

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT BURNTWOOD LIBRARY, SANKEYS CORNER
ON THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2012 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor Drinkwater (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs Banevicius, Bradbury, Mrs Brettell, Brown, Campbell, Constable, Mrs Evans, Mrs Fisher, Humphreys, Isaacs, James, Mosson, Norman, Mrs Stokes, Taylor, Mrs Tranter, Willis-Croft and Mrs Woodward (from 7.45 pm)

In attendance

Mrs M Danby, Town Clerk

N Turner, LDC Director of Leisure, Parks and Play

P Watson, LDC General Manager/Sports Development Manager, Burntwood Leisure Centre

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Paul Watson (General Manager/Sports Development Manager, Burntwood Leisure Centre) and Neil Turner (LDC Director of Leisure, Parks and Play) had requested an opportunity to address the Town Council on events celebrating the Olympic Torch relay passing through Lichfield City on Saturday 30 June 2012 and to explore how Burntwood might get involved in some way.

The District Council had set up a Steering Group made up of an array of officers with various skills ranging from Insurance through to Health and Safety, etc. Neil Turner is the Project Director and Paul Watson had been appointed as the Project Manager and will be responsible for overseeing a plethora of staged activities that will take place in the city after the torch has passed.

Messrs Turner and Watson answered Members queries and agreed to liaise with the Town Clerk with regard to:

- The cost of using the Community Transport Service to transport people from Burntwood and return so that they might participate on the day.
- Confirm the availability, location and size of space that could be available for the Town Council to have a stall on the day.

PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Councillor Taylor.

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Heath and Walker MBE.

Members were informed that Councillor Heath's wife was recently out of hospital and that Councillor Heath was caring for her at home. They were also informed that

Councillor Walker MBE was in hospital. **AGREED** That Get Well cards be sent to Mrs Heath and Councillor Walker MBE wishing them a speedy recovery.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

94. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 November 2011 (Minute Nos. 73 - 89) be approved and noted.

95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Councillor Drinkwater read a thank you card from the RBL Burntwood & District Branch for the purchase and flying of the 11/11/11/11 flag and the Council's continuing support for the Branch.
- Councillor Drinkwater informed Members that an invitation had been received giving the Council the opportunity to tour the new Staffordshire Place offices in Stafford. Interested Members were requested to contact the Town Clerk so that a mutually convenient date/time could be agreed with Staffordshire Places.
- Councillor Drinkwater reminded the Council that some Members had still to respond to the invitations to the Chairman's Charity Evening and the Civic Service and urged them to confirm to the Town Council's office whether they would be attending as soon as possible. He also encouraged Members to donate raffle prizes for both events, such prizes should be taken to the Town Council office.

96. PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Applications Committee held on 10 November 2011 (Minute Nos. 46 – 50); 30 November 2011 (Minute No. 51), 22 December 2011 (Minute Nos. 52 – 57) and 12 January 2012 (Minute Nos. 58 – 63) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

97. JACKS WOOD, CHASETOWN – S.106 PROJECT

RESOLVED That the Notes of a Meeting held on 02 December 2011 between Members and LDC's Leisure Projects Officer with regard to a proposed project to improve the entrance into Jacks Wood using s.106 funds be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

98. BURIAL GROUNDS SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Burial Grounds Sub-Committee held on 05 January 2012 (Minute Nos. 10 – 18) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

99. BEST VALUE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Best Value Committee held on 05 January 2012 (Minute Nos. 10 – 15) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

100. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of a Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 16 January 2012 (Minute Nos. 12 – 16) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

101. BURNTWOOD TOWN STRATEGY WORKING GROUPS

RESOLVED That the Notes of a Meeting of the Burntwood Town Strategy Working Groups held on 12 January 2012 (Note Nos. 1 and 2) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

102. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None raised.

103. LOCALISM ACT 2011

Members were advised that the Localism Bill received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011 and was now known as the Localism Act 2011. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had produced a short Briefing Paper and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published "A Plain English Guide to the Localism Act" – both these documents had previously been provided to Members.

The Act increases the powers of local councils and local groups. A key power is the "general power of competence" which will apply to "eligible" town and parish councils and give them power to do anything which is not specifically prohibited by law (local councils currently can only lawfully undertake activities for which they have specific legal powers granted to them). The definition of what will constitute an "eligible council" was likely to be defined by a Statutory Instrument some time during 2012.

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

104. JOINT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) SUMMIT: STRICTLY LOCALISM

BIRMINGHAM – 22 MARCH 2012

Delegate fee: £40 (plus VAT) plus travel expenses

Members were advised that the joint LGA and NALC Summit would explore the new challenges and opportunities arising from the Localism Act, Open Public Services White Paper and other national regulation such as the National Planning Policy Framework and new powers enabling local councils to deliver more for their communities.

RESOLVED That Councillor Drinkwater represent the Council at the above Summit at a cost of £40 plus VAT and travel expenses.

105. CONSULTATION REGARDING PROPOSED RENAMING OF A STREET UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 AT POOL ROAD, BROWNHILLS (CHASEWATER)

Members were advised that Lichfield District Council had been requested by residents to consider renaming the road currently known as Pool Road to a suggested name of Pool Lane.

Difficulties had been encountered since the road had been split by a previous new road development. As a result it had been reported by some residents that deliveries and HGV vehicles were entering the southern half of Pool Road where it joins the A5 seeking to access all the way through to residential properties at the Highfields and Chasetown end of Pool Road and vice versa.

RESOLVED That the Town Council had no objection to the proposed name change, as set out above.

106. HM QUEEN ELIZABETH DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012

Members were requested to consider whether arrangements should be put into place for an event to celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and, if in the affirmative, whether a small Committee should be formed to report back to the March 2012 Town Council meeting on proposals that could be progressed.

RESOLVED THAT:

- The 2012 Burntwood Wakes Festival be the main focus of the Town Council's Jubilee celebrations and be renamed "Burntwood Jubilee Festival".
- A Sub-Committee be formed from the Burntwood Wakes Committee to consider proposals for consideration and approval at the March 2012 Town Council meeting.

107. QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL STATUS – RE-ACCREDITATION

Members were reminded that the Town Council had been awarded Quality Town Council status in June 2008 – such status being valid for four years and that an application for re-accreditation must be submitted together with the appropriate evidence.

The re-accreditation criterion which must be met had been expanded and the Town Council must now provide proof that it had adopted and implemented the following:

107.1 Local Code of Conduct

The Town Council was requested to confirm its adoption of the Local Code of Conduct including para. 12(2) as part of the evidence requirement for Quality Council status re-accreditation.

The Town Council had adopted the Local Code of Conduct on 17 May 2007 and at that time agreed not to adopt para. 12(2), the text of which reads:

“(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting (including a meeting of the overview and scrutiny committee of your authority or of a sub-committee of such a committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.”

RESOLVED That the Local Code of Conduct adopt and implement para. 12(2), subject to an explanatory paragraph being inserted in the document, with immediate effect.

107.2 Training and Development Policy

RESOLVED That the Training and Development Policy be adopted and implemented with immediate effect.

107.3 Community Engagement Strategy

RESOLVED That the Community Engagement Strategy be adopted and implemented with immediate effect.

108. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN 01 DECEMBER 2011 - 16 JANUARY 2012 INCLUSIVE

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Payments totalling £89,316.53 made during the period 01 December 2011 - 16 January 2012 inclusive be received and noted.

109. PROPOSED 2012/13 BUDGET, INCLUDING 2011/12 YEAR END FORECAST

RESOLVED THAT:

- The 2012/13 Budget be received and approved.
- The reports on (i) Comments on difference from the original 2011/12 Budget and (ii) Comments on the proposed 2012/13 Budget be received and noted.
- The sum of £6,000 be earmarked in the Council’s Reserves annually with effect from 01 April 2012 to save for the 2015 Local Election expenses.

110. 2012/13 PRECEPT ON LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

RESOLVED That Burntwood Town Council serve a 2012/13 Precept Demand upon Lichfield District Council in the amount of £256,142.

111. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

(SUMMARY OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL SESSION)

112. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 November 2011 (Minute Nos. 90 – 91) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

113. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 16 January 2012 (Minute Nos. 17 – 18) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

(The Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.)

Signed

Date