



Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk

01920 460316

WARE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 12th June 2023

in The Council Chamber, Ware Priory, Ware, starting at 7.30pm

Cllr Day (Chair) Butcher, Hill, Scully, Shaw, J Taylor-Moran, K Taylor-Moran, Zsibrita.

From item WTC618 Bryant, Mowbray.

Officer present: Terry Philpott Town Clerk, Sean Higgins RFO.

Members of the public: x1

MINUTES

WTC615: To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Williams

WTC616: To receive any Declarations of Interest and review any requests for Dispensation submitted to the Clerk.

- None declared.

WTC617: Minutes from the previous meeting: to receive and sign the minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on 13th May 2023.

Resolved: The minutes are an accurate record.

WTC618: Presentation from the Mayors Charity Citizens Advice (TD)

A presentation from Maxine Bromyard of Citizens Advice was received by Councillors.

WTC619: Funeral Bier requires a new home (JW)

To review the proposal related to the Funeral Bier. John Wing will be attending the meeting to answer and questions.

The Ware Town Funeral Bier – Needs a home!

The Ware Town Bier was built by a local cart-maker in 1909 to provide any Ware resident to have a dignified way for their body to be transported to their funeral and burial. It was funded from the collection at a charity football match organised by an organisation of Ware traders.

It was lodged in the Watton Road Cemetery Chapel until 2001 when WTC sold the chapel for redevelopment as housing. (The chapel needed c.£80,000 of repairs and was practically operating merely as a cemetery equipment shed).

Since 2001 it has been housed for a few years at our home in our garage, then in a garage used by Ware in Bloom, it was taken apart and housed in the Southern Malting store before recently being taken to the Hoe Lane garages that are on loan from Network Housing to Community Alliance (formerly the Council for Voluntary Services).

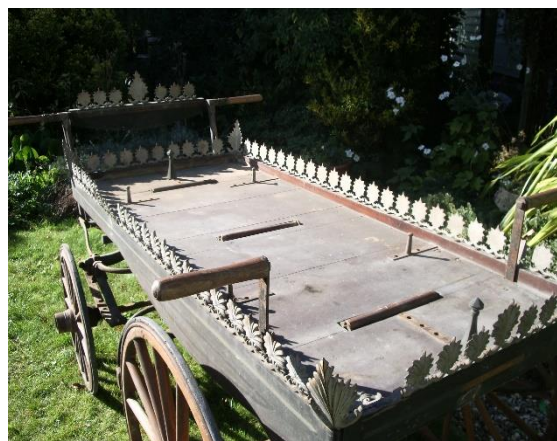
Network Housing plan to replace the garages with a terrace of social housing so before much longer the Bier will need a new home or to be disposed of.

Ware Museum do not have sufficient space to house it.

Proposal

It has been proposed that it could be housed either in the Watton Road Cemetery or the Priory Grounds, in a custom-built display shelter (similar to at housing the Wickham's Railway Trolley in the Museum's garden).

The Bier needs some minor restoration and reconstruction.



WTC620: Climate Crisis (MB)

A Resolution on the Climate Crisis

Noting the negative impacts of climate change caused by human activities are beginning to seriously affect the health and wellbeing of the people and environment of Ware, and that these negative impacts will only increase as the climate crisis worsens;

This Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to do all within their power to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and that local governments should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Ware and the UK that towns such as ours commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible, and act to protect human health and biodiversity to the maximum extent their powers allow;
2. Towns such as ours have a limited ability to act to reduce carbon emissions, to preserve biodiversity, and to protect the health of their citizens but have an obligation to act to do so, and the actions we can take are generally quicker and simpler than those of large cities, and decarbonisation is easier to achieve;
3. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,
4. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

This Council resolves to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency' which threatens the health and wellbeing of the people of Ware;
2. Make the Council's operations carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions, and to encourage and assist the citizens and businesses of Ware to do the same using the means available to us, including budgetary, ensuring that all Council activities are consistent with the goal of carbon neutrality;
3. Hold dialogue with East Herts Council and Herts County Council on decarbonisation of their operations by 2030, and to request our MP and national government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other local government bodies to determine and implement best practice methods locally to help limit Global Warming below a 1.5°C rise;
5. Ensure that all Council policies and practices within our control, including commercial operations and investments, are compatible with the goal of carbon neutrality;
6. Provide advice and assistance to residents in Ware so that they understand and can contribute towards the goal of carbon neutrality, providing appropriate options and choices where possible to encourage a modal shift away from carbon producing activities;

7. Report annually to the Town Meeting and to residents on progress towards this goal.

Resolved: To support the resolution on the Climate Crisis.

WTC621: Voice of Ware

Resolved: To support the proposal that The Town Council should be a powerful voice speaking out on behalf of our community, leading and campaigning on issues of vital interest to our town, our residents and future generations;

A Resolution on Representing our Residents

Ware Town Council resolves that:

As Councillors we were elected to represent residents in our wards in matters that affect their lives; Believing that the Town Council should be a powerful voice speaking out on behalf of our community, leading and campaigning on issues of vital interest to our town, our residents and future generations;

This Council resolves:

1. That we will use our voice to speak publicly on issues affecting the town and its residents;
2. That in so doing, even where issues concerned are strictly speaking beyond our competence, we will be an advocate for our town;
3. That in order to properly represent our Town we will consult widely¹ and regularly with all of our residents, including those whose views are typically underrepresented.
4. That recognising the role of youth in building our towns future, we will ensure their voices are heard in council chambers, including through the establishment of a Youth Town Council.

¹ For major issues like Ware2 this might include a Citizen's Assembly organised by an external body with experience in such. Other methods would include formal surveys like Ware conducted this year. For smaller issues it might be a simple survey monkey questionnaire.

WTC622: Correspondence and Clerks report (TP)

- Green space by New River at Amwell End / Gilpins Field, the project is unlikely to proceed due to operational requirements by Thames Water the landowner.
 - EV Charging points now installed, awaiting a go live date.
 - Meet your Councillor events, agreed to consider attending events such as the monthly market in Tudor Square instead of inviting people to The Priory.
 - CCTV control centre visit, to be confirmed.
-

WTC623: Grant applications

To receive an update on grants allocated by officers and review any grants for consideration by Full Council.

| Date | Organisation | Where are they based | Purpose of grant | Grant awarded/financial assistance | When will it be used |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 14.04.23 | Ware Football Club | Ware | Clubhouse Improvements | £ 1,000.00 | May-23 |
| 14.04.23 | Ware Boxing Club | Ware | Kit for the Members | £ 500.00 | May-23 |
| 14.04.23 | Ware District Guides | Ware | Coronation Event | £ 470.00 | May-23 |
| 14.04.23 | Ware Joggers | Ware | Ware Festival of Running | £ 882.00 | Jul-23 |
| 14.04.23 | Ware & District Photographic | Ware | Photo Exhibition | £ 250.00 | Nov-23 |
| 28.04.23 | East Herts Swift Group | Ware | Installation of swift boxes | £ 500.00 | Apr-23 |
| 15.05.23 | St Catherines School | Ware | Playground Equipment | £ 500.00 | May-23 |
| 15.05.23 | Future Living Hertford | Hertford | Sugarfoot Boxing - Coach | £ 1,000.00 | 2023/24 |
| 15.05.23 | Ware Lions | Ware | Equipment for Club | £ 500.00 | May-23 |
| 30.04.23 | Ware Mens Shed | Ware | Annual Rent | £ 2,400.00 | 2023/24 |
| | | | Total Spend Year To Date 2023/24 | £ 5,602.00 | |
| | | | Grant Pot 2023/24 £30k | £ 30,000.00 | |
| | | | Remaining 2023/24 | £ 24,398.00 | |
| | | | Loneliness Budget 2023/24 £3k | £ 3,000.00 | |
| | | | Loneliness Budget Spent 2023/24 | £ 2,400.00 | |
| | | | Loneliness Budget Remaining 2023/24 | £ 600.00 | |

WTC624: The Annual Governance Statement as contained in Section 1 of the AGAR be approved (SH).

The Town Council is required to complete an Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR).

The Annual Governance Statement as contained in Section 1 of the AGAR be approved, (each statement to be voted on individually)

- Resolved Item 1: Yes
- Resolved Item 2: Yes
- Resolved Item 3: Yes
- Resolved Item 4: Yes
- Resolved Item 5: Yes
- Resolved Item 6: Yes
- Resolved Item 7: Yes
- Resolved Item 8: Yes
- Resolved Item 9: Yes

WTC625: The Annual Governance Statement as contained in Section 2 of the AGAR be approved (SH).

Resolved: The Annual Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 as contained in section 2 of the AGAR have been reviewed and approved.

WTC626: Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 (SH)

Resolved: To receive and note the Annual Accounts, including the Statement of Internal Controls and the Asset register.

WTC627: Internal Audit report 24th April 2023 (separate paper distributed) (SH)

Resolved: The contents of the latest Internal Audit report and to approve the management actions were noted.

Further reviews by the Finance and Policy Committee.

WTC628 : New Showers Installation works at The Lido

Project objective: To upgrade the current shower system at the Lido.

Timescale: October to November avoiding school holiday, time on site approx. 4weeks .

Summary of works to be completed : To upgrade the hot water provision to showers in the Lido to ensure there is hot water available to all users throughout the day. Also, to increase the number of showers available where possible.

| | Supplier A | Supplier B | Supplier C | Supplier D |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 1 | 42,623.00 | 49,916.00 | 69,072.15 | 109,817.00 |
| 2 | £ 46,439.00 | | | |

Recommendation: To appoint supplier A to carry out the works, subject to satisfactory references and site meeting. To be managed by the Clerks Office.

Payment terms to be agreed prior to commencement of the project.

This item was deferred while alternative options are considered that achieve an emission neutral scheme.

WTC629: Skatepark perimeter project

Project objective: To replace the worn out areas around the skatepark with a robust safety surface.

Timescale: September to October avoiding school holiday, time on site approx. 4weeks.

Summary of works to be completed: Phase 1 remove approx. 150mm of soil, refill with MOT type 2 to provide base for Phase 2 wet pour installation.

| Contractor | A | B | C | D |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| | £21100 | £22889 | £29870 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total | £21100 | £22889 | £29870 | |

Resolved: To appoint contractor A, to be managed by the Clerks Office.

The wet pour contractor completed the works in the new Priory Park to a high standard. It is recommended that this contractor is retained for this phase of the works at a cost of £26267.

The total project cost is £47367.

The budget for the project is £40K, the balance to be taken from reserves.

WTC630: Asset transfer of the Priory Play Park

The play equipment is sited on land owned by The Priory Charity. The refurbishment works were paid for by WTC as part of the Management agreement. The recommendation is to formally transfer the play equipment from WTC to The Priory Charity at a value of £202,895.44

Resolved: To transfer the play equipment (asset value of £202,895.44) to The Priory Charity.

WTC631: The Priory Charity Management agreement

The Priory Management agreement commenced on 1st April 2020 and has been renewed annually until now.

Resolved: To approve The Priory Management agreement for a period of ten years effective from 1st April 2023.

WTC632: Feedback from members of Ware Lido Project group (TP/TD)

The pool works and associated pump room have now been completed.
 A launch evening has been scheduled for Tuesday 13th June with the first public session on Wednesday 14th June.
 Phase 2 preparatory works continue.

WTC633: Feedback from members of Neighbourhood Plan Forum (Cllrs)

The examiners report has been received and is being ‘fact’ checked by member of the MPSG over the next two weeks. The NPSG will meet to discuss the publicity related to the referendum which is likely to take place in the Autumn of 2023.

WTC634: Feedback from members of external groups (Cllrs)

Feedback was minimal as the majority of groups have not met.

- Friend of Ware Priory (GH)
- Town Twinning (KTM)
- Southern Maltings (GW)
- Ware Drill Hall (AZ)
- Ware Museum (BB)
- Ware Society (GH)
- Ware Charities (JTM)

WTC635: Reports from Committees – to receive and note the minutes of following committees:

Finance and Policy – 5th June 2023

Community and Environment – 22nd May 2023

Human Resources – na

WTC636: Agenda items for next meeting

WTC637: Mayor's Closing Remarks

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed

Dated