

Membership: Councillors G. Bonner, S. Bowman, L. Melton, J. Noades, G. Waite, D. Wallace & Mrs J. Danagher.

Present:Councillors G. Waite, S. Bowman & Mrs J. Danagher.Officer in attendance:Jill Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)Also present:One member of the public.

- **219.** TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Apologies from Councillors J. Noades, D. Wallace & G. Bonner.
- 220. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NOTICE OF ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED. None.
- 221. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (INFORMATION ONLY). Nothing to report that will not be discussed in the meeting.
- 222. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024. Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was RESOLVED That the minutes are a true record, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

223. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS INCLUDING FORMULATING RESPONSE TO THE ATF PHASE 2 CONSULTATION.

The Clerk stated that the response will go to Full Council, however as the committee responsible for Highways it will come to Resources first. It was noted that the Clerk has asked for an extension on the deadline to comment as the current date is before the Full Council meeting. It was noted that the money is not coming from local council, but rather from EU funding via central Government.

It was suggested that phase one of the ATF scheme has slowed down traffic.

The scheme as it stands was discussed.

It was suggested that the whole scheme is about improving pedestrian safety and therefore a weight limit should be included on Baldock Road.

Other points such as the loading bay, the loss of parking and the loss of a tree were discussed. It was thought that much of the concern in the town is to do with the general disruption during the construction phase.

Concerns were also noted with regards to the width of the new road outside Market Hill. It was suggested if two large vehicles meet at this point there will be problems. This was another reason that Council felt meant the scheme will not work without a weight limit introduced.

It was also suggested that additional town car park signs should be asked for.

The Clerk agreed to draft a response based on the points discussed and circulate it to Council for ratification / discussion at Full Council.

224. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE MANOR HOUSE INCLUDING CONSIDERATION TO REPLACE OFFICE LIGHTS.

A quote had been received for new lights in the Clerk's office. One option for two lights and one option for three lights was received.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council accept a quote of \pounds 480 from James Alexander Electrical for three new lights in the Clerk's office.

It was reported that the work on the front porch has been completed.

The Clerk reported that there has been an ongoing damp problem in one of the first floor offices. This is currently being investigated, no quote has been received yet. The Clerk has agreed to stop charging rent in the affected office for the time being. Council had no issues with this decision.

225. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Nothing to report.

It was noted that infrared heating is still being investigated.

The National Lottery grant for acoustic treatment and new screen has been received, the ABC Committee are awaiting installation dates.

226. TO CONSIDER ANY GRANT REQUESTS RECEIVED.

None.

227. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they are hereby instructed to withdraw.

The member of the public left the meeting.

228. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LIASON GROUP FOR STAFF PAY AWARDS 2025/2026.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was RESOLVED That the recommendations from the Liaison group for staff pay awards are accepted.

Meeting closed 20:09

Next meeting: Thursday 14th November 2024 7.15pm at The Manor House.