

## UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2021 IN THE ALAN DEAN SUITE, UTTOXETER TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7.00PM AND THERE WERE PRESENT:

#### Chair and Town Mayor – Councillor C Sylvester

Councillors: M Crutchley, T Crutchley, D Goodfellow, R Hawkins, H Headech (Vice-Chair and Deputy Mayor), K Hudson, P Hudson, Z Krupski, N Lowe, L Sylvester, M A Trenerly.  
Officer in attendance – T Jeffery, Town Clerk/RFO

Non Council Members - Murray MacGregor and Mark Docherty, West Midlands Ambulance Service  
It was noted that three Members of the Public and one Member of the Press were in attendance.

#### 1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair provided a brief on the provisions of the Filming of Meetings as in accordance with "The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014" and he briefed Councillors and members of the public on the use of emergency exits from the Alan Dean Suite to the fire point located outside Wilkos in the event of a fire.

It was noted that as Resolved by Council at its Extraordinary Meeting held on 27 July 2021 that *"going forward, all Town Councillors be Granted a Dispensation and Standing Order No. 3(i) be suspended, to permit any Member of the Town Council to remain seated when speaking if they so wished to."*

#### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(a) The Clerk reported that approved apologies had been received from Councillors P Lancaster, K Smith and M Williams. She reported receipt of Borough Councillor McGarry's apologies.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and approved for Town Councillor apologies.

(b) The Clerk reported the names of Councillors absent from the meeting and their apologies had not been received: Councillors M Lloyd-Ewer

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

(c) Approval for Maternity Absence - Council gave consideration to a request received from Councillor K Smith who was requesting Maternity Leave from 4 October 2021 for a minimum period of 26 weeks for Ordinary Maternity Leave and up to 26 weeks Additional Maternity Leave.

RESOLVED that Council accepted and approved Councillor K Smith's request for a minimum period of 26 weeks Ordinary Maternity Leave and up to 26 weeks Additional Maternity Leave with effect from 4 October 2021, with congratulations.

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Standing Order 3(e-h), the meeting be adjourned for up to 15 minutes to allow for public participation where members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they were entitled to attend in respect of the business on the Agenda.

The Mayor welcomed members of the public to the meeting and he reported that one member of the public wished to address Council with respect to Item No. 14 - West Midlands Ambulance and First Responder Service. The Mayor welcomed the Member of the Public to address Council accordingly.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

The Member of the public expressed her thanks for the opportunity to speak to Council and she reported that she wished to address Council with respect to Item No. 14 West Midlands Ambulance and First Responder Service.

*She reported that “on 21 July 2021 at approximately 2.45am my husbands’ heart suddenly sped to an alarming rate. He was having chest pains and also pains down his arm. I rang 999 but could not get through. An automated message stated that the service was in high demand. Eventually I spoke to someone who said that they had sent for an ambulance and to ring back if he deteriorated which he was doing all the time. I called a further six times and advised that we were desperate as my husband was gasping for breath. They stated that they could not even tell me when an ambulance would be available to attend. I was very frightened and thought that I could lose him. I was glad that as a Christian I could pray as that was literally all I had; my husbands’ life was in God’s hands as I had no help from anywhere. Two hours later the ambulance arrived. They took him straight to resus. His heart rate was 200 beats per minute. They struggled for a while to get him stable. He remained in hospital for 8 days.”*

*She reported that “I am aware that there are First Responders in Abbots Bromley and Rocester but this is too far away for an emergency in Uttoxeter. Our town is large and expanding rapidly. Also we have no hospital here and have to travel at least half an hour to the nearest one. Time is of the essence in an emergency as you know. I was told by yourselves (The Ambulance Service) that the decision to removed ambulance services from Uttoxeter was for purely operational reasons and not to do with budget. Unfortunately, things may look good on paper but in reality, lives in our town are being traded against so called good ideas. In the past this town has been served well by paramedics and ambulances. We had an excellent community paramedic called Neil Phillips years ago, he was amazing and saved countless lives. We seem to have gone backwards instead of forwards. The situation at the moment is dire, and I have been hearing of more people who are being faced with terrible problems because of the lack of medical help quickly enough. Sad to say that people in this town are in grave danger if faced with a medical emergency. Having been through this myself, I would not want anyone else to have to go through the same. I plead with you on behalf of Uttoxeter residents to try and help resolve some of these issues. Thank you.”*

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for addressing Council and reported that Council would consider this matter under Item No. 14.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting, and which was not included in the register of interests. Members were reminded that they were required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they had a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest was entered in the register of members’ interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor D Goodfellow declared an interest in Item Nos. 18 and 27(a)

Councillor P Hudson declared an interest in Item No. 29(a)-(c)

Councillor K Hudson declared an interest in Item No. 29(a)-(c)

Councillor Z Krupski declared an interest in Item No. 20

Councillor N Lowe declared an interest in Item Nos. 29(a)-(c)

Councillor C Sylvester declared an interest in Item No. 27(a)

**5. DISPENSATION PROCEDURE**

To consider and approve dispensation requests as in accordance with Standing Order 13(d), that all Dispensation requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Clerk as soon as possible before the meeting, or failing that, at the start of the meeting for which the Dispensation was required. Council would decide whether to grant the dispensation at the relevant meeting. Unless Council grant the relevant delegated power to Committee; it was Council that decided whether to grant the dispensation.

None received.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**6. MINUTES**

- (a) The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 September 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

It was noted that Councillor Goodfellow abstained from the above mentioned vote.

- (b) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Uttoxeter in Bloom Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Uttoxeter in Bloom Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix A.

- (c) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Footpaths Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Footpaths Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix B.

- (d) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix C.

It was noted that Councillor Goodfellow abstained from the above mentioned vote.

- (e) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix D.

- (f) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Town Hall Entertainments Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix E.

- (g) Council gave consideration to the Recommendations of the Working Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2021.

RESOLVED that the Recommendations of the Working Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2021 be approved and ordered to form part of the minutes attached hereto as Appendix F.

**7. ACCOUNTS**

- (a) Consideration was given to the list of accounts submitted for payment in the sum of £29,442.97.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts as above be accepted and approved, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be authorised to sign it.

- (b) Council gave consideration to the monthly summaries of the Council's income and invoices issued for September 2021.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**8. BANK BALANCES**

At 12 October 2021 the bank balances stood at:

RBS Current Account	£ 9,810.64
RBS Special Interest Account	£366,711.83
RBS General Reserve Fund Account	£100,000.00
RBS Town Mayors' Account	£ 0.00
RBS Deposit Account 32 Carter Street	£ 654.96
RBS 19A High Street Deposit Account	£ 0.00
Barclays Business Deposit Account	£ 85,000.00

It was noted that the balance for the Special Interest Account included the second and final payments of the annual Precept and Support Tax Grant for 2021-22.

**9. UTTOXETER TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR EVENTS ATTENDED REPORT**

(a) The Clerk reported that the Mayor attended the following events since the last meeting:

18 September 2021	Lichfield's Dr Johnson Celebrations
18 September 2021	Globe Foundation Big Green Week Inaugural Gala Dinner.
19 September 2021	Chairman of Staffs Moorlands District Council's Civic Service
20 September 2021	Hosted Uttoxeter's Dr Johnson Celebrations
24 September 2021	Globe Foundation Climate Literacy Training
29 September 2021	Royal British Legion Event at Uttoxeter Golf Course
30 September 2021	Compassionate Communities Meeting
30 September 2021	Fairtrade Meeting
3 October 2021	Cheadle Town Mayor's Civic Service
9 October 2021	Poppy Appeal Afternoon Tea

(b) The Clerk reported that the Deputy Mayor attended the following events since the last meeting:

18 September 2021	Lichfield's Dr Johnson Celebrations as Mayor's Consort
18 September 2021	Globe Foundation Big Green Week Inaugural Gala Dinner.
20 September 2021	Uttoxeter's Dr Johnson Celebrations
29 September 2021	Royal British Legion Event at Uttoxeter Golf Course
29 September 2021	NALC Future of High Streets
30 September 2021	Compassionate Communities Meeting
30 September 2021	Fairtrade Meeting

**10. TO RECEIVE WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF UTTOXETER TOWN COUNCIL**

None received.

**11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

(a) County Councillor P Hudson provided Council with a verbal report on SCC matters arising since the date of the last meeting as follows:

- The new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner position had been ratified and he welcomed Chief Constable Noble to the position.
- He would be discussing local issues over the next few weeks.
- He was working in partnership with all three Council's for the residents of the town.
- Two additional speed indicator devices would be installed shortly within Stafford Road and additional sockets within Highwood Road and Kingfisher Way.
- Currently repeater signs could not be incorporated within Stafford Road however he would continue to provide updates on this matter.
- Local Divisional Highways budget – Funding for an additional set of SID signs and that next year's budget was currently being reviewed.
- Regular meetings have been arranged with the local Police and he had a meeting with the local Police Sergeant later this week.
- The Police had been providing assistance with the unauthorised access within Back Lane. He reported that SCC had long term plans in place for Back Lane.
- Whilst the High Street bollard was out of action, the Police had been providing assistance with the unauthorised use of the High Street.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

- He was hopeful that the High Street bollard would be reinstated shortly.
- He had earmarked funding for railings to be incorporated within Dove Bank as requested by the Council's Footpaths Committee.
- Double yellow lines would be incorporated shortly within Smithfield Road and Stone Road.
- He had visited Oldfields Hall Middle School to discuss building projects that would increase the capacity by an additional 120 students.
- Uttoxeter had the lowest covid cases in Staffordshire.

(b) The Clerk reported that no written Borough Councillor Reports had been received. She reported that Borough Councillor McGarry had again requested it to be reported that should Council have any questions or queries for her, it would be appreciated if these could be given in writing and that she would answer in a timely fashion accordingly.

12. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

None attended.

13. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that since the date of the last meeting and in conjunction with the Mayor, she had received/responded/issued/actioned a number of matters as follows:

- (a) Various daily updates from GOV.UK for: Coronavirus (COVID-19) as forwarded to Members.
- (b) Various SPCA correspondence (Bulletin 9 September, 16 September, 30 September), as forwarded to Members accordingly.
- (c) NALC CEO Bulletin 10 September 2021, as forwarded to Members accordingly.
- (d) Blooming Brilliant News: Issue 17 as forwarded to Members on 8 September 2021.
- (e) Liaised with Mazars on 9 September providing detailed information on the debtors and creditors as at 31 March 2021.
- (f) Attended a meeting with the Mayor and SCC's Registration Service Manager regarding the Registrar Provision for the Town and provided a tour of the facilities at the Town Hall.
- (g) Emailed SCC seeking an urgent update on the reinstatement of the High Street bollard.
- (h) Emails received 10 September 2021 and 13 September 2021 received from 20's Plenty for Staffordshire regarding 'residents like lower speed limits - 20's plenty for Staffordshire', as forwarded to Members and County Councillor Hudson accordingly.
- (i) 10 September 2021 - Liaised with Kiosk Tenant regarding repointing of the Kiosk. Council is informed photos taken and issued to Council's Architect and Midland Conservation. Update included for F&GP Committee on 28 September 2021.
- (j) The Globe Foundation – Newsletter No. 21 - Uttoxeter Big Green Week Is Coming as forwarded to Members on 13 September 2021.
- (k) Received and responded to a number of emails from a local resident regarding car meets on Dovefields Retail Park, anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving. Council is informed that the Clerk has made contact with the local Police and Savills regarding the concerns raised within the email. Council is informed that the Clerk will continue to liaise with the local resident, the Police and Savills on this matter.
- (l) Received a FOI Request dated 11 September 2021 regarding the annual Meynell Hunt Meeting. Council is advised that the Clerk issued a response accordingly.
- (m) Received and responded to a number of emails regarding the anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving within the Town.
- (n) 14 September 2021 - Liaised with Mazars regarding further information on the Council's Annual Return.
- (o) Met with Council's Internal Auditor together with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chair of F&GP to progress discussions on a new receipting system for the Council including debit/credit card payments.
- (p) Received an email from ICCM on 15 September 2021 regarding online training courses, as forwarded to the Office Manager for her information.

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- (q) Received and responded to three emails from First County Monitoring informing Council of a failure poll and non-compliance report for the High Street bollard and confirmation of poll connection completion.
- (r) Received an email dated 15 September 2021 from a Member of the public providing a further update on the Meynell Hunt Meeting and providing clarification that the Town Council is not responsible for organising or granting permission for the event to take place within the town.
- (s) Received an email dated 15 September 2021 from Staffordshire Connects seeking the Town Council to join the Staffordshire Connects signposting site for Staffordshire, as forwarded to Members on 15 September 2021.
- (t) Received an email dated 16 September 2021 from a local Clerk forwarding an email from The Community Foundation for Staffordshire promoting 'We Love Uttoxeter' and advising that funding and support was available from the Community Foundation for grants between £100 and £1,000. The fund covers Uttoxeter, Checkley, Marchington, Gratwich, Bramshall, Kingstone, Rocester, Leigh, Abbots Bromley and Croxden, as forwarded to Members for promotion on 16 September 2021. Council is informed that the Clerk has made contact with The Community Foundation direct to ensure that Council receives the information direct.
- (u) Received an email from SPCA extending an invitation to the Clerk and Councillors to SPCA/SCC Update Webinar on 27 September 6-8pm, as forwarded to Members on 16 September 2021.
- (v) Received an email dated 17 September 2021 received from Support Staffordshire extending an invitation to Members to attend the virtual East Staffordshire VCSE Forum meeting on 23 September 2021, as forwarded to Members accordingly.
- (w) Accounts Health-check and Internal Audit - Council is informed that Rialtas will be in carrying out the Council's 6-month health-check on the Council's Accounting System and Council's Internal Auditor will be carrying out the Interim Internal Audit on 11 November 2021.
- (x) Received ES News - September 2021 email as forwarded to Members on 17 September 2021.
- (y) Received and responded to an email dated 21 September 2021 received from a local resident raising concerns with traffic in Byrds Lane. Council is informed that the resident has been provided with contact details for the Heath Ward Councillors and County Councillor as requested.
- (z) Liaised with County Councillor Hudson, SCC and Contractors with respect to the SID installation and locations.
- (aa) Accepted a quotation for the immediate service of the electronic fly killer situated in the Ballroom kitchen by J C Parker Electrical in the sum of £65 plus vat, as included within the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance budget allocation.
- (bb) Met and accompanied DCH Builders on site tour of the cellar and boiler room in readiness for quoting for the works due to be carried out the cellar.
- (cc) Accompanied Councillor M Crutchley on unpacking and collaborating the two additional SIDS Signs.
- (dd) Submitted Permit to Dig to SCC for 5 no. sockets for the rolling traffic calming programme.
- (ee) Received an email from Kate Griffiths MP with respect to a complaint received from a member of the public regarding parking within the Market Place on outdoor market days.
- (ff) Liaised with the local Police regarding concerns raised by a local resident regarding anti-social behaviour and speeding vehicles in Derby Road/Dovefields Retail Park.
- (gg) Liaised with Council's Solicitor on the outstanding for the allotments and the purchase of the extension to the Cemetery.
- (hh) 4 October 2021 resubmitted Permit to Dig for the additional 5 no. SID sockets for Stafford Road, Highwood Road and Kingfisher Way.
- (ii) 4 October 2021 Received an email from a local resident requesting Council's Markets Committee give consideration to markets/events within the Town, as issued to Council's Office Manager/Admin Assistant for action.
- (jj) 5 October 2021 Received a further email from a local resident seeking details of the duties of the Town Council staff.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

- (kk) Made further contact with St John Ambulance HQ following receipt of their response dated 5 October 2021 to seek further information.
- (ll) Received an email from North Staffs Community Rail Partnership informing Council of the AGM 14 October 2021 at 5pm, as forwarded to Members on 6 October 2021.
- (mm) 6 October 2021 Attended SLCC Staffordshire Branch Meeting and Time Management training for Clerks.

RESOLVED that with respect to 13(a)-(mm), the same be noted and approved.

**14. WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE AND FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE**

As reported to Council on 14 September 2021, Council was informed that West Midlands Ambulance Service Communications Director Murray MacGregor and West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trusts Director of Nursing, Quality and Clinical Commissioning Mark Docherty were in attendance in the meeting to address Council on the Ambulance and First Responder Service for the Town.

As Resolved by Council on 14 September 2021, Council defer the letter dated 6 August 2021 received from The CEO, West Midlands Ambulance Service in response to Council's correspondence for further consideration. Council's instruction was sought.

The Chair reported that the Council recognized how difficult things were in the NHS and the tough decisions which had to be made in the WMAS. He stated that Council and the Town's residents needed to understand the new system, as it appears, Uttoxeter seems to lose out due to being quite a distance from the new Ambulance Hubs and Hospitals. He stated that Uttoxeter was now a large Town which was growing rapidly larger and it had a high portion of nursing homes and independent elderly people within it.

The Chair reported that in advance of the meeting, the Town Council had issued a series of questions to Mr MacGregor to which he had provided a written response as recorded below:

*Q1. Can you confirm that it is the intention of WMAS to work from three hubs, Stoke, Stafford and Lichfield and close the remaining ambulance stations, including Uttoxeter?*

*WMAS Response: Yes*

*Q2. While this may be the most efficient course of action overall, it leaves residents in the Uttoxeter area 30 minutes away from either of the hubs/hospitals for the ambulance to reach them – or 60 minutes or more during rush hour or when there are delays due to accidents or road works. During this time the patient has not crucial life support. Is this acceptable? The overall journey time would be halved if the ambulance were to be based in Uttoxeter and attending cases in and around Uttoxeter or areas to the North and East of the service area.*

*WMAS Response: For the first six months of the year, only 4% of the cases in Uttoxeter were attended to by the ambulance based in the town. In total it went to 1,421 out of the 35,533 in the area (not the town) – the other 34,112 were attended to by ambulances based at one of our hubs. Given we only take about 50% of cases to hospital, in 17,000 cases, there was an ambulance in the area ready to respond to cases, so the idea that they will all have to come from one of the hubs is simply not the case.*

*One thing we do agree on is the need for a fast response to a cardiac arrest. As you point out, the survival rate in the UK for an out of hospital cardiac arrest is just 7%. This is put into stark contrast by the same figure in Denmark being around 25%. The difference: everyone in Denmark has been taught CPR and they are prepared to do it. Thankfully learning CPR is now part of the national curriculum but we need many more adults to learn. The other thing we need is many more public access defibrillators. Currently, when we get called to a Cardiac Arrest, our dispatch system identifies any defib within 200m. That means to get good coverage we need one every 400m in every direction. While there are quite a few defibs in Uttoxeter, we need many more.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

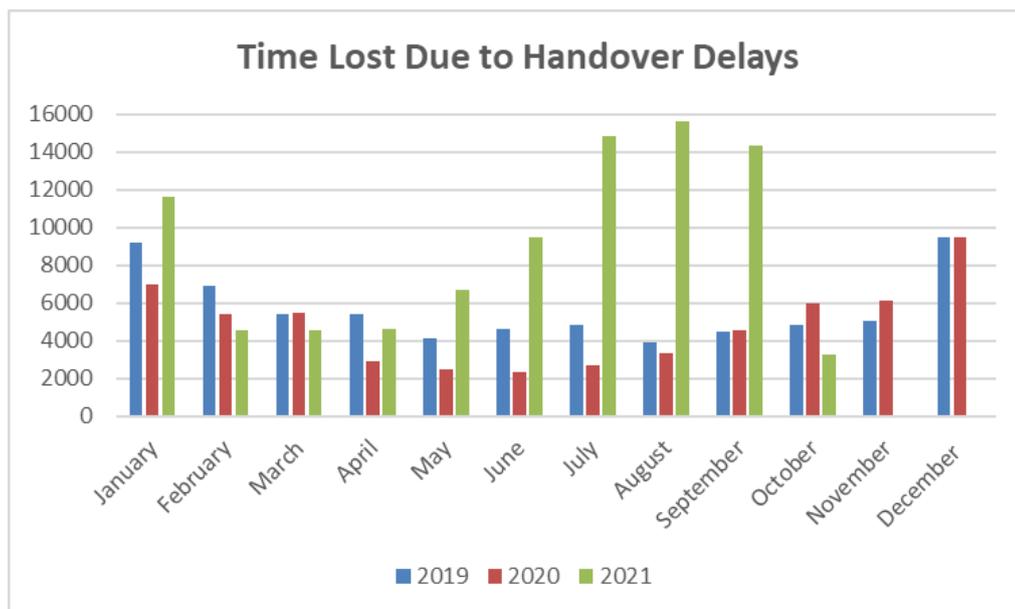
*As you will also know, the data shows that for every minute after a cardiac arrest, your chance of survival drops by 10%. Given you only have an 80% chance of survival to start with, even if an ambulance arrives within seven minutes (the national target for half of Category 1 calls), and no-one has been doing CPR, you only have a 10% chance of survival. What this means is that while the ambulance service undoubtedly has a part to play in improving cardiac survival, the people of Uttoxeter have a much larger part to play in saving lives.*

*Q3. We know of one case where a resident had to wait 2 hours for an ambulance to arrive when her husband had a suspected heart attack and another case where a lady passed out in the park and had to wait almost an hour for an ambulance to arrive. In neither case did a First Responder attend. As Councillors we hear of many other cases like those. Could we have the average emergency response times for the last 5 years or whatever is available? We feel that response times have got longer each year!*

*WMAS Response: There is no question that ambulance response times are too long at the moment, but that is almost completely down to the level of hospital handover delays that we face, particularly since the beginning of the summer.*

*As you will see from the graph, the numbers are staggering. The longer the delays, the more difficult it is to respond to cases. You may have seen the Sentinel on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October reporting 20 ambulances outside Royal Stoke. A third of the fleet at one hospital.*

*There is a direct correlation between response times and hospital handover delays. If we solve the handover delays, response times will improve.*



*Poor response times is also one of the reasons we made the changes to the CAS sites. What the change will do is increase the amount of ambulance time that we have to respond to patients. Through no fault of the crews that operate at Uttoxeter or the other CAS sites, we as a Trust lose in order of three hours of ambulance time at each CAS site, each 24 hour period.*

*If a crew start at a hub, such as Stafford, they do so with an ambulance that is cleaned, fuelled and has a standard load list that should last the full 12 hour shift. With the CAS site ambulances, the crew start with an ambulance that has been used for around half a shift; they have to return to the hub to swap over to a new vehicle every shift (twice a day); there is additional time spent travelling back to the CAS point for meal breaks and at the end of their shift; all time that means the crew are not available to respond to patients.*

*In addition, if the ambulance is delayed at say Royal Stoke at the end of their shift and they are an hour late getting back to the CAS point, then the on-coming crew have no vehicle to respond in and we effectively lose another hour of ambulance time due to the situation – a ‘double whammy’.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Simply closing the remaining 10 CAS sites will enable us to get to an additional 5,000 to 6,000 cases every year with no additional resource! While saving money is not the driving factor behind the closures, the decision to close the CAS sites will also free up around £750,000 which will be reinvested in frontline patient care also seeing additional staff hours and ambulance shifts for Staffordshire. These changes will help to save lives; unlike keeping the seldom used buildings which will not.

It is also important to note that the same number of crews will continue to work in Staffordshire with the same number of staff available to respond. All that is changing is where 3 of the circa 60 ambulances that work in the county start and finish their shift.

Our Trust is committed to providing equality of service across the region, but as you will be all too aware, the distances involved in parts of your constituency do have an impact on our ability to get to patients quickly. A few years ago, Shropshire PCT looked at what additional resources would be needed to hit the then performance standards in all post code areas across the County. The result was that we would need to double our workforce and increase our ambulance fleet by two thirds. They chose not to invest anything further.

Last year, we changed the focus of our community first responders so that they concentrated on what they do best – saving lives. As such, they now only respond to Category 1 and Category 2 calls, the calls where they can make the biggest difference.

There are two CFR schemes in the area that can and do respond to cases in Uttoxeter. We are also increasing the number of CFRs across the region, but we would be happy to work with the Council to help speed that process up if you would like to join us?

These are the response times for the ST14 postcode area.

	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4
	Mean (mm:ss)	90th centile (mm:ss)	Mean (mm:ss)	90th centile (mm:ss)	Mean (mm:ss)	90th centile (mm:ss)	90th centile (mm:ss)
2021-2022	11:41	21:13	35:47	64:37	84:38	218:13	317:40
2020-2021	9:17	17:55	17:15	29:38	30:47	62:22	82:13
2019-2020	9:10	18:13	19:51	34:34	36:07	77:35	88:07
2018-2019	7:56	14:33	21:17	44:48	28:28	60:12	67:14
2017-2018*	7:49	16:33	21:35	46:05	30:06	62:19	73:47

\*not full year on current version of ARP

Q4. Do you consider it would be beneficial in terms of economics and emergency service provision for Uttoxeter if there was to be a collaboration between the Ambulance, Police and Fire Services, with all three being accommodated with in the fire station at Cheadle Road as suggested.

WMAS Response: No. The inefficiency comes from having an ambulance based outside the hub environment so basing it at another site would still bring that inefficiency, which at the end of the day, puts lives at risk.

Q5. Further to 4 above, there are on average 195 cases a day attended in the Uttoxeter area according to Professor Marsh’s letter of 5th August, surely there is a case for basing a number of ambulances in Uttoxeter with ambulance returning to Uttoxeter ready for the next call-out, after dropping off the previous patient at one of the hospitals and being restocked and cleaned where necessary? Previously the Ambulance based in Uttoxeter started and finished the day in Uttoxeter, but after taking the first case to hospital became a general ambulance and could be sent anywhere, which is why the Uttoxeter ambulance only attended the 4% of the cases in the Uttoxeter area. If this base is not in Uttoxeter then could it be somewhere close in North-East Staffordshire?

Signed: ..... Date: .....

*WMAS Response: As per the above*

*Q6. Derby City Hospital is the quickest hospital to get to and many people go to A&E there from Uttoxeter. If there is an emergency call from Uttoxeter would any ambulances be sent from there or to there after picking up the patient? If so, how many callouts come from or go there, or any other Hub, and are they included in the 35,533 cases quoted by Professor Marsh in his letter?*

*WMAS Response: The Trust will always send the nearest available ambulance to the case, wherever that ambulance is. That would include ambulances which have taken patients to Derby Royal Infirmary*

*Q7. Further to 6 above, Burton Hospital and presumably Ambulance Hub, has not been mentioned anywhere as a Staffordshire Hub, does this get involved in Uttoxeter cases at all?*

*WMAS Response: We used to have a CAS site in Burton, but it shut some years ago. There have been no ambulances based in the town since. We can get ambulances attending cases in some very odd locations. For example, if a crew from Stafford were to take a child to Birmingham Children's Hospital and after clearing, they were the closest ambulance to a call in the middle of Birmingham, they would be sent. Looking at August, we had ambulances from Erdington and Hollymoor Hubs in Birmingham, Willenhall, Dudley and West Bromwich in the Black Country and even from Coventry do cases in East Staffordshire.*

*Q8. What did the ambulance site in Uttoxeter cost and how is saving this being reinvested?*

*WMAS Response: Between the 10 CAS sites, the savings that will be made are in the order of £750,000 per annum, money that will be invested in frontline services – paramedics and ambulances which save lives, rather than buildings which do not. The cost is not just the rent, rates, maintenance etc, there are also issues such as an Ops Manager having to drive over every day to check the drugs book (legal requirement) etc.*

*Q9. What other Towns/villages are designated as the Uttoxeter area in Professor Marsh's letter?*

*WMAS Response: Broadly, East Staffordshire.*

*Q10. What is the difference between the First Responder, we formerly had based in Uttoxeter, and the new Community First Responder?*

*WMAS Response: Some years ago, the Trust had a rapid response vehicle based in Uttoxeter. It was staffed by paramedics. This was largely due to the call categorisation system that we were obliged to use at that time that concentrated on getting to calls very quickly, but not necessarily with the right resource.*

*A good example of this would be a stroke patient; an RRV would get there in under eight minutes but, if the patient was FAST positive, what they actually needed was an ambulance to take them to a hyper-acute stroke unit for immediate care – we aren't able to transport patients by car. Doing so can make a huge difference to the life of the patient going forward. What happened in the West Midlands to some extent, but much more so in other areas of the UK, was that the car would wait sometimes for hours for an ambulance to arrive to take the patient to hospital. This severely limited the ability of the hospital to provide the necessary care. While we hit the statutory target, the patient didn't get the care they needed, which clearly was not appropriate.*

*With the introduction of the Ambulance Response Programme in 2018, WMAS firstly reduced and then got rid of entirely, it's fleet of cars – at one point we had over 100 operating each day! These were all replaced by ambulances. As that move took place, we reduced the number of CAS points as they were simply not being used. By 2020, we were down to just 13 sites. The money saved from not having the CAS sites was invested in additional staff and ambulances.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

*There has never been a CFR scheme in Uttoxeter itself. When the schemes were initially set up they were there to get to cardiac arrests. That role was expanded to include much more than that and included a number of drugs, and in some cases the use of blue light vehicles. However, the use of the drugs was very rare.*

*In 2019, CFRs attended just under 5,200 incidents. Of the six drugs removed, only 98 patients received drugs from one the CFRs. All of the patients still had access to those drugs.*

*Regarding blue lights, the move coincides with changes to the legislation. It also removes the anomaly of CFRs using blue lights but being unable to claim any exemptions e.g. not being able to go through a red light and the confusion that caused.*

*All CFRs will now be trained to a nationally agreed, regulated qualification. The changes will not only protect patients with the enhanced clinical governance arrangement but will ensure CFRs are also protected through the qualification and training improvements.*

*Q11. The CFR are based in Rocester and Abbots Bromley, this is at least 10 to 15 minutes away from Uttoxeter. Is there not a case for basing one of them in the Fire Station on Cheadle Road or elsewhere in Uttoxeter?*

*WMAS Response: We would love to develop more schemes and would be delighted to work with the Council to set up a scheme in Uttoxeter or any of the surrounding villages. Similarly we hope that you would work with us to encourage people to learn CPR and increase the number of publicly accessible defibs as per the answer we gave to Q2.*

*Q12. How many CFR's are there at each of the two bases and what times of each day are not covered by a CFR? How many more fully trained CFR's are expected in each base over the next year and will this then cover 24/7?*

*WMAS Response: Dove Valley in Rocester (4.7 miles) has one and Abbots Bromley (6.6 miles) has three. Two of the responders for these schemes actually live in Uttoxeter. CFRs from both these schemes have and continue to respond to cases in Uttoxeter when required. The times they are available will depend on the individuals.*

*What we have noticed is that since the introduction of the new scheme, we have found it much easier to recruit CFRs. Since April, we have recruited over 200 additional CFRs across the Region. The most recent round of recruitment for CFRs in Staffordshire has led to three applications to join Abbots Bromley and one to join Dove Valley. The Community Response Manager who covers Staffordshire, Cliff Medlicott would be very happy to come and talk to the Council if you would like more information on this topic.*

*Q13. Are all the CFR's all unpaid volunteers and who pays for their training, equipment and cars?*

*WMAS Response: CFRs are all unpaid volunteers. The Trust pays for the training and consumables, but the schemes pay for the equipment, uniform and any scheme car that they might have.*

*The Mayor reported that the responses received as recorded above had raised some further questions. He reported that the address by a Member of the Public under Item 3 was part of this discussion. He suspended Standing Orders and welcomed Mr MacGregor and Mr Docherty to address Council accordingly.*

*Mr Murray and Mr Docherty expressed their thanks to Council for inviting them to the meeting to enable them to provide an insight into the ambulance and response service for the town. Mr Murray firstly wished to express his sincere apologies to the member of the public, her husband and their family following their recent delay in the ambulance getting to her husband. He reported that sadly this was not an isolated case. A large amount of delays were due to ambulances being stuck at hospitals which was due to bed blocking. His discussed at length that recently over 20 ambulances had been unable to leave Royal Stoke hospital due to delays with admitting new patients.*

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Mr Murray and Mr Docherty gave Council and members of the public a detailed insight on the ongoing issues with the current NHS cuts which were having a negative effect on services being provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The address was followed by a lengthy question and answer session. The Mayor expressed his thanks to Mr MacGregor and Mr Docherty for addressing Council and he reinstated Standing Orders accordingly. It was noted that Mr MacGregor and Mr Docherty left the meeting. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that as a Town Council, with the assistance of the Compassionate Communities, explore:

- (i) Educating residents on when to call an ambulance (what is an emergency and what is not)
- (ii) Defibrillator locations and additional defibrillator requirements
- (iii) Offering First Aid Courses / CPR training to the public
- (iv) Signposting to alternative services
- (v) The concerns raised with bed blocking/ambulance delays at hospitals

It was noted that Councillors P Hudson and T Crutchley left the meeting at 8.45pm.

**15. STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - YOUR LOCAL STATION MANAGER**

The Clerk reported that as Resolved by Council at its meeting held on 14 September 2021, Station Manager Mark Tattum had confirmed his attendance at the Council Meeting on 9 November 2021 to provide Council with an update on the vital work being carried out by Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service in the area including recruitment and Home Fire Risk Checks.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and approved.

**16. LOCAL POLICE REPORT (TOWN WARD) AND UPDATES**

(a) The Clerk reported receipt of the Uttoxeter Town Ward Report for August 2021 as received 12 September 2021, forwarded to Members for information on 13 September 2021. Receipt of the Uttoxeter Town Ward Report for September 2021 as received 2 October 2021, forwarded to Members for information on 4 October 2021.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

(b) Council was advised that PCSO Wilkes would be in attendance to provide Council with an update on Policing matters for the Town since the date of the last meeting.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders and welcomed PCSO Wilkes to the meeting. He reported on the following:

- Crime - 14% decrease this year compared to last year – a decrease from 443 last year to 380 recorded this year.
- Biggest Reductions:
  - Burglary Residential – a decrease of 75%.
  - Vehicle Interference - a decrease of 50%.
  - Theft from motor vehicles – a decrease of 33%.
- Biggest Increase: Reports of public order offences from previous year 20 and this year 28.
- Anti-Social Behaviour had decreased over the last year by 45%. There had been a decrease in the reports of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, showing a 47% decrease.
- Changes to staffing had occurred, four Core PCSO's and two PC's. He reported that the area covered was 200 square miles (Mayfield to Barton).
- All the town centre areas are regularly patrolled with community engagement within Dovefields carrying out vehicle checks. Within 3 hours he reported that vehicles had been stopped for speeding, using mobile phones whilst driving, no seatbelt and one unlicensed vehicle. 100 vehicles had been stopped and 27 tickets issued.

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- During the recent week there had been reports of young people getting on the roofs of The Maltings putting themselves in danger and the patrols sent to get them down.
- The next Drop in session within the Town Hall with PCSO's Hales and Wilkes was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 21 October 11.30am until 12.30pm.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to PCSO Wilkes for addressing Council and he reinstated Standing Orders accordingly.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

**17. COMPLETION OF THE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

The Clerk reported receipt of the completed Audit for the year ended 31 March 2021 from Mazars District Auditors as dated 20 September 2021, for the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020-21 and Notice of Conclusion of Audit for Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The RFO was pleased to report that the auditor states *“on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.”*

Council was informed that a copy of the completed Notice of Audit Conclusion of Audit for the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 had been duly displayed within Council's Noticeboard and website from 22 September 2021.

Council expressed a note of thanks to the Clerk/RFO with respect to the annual accounts.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and approved.

It was noted that Councillor D Goodfellow declared an interest in Item No. 18 and he left the Chamber during the debate/vote.

**18. UTTOXETER MASTERPLAN CONSULTATION**

The Clerk reported receipt of the following:

- (a) Uttoxeter Masterplan Consultation - Update #7, as forwarded to Members on 16 September 2021.
- (b) Final Week of the Uttoxeter Masterplan Consultation email dated 21 September 2021, as forwarded to Members on 22 September 2021.
- (c) Councillor C Sylvester provided Council with an update on the Uttoxeter Masterplan Consultation as follows:
  - The final consultation event was a virtual Question and Answer Forum event held on 23 September 2021. This also summarised the views of residents as received from online and physical questionnaires received by ESBC at that time.
  - The consultation concluded on 26 September 2021.
  - Questionnaires received between 23-26 September 2021 would be added into the consultation responses.
  - The final results of the consultation should be published within the next month or so.

RESOLVED that with respect to 18(a)-(c) as above, the same be noted.

It was noted that Councillor D Goodfellow returned to the meeting.

**19. UTTOXETER IN BLOOM - HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM RESULTS**

The Clerk reported receipt of the following fantastic results awarded to the Town following entry within the Heart of England in Bloom campaign:

- ❖ Town Category: Gold
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Bradley House: Thriving
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Go Garden: Outstanding
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Proud to be Picknalls: Thriving

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- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Redfern's Cottage: Thriving
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Uttoxeter Community Garden: Outstanding
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Library Courtyard Garden: Outstanding
- ❖ It's Your Neighbourhood Station Adopters: Outstanding
- ❖ Park Category Uttoxeter Cemetery: Gold
- ❖ Park Category Bramshall Road Park: Silver Gilt
- ❖ Park Category Pennycroft Park: Silver (first year entered)
- ❖ Discretionary Award for Outstanding Merit: Mick Eyre (community volunteer)
- ❖ Discretionary Award for Outstanding Achievement: Zdzislaw Krupski (community volunteer and Town Councillor)
- ❖ RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Outstanding Achievement Award: Station Adopters

It was noted that Councillor Headech, on behalf of Councillor Williams and herself, gave the Clerk a vote of thanks for her previous hard work and commitment towards 'bloom' spanning over many years, a vote of thanks to the F/T Admin Officer for her hard work with this year's entries and for the production of the bloom portfolio, a vote of thanks to all of the community groups and volunteers supporting the Town's 'in bloom' entries and a special vote of thanks and congratulations to Councillor Krupski, Mr Eyre and the Train Station Volunteers for being awarded Discretionary Awards by the Heart of England Judges.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and welcomed.

It was noted that Councillor Krupski declared an interest in Item No. 20 and he left the Chamber during the debate/vote.

20. **S137 SUNDRY GRANT APPLICATION**

The Clerk reported receipt of a S137 Sundry Grant application dated 10 September 2021 from the Uttoxeter Lions Club seeking a grant in the sum of £1,500. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that a S137 Sundry Grant in the sum of £1,500 be awarded to the Uttoxeter Lions Club, funded from S137 Sundry Grant budget allocation.

It was noted that Councillor Krupski returned to the meeting.

21. **BENEFIT SHOE COMPANY – PLAQUE UPDATE**

The Clerk reported that a Representative from Charles Hanson visited the Town Hall on 21 September 2021 to view the Benefit Shoe Company Panel. Council was advised that Hanson's Valuer confirmed that the panel was of local interest only valued at £500-800 and if Council wished to restore, this would be in the region of £1,000. Council instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that this matter be deferred for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

22. **COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY**

The Mayor provided Council with an update following the meeting held with interested parties on 30 September 2021 as follows:

- He saw the aim of the Uttoxeter Compassionate Community was to help cover the shortfall between what NHS, etc provide the local community and what the community requires.
- The meeting was Chaired by Dr D Atherton and was attended by 24 people along with himself, County Councillors P Hudson and P Atkins, the Deputy Mayor and representatives from numerous local charities and organisations.
- Each person in attendance gave a brief outline of themselves and their charity/organisation plus their aspirations for the project and on what they could bring to the project.
- The whole meeting was positive and we look forward to starting work on the project.

RESOLVED that Councillor C Sylvester continue to provide Council with updates accordingly and include matters for consideration by the Compassionate Communities as Resolved under Item No. 14.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**EXTENSION OF TIME**

A 15-minute extension was proposed, seconded and carried.

**23. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES**

The Clerk reported that a copy of the updated Committee Membership was emailed to Members on 16 September 2021 (following Review by Council on 14 September 2021).

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

**24. CCTV SERVICE CONTRACT**

Council was informed that its contract with JC Paynes was due to expire in November. Council gave consideration to renewing the Service Contract for Council's 5 no. CCTV cameras. The Clerk reported receipt of an updated quotation from J C Paynes Electrical Ltd as follows:

Package One: £250 – 1 Year (£650 – 3 Years)

- X2 Service visits per year, which includes: Camera Clean / System Health Check / Setting Adjustment
- Unlimited Email & Phone Support
- System Training for users when on site servicing.

Package Two: £500 Year (£1350 – 3 Years)

- All package one included
- Unlimited Call Outs
- Incident Data Download
- Instant Remote Access Available
- System Monitoring

For information, Council previously had a one-year contract for £500 which included Package Two (2 no. service visits, camera clean, system health check, setting adjustments plus unlimited call outs, incident data download, instant remote access and system monitoring). Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that the quotation received from JC Paynes in the sum of £1,350 for a three year contract, funded by the Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance budget allocation.

**25. HMRC SUPPORT**

The Clerk reported receipt of a Tax changes for Health and Social Care email dated 8 September 2021 as issued to Members and Council's Payroll Provider accordingly.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

**26. BOWCOCK & PURSAILL – HR PROVIDER**

- (a) **NEWSLETTER** - The Clerk reported receipt of the September 2021 Newsletter as received via email dated 20 September 2021, as forwarded to Members.
- (b) **Staffing Related Policies** - The Clerk reported that Council's HR Provider was currently reviewing Council's Policies for inclusion within the Staff Handbook and they would provide Council with any updated Policies for review/adoption in due course.

RESOLVED that with respect to 26(a)-(b) as above, the same be noted.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that Councillor Headech, the Deputy Mayor Chair the meeting for Item No. 27(a).

It was noted that Councillors C Sylvester and D Goodfellow declared an interest in Item No. 27(a) and he left the Chamber during the debate/vote.

**27. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Council gave consideration to the undermentioned Planning Application:

- (a) P/2021/01244 - Erection of a detached timber frame gazebo, 97 Stafford Road, ST14 8TG.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Members were provided with the latest list of ESBC Planning Application Decision Notices issued since the date of the last meeting.

RESOLVED that with respect to Planning Application No. P/2021/01244, Council had no comment to make at this stage.

It was noted that Councillors C Sylvester and D Goodfellow returned to the meeting. It was noted that the Mayor, Councillor C Sylvester resumed the Chair.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the members of the public for their attendance at the meeting.

28. **COUNCIL IN PRIVATE – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**  
Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was requested that the public and press were not present due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and were asked to withdraw.

RESOLVED that the same be noted and approved.

It was noted that Councillors K Hudson and N Lowe declared an interest in Item No. 29(a)-(c) and they left the Chamber during the debates/votes.

29. **ST JOHN AMBULANCE PREMISES UPDATE**

*As Resolved by Council at its meeting held on 14 September 2021 that 'the Clerk write to St John Ambulance HQ to seek an urgent update on the current and future use of the building and request an urgent tour of the building.'*

- (a) The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 5 October 2021 received from St John Ambulance's Estates and Facilities Department informing Council '*Thank you for your enquiry regarding use of our building. As you'll probably know the coronavirus lockdown has meant that we had to implement various safety measures and this has resulted in the decision to not take on any lettings to third parties until such a time as we can be sure that this can be done safely. We are closely following the advice and information provided by Health officials and the Government, and will continue to review a decision to allow lettings to third parties in our property. We have logged your enquiry, and hope to be able to engage with your further in due course.*'
- (b) Council was informed that the Clerk had made further contact with St John Ambulance to advise that the Council was not looking at hiring the St John Ambulance building and confirmed that the Town Council holds the Deed of Gift for the building and is seeking an urgent update from St John Ambulance on the current and future use of the building located within Carter Street and that the Town Council, as holder of the Deed of Gift wished to request an urgent tour of the building. Council was informed that a further response was awaited from St John Ambulance.
- (c) The Clerk reported receipt of an email dated 6 October 2021 received from Savills Associate Director requesting to discuss the contents of the email as recorded in (b) as above. Council was advised that at the time the Agenda was issued, the Clerk had been unable to make further contact with Savills. Councillor Headech and the Clerk provided Council with an update. Council's instruction was sought. Following due debate, it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) With respect to 29(a)-(b), the same be noted.
- (ii) With respect to 29(c), Councillors C Sylvester and H Headech and the Clerk continue to pursue and provide Council with updates accordingly.

It was noted that Councillors K Hudson and N Lowe returned to the meeting.

30. **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – SATURDAY, 4 JUNE 2022**

*As Resolved by Council at its meeting held on 14 September 2021:*

- (i) *The Clerk defer questions (a), (c)-(f), for further inclusion by Council at its meeting scheduled to take place on 12 October 2021, in private.*
- (ii) *The Office Manager liaise with the Racecourse to delay the payment of the deposit until Council have further considered the event at its meeting on 12 October 2021.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....

- (iii) Councillors H Headech, Z Krupski and L Sylvester be appointed to the Jubilee Committee.*
- (iv) The Mayor and Deputy Mayor liaise with the local Resident/Organiser; the Events Executive and the Office Manager to seek detailed information on the proposals and risk assessments for the event and financial breakdown on the affordability of hosting such an event.*

The Chair and the Clerk reported that no updates were available on the insurance associated costings at this time.

Subject to the above mentioned, Council gave consideration to:

- (a) Funding the 25% deposit required to secure the booking.
- (b) The Council covering the Insurance provisions for the event.
- (c) The event be offered to the public, if possible, free of charge (potentially ticket only).
- (d) Adam Peaty MBE being invited to open the event.
- (e) The new Jubilee Committee to consider the details for the event at a later date and report to Council accordingly.

Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that (a)-(e) as above be deferred for consideration by Council at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held week commencing 18 October 2021, taking place within the afternoon.

**31. 19A HIGH STREET**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor provided Council with an update on potential lease for 19A High Street. Council's instruction was sought.

RESOLVED that Council welcomes the new Tenant for 19A High Street commencing as soon as possible, on a three year Lease.

**32. STAFFING**

- (a) The Chair reported that the staff lieu time hours for up to 1 October 2021 was 13¼. Council was reminded of the previous months lieu time hours for September (22) and July (19½).

RESOLVED that the same be noted and approved.

- (b) The Mayor reported that there had been no Staffing matters, absences, etc to report to Council since the date of the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the same be noted.

**33. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.