

## MINUTES

### **At a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee in the Pitman Room, Civic Centre, St Stephen's Place, Trowbridge on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Present: Councillors: Blakemore, Brice, Drewett, Fuller (Chair), David Halik, Kirk, Oldrieve, Palmen (substituting for Cllr Bridges) and Whiffen.

Officers: Mr L Allan (Town Clerk/RFO), Mrs T Carpenter (Minutes) and Mrs J Weimar (Head of Service; Resources and Venues),

Others: 1 Public, 0 Press

#### **3038 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED to note apologies with reasons from Councillor Bridges and Payne.**

#### **3039 MINUTES**

**a) RESOLVED to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

**b) There were no questions.**

**c) RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Civic Board meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

#### **3040 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest not already included on the Register.

#### **3041 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

There were no Chair's Announcements.

#### **3042 OPEN FORUM**

The Chair invited Mr Andy Milroy to speak later in the meeting on Agenda Item 8 regarding Maternity Care.

#### **3043 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The committee considered the Town Clerk's report which had previously been circulated with the Agenda, and the following items were raised:-

**3.2.1.1 Public Toilets** – In reply to Cllr Kirk's enquiry as to whether the public had been made aware of the issue of closing the public toilets, the Town Clerk reported that he had replied accordingly to 7 members of the public who had commented on Facebook, and confirmed that the Wiltshire Times had also published an article. The Town Clerk also confirmed that the council have amended their procedure regarding social media and in future on issuing a press release, in addition the information will automatically be released on social media.

Cllr Kirk requested further clarification on the information given to him that the toilets in the Town Park had been closed on Armed Forces Day due to a problem with the door lock and that the incident with the syringe had taken place *after* the decision to close the toilets. He felt the information given to him had been misleading and requested an updated report.

**4.2.2 Grass Pitch Development** – the Town Clerk gave a fuller explanation of the Grass Pitch Development at Ashton Park explaining the town council will become the lead council.

**6.5.2. Housing Sites** – the Housing Sites Allocation Inquiry in Public is taking place at the end of March/early April.

Proposals for Elm Grove will be on display at Holbrook School on 17<sup>th</sup> January 4 – 7pm. The developer is also due to attend the *Town Development Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January*.

**8.1.1 Area Board** – Next meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**8.1.4 Car Parks** – Wiltshire Council has agreed to pursue the sale of the multi-storey car-park to the owners of Castle Place. The Town Council may wish to consider if is interested in taking over the ownership of the car-park as an alternative option. **The Town Clerk will discuss this with Wiltshire Council.**

Initials.....dated.....

**8.9 SLCC** (Society Local Council Clerks) – the Town Clerk has been elected onto the Board of Directors of SLCC. Congratulations were extended to the Town Clerk.

## **3044 TROWBRIDGE TOWN HALL ARTS TASK & FINISH GROUP (TTHATFG)**

Councillor Kirk raised the question of the likelihood of the Town Hall achieving their grants. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had passed all questions to the Town Hall Trust and that Colin Kay has responded accordingly. The Town Clerk had, as a result, amended the report accordingly.

**RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019:**

**That Trowbridge Town Hall Trust is offered a grant of £20,000 in 2019/2020 split into four quarterly payments of £5000 each, paid in April 2019, July 2019, October 2019 and January 2020. On condition that:**

- A. Prior to the first payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces a membership arrangement whereby volunteers, members of the public and corporate bodies can become members of the Trust through payment of a subscription and therefore attend and vote at Annual General Meetings and other similar meetings of the Trust.**
- B. Prior to the second payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces changes to facilitate greater transparency to the processes for the appointment of Trustees, as approved by Trowbridge Town Council and the Charity Commission. (For example, this may include changes to the constitution to allow for Trustees to be appointed by Trowbridge Town Council, by Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden (registered charity 1106281), by User Organisations, by members at the Annual Meeting of the Trust and by co-option by the existing Trustees.)**
- C. That none of the grant provided by Trowbridge Town Council is used to pay salaries.**

## **3045 MATERNITY CARE**

The Chair invited Mr Andy Milroy to speak.

*“I believe that Trowbridge Town Council should be taking the lead in fighting for the rights of pregnant women to be able to choose where they give birth; not just for the women of Trowbridge, but for the whole of Central Wiltshire. The seriously flawed **Transforming Maternity Services Together** Consultation makes assertions unsupported by detailed national research. It misleads and victimises the most vulnerable expectant mothers.*

*The Consultation uses selective quotations from mothers instead of data to support its view that expectant women like to be close to medical support when in labour, and do not want to transfer by ambulance. There is a marked correlation between the very sharp decline in expectant women admitted to Trowbridge Birthing Unit and the start of this Consultation in early 2017. A close to 50% drop off after 250-300 admissions a year is too abrupt to be natural, 140 women in one year.*

*The Consultation induced fear of no medical support and a long journey by ambulance during labour is the likely cause. Yet NHS research shows 64% of first time low risk women giving birth in Free-standing Midwifery Units, did NOT need to be transferred to a hospital with medical backup. In subsequent pregnancies just 9% of women needed to be transferred. Research based on 64,538 births by low risk mothers,*

*So 64% of low risk mothers do not need to be transferred when in labour in the first pregnancy and 91% of subsequent pregnancies do not need transfer. The Trowbridge Unit transfer rate in labour is not shown in the Consultation. The CCG Consultation limits the choice of expectant mothers to birthing sites which suit the RUH. It seriously undermines the choice of expectant mothers to give birth locally, close to their family in a Birthing Unit.*

*Not all expectant mothers have access to a car. Taxis are expensive and ambulances over-stretched. Deprivation is a major issue. Trowbridge has the highest IMD (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) of any Area Board in Wiltshire. Melksham and Westbury are in the top five on IMD, and also in the Birthing Unit catchment area.*

Initials .....Dated.....

Continuity of care is important to expectant mothers - to see the same midwife who handled the antenatal care, during the birth. Providing antenatal and postnatal care at Trowbridge, and delivery elsewhere - is not what women have said they want. Transforming Maternity Consultation does not provide the "good information on which to base decisions" enabling expectant mothers to make an informed choice between an obstetric Unit, a Midwife Unit in a hospital, a stand-alone Midwife Unit in the Community, or a home birth."

**The proposals as presented restrict choice and impact on the Communities currently served by Birthing units.**

The CCG are pushing for one size fits all, restricting local choice for expectant mothers, ignoring NHS advice that low risk pregnancies do not need medical backup. Historically Trowbridge Birthing Unit has provided a much appreciated service until the intervention by this Consultation.

The flawed consultation is being pushed by the RUH which is chronically short of midwives. This is why the Trowbridge Unit was closed in 2014, so the Princess Anne Wing could pass re-inspection. When there were similar problems in 2016, the RUH's response was to take all the Birthing Units under its direct control. Soon after we get the massive decline in admissions at Trowbridge Birthing Unit.

Where does the RUH propose to get the additional midwives to staff a new alongside Birthing Unit on its site, who knows? In August last year RUH were 14.4% down on the required number of midwives and nurses. Now they plan to close the Trowbridge Unit at night, so obviously still desperately seeking midwives to fill gaps. Devizes and Malmesbury Maternity Units were closed so that the Great Western Hospital could have its own midwife led Unit, so the remaining midwife led units at Chippenham and Frome are in the direct firing line.

History shows us Wiltshire towns must stand together or be picked off one by one.'

The Chair thanked Mr Milroy for his presentation.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that, having considered the presentation given to the council and the evidence provided in the reports and consultation documents, and in the presentation made by Mr Andy Milroy, the Town Council does not support the closure of the Maternity Unit at Trowbridge, and the proposal by Wiltshire CCG to establish an Alongside Midwifery Unit at the Royal United Hospital in Bath.**

**3046 POLICIES**

**RESOLVED to approve the following updated policies:**

- a) Grievance – with the following added amendment: 'If the misconduct relates to the Town Clerk, this should be referred to the Leader of the Council'.
- b) Leavers
- c) Recruitment
- d) Publication Scheme
- e) Risk Management
- f) Buying & selling of annual leave

**3047 RISK & AUDIT PANEL**

**RESOLVED to note the notes of the Risk & Audit Panel meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.**

**3048 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**RESOLVED to approve payments and receipts made since the last meeting of the Council recorded on the Cash Receipts and Payments Records by the Finance Officer and to confirm the action of Councillors Bridges & Kirk in signing the Cash Payments and Receipts Records.**

	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
October	£404,182.74	£585,723.19
November	£344,594.70	£170,843.53

Initials.....dated.....

## 3049 DEFERRED CORE GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Town Clerk advised members that any core grant funding allocated to the core grant requests have not been included in the draft budget 2019/20. The committee.

**RESOLVED not to approve any of the following core grant requests:**

- Cyber Café for disabled people (Disabled online) new request
- Back on Track Stroke Rehab Service new request
- Wiltshire Mind additional request

**Grants Policy** – Following resolution on the above and prior to consideration of the budget the committee considered the Grants Policy for 2019/2020. Following discussion, it was:

**PROPOSED: to remove all of the existing core grants from the Grants Policy.** A vote took place with 4 voting in favour of removal, and 4 voting against. The Chair used his casting vote against the proposal and it was therefore **LOST**.

The committee then:

**RESOLVED to approve the Grants Policy (without amendment).**

## 3050 BUDGET 2019/20

**RESOLVED That the Council approves the department Budgets for 2019/20 as detailed on the budget spreadsheets, totalling**

**£1,824,053**

a. **That the Council approves that the contribution to General Reserves for 2019/20 be**

**£40,000**

b. **That the Committee recommends to Council therefore a total budget requirement for 2019/20 of**

**£1,864,053**

**And that this is funded in part through estimated income for 2019/20 from Community Infrastructure Levy of**

**(£66,460)**

**Leaving a net precept requirement for 2019/20 of**

**£1,797,593**

**Which results in an increase of £4.99 (within the government's limit for District Councils) on the Trowbridge Town Council**

**'Band D' Council Tax Charge, to**

**£153.98**

**Which is less than £3 per week.**

## 3051 MEDIA RELEASES

**RESOLVED to issue the following press and social media releases**

- **Budget 2019/20**
- **Maternity Care**
- **Town Hall**

## 3052 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Civic Centre, St Stephen's Place, Trowbridge.

Meeting closed at 20.25hrs.

To all other councillors for information.

Signature.....Dated.....

## POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 ACTION LIST

<p><b>Public toilets</b> - Cllr Kirk requested further clarification on the information given to him that the toilets in the Town Park had been closed on Armed Forces Day due to a problem with the door lock and that the incident with the syringe had taken place <i>after</i> the decision to close the toilets. He felt the information given to him had been misleading and requested an updated report.</p>	<p><b>LA</b></p>	
<p><b>Elm Grove development</b> - Town Clerk to request the developers attend and give a presentation at a Town Development meeting.</p>	<p><b>LA</b></p>	
<p><b>RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council at their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 That Trowbridge Town Hall Trust is offered a grant of £20,000 in 2019/2020 split into four quarterly payments of £5000 each, paid in April 2019, July 2019, October 2019 and January 2020. On condition that:</b></p> <p><b>A. Prior to the first payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces a membership arrangement whereby volunteers, members of the public and corporate bodies can become members of the Trust through payment of a subscription and therefore attend and vote at Annual General Meetings and other similar meetings of the Trust.</b></p> <p><b>B. Prior to the second payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces changes to facilitate greater transparency to the processes for the appointment of Trustees, as approved by Trowbridge Town Council and the Charity Commission.</b> <i>(For example, this may include changes to the constitution to allow for Trustees to be appointed by Trowbridge Town Council, by Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden (registered charity 1106281), by User Organisations, by members at the Annual Meeting of the Trust and by co-option by the existing Trustees.)</i></p> <p><b>C. That none of the grant provided by Trowbridge Town Council is used to pay salaries.</b></p>	<p><b>All to note</b></p>	
<p><b>Maternity Care</b> - Write to the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that, having considered the presentation given to the council and the evidence provided in the reports and consultation documents, and in the presentation made by Mr Andy Milroy, the Town Council does not support the closure of the Maternity Unit at Trowbridge, and the proposal by Wiltshire CCG to establish an Alongside Midwifery Unit at the Royal United Hospital in Bath.</p>	<p><b>LA</b></p>	
<p><b>RESOLVED to approve the following updated policies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grievance – <b>with the following added amendment: ‘If the misconduct relates to the Town Clerk, this should be referred to the Leader of the Council’.</b></li> <li>• Leavers</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Publication Scheme</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Buying &amp; selling of annual leave</li> </ul>	<p><b>TC – to amend JW &amp; all to note</b></p>	

