

EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at 7:30 p.m. on

Monday 11 April 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Councillors: R Allen*, Chairman, B Granger, Deputy Chairman & Deputy Town Mayor, Mrs C Allen*, Mrs A Burton, I Faver, Mrs G Granger, M Leman, and Ms S Mannion.

Town County/Borough Councillors*: R Allen.
C Allen.

In attendance: Town Clerk: Mr ME Jackson.
Members of public: Nil.

21/200 *Chairman's welcome, opening remarks.*

The Chairman requested from Members and remarked on the following:

- That the sad news of the premature death of the former Leicestershire Police Service Chief Constable Simon Cole deserved a minute of silent reflection by Members and the Town Clerk which was duly observed.
- Noted the voluntary resignation of Cllr A Darker due to his change in personal circumstances. The Chairman expressed on behalf of Council thanks to Cllr Darker for his past contributions and wishes him well for the future.
- Saturday 02 Apr 22 saw the Town's contribution to the *Great British Spring Clean* litter pick. Cllr Allen thanked the Borough Council for the loan of appropriate equipment, residents who came and took part and likewise Town Cllrs who did their bit also.

Noted and received.

21/201 *To receive apologies for Town Cllr Member absence.*

Cllrs Ms D Almey, A Bates, C Ladkin and Mrs L Wharton submitted their reasoned apologies for absence in writing or in person to the Town Clerk in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: to accept as read, all the named Cllrs apologies for absence as tabled and recorded by the Town Clerk.

21/202 *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.*



The following declarations and transparency statement were made by Members:

Cllr Mrs A Burton: item 21/211 b. ESiB meeting notes. Cllr Burton is an active member of this voluntary group so declares a non-pecuniary interest.

Cllr B Granger: item 21/215 a. 3. Options for a Groundcare Team premises. Cllr Granger declared a pecuniary interest in the New St site.

Cllr Mrs C Allen: item 21/214. Redevelopment of the King William I PH site. For transparency not amounting to a declaration of interest: Cllr Allen has been called upon by adjacent residents to give her advice to them in her role as a Borough Cllr without being pre-determined.

Cllrs Mrs C Allen & R Allen: item 21/214. Two major housing development applications at Hill Top downwards bounded by the Leicester and Shilton roads. Both Cllrs Allen know the land owners of the 2 sites and have been advising them as to the sale of the land to the developers and or have a personal friendship with the land owners. Cllrs Allen declare a personal but non-pecuniary interest.

Resolved: to allow Cllrs C Allen, R Allen, A Burton and B Granger to remain in the meeting but only to speak on matters of fact, not to give opinions or to vote on the specified agenda items.

21/203 *To receive and approve as a true record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 March 2022.*

Resolved: to accept as a true record of the Full Council meeting of 14 March 2022; the minutes tabled for the Chairman's signature and already distributed in draft to members with their agenda packs.

21/204 *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).*

None and N/A.

Point of order: the Chairman suggested bringing forward the private session items 21/215 and 21/216 as no members of the public were or likely to be present and Town Cllrs were fresh of mind. Resolved: Council went into private session from 7.54 p.m. to 8.33 p.m.

21/205 *To note and receive any reports from County and Borough Cllrs.*

County & Borough Cllr R Allen:

- Discussions have taken place about having a 'metro' Mayor which would attract greater specific funding however the parties, (Countywide and City), to any such agreement are not clear about joint objectives.
- Individual County Members Division Highways Funding. There is a new £25k fund for each County Cllr for the 2022/23 financial year. Highways spending ideas to CCllr R Allen will be welcome.

Borough Cllr Mrs C Allen:

- A new Borough Council Civic Mayor will be elected in May 2022.
- The HBBC Planning Dept has managed to recruit several new members of staff.
- HBBC's finance risk exposure has increased in line with a rise in macro interest rates (due to war and pestilence).
- Planning reports of delegated decisions made by Planning Officers have not been produced of late because of staff turbulence. Hopefully, the production of these useful reports will resume soon.

Reports noted and received with thanks.

21/206 *To receive any form of Neighbourhood Police report pertaining to Earl Shilton including the local Beat Team report for March 2022 dated to April 2022.*

a. *Beat Team monthly newsletter.*

Our Beat Team covers both Barwell and Earl Shilton and the report shows that the police initiatives against all levels of illegal drug production, dealing and consumption are relentless. Likewise tackling the waves of cyclical ASB in parks is ongoing.

b. *Other late/relevant items.*

Two recent unrelated *Neighbourhood Link* reports tell us that a cannabis factory has been shut down and motorbike ASB on Weaver Springs Park has been halted with the motorbikes seized and scrapped. Well done our Beat Team!

Members felt that ESTC should send to Leicestershire Police Service a letter of condolence to the Service and family regarding the untimely death of Mr Simon Cole, QPM.

Reports noted and received with thanks.

21/207 *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.*

a. *02 Apr 22 – Great British Spring Clean litter pick: Earl Shilton – see minute 21/200 above.*

b. *Late relevant items. None.*

21/208 *To invite/nominate member representatives to attend meetings/events that are not Town Council initiated including remote and late relevant invitations too. **None.***

21/209 *To receive minutes, draft minutes (05 Apr 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.*

Members took the Cttee draft minutes as tabled. The only continued point of discussion and contention remains the line of 27 Lime trees on 'Hall Field Park. The Town Clerk read out the latest complaint from a resident and gave explanations for some of the



points referred to in this particular email. The Clerk informed members that, on request, the resident in question has been sent a copy of the LCC professional, specialist and independent tree survey dated May 2021 which states the trees are in no need of works for the time being.

Noted and received.

- 21/210** To receive minutes, draft minutes (05 Apr 22) and or a verbal report on the Events Cttee meetings or business of interest and possible concern plus any immediate recommendations for spending from the annual budget or *Reserves*.

Members took the Cttee draft minutes as tabled. The Chairman requested that it would be a good idea to consider inviting the local *Lions* and *Rotarians* to be invited to consider some form of participation in *Seaside 2022* if they are not already

Noted and received.

- 21/211** *Correspondence received including relevant late items received.*

- a. *Earl Shilton Camera Club (ESCC) – thank you letter and expo information.*

Members were gratified by the 'Clubs response and invitation so will diarise the date for the 2022 Exhibition as **Wed 31 Aug 22** for the open evening and the awards ceremony.

Noted and received with thanks.

- b. *Earl Shilton in Bloom (ESiB) – 02 Aug 21 meeting notes.*

Members took the ESiB meeting notes as tabled.

Noted and received with thanks.

- c. *Late relevant items. None.*

- 21/212** *To receive the Town Clerk's Finance Report including late relevant items.*

- a. *RBS monthly accounts for Chairman's signature to be approved to confirm as a true record, the Town Council's financial position as at 31 March 22.*

Members received their full digital finance packs for March 2022 before the meeting and a precis hard copy prior to the meeting.

Resolved: that the accounts for the month of March 2022 are a true record of the status of the ESTC finances at this month end. The ESTC Chairman by this resolution is permitted to sign-off the accounts (3x RBS Cashbooks) reconciliations for this month.

- b. *Late relevant items.* The Town Clerk reminded Members that the machine closedown of the Council's annual accounts will take place on Thurs 14 Apr 22. This data will feed forward into the production of the mandatory legal requirement for a statement of a set format *Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)* to be submitted to independently appointed external auditors. Additionally the final half year VAT refund claim for £12k has been submitted.

Noted and received.



- 21/213** *To receive the Town Clerk's general report including relevant late items received since this agenda was published.*

The Town Clerk informed Members and handed out a flyer advertising the revised management and contact details for the Methodist Church allotments located just off Breach Lane.

Noted and received.

- 21/214** *Planning applications/correspondence received as a Town Council 'consultee' from HBBC, adjacent Districts and or LCC as Local or County Planning Authorities. Also to:*

Note a Planning Cttee Chairman's verbal or written reports and possibly, 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:

- a. The minutes of the ESTC Planning Cttee meeting of 14 Mar 22 were formally:

Noted and received.

- b. The Planning Cttee meeting of 11 Apr 22 immediately preceded this Full Council and the verbal report was as follows:

1. *22/00207/TGDO – 49, Balmoral Rd – installation fixed line broadband.*
This is BT Openreach works for the benefit of an improved service to residents.

No material Consultee Comments.

2. *22/00272/FUL – King William I, The Hollow – 2 storey building/6 flats.*
Members agreed with the Cttee Chairman's observation that this revised application is a much more sensitive and sustainable proposal for both those who will occupy the flats and the future outlook for adjacent neighbours. Members do however wish to observe/request to HBBC as LPA that the Southern boundary of the site should, as a planning condition, be planted with foliage that suitably screens existing low rise properties from this new development.

Resolved: to make this request through the HBBC Planning Portal.

3. *21/01434/FUL – High Tor East – erection of 2 dwellings.*

- d. *22/00288/CONDIT – High Tor East (Shiloh) – variation order for 3 dwellings.*

The Cttee Chairman took items c. and d. as conjoint applications for what in fact is a re-consultation of a recent submission. Members agreed that the revised plans are now no cause for concern.

No material Consultee Comments.

- e. *20/01225/FUL (Re-consultation) – Land West of Clickers Way – 81 dwellings.*

Cttee Members, having examined the revised plans and despite the significant reduction, (30no), in the number of proposed dwellings they still feel the original infrastructure issues of highway and footway connectivity concerning Thurlaston Lane have not been sufficiently addressed by the applicant. Holistically there is



also the need by the developer and LPA to make explicit the links to the ES-SUE.

Resolved: to object to this application in its latest iteration.

c. *Relevant late applications/correspondence received since this agenda was set.*

The Chairman factually briefed Members about the two major housing development applications that will start on the Northern side of Hill Top and roll down the Leicester Rd slope towards the Shilton Rd that leads to Kirkby Mallory. The revised applications totalling 190 dwellings is being tabled at the HBBC Planning Cttee meeting on Tues 12 Apr 22 acting as the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Noted and received.

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 – see point of order above.

21/215 *Planning and Town Team Working Group (TTWGp) 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 – Library Office facility and public toilet – update from the Town Clerk on progress for the Office move, i.e.*

1. *Public toilet – Town Clerk's operational update usage and cleaning SLA.*

The toilet cleaning SLA is now running consistently well.

Noted and received.

2. *Order of Library Office furniture through HBBC – Town Clerk's update.*

Only one item of furniture, belatedly ordered, is awaiting delivery and the discrete 'phone line hardware works will be completed by Tues 12 Apr 22.

Noted and received.

3. *Site to house the Groundcare Team – current search options report.*

The Chairman briefed Members that the Stoneycroft Sports & Social Club option is now no longer financially viable as the first round of 'blind' bidding through the land owners Estate Agent reveals that ESTC are not able to compete in the bidding.

Weaver Springs Park – yes ESTC own the land but siting of the build will potentially significantly be affected by the access road build, (and not necessarily the first piece infrastructure to be built!); coupled with the build out of 1500 houses over a long period of time such as 10, 15 or more years.



Cricket Club site. The majority of Members believe that before this option can be dismissed as unaffordable an independent professional valuation must be commissioned.

Resolved: to commission an independent professional valuation of the Cricket Club site with the permission of the 'Club itself.

Cllr B Granger requested that his vote against this motion be recorded in these minutes on the grounds of unnecessary expense.

Working Party (WP). **Resolved:** A WP has been formed of Cllrs C Allen, R Allen, I Faver, B Granger and M Leman to meet by Zoom on Tues 19 Apr 22 to explore the solution to find a permanent site for the Groundcare Team.

- b. *ES Sustainable Urban Extension (ES-SUE) including: access road options document – price/valuation(s) and terms – updates if any.*

The latest access road draft options document received through and vetted by ESTC's solicitor is now acceptable.

Resolved: to allow the Chairman and Town Clerk to sign the options document of behalf of Full Council to implement the agreement.

- c. *Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI) – any private session update.*

The Chairman and Town Clerk briefed members that the principal Councils of County (Highways in particular), Hinckley & Bosworth and Blaby are all lining up well reasoned arguments to inform the applicant and the Secretary of State that the premise and outline detail of the current application is woefully inadequate to the point of being unacceptable.

Noted and received.

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

21/216 *Staffing Cttee issues including relevant late items received since this agenda was published.*

- a. Deputy Clerk – Financial Introduction to local Council Administration (FILCA).

The Deputy Clerk has passed her FILCA course and expressed her thanks for Councils funding support. In turn, Cllrs commended the Deputy Clerk for passing the course and moreover completing it by distance learning in her own time.

Noted and received.

- b. Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT) – update from Council's Solicitor and Barrister.

The Town Clerk and Chairman informed members of the final written rebuttal that has been sent by ESTC's lawyers to those of the Claimant. The rebuttal calls for the rescinding of a significant part of the original ET judgement against the Town Council.

Noted and received.

- c. Late relevant items.



The Town Clerk briefed Members on medical conditions currently affecting members of staff or their immediate family.

Noted and received.

Last Item.

The Chairman closed the meeting in good order at 9.07 p.m. thanking members for their attendance and contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the Chairman.