

EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL

Held at 7:30 p.m. on

Monday 26 September 2022

At The Public Library, Wood St., Earl Shilton, LE9 7NE.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Councillors: R Allen*, Chairman, M Leman, Deputy Chairman & Deputy Town Mayor, A Bates, Mrs A Burton, I Faver, Ms S Mannion and Mrs L Wharton.

Town County/Borough Councillors*: R Allen.

In attendance: Town Clerk: Mr ME Jackson.
Members of public: Nil.
Persimmon Homes: Mr A Davies
Miss E Wiles

22/072 *Chairman's welcome and opening remarks.*

Cllr R Allen welcomed Cllrs and the representatives of Persimmon Homes to the meeting.

Cllr Allen went on to remark and acknowledge the sad and somewhat unexpected passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II that had affected every strata of UK society whilst resonating around the entire world with both deep affection and gratitude for living under the aegis of the second Golden Elizabethan Age. The Court Mourning and State Funeral were both fitting and executed for a Monarch who deserved every accolade for her unwavering duty to her People for over more than 70 years but more than that; Her Majesty lived that duty and devotion with joy, love and certain kind of beauty that will remain unique.

Finally, Cllr Allen spoke for Council when he wished every good fortune and future joy to King Charles III and the Royal Family for a long and happy Reign.

Noted and received.

22/073 *To receive apologies for Town Cllr Member absence.*

Cllrs Mrs C Allen, Ms D Almey, B Granger, Mrs G Granger, and C Ladkin almost all submitted their reasoned apologies for absence to the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Through the Chairman, the Town Clerk explained that one of the above members declined to submit to the Council's Proper Officer and therefore Member scrutiny



reasonable excuses for not responding to the legally delivered summons on the stated grounds of 'privacy and confidentiality'. The Clerk had tabled in the meeting pack for Members the legal authority and plain English examples of a cllrs duty to provide an acceptable reason for absence as 'a must'. Failure to comply with the latter may lead to an unreasoned apology not being accepted by Members attending a meeting and if similar apologies are not resolved as accepted for a period of 6 months this will lead to automatic disqualification of that cllr from Council by dint of law. A compromise was agreed for this meeting in that going forward the member who feels he has privacy and confidentiality issues must explain them to the ESTC Chairman who will then explain them at meetings for all members to consider. Note in particular: reasons for absence will never be minuted and published either in full or redacted format but only recorded in non-public subsidiary meeting papers held securely by the Town Clerk. All Cllrs have recently been made aware of the latter by the Clerk following an advice newsletter to all councils by LRALC.

Resolved: that the above named Cllrs reasoned apologies for absence, as recorded by the Town Clerk, be accepted.

22/074 *Declarations of interests. To receive disclosures of member's interests, i.e., the existence and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this agenda.*
None.

22/075 *To receive and approve as a true record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 08 August 2022.*

Resolved: to accept as a true record of the Full Council meeting of the 08 August 2022; the minutes tabled for the Chairman's signature and already distributed in draft to members with their agenda packs.

22/076 *Public Participation:*

- a. *Public speaking protocol – requests received by the protocol deadline to be submitted to the Clerk with details of the agenda item they wish to address/relate to.*
- b. *That the meeting be adjourned to allow members of the public to make representation about items that are not on the agenda (Electors' Time). Nil & N/A.*

22/077 *Presentation from Persimmon Homes regarding their proposed Thurlaston Lane (Marlpit Farm) housing development application.*

The Persimmon Homes representatives presented their slide show and as a point of order stayed in the meeting until 8.20 p.m. to take part in a Q&A session as follows:

1. Is the described attenuation pond safe for small children? Persimmon use RoSPA to risk assess this type of sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) noting that the pond will only fill in time of excess rainfall and if necessary, by safety recommendation be fenced off also.
2. All the new dwellings will be EV charging point friendly.
3. Hi-speed internet will be standard through 'fibrenest' and Persimmon will come back to ESTC regarding the overall utility to end users.



4. Corner plot detached dwellings will have largely windowless rear walls so as to comply with extant privacy building regulations. Side elevation walls will host a more conventional window layout to compensate.
5. A groundworks management company will be appointed to tend to all estate needs including play equipment with a regular inspection regime. Home owners will pay a monthly fee for the service as is now common with new build major developments.
6. Will dwellings be energised by new technology such a form of heat pump? Not for this development but future ones may be. These dwelling will be heated by conventional gas boilers.
7. Will bio-diversity measurements continue as building takes place, (over an expected 2 years), and after build out is completed? Yes, a benchmark will be professionally set just before works commence and then carry on at set intervals to achieve defined targets.
8. Street lighting provision will it be main or minimal? Both County highways will set the standard with minimal where safely possible.
9. Thurlaston Lane – will there be provision of highways standard footway for safe pedestrian access to Town services and amenities? This remains an unsolved issue with the planning authorities. Persimmon have appointed new highways planning consultants to work on the outstanding issues but the Marlpit Farm building is not to be compromised.
10. Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (ES-SUE) - is the Persimmon development still, de facto, part of the ES-SUE? Yes and no. Yes, if highway links go into the SUE which remains a possibility in addition to the already planned cycle and pedestrian links. No, because currently ES-SUE s.106 developer contribution calculations will not necessarily include the Persimmon dwelling figures.
11. Two Chairman 'cries from the heart' please.
 - Build all your highways to County Highways standard so as to avoid medium term (10+ years) highways issues for residents as it's not fair on home owners or County Highways budgets.
 - Make the external appearance of your dwelling types more aesthetically appealing please.

Mr Davies and Miss Wiles were thanked for there presentation and wished a safe journey home.

Noted and received.

22/078 *To note and receive any reports from County and Borough Cllrs.*

County & Borough Cllr R Allen.
County Council matters.

The Leader of the County Council (LCC) has issued a financial crisis statement this week to town and parish councils through LRALC. There has been and will continue to be an extra ordinary exponential increase in costs driven largely by those of adult social care and children's services/special needs.

LCC remain at the bottom of the '*Fairer Funding*' league for county councils despite apparent lobbying of central government by local MPs.



Metro/Regional Mayor top tier central government funding is denied to LCC because the City of Leicester will not agree to give up their elected Mayor in favour of one for City and County. The chance for LCC to join with Derbys and Notts County Councils is in tentative exploration talks.

County Members Highways Fund allocations to date:

- Station Rd Permanent Vehicle Activated Sign – still slow progress but the project is still moving forward.
- Grit bins x2 for town as requested are on order.
- St Peters Primary School pedestrian exit footway barrier is approved.

County Council Members paid a fitting tribute to the late HM Queen Elizabeth II and performed the act of affirmation to HM King Charles III.

Borough Council matters.

- There has been no recent meeting to report on.
- The financial viability of the Hinckley cinema to carry on is in doubt but HBBC will try to be co-operative with present and future owners where possible.

Reports noted and received with thanks.

22/079 *To receive any form of Neighbourhood Police report pertaining to Earl Shilton including the local Beat Team report for August dated September 2022 plus an early September interim report of note.*

The Beat Team have been busy and pro-active moving against:

- 'Numerous deliberate field fires'.
- Preventing widespread substance misuse.
- In particular apprehending the motorbike rider illegally riding around Weaver Springs Park after a superb tip off from a member of the resident public.

Members commend the Beat Team and note the reports with particular thanks.

22/080 *To note and receive any reports from member representatives to recent (remote/virtual) non-Town Council outside bodies, meetings, events or working parties excluding Police reports and the Town Team Working Group (TTWGp) including relevant late items received since this agenda was published. **None.***

22/081 *To invite/nominate member representatives to attend meetings/events that are not Town Council initiated including remote and late relevant invitations too. **None.***

22/082 *To receive minutes, draft minutes (06 Sep 22) and or a verbal report on Leisure, Parks, Cemetery and Open Spaces (LPCOS) Cttee meetings or business of interest and possible concern plus any immediate recommendations for spending from the annual budget or Reserves.*

a. The Cttee Chairman briefed Members on the following draft minutes:



The LPCOS Cttee Chairman briefed Members that in the main the Cttee meeting was routine except for the symbolic resolution against HBBC allowing a resident to cut down a seemingly healthy tree in ESTC's Hurst Rd pocket park that was well in existence before the resident's dwelling was built and certainly before the occupancy of the current owner no more than a couple of years ago.

Noted and received.

b. One late item came forward from the Cttee Chairman to receive a quote for emergency tree works to save the signature Blue Atlas Cedar tree in QEII The Hall Field Park. The quote from a trusted tree surgeon is well within this year's budget line.

Resolved: to authorise the emergency tree works for the sum of £1150.00 plus VAT subject to TPO planning permission from HBBC.

22/083 *To receive a written, (draft minutes of the 06 Sep 22 meeting), and or verbal report from the Chairman of the Events Cttee regarding recent meetings and updates concerning 2022 events.*

a. The draft minutes did not contain anything other than a good report from the *Town Show* in August and forward plans for future plans for 2022/23 events; the closest of which was the *Picnic in the Park* due to be held on Sunday 13 Sep 22 however this was understandably cancelled due to Court Mourning for the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

b. In the absence of the Cttee Chairman the Town Clerk asked all Members to think about and discuss in due course, precept and event considerations for next year's Coronation of King Charles III. For example, an early June 2023 Coronation Town celebration could be conjoint with the *Picnic in the Park* 2023 both in terms of cost and administration.

Noted and received.

22/084 *Correspondence received including relevant late items received:*

a. *Barwell & Earl Shilton Lions Charity Group – Activity Summary Report.*

This was tabled as an agenda pack item to make Members aware of the scope of good works performed by the 'Lions. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Lions to enquire if they wished to attend any ESTC Public events other than Christmas Lights as they will be most welcome to do so.

Noted and received.

b. *Earl Shilton Camera Club (ESCC) – Exhibition & activity report.*

A high standard is always achieved and the 'Club continue to give due credit to the modest sponsorship provided by ESTC.

Noted and received.

c. *Late relevant items if any – HBBC email dated 23 Sep 22 – Ban on live animal prizes at fairgrounds held on Council owned land.*

HBBC have, by recent Council resolution, just banned fairground operators on their Council owned land from offering live animal prizes which includes goldfish. The HBBC



email requested that town and parish councils within the Borough adopt the same resolution forthwith.

Resolved: to ban forthwith fairground operators on ESTC owned land from offering live animal prizes and to make this a written part of any contract license to operate a fairground.

22/085 To receive the Town Clerk's Finance Report including late relevant items.

- a. Monthly accounts for August 2022 – approval for the Chairman to sign off these accounts as a true statement of the status of the Council's finances as at 31 Aug 22.
Resolved: Members authorised the Chairman to sign-off the monthly accounts for the month of August 2022 as a true statement of the Council's financial status.
- b. External Auditor appointment options – key decision to be made by Council.
Resolved: to remain within the NALC recommended SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangement until 31 March 2027.
- c. External Audit for Year ending 31 Mar 22 – satisfactory report.

Members were pleased that Council have received another in a series of satisfactory annual external audit reports.

Noted and received.

- d. Independent Internal Auditor appointment for the FY 2022/2023.
Resolved: to renew the appointment of Ms K Clarke to be ESTC's appointed Internal Auditor (IA) for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ending 31 March 2023.
- e. HBBC grant in aid for ESTC 'Christmas Lights'.

Members were informed that ESTC has been successful and paid a HBBC Rural Events grant of £500 to defray the cost of the 'Christmas Lights' 2023.

Noted and received with thanks.

- f. Late relevant items if any. **None.**

22/086 To receive the Town Clerk's general report including relevant late items received since this agenda was published.

- a. War Memorial refurbishment works update – gold leaf painting to follow on.

Members were informed that the contractor has indeed scheduled in the finished works. The Chairman of the LPCOS Cttee stated he was very pleased with the outcome and requests that photos be taken and published on the ESTC website news and Facebook account plus possible short articles to the *Local Rock* and *Hinckley Times* please.

Noted and received.

- b. Proposed dates for independent Internal Audit and LRALC Governance Review.

The Clerk outlined the following 'governance' dates for relevant Members to note please:

- Mon 31 Oct 22 Finance & Policy Working Party meeting.



- Wed 09 Nov 22 Accounts et al to the Internal Auditor for her interim report.
- Mon 21 Nov 22 LRALC whole audit Governance Review (TBC).

Noted and received.

c. *Late items. None.*

22/087 *Planning applications/correspondence received as a Town Council 'consultee' from HBBC, adjacent Districts and or LCC as Local or County Planning Authorities. Also to:*

a. *Note a Planning Cttee Chairman's verbal or written reports and, discuss and receive non-private session items from the Planning Cttee, e.g., a verbal/written report from any Planning Cttee meeting or communications, especially regarding major or controversial applications concerning the Town including:*

1. *22/00750/FUL – Breach Ln Farm – vehicle restoration business purposes.*

Cttee Members discussed the long polemic history of this overall application but for the moment are content with the HBBC Planning Manager's holding reply that this application is in the midst of a Planning Inspector's (PINS) process and that HBBC will, on or around, 05 Oct 22 submit to PINS reasoned casework regarding opposition to the various iterations of the application.

Noted and received.

2. *22/00838/HOU – Penryn, Field Way – single storey rear extn & roof alterations.*

No material Consultee comments.

3. *22/00862/HOU – 5, Balmoral Rd – demolish garage, build side single storey extn.*

No material Consultee comments.

4. *22/00842/HOU – 20, Park Rd – 2 storey & single storey rear extns plus*

Members commented that the exterior design was not aesthetically pleasing however they thought the various aspects, being to the rear of the property, are unlikely to cause immediate neighbours any material concern.

No material Consultee comments.

5. *HBBC Regulation 16 Notification – Witherley Neighbourhood Plan (NP).*

With best wishes to Witherley residents for the success of their NP.

No material Consultee comments.

b. *Late relevant items. None.*

Full Council noted and received this report.

Confidential Items – in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public will be excluded from the agenda items below by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed and will be requested to withdraw. Members will resolve to go into Private Session. So resolved.

22/088 *Planning matters which should be heard in private session to consider the issues/updates from the Chairman/Town Clerk/Members or others regarding the:*



- a. *The Premises projects: A Groundcare Team permanent premises site: alternative site on land of previous use update.*

The Chairman informed Members that an approach has been made to Council for a premises that will suit, in time, the long term comprehensive needs of the Town Council

and just as importantly the Town as a community. A meeting has been arranged for Tues 11 Oct 22 when details will become tangible and fully reported to all Members by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in due course.

Noted and received.

- b. *Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (ES-SUE) – The draft Options document.*

No update has been received from either the solicitor for the SUE consortium or the solicitor for ESTC handling the conveyance option agreement.

- c. *Maple Way Park – requested easement by East Midlands Homes (EMH) & Severn Trent Water (STW).*

The Solicitor acting for EMH is still failing to provide precise details of what the works entail and how they will affect Maple Way Park. For example; the latest drawing supplied is 4 years old and details the original developers civil engineering works not what are proposed for the immediate future. Both EMH and their Solicitor seem to think the Town Council should just 'roll over' and allow an easement across public parkland without any definitive legal works agreement. This will not happen!

Noted and received.

- d. *Late relevant confidential items received since this agenda was set. None.*

22/089 *Town Team Working Group (TTWGp) meeting 15 Aug 22. Meeting notes and data reports. Additionally, the recent announcement of the HBBC £400k share of the central government Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).*

- a. The notes to the meeting were received with thanks as tabled.
b. The Chairman requested the Town Clerk to ask the TTWGp to agenda a bid to the REPF allocation with regard to 'Shilton Lakes' behind Wood St as soon as possible.
Noted and received.

22/090 *Staffing Cttee issues including:*

- a. Confirmation of Groundcare Team appointments.

The Town Clerk reported that new appointees to the roles Head of Groundcare and Groundcare Operative are both settling in well as is the new Team dynamic. All 3 were showing enthusiastic initiative with the Clerk citing examples of such to Members.

Noted and received.

- b. Local Government Pay Award 2022/23 – Unions claim and Employers' offer, financial implications for ESTC budgeted precept.



The largest trade union involved in negotiations will not canvass or ballot its members reportedly until mid to late Oct 22 so there is no update.

Noted and received.

c. *Relevant late items received since this agenda was published.*

The Office Assistant has submitted her resignation and a month's notice in writing with effect from Mon 26 Sep 22. Members expressed their thanks and admiration for the first class job that Anne has done for the ESTC events since 2019.

Resolved: to recruit a replacement part-time member of the Office staff as soon as possible. Considerations to take into account in the subsequent process are:

- ***An exit interview for the outgoing Office Assistant.***
- ***To reflect the role going forward a change of job title to 'Events Co-ordinator Assistant'***
- ***A review of TACOS.***
- ***A review of the job & person specifications***

Last Item.

The Chairman closed the meeting in good order at 9.27 p.m. thanking members for their attendance and contributions.



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