

BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of Brackley Town Council, held on **Monday 5 October 2020**. Meeting at 7.05pm online via Zoom.

Present: Cllr Cartmell (Mayor) and Cllrs Baker, Bagot-Webb, Butler, Kew, Nash, Sharps, Tiller and P Wiltshire

Officers: Town Clerk (A Moses) and Deputy Town Clerk (K Hale)

213/20 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Barrie, Ross, Thompson, Stimpson, Waldron and E Wiltshire

214/20 Town Mayor's announcements

28 September Brackley Bargain Hunt was aired and is available on iPlayer.
2 October Met with the new manager of Sainsbury. They are holding recruitment days from 14 October for 10 days at the Town Hall.
9 October HS2 update meeting with Town Clerk
13 October Mayor and Town Clerk meeting with Police Area Commander to discuss policing in and around Brackley. If any members have any concerns they wish to raise, please send to the Town Clerk before Friday 9 October.

215/20 Public participation

None

216/20 Declarations of interest

None.

217/20 Approval of minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Butler, it was **RESOLVED** to:

approve the minutes of the Meeting of Council on Monday 7 September 2020.

218/20 Committee minutes

On the proposition of Cllr Baker, it was **RESOLVED** to:

receive the following approved Committee minutes:

Planning & General Works 17 August and 7 September 2020
Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes 17 August 2020
Finance & Policy 17 August 2020

219/20 Questions for chairmen relating to received minutes

Notes from the committee structure task and finish group will be circulated in due course.

220/20 County Council representative

Cllr Baker gave members an update on local government restructure, Elections May 2021 and various road surfacing in Brackley.
Covid-19 mobile testing unit is set up at Brackley Leisure Centre.

221/20 District Council representative

Report attached

222/20 Town Hall Review

Members noted the information that had been received from Kally Barot, Senior Investment Manager, Midlands & East National Lottery Heritage Fund following a summary given by the Town Clerk.

Members has that the Town Clerk write to Ingham Pinnock Associates for their hard work on our behalf.

223/20 Agenda Request Form – Cllr Ross Covid-19 Testing

The Mayor proposed a motion to move to next business.

224/20 Staff Bulletin

Members noted the Staff Bulletin.

225/20 Christmas Closure

Members noted the Christmas closure:
Christmas Eve – Thursday 24 – half day closed
Christmas Day – Friday 25 – full day closed
Boxing Day – Monday 28 – full day closed (in lieu of Saturday)
Office closed – Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 (concessionary days)
News Years Day – Friday 1 January – full day closed
Return to normal office hours 4 January

226/20 Matters for discussion or information

The Town Clerk has attended training with the Finance Officer on Budgeting and Finance and the power point presentation has been circulated to members.

The Town Clerk and Operations Manager attended training on Community Resilience and Emergency Planning but it was felt that this training was more suited to smaller communities. The Operations Manager will call a meeting of the Task and Finish Group for this in due course,

The Town Clerk attended the NCALC AGM via Zoom on Saturday 3 October.

All events have been cancelled for the rest of this year however, there will still be a very small wreath laying service on Remembrance Day.

It is planned to turn the Christmas lights on during the day and a press release will be sent out on social medial.

Brackley Community Radio are organising a virtual Christmas carol concert.
The new Brackley Medical Centre will start seeing patients on 12 November. Flu vaccines are being offered in the new centre's car park from that date.

227/20 Exclusion of Press and Public

On the proposition of Cllr Baker, it was **RESOLVED** that:

in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press is excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

228/20 Design proposal for the lower hall

On the proposition of Cllr Cartmell, it was **RESOLVED** to:

Accept the design for the bar and to await the draft lease.

Meeting closed at 8.08 pm

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT

**Report from Cllr Peter Rawlinson for Brackley Town Council
5 October 2020**

SNC are required to administer the scheme for £500 for eligible people who cannot work whilst they are self-isolating. We are currently working on developing these processes. There will also be a discretionary element to the payments. The scheme will go live on 12th October and will apply to those who cannot work from 28th September and will run until the end of January next year.

There is a second scheme that applies to businesses in lockdown areas, if they cannot open. They will be able to request £1,000 or £1,500 depending on their rateable value every three weeks. Whilst this does not apply to us at the moment it is prudent that we look at how we would administer this now and develop the processes so that if we get a flare up in South Northamptonshire it can be implemented very quickly.

There is also £60m available for Police and Councils for the enforcement of restrictions but, as yet we have no details on its applicability and allocation.

The number of Covid-19 cases in Northamptonshire continues to rise, however it should be noted that the rise is not as great as in other areas of the country and the County, as a whole, has dropped out of the special measures category. During the period we have seen additional support delivered to the County as part of the national Serco Track and Trace system including some days in Brackley and Towcester. Because of the capacity constraints it has been limited to those experiencing symptoms who have pre-booked a test.

At the beginning of September, the number of cases that occurred in South Northamptonshire was 297. As of yesterday, it was 372, a rise of 75. The rate per 100,000 population has dropped from 314.3 to 340. In terms of nationally South Northamptonshire was ranked 331 out of 380 at the beginning of September to 340 yesterday, in terms of number of cases and dropped from 300 to 314 in terms of ranking per 100,000 people.

Whilst it is good news for South Northamptonshire, we must ensure we continue to keep vigilant and as safe as possible by following the guidance. With limited capacity for testing it is necessary to ensure that it is focused on the areas of most need to bring down the R number in those areas. As that nasty little virus is no respecter of local authority boundaries even though South Northamptonshire is low there are higher rates in neighbouring authorities.

There have been 9 outbreaks, defined as multiple infections in a single location since the pandemic started in South Northamptonshire, 4 in a workplace, 3 in care homes, 1 in a nursery, and 1 other.

In addition to ensuring that we plan to continue to cope with the current second wave of covid infections we also need to ensure we have contingency plans in place to cope with the end of the year and the end of the transition period for Brexit. It would seem to be a certainty that disruption will occur and to only question is how much. The competence of the government in developing a world beating track and trace does not fill one with confidence that they will perform any better in managing the changes than they have to date.

All this has to be done at the same time as continuing the work on the integration of the 4 local authorities into West Northamptonshire. We are already seeing that some of our

senior officers are getting roles in West Northamptonshire which reduces our resource availability and we are very conscious of that fact any will monitor the situation and if necessary bring in additional people where required.

On 5th October the North Northamptonshire Unitary started their consultation on the level of Council Tax Reduction for those eligible for relief. Corby, like South Northamptonshire, has a rate of 91.5% which means that those entitled will only pay 8.5% of the Council Tax. This is a significant help to the most vulnerable in our society.

Given that rates of 75% and more and now being considered this would mean they would have to pay 25%. This give me great cause for concern as the payments required could end up more than tripling.

The equivalent consultation in West Northamptonshire is due to start in November.

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