



The Civic Centre  
St Stephen's Place  
TROWBRIDGE  
Wiltshire.  
BA14 8AH  
[info@trowbridge.gov.uk](mailto:info@trowbridge.gov.uk)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## SUMMONS

To all members of the Council: Councillors: Allsworth, Bates, Beaver, Blackmore, Blakemore, Bridges, Bryant, Cave, Cavill, Cooper, Halik, Hill, Hoar, Jacob, Edward Kirk, Emily Kirk, Lincoln, Palmen, Piazza, Trigg and Vigar.

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to **The Meeting of Trowbridge Town Council** to be held on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022**, at 19:00 in **The Council Chamber, The Civic, Trowbridge**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Allan'.

Lance Allan  
Town Clerk

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council and Committees, unless specifically excluded due to the confidential nature of business. As a result of the restrictions imposed to control the pandemic, public access will be limited. **Please contact [info@trowbridge.gov.uk](mailto:info@trowbridge.gov.uk) by 16:00 on 17<sup>th</sup> January if you wish to attend this meeting in person. Where it is not possible for you to attend due to reaching the capacity limit, view and listen access will be available online via Microsoft TEAMS:** please go to the Town Council Website – Your Council – [Meetings](#) to find the link. Only those attending in person will be able to ask questions and make statements at the meeting during the public period. Questions and statements can otherwise be submitted in advance.

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## AGENDA

**This meeting will be recorded.**

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

- a. **To receive** apologies from those unable to attend.
- b. **To consider for acceptance** apologies received with reasons for absence.

### 2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- a. **To read and approve** as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on [16<sup>th</sup> November 2021](#). Copies of these Minutes have been circulated and Standing Order A6.5.2 provides that they may therefore be taken as read.
- b. **To consider any matters** relating to those minutes.

### 3. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**To receive and consider** reports, minutes and recommendations of Committees already circulated, enclosed herewith or to be circulated. There have been the following meetings since the last meeting of Council.

- a. **Leisure & Information Services Committee** [7<sup>th</sup> December](#)  
Questions to Chair – Cllr Bates.
- b. **Museum Committee**, [14<sup>th</sup> December](#)  
Questions to Chair – Cllr Bridges.
- c. **Neighbourhood Services Committee** [14<sup>th</sup> December](#)  
Questions to the Chair – Cllr Cavill.
- d. **(i) Town Development Committee** [30<sup>th</sup> November](#), [21<sup>st</sup> December](#),  
**(ii) Town Development Virtual Consultation Meetings** [4<sup>th</sup> January](#)  
Questions to the Chair – Cllr Bryant.
- e. **Policy & Resources Committee** [11<sup>th</sup> January](#)  
Questions to the Leader – Cllr Palmen.

#### 4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a. **To receive Declarations of Interest** from members and officers (as per the agenda) as appropriate in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers and the Local Government Act 2000 and the Trowbridge Town Council Code of Conduct in respect of members.
- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests** received by the Town Clerk and not previously considered.

#### 5. **COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR**

**To receive** such communications as the Mayor may wish to lay before the Council.

- a. Mayor's Engagements (copy attached)

#### 6. **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

**To allow questions** from the public which may be answered but not debated.

#### 7. **POLICE MATTERS**

**To receive a report** from Sergeant Charlotte Chilton (copy attached).

#### 8. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

**To consider questions received from councillors by the deadline: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

##### **A. QUESTION: 220106 09:29 MUSEUM BUDGET**

**To receive the following question submitted by Cllr Edward Kirk**

##### **Preamble:**

The proposed Museum Budgeted Operating Costs for 2022-2023 are £225,843, which is an increase of £91,045 on the previous year's budget (£134,799).

The draft minutes of the Museum meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December only have a limited explanation for this increase: 'We assumed there would be £20k but this didn't arise. We assumed we would still be making claims from the HLF but this was incorrect, making a difference by £100k. We have made some cost savings to make up for a proportion of this. While the claim hasn't been made to the HLF it will be accrued next year.'

## Questions:

**Please can the Town Council be provided with more detail on how exactly this mistake occurred and who was responsible for the error?**

**Does the Town Clerk now believe that ‘assumption is the mother of all mistakes’?**

**Will the Town Council now consider receiving professional Independent Advice and undertake full professional consultation/surveys with all future projects like Doric Park?**

**The cost of the Museum for a Band D household was £12.75, please can the Town Clerk confirm what the Band D household cost is going to be with this proposed Museum Budget for 2022-2023?**

**Town Clerk’s Response.** There has been no mistake or error. When the budget is approved in January the Council knows what has been spent in the first half of the current year and therefore has to estimate what it will spend in the second half of the year. Such estimates are incorporated into the budget. We estimated that we would have £20,000 carried forward at the end of 2020/21. Unfortunately, this did not happen. We estimated that £80,000 of the remaining grant would be claimed from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), unfortunately the majority of this was claimed in 2020/21 and was therefore no longer available to claim in 2021/22.

I do not believe ‘assumption is the mother of all mistakes’. Believing that hindsight is something that can be used to attack people with, suggesting that they should have known what was going to happen and is only know now because it has now happened is, in my view, the mother of all hypocrisy.

It is for the Council to decide if it requires any additional professional Independent Advice in addition to the professional Independent Advice it has already received for Doric Park and arrangements for future projects.

It is for the Council to decide if it requires any additional professional consultation/surveys in addition to the professional consultation/surveys it has already undertaken for Doric Park and arrangements for future projects.

The cost of Trowbridge Museum Band D has been and is budgeted to be as follows:

|         | Band D    | £      | Band D £ |
|---------|-----------|--------|----------|
| 2006/07 | 10,471.88 | 152226 | 14.54    |
| 2007/08 | 10,581.98 | 147969 | 13.98    |
| 2008/09 | 10,653.54 | 148016 | 13.89    |
| 2009/10 | 10,790.90 | 156225 | 14.48    |
| 2010/11 | 10,805.82 | 160014 | 14.81    |
| 2011/12 | 10,978.84 | 154746 | 14.09    |
| 2012/13 | 11,002.01 | 156348 | 14.21    |
| 2013/14 | 9,352.50  | 174057 | 18.61    |
| 2014/15 | 9,616.60  | 174112 | 18.11    |
| 2015/16 | 10,226.12 | 178330 | 17.44    |
| 2016/17 | 10,671.89 | 177237 | 16.61    |
| 2017/18 | 11,194.66 | 178535 | 15.95    |
| 2018/19 | 11,549.55 | 248299 | 21.50    |
| 2019/20 | 11,673.87 | 179862 | 15.41    |
| 2020/21 | 11,740.34 | 145959 | 12.43    |
| 2021/22 | 11,592.82 | 134799 | 11.63    |
| 2022/23 | 11,743.08 | 225843 | 19.23    |

If £14.00 had increased by CPI inflation since 2006/07 it would now be over £20.00



## 10. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

To consider motions received from councillors by the deadline: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

### **A. MOTION: 211130 21:03 : AIR CADETS**

To consider the following motion submitted by Cllr Cave

**Preamble:** From the Air Cadet's website. "Are you up for fun, adventure, incredible experiences and making new friends? Are you looking for something to give you the edge in life? Then welcome to the RAF Air Cadets. Better known as the 'Air Cadets', we're a UK-wide cadet force with more than 40,000 members aged between 12 and 20 years."

"Our aims are to:

- Promote and encourage a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force among young people
- Provide training which will be useful in the Services and civilian life
- Encourage the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship"

"As a cadet you'll have the opportunity to do things that others only dream about. Want real flight experience? No problem. How about heading out on adventurous training and camps, sometimes overseas? Normal for cadets. Competitive sports, drill, shooting, music, abseiling, engineering projects? Our list of activities is long, varied and open to all cadets. Yes it's a challenge, but that's what life's all about."

Essentially Air Cadets allow young people from 12 years of age to develop skills, leadership abilities, training, maturity, education, qualifications and discipline, not easily accessible to their peers. On top of that they can progress to earning a gliders licence and a full private pilot's licence. Thus giving them a head start and advantage over their competition. This will give such teens the goals, achievements and life experiences that may lead them away from being involved in crime or anti-social behaviour around the town.

Children from families that are financially struggling are very unlikely to be able to experience this. It would be fantastic if we as a Town Council could invest in the development of our youngsters. The RAF covers the majority of the costs, except a £10 a month subscription and £40 for an annual camp. 10 teens a year sounds like a great opportunity. This motion will also be going to Wiltshire Council to match however many teens we agree with. This will be done through the area board.

### **MOTION:**

- a) Trowbridge Town Council agrees to fund the £10 a month subscription for 10 young people a year to join Trowbridge 2196 Air Cadets who would otherwise not be able to afford the subscriptions.
- b) Trowbridge Town Council agrees to fund Annual camp for all 10 at £40 each subject to each individual meeting the requirements.
- c) Trowbridge Town Council will review the attendance records yearly and as long as they meet the requirements will continue to fund the monthly subscriptions.
- d) Trowbridge Town Council will review on an annual basis the funding of these and additional places.
- e) Total to be allocated from the 2022/23 budget £1600

### **RECORDED VOTE.**

**Town Clerk's Response:** In accordance with Standing Order A9.9 this MOTION may stand referred without discussion to the Policy & Resources Committee which has responsibility for distributing the council's Grants Budget. The Policy & Resources Committee may decide to approve the motion for payment to be made at the start of the Financial year on 1<sup>st</sup> April, defer until it considers other grant applications in July or refer the matter back to Full Council with a report and recommendation.

*A9.9 If the subject matter of a motion comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion, to such committee or to such other committee or officer as the Council may determine for report; provided that the Chair, if he/she considers it to be a matter of urgency, may allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.*

## **B. MOTION 211208 16:11 GREENSQUARE TENANTS' HEATING ISSUES**

**To consider the following motion submitted by Cllr Cave**

**Preamble:** From my experience with Greensquare, repairs/maintenance that have been reported by residents are not being carried out in a timely manner and/or unsatisfactory applied and/or not being carried out at all. Examples of this include leaving residents without heating for weeks, sometimes months, potentially longer if third party intervention had not occurred.

With a very cold winter forecasted, we as a Town Council need to take the safety of our residents seriously and set an example. We can take a proactive approach and Trowbridge Council Officers could use our/Wiltshire Council's data, to send a letter to residents who live in Greensquare's social housing and enquire the following:

1. Are you having any issues with your heating or hot water?
2. Please can you explain what your issue is?
3. How long have you had this issue?
4. Has this been reported to GreensquareAccord?
5. If yes, when did you report this?
6. If yes to 4, what have they done so far to resolve this, or have they given you to a repair date?

I would be happy to draft the letter.

### **MOTION:**

- a) **Trowbridge Council take a proactive approach to residents potentially in a crisis by contacting all GreensquareAccord Social Housing residents and asking the aforementioned questions.**
- b) **If residents respond with heating or hot water concerns, then Trowbridge Council will individually contact GreensquareAccord on their residents' behalf and ask for these concerns to be resolved as a priority.**
- c) **Trowbridge Council will continuously chase any reported heating/hot water concerns with GreensquareAccord until they have resolved.**

**Town Clerk's Response:** In accordance with Standing Order A9.9 this MOTION may stand referred without discussion to the Leisure & Information Services Committee which has responsibility for communicating with residents and passing on issues to Wiltshire Council which are primarily Wiltshire Council statutory service matters. The Leisure & Information Services Committee may decide to approve the motion or refer the matter back to Full Council with a report and recommendation.

*A9.9 If the subject matter of a motion comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion, to such committee or to such other committee or officer as the Council may determine for report; provided that the Chair, if he/she considers it to be a matter of urgency, may allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.*

## **C. MOTION 220106 21:34 GENERAL RESERVES**

**To consider the following motion from Cllr Edward Kirk.**

**Preamble:** The Town Clerk's report to P&R, January 2020 included the following:

*'...the contributions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 need to be significant. 3 month's revenue expenditure (excluding loan repayments) is £400,000. At the end of 2019/20 we anticipate that Reserves will be up to £200,000 and therefore over the next three years a further £200,000 will need to be contributed and also additional reserves built up to allow for increased revenue expenditure during that period.'*

General Reserves at 31/3/20 were at £146,002 (shortfall of £53,998), and 31/3/21 £197,233 and are budgeted to be £216,133 on 31/3/22. That means in 2022/23 we need to make a MINIMUM contribution £183,867 according to our Responsible Finance Officer.

I allege that the Town Council has made significant errors in its finances and budgeting including: an aged debt write-off of £48,584.77, in the Museum budget in assuming that £100,000 would be forthcoming from the HLF and of course the inadequacy of the Doric Park budget.

Chippenham Town Council's General Reserves are at the required 25% of Precept (£805,419 is in General Reserves at the end of the last financial year 2020/21) and they do not have the significant financial liabilities of Trowbridge Town Council. However, Option B on the Policy & Resources report November 2021 now states that a contribution of around £46,000 is permissible in the 2022/23 budget.

## **MOTION:**

**That; as the Town Council has received conflicting General Reserve instruction from our Responsible Finance Officer and there have been fundamental errors in our budgets; That the Town Council seeks assurance from our Internal Auditor regarding suitability of the proposed General Reserves contribution of only £46,480 in the 2022/23 budget.**

## **RECORDED VOTE.**

**Town Clerk's response:** The full text of the report to P&R in January 2020 was as follows:

**General Reserves** – At the 2018/19 end of year, the town council's reserves were even lower than the previous year and therefore remain significantly below the expected levels of a minimum of 3-month's revenue expenditure. Whilst we anticipate making a better than budget contribution to General Reserves this year, the contributions in 2020/21 and 2021/22 need to be significant. 3-month's revenue expenditure (excluding loan repayments) is £400,000. At the end of 2019/20 we anticipate that Reserves will be up to £200,000 and therefore over the next three years a further £200,000 will need to be contributed and also additional reserves built up to allow for increased revenue expenditure during that period. I am therefore recommending that a contribution to reserves of **£62,500** is included in the 2020/21 budget.

An amount of £62,500 was included in the 2020/21 budget. In January 2021 I reported to P&R as follows:

**General Reserves** – At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 end of year, the town council's reserves were £146,000 and therefore remain significantly below the expected levels of a minimum of 3-month's revenue expenditure. Whilst we anticipate making the budget contribution to General Reserves this year (£65,500), there need to be contributions in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. 3-month's revenue expenditure (excluding loan repayments) is estimated to be £415,000. A contribution to reserves of £18,900 is included in the 2020/21 budget, with contributions of £75,500 in each of the following two years.

The actual amount added to reserves on 31/3/21 was £52,231. In January 2022 my report to P&R included the following:

**b. General Reserves** – At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 end of year, TTC's reserves were £197,233 and therefore were significantly below the expected levels of a minimum of 3-month's revenue expenditure. 3-month's revenue expenditure (excluding loan repayments) is estimated to be around £520,000 by 2025/26. A contribution to reserves of £18,900 is included in the 2021/22 budget. The Q2 Summary shows that the council was able to make the budget contribution of £9,450 and an additional contribution of £12,965 due to an overall saving against budget. For the **2022/23 budget** the council will need to consider the General Reserves requirement based on a short to medium term plan.

**Option A:** Some councillors have argued that the council should seek as soon as possible to achieve the 25% of annual revenue expenditure guidance level which would be up to £470,000 based upon the likelihood of Wiltshire Council transferring additional responsibilities during the year. This would require a contribution to General Reserves of around £200,000 in the **2022/23 budget**.

**Option B:** The council's strategy has been to seek to bring General Reserves to the guidance level within the medium term of three to four years and this could be achieved with a contribution of around £46,000 in the **2022/23 budget**.

**Option C:** The council could take a median position between Option A and Option B and include a figure of around £120,000 in the **2022/23 budget** but this would be likely to result in an increase in the precept above the medium term level required.

The proposer clearly implies that the Town Clerk's advice has contradicted the advice of the Responsible Finance Office (RFO). In fact, the Town Clerk is the RFO. The advice given in the reports detailed above has been very clear, that the council should plan prudently to achieve the necessary level within a medium term period. I do not give instructions to the council I advise the council and the council does not always act on my advice but sometimes takes a pragmatic view. I have never given conflicting advice with regards to General Reserves. There have been no fundamental errors in the budgets of Trowbridge Town Council.

## **TOWN CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION:**

- a. **That the council splits the motion into parts.**
- b. **That the council rejects the first part of the MOTION which fails to provide adequate background information in relation to the matter and includes unsubstantiated allegations.**
- c. **That the Council considers the second part of the MOTION for approval.**

## **D. MOTION 220106 22:07 DORIC PARK**

**To consider the following motion proposed by Cllr Piazza**

**Preamble:** The Council were warned of the financial risks of The Doric Park Project, recorded in a June 2021 Wiltshire Times article on rising construction costs. The loan amount required for the project had risen from £2.2m to £2.4m and I questioned this in July, featured in another article. Now, we have been made aware through a committee report that the loan amount could rise to £3.6m.

The public were told that this facility would be self-sufficient, requiring no council tax precept increase, and able to generate revenue to cover the loan and running costs. As a result of borrowing more, the original repayment (with interest) of £106,500 /year for a period of 30 years could now be £145,762 /year. That is around £39k more a year. This fixed interest rate on Public Works Loan Board loans is only determined on the withdrawal date and could increase. However, this possible increase and the original business plan, would record a loss unless running costs are significantly reduced; however, the budget does not seem to indicate any major changes to reflect this.

Alternative build options are being pursued due to initial tenders being too high. In 2021, the price of steel etc. have increased significantly and, whilst they may not necessarily remain this high forever, the council was warned of this a year ago.

The town council will need to seek a change to the planning permission from Wiltshire Council. This could delay the project further, driving up costs even more.

Also, there is a real concern regarding transparency and democratic governance here. The £3.6m figure had not been publicised by the town council until now. It was not given its own agenda item or released to the press for scrutiny by the public. Cllr Stewart Palmen had spoken to the press on the 27th December 2021 about potential skyrocketing costs, but also chose omit the £3.6m figure. It is vital that the public are not left in the dark about this significant change and informed about every step of this project, as it is their money. The Council completed two surveys and several business plans; was considered by several committees and also Full Council. To approve the loan, The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities needs evidence that consultation has been undertaken by the council. There is no simple answer going forward; however, the public need transparency from the town council now.

## **MOTION:**

**That Trowbridge Town Council issues detailed fortnightly updates on Doric Park through its newsletter, social media channels, and the town council website, also providing press releases to The Wiltshire Times.**

## **RECORDED VOTE.**

## **E. MOTION 220106 22:08 LEADER**

**To consider the following motion submitted by Cllr Piazza.**

**Preamble:** The Council has a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Leader. The roles of Mayor and Deputy are defined in statute (LGA1972 S15), a parish council in England must elect a Chair at the Annual Meeting of Council and may also elect a Vice Chair if they choose to do so.

The Leader role is not defined in statute. It is a creation of the council's choosing, recorded in Standing Orders. It is unlawful for the council to delegate decision-making powers to any individual councillor. We clearly separate the two roles of Mayor and Leader. The Mayor/Chair focuses on civic and ceremonial matters, with the Leader focusing on council business. As quoted by our Town Clerk, the Leader role 'recognises (...) the need to separate the responsibilities of day-to-day contact with senior officers with regards to management of the council from the ceremonial duties of the Mayor and provides continuity whilst the Mayor can be undertaken on an annual change basis.'

The proposer alleges that in recent years the role of 'Leader' has been politicised with last year's budget speech in particular promoting a certain political party. The speech is detailed below:

*"I'm pleased to present the proposed budget for 2021/22. It is a responsible budget, recognising the Covid climate we are in, but also proving the ability for this council to be ambitious for the Town and focus on the town's needs now and into the future. If we momentarily reflect, this time last year when setting the budget; we had not heard of Covid, furlough or a new meaning for the word shielding, yet we set a budget that has been able to withstand the unforeseen, a budget incidentally criticised by the Conservatives at the time. That budget has proved to be a good, responsible decision that has allowed us to ride the Covid financial storm. It allowed this Council to rise to the challenge of Covid and support this community. Staff were redeployed to front line support, helping the vulnerable and the isolated. I must pay a big Trowbridge thank you to the people who work for the Council for their commitment, flexibility and support; you were great. Because the Town council is well run, and here I thank officers for their management of the budget, we were able to maintain sound financial management, with adequate cash flow and still deliver the strategic plans for this year. The refurbished Trowbridge Museum project with over £1.37M of external grant funding, is on schedule to open as soon as restrictions are lifted. And I will also pause here and thank the Officers and volunteers for their unstinting efforts to successfully conclude these ambitious plans during this difficult year. The refurbished museum has been part of the ambitious Town development plan, drawn-up by Liberal Democrat's. Over the last 20 years Liberal Democrats have transformed a moribund do-nothing Council into an effective force for change in the Town. With a long-term business plan that has delivered, a revitalised Peoples Town Park and a refurbished Civic Centre that the Town can be proud of. A Park with refurbished hard courts with lighting for extended evening use, well maintained play equipment for children and pleasant and well-maintained open areas for people and families to enjoy and a large space for community events. The foresight for long-term investment has proved its worth during the Covid pandemic and the Council has done this and still maintained the Town precept to local residents well below many other towns in the area. How has this ambitious plan been achieved? by leadership that has confidence in our Town, that wants to make Trowbridge better, by good financial management and investing in long term projects that have had the ability to encourage further external investment. Remembering here that an important factor in the development of the Cinema complex was the Town's investment in the Civic Centre. But we need to do more, this Town deserves even better. Conservative controlled Wiltshire Council has failed in their responsibilities to provide improved leisure facilities and cleaner streets. We want to fill this gap. Liberal Democrats are fed-up with the prevarication by Conservative Wiltshire Council. We must act. We have invested in a street sweeping machine and a cleaning hit squad to deal with littered and neglected areas. But we want to do more to improve our Town and residential areas and are ready and willing to negotiate with Wiltshire Council to take on more. We know that the residents are not satisfied with the minimal efforts of Wiltshire Council and want the town council to get things done. As we hopefully move into a post Covid world we know the negative impact lock-downs have had on people's mental health. We want to support people to become active again. We will use our Active Trowbridge team to work in partnership with schools and in our community, providing opportunities for sports and recreation. We want to invest in refurbished hard play areas in Studley, Longfield, Seymour and Paxcroft and have secured over £100K of external Grant money, to provide better play facilities and opportunities. Trowbridge field sports have been blighted over decades with poor facilities, waterlogged pitches on muddy clay surfaces. Liberal Democrats want to change this; we want first class facilities at Doric Park that will provide all the year-round field sports facilities. This will be achieved with no cost to residents, bring in over £800,000 in external grants to our community and provide additional*

opportunities for sport and recreation so sadly lacking in the County Town. We can do this by identifying over £50,000 of savings this coming year, by a modest rise of less than 5 pence per week in the Council Tax Band D rates, by attracting over £1 million of external funding into the Town and good financial management. We want to set aside a budget of £20,000 to give to charities in the Town who will be recovering from Covid, to support those isolated and in need. We want to open the refurbished museum on Saturdays and Sunday's when Covid restrictions allow, we want a better Trowbridge. This ambitious programme will support the Town to participate in the exciting proposals to revamp the Town Centre. The Government grant of £16.3M from the Future High Street fund will allow a detailed plan for the Town's redevelopment to be drawn-up. We are determined to play our part, we want to see a new swimming pool and sports facilities in the Town, a revitalised market area offering places for people to shop, be entertained and meet. We already have a solid vision for a better Trowbridge. I therefore recommend this budget to the Council; it recognises the stress in our community and the need to deliver a better future. It is affordable and ambitious, providing the resources to allow our Council to respond quickly to anything life may throw at us, whilst having clear achievable projects to make our Town better!"

The proposer alleges that a lot of this information was inaccurate and, confusingly, this speech was later edited on the council website, omitting details of political parties. As 'Leader' it is vital they represent everyone in the community of Trowbridge, not just one political party.

The Governance Toolkit for P&TCs3 (2009, p64) states: "The operation of political groups is becoming more of a feature within parish councils, but it is worth repeating that it is NALC policy that party politics should have no place in parish councils. Parish Councillors are there to serve their community as members of the community, and should not be side-tracked by party political issues".

Regretfully our council has a Leader, despite advice to the contrary from NALC.

## **MOTION:**

**That Trowbridge Town Council:**

- a) Amends its Standing Orders to clarify that the role of Leader, as well as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, should remain politically impartial in the discharge of their respective roles;
- b) Amends its Standing Orders further to clarify what responsibilities the 'Leader' actually has (as currently this is rather vague), providing a detailed description: my recommendation would be 'The leader of the council has no delegated powers, but offers a link between the majority group views and the council's policy direction and decision making'.

**Town Clerk's Response:** I do not consider it would be necessary or probably desirable to agree the first part but I have no issues with the second part of the MOTION. To clarify with regards to the Leaders New Year statement 2021 – This was published by Cllr Palmen on his own social media and forwarded to me. I then edited the statement to remove all references to political parties so that it could be included on the council website. I have edited this year's New Year statement from the Leader so that it can be published on the town council website. To my knowledge the Leader nor other individual councillors have taken any decisions on behalf of the council.

## **TOWN CLERK'S RECOMMENDATION:**

- a. That the council considers both parts separately.
- b. That the Council rejects part (a) of the MOTION.
- c. That the Council considers part (b) of the MOTION for approval.

## **11. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

To approve the sealing of the following:

**NONE.**

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

**AGENDA to include:**

**Quarter 3 Accounts.**

**Likely end of year earmarked reserves.**

**13. MEDIA RELEASES**

**To consider** if the Council should make a press/social media release regarding any of the issues considered by this meeting.

**14. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

That; in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted; and therefore the meeting should resolve that the public and press be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw.

**15. CIVIC AWARD**

**To consider the RECOMMENDATION** from the policy and resources committee regarding the civic award.

## RECORDED VOTES

| Councillor  | PRECEPT | MOTION A<br>AIR CADETS | MOTION B<br>GREENSQUAR<br>E HEATING | MOTION C<br>GENERAL<br>RESERVES a | MOTION C<br>GENERAL<br>RESERVES b | MOTION D<br>DORIC PARK | MOTION E<br>LEADER a | MOTION E<br>LEADER b |
|-------------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Allsworth   |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Bates       |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Beaver      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Blackmore   |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Blakemore   |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Bridges     |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Bryant      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Cave        |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Cavill      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Cooper      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Halik       |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Hill        |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Hoar        |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Jacob       |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Edward Kirk |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Emily Kirk  |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Lincoln     |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Palmen      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Piazza      |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Trigg       |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |
| Vigar       |         |                        |                                     |                                   |                                   |                        |                      |                      |

|  |            |                |                |
|--|------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | <b>For</b> | <b>Against</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|--|------------|----------------|----------------|