming Members' Code of Conduct.

292. PETITIONS/STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No petitions/statements/questions had been received from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order No 5.

293. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions from Councillors were submitted in accordance with Standing Order 6.

294. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, LETTERS, ETC

There were none.

295. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The reports of the following Committees setting out decisions taken pursuant to delegated powers were RECEIVED:

Mayoralty Committee

Members received Mayoralty Committee's report during confidential session.

Policy & Management Committee

Re-adoption of GTC Policies

Members received Policy & Management Committee's recommendations for the adoption of the policies listed below:

Information Data Protection Policy
Privacy Notice General
Privacy Notice – Staff, Councillors and Volunteers
Document Retention Policy
Subject Access Policy
Removable Media Policy

Communications Policy

Environment & Policy

No recommendations for Full Council

296. RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The reports of the following committees setting out decisions taken pursuant to delegated powers were RECEIVED:

	Meetings Dated
Environment & Planning	8 October 2020
	29 October 2020
	19 November 2020
	10 December 2020
Mayoralty Committee	10 December 2020
Policy & Management Committee	29 October 2020

297. GODALMING JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE – REPORT

Members noted the report of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee of its proceedings on the 12 November 2020.

298. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Meetings for the Local Government year 2021/22.

299. REVISED ESTIMATES 2020/21 AND DRAFT BUDGET 2021/22

The Mayor invited Cllr Follows, Leader of the Council, to present a budget proposal on behalf of the administration. The proposal set a precept requirement of £769,225 for 2021/22, which represented a Band D increase of £6.76 per annum (8.89%). Cllr Follows recommended the proposal to Members.

In response Cllr Cosser, seconded by Cllr Martin proposed an amendment to the budget proposal. The proposed amendment is shown below:

That the budget proposals for 2021/22 be amended to reduce the recommended precept requirement for 2021/22 to £743,725, which represents a 4.58% increase in cash terms and a Band D increase of £4.01 per property per annum. The reductions to be achieved:-

- a) a reduction in the proposed grants budget from £70,000 to £60,000;
- b) the removal of £8,500 included in the draft budget for the provision for a 3% uplift in salaries in the next financial year in light of the Government decision to freeze public sector salaries;
- c) a reduction in the proposed civic expenses budget of £7,000. This to be achieved in large part by a decision not to proceed with a civic reception at the end of this civic year and to transfer that saving (estimated at £6,300) to the financial year 2021/22 thereby enabling the savings to be used to reduce the precept. The remainder of the savings to be achieved by a reduction in the payment provision for Waverley Council Chamber which can be expected to reduce next year as a result of some meetings being held in the Council's new offices and some remote meetings.

Following the debate on the proposed amendment a recorded vote was called on the amendment proposal. The proposed amendment was not carried.

The recorded vote on the proposed amendment is shown below:

Against	Councillor PMA Rivers – Town Mayor		
Against	Councillor Adam	Against	Councillor Ashworth
Against	Councillor Boyle	For	Councillor Cosser
Against	Councillor Crooks	Against	Councillor Follows
Against	Councillor Heagin	Against	Councillor Hullah
For	Councillor Martin	Against	Councillor Neill
Against	Councillor Purvis	Against	Councillor PS Rivers
Against	Councillor Steel	Against	Councillor Stubbs
Against	Councillor Wardell	For	Councillor Welland
Against	Councillor Williams		

The Mayor called for a recorded vote on the substantive Motion and requested Members indicate their vote for the proposal's recommendations.

Members resolved to agree to approve:

- a) the revised estimates for the financial year 2020/21;
- b) the budget for the financial year 2021/22;
- c) a precept requirement of £769,225 for the financial year 2021/22, which represents a Band D increase of £6.76 per annum (8.89%).

The recorded vote is shown below:

For	Councillor PMA Rivers – Town Mayor		
For	Councillor Adam	For	Councillor Ashworth
For	Councillor Boyle	Against	Councillor Cosser
For	Councillor Crooks	For	Councillor Follows
For	Councillor Heagin	For	Councillor Hullah
Against	Councillor Martin	For	Councillor Neill
For	Councillor Purvis	For	Councillor PS Rivers
For	Councillor Steel	For	Councillor Stubbs
For	Councillor Wardell	Against	Councillor Welland
For	Councillor Williams		

Additionally, Members noted the budget forecast projections for period 2022/23 & 2023/24.

300. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS, ETC.

The following resolution was passed nem con.

THAT THE TOWN CLERK BE AUTHORISED TO SIGN OR WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO HAVE SEALED ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ANY ORDERS, DEEDS OR DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO ANY OF THE MATTERS CONTAINED IN THE REPORTS RECEIVED AT THIS MEETING OR IN ANY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.

301. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Full Council meeting is scheduled to be held via Zoom on Thursday, 1 April 2020 at 7.30pm or at the conclusion of the preceding Environment & Planning Committee, whichever is later.

302. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS FROM THE MEETING AT THIS POINT PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED.

303. REPORT OF THE MAYORALTY COMMITTEE

Members received the recommendations of the Mayoralty Committee for nominations to the position of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2021/22.

Members were delighted to accept the following nominations for consideration at the Annual Council to be held on 13 May 2021.

Nominee for Town Mayor – Councillor Michael Steel
 Nominee for Deputy Town Mayor – Councillor Shirley Wardell.

304. AUTHORISATION FOR WRITE-OFF

Members resolved to authorise the RFO to write off invoices WN2737, BW4668, WN2777, BW4686 and WN2806 totalling the amount of £277.20 in accordance with Financial Regulation 1.13 and the Council's Credit Control Process.

305. THE SQUARE

Members considered a confidential report from the Town Clerk relating to proposed amendments to the Class of Use categories of The Square. Following debate, Members resolved to approve that:

1. Officers be authorised to negotiate amendments to the Head Lease to provide use of The Square, 7-11 High Street, Godalming GU7 1AZ, within Class E, Class F1 and Class C3 (apart from ground floor of the existing building) of the Use Classes Order as amended on 1 September 2020.
2. Terms of negotiations to be caveated as set out in paragraph 3 of the confidential report.