



Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk

01920 460316

WARE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 22nd January 2024

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

MINUTES

Clr Day (Chair) Bryant, Butcher, Hill, Mowbray, Scully, Shaw, J Taylor-Moran, K Taylor-Moran Williams, Zsibrita

Officer present: Terry Philpott Town Clerk

Members of the public:

WTC693: To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

- None received.

WTC694: To receive any Declarations of Interest and review any requests for Dispensation submitted to the Clerk.

- Cllr Hill, Ware Library consultation.

WTC695: Minutes from the previous meeting: to receive and sign the minutes of the last Town Council meeting held on 11th December 2023

Resolved: The minutes are an accurate record.

WTC696: Correspondence and Clerks report (TP)

Councillor surgeries February 2024, to be attended by RM, GH, MB, TD, DS.

Annual Town Meeting 18th March 2024 update

Twinning visit to Cormeilles March 9th and 10th 2024

Old Town Ware Live 28th July 2024

Riverbanks visit

Future of Dickensian Evening meeting this week

WTC697 : 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	Project title	Purpose of grant	Grant awarded/financial assistance	When will it be used
14.04.23	Ware Football Club	Ware	Clubhouse Improvements	Clubhouse Improvements	£ 1,000.00	May-23
14.04.23	Ware Boxing Club	Ware	Kit for the Members	Kit for the Members	£ 500.00	May-23
14.04.23	Ware District Guides	Ware	Coronation Event	Coronation Event	£ 470.00	May-23
14.04.23	Ware Joggers	Ware	Ware Festival of Running	Ware Festival of Running	£ 882.00	Jul-23
14.04.23	Ware & District Photographic	Ware	Photo Exhibition	Photo Exhibition	£ 250.00	Nov-23
28.04.23	East Herts Swift Group	Ware	Installation of swift boxes	Installation of swift boxes	£ 500.00	Apr-23
15.05.23	St Catherines School	Ware	Playground Equipment	Playground Equipment	£ 500.00	May-23
15.05.23	Future Living Hertford	Hertford	Sugarfoot Boxing - Coach	Sugarfoot Boxing - Coach	£ 1,000.00	2023/24
15.05.23	Ware Lions	Ware	Equipment for Club	Equipment for Club	£ 500.00	May-23
30.04.23	Ware Mens Shed	Ware	Mens Shed Cemetery	Annual Rent	£ 2,400.00	2023/24
15.06.23	Youth Justice	Ware	Allotments 23/24	Allotments 23/24	£ 750.00	Jul-23
30.06.23	EHDC	Ware	Diversionary Activities - Ware	Diversionary Activities - Ware	£ 2,000.00	2023
14.07.23	Rotary Club	Ware	Strawberry Teas - 09.07.23	Strawberry Teas - 09.07.23	£ 300.00	Jul-23
31.07.23	Ware Town Centre Partnership	Ware	Music & Motors	Music & Motors	£ 500.00	Jul-23
16.08.23	Beekeeper	Ware	Shed for Apiary	Shed for Apiary	£ 362.95	23/24
31.08.23	Community Initiative	Ware	Move, Meditate & Relax	Move, Meditate & Relax	£ 490.00	23/24
15.09.23	Carers in Herts	Ware	Hubs for unpaid carers	Hubs for unpaid carers	£ 1,000.00	23/24
15.09.23	Police	Ware	Community Day	Community Day	£ 250.00	Sep-23
15.09.23	Red Kite	Ware	Support Group	Support Group	£ 2,000.00	23/24
29.09.23	Wodson Park Trust	Ware	Pickleball	Pickleball	£ 930.00	23/24
31.10.23	Ware Arts Centre	Ware	Mini Maltings	Mini Maltings	£ 750.00	23/24
31.10.23	Local Social Netball	Ware	Local Social Netball	Local Social Netball	£ 1,000.00	23/24
31.10.23	CHIPS	Ware	Playschemes	Playschemes	£ 2,000.00	23/24
30.11.23	Christmas Together	Ware	Christmas Together	Christmas Together	£ 350.00	Dec-24
15.12.23	Neighbourhood Plan Group	Ware	Ware Neighbourhood Plan	Ware Neighbourhood Plan	£ 848.99	23/24
15.12.23	Herts Phoenix Athletic Club	Ware	Cover for High Jump Bed Spike Proof	Cover for High Jump Bed Spike Proof	£ 500.00	23/24
15.12.23	Citizens Advice	Ware	Citizens Advice Room Hire	Citizens Advice Room Hire	£ 500.00	23/24
15.12.23	Community Alliance	Ware	Room hire costs for Digital Workshop	Room hire costs for Digital Workshop	£ 400.00	23/24
29.12.23	Scotts Grotto	Ware	Garden Tidy Up	Garden Tidy Up	£ 1,000.00	23/24
29.12.23	Ware Drill Hall	Ware	Badminton Court Repainting of Lines	Badminton Court Repainting of Lines	£ 2,000.00	23/24
29.12.23	Ware Musical Theatre	Ware	Additional Seating for Drill Hall Performance	Additional Seating for Drill Hall Performance	£ 2,000.00	23/24
29.12.23	Ware Boxing Club	Ware	Equipment for Club, Insurance	Equipment for Club, Insurance	£ 2,659.60	23/24
29.12.23	Police	Ware	Christmas Hampers	Christmas Hampers	£ 502.40	
15.01.24	Future Hope	Ware	Support the minibus	Support the minibus	£ 1,000.00	
15.01.24	Generation Circus	Ware	Trampolines and matts	Trampolines and matts	£ 500.00	
				Total Spend Year To Date 2023/24	£ 29,545.94	
				Grant Pot 2023/24 £30k	£ 30,000.00	
				Remaining 2023/24	£ 454.06	
				Loneliness Budget 2023/24 £3k	£ 3,050.00	
				Loneliness Budget Spent 2023/24	£ 3,050.00	
				Loneliness Budget Remaining 2023/24	£ -	

Resolved to support the grant application: Great Amwell Scout Group for cushioned outdoor flooring £1500 from the 24/25 budget.

WTC698: Ware Charities:

To receive an update from John Davies, Chair of Ware Charities

The current Ware Town Council's appointed trustees come to the end of their term in 2024.

- Phyllis Ballam's appointment comes to an end on 29th February 2024
- Alexander Curtis' appointment comes to an end on 31st May 2024.

Ware Town Council need to appoint 2 trustees to the board of The Ware Charities. They need not be councillors.

Resolved: To appoint Andy Cooke as one of the WTC appointed trustees. He is well known in the town for his work in charitable organisations and has knowledge and experience that would be most useful to the trustees of Ware Charities.

The remaining WTC trustee position to be agreed prior to the end of Alexander Curtis term of office.

The council expressed their appreciation of the work of Phyllis Ballam as the council's representative for Ware Charities.

WTC699: Development of Ware Library (MB)

To consider the proposed development of Ware Library into residential and agree the council's response.

Please see below the link for the Library Consultation, 7 homes (3 houses & 4 flats), <https://www.ian-abrams-architects.co.uk/news/ware-library-public-consultation/>

The council felt that the site was being overdeveloped, it accepted the principle of some residential but would like to see a commercial element on the ground floor. Concern was expressed over the lack of any parking and the potential impact on adjacent roads.

WTC700: Councillor Allowances (KTM)

To review the paper from Cllr Kirsty Taylor-Moran.

Resolved: To introduce an optional Cllr allowance of £1750pa

It was agreed to investigate ways to encourage greater diversity of Councillors by the creation of a working party.

WTC701: Mayors Allowance Policy (TP)

Resolved: To approve the policy with no amendments.

WTC702: Library of Things (KTM)

The paper from Cllr Kirsty Taylor-Moran was reviewed, it was agreed to continue with the research and bring a formal proposal to Council including cost and location.

WTC703: Ware Priory Trading (TP)

Ware Priory Trading at its board meeting 27th November 2023 voted to dissolve the legal entity and with the agreement of Ware Town Council incorporate its operation into Ware Town Council effective from 1st April 2024.

The report in the agenda pack outlines the options considered and the background of Ware Priory Trading. The recommendation is supported by the auditor.

Resolved: To incorporate the activities of Ware Priory Trading into Ware Town Council effective 1st April 2024.

WTC704: WTC Business Plan 2024 -2028

Resolved: To approve the business plan.

WTC705: Precept and Budget for 2024/25

Resolved: To set the precept at £1589479 for the financial year 2024/25.

Ware Town Council							
Income and Expenditure Budget 2024/25							
		Income	Expenditure	Net Cost	Ratio		
Grants		£0	£118,060	£118,060	7.0		
Town Centre		£0	£96,204	£96,204	5.7		
Communication / Promoting Ware		£0	£39,301	£39,301	2.3		
Civic Events		£3,500	£31,100	£27,600	1.6		
Ware Festival		£11,260	£20,110	£8,850	0.5		
Events and Community Activities		£3,600	£124,805	£121,205	7.2		
Supporting Ware		£18,360	£429,580	£411,220	24.3		
The Priory		£0	£69,032	£69,032	4.1		
Fletchers Lea		£0	£40,408	£40,408	2.4		
Priory Grounds		£1,632	£207,729	£206,097	12.2		
Lido		£200,160	£338,134	£137,974	8.2		
Ware Priory Trading		£389,412	£271,194	-£118,218	-7.0		
The Priory Estate		£591,204	£926,497	£335,293	19.8		
Cemetery		£54,400	£70,780	£16,380	1.0		
Allotments		£7,400	£15,211	£7,811	0.5		
Other Properties		£0	£5,741	£5,741	0.3		
Properties		£61,800	£91,732	£29,932	1.8		
Administration		£16,000	£361,785	£345,785	20.5		
Projects			£567,250	£567,250	33.6		
Total		687364	2376843	1689479	100.0		
Reserves Transfer				100,000			
Precept		1589479		£1,589,479			
Cost per Band D household				£210			
Variance to prior year				£53			
% Inc / Dec				34%			
Weekly increase				£1.02			
Weekly cost per property				£4.03			

WTC706: Feedback from members of Ware Lido Project group (TP/TD)

To receive feedback from the Lido Project Group.

Feedback from the project manager re the three schemes

I understand that some consideration has been given recently to demolishing the existing building and constructing a new state of the art facility. Whilst this might seem like a good idea from an architectural design point of view, you should be aware that the cost of demolishing the existing building and constructing a new single storey building on a similar footprint, but say 20% bigger, would cost in the region of £2m. A much larger two storey building on the same footprint would cost in the region of £3.5m. Furthermore, the Lido would have to close for at least one year while the redevelopment work is undertaken, and the new pool plant room would be destroyed. Planning permission is likely to be difficult to obtain, particularly for a two-storey building, so the project is unlikely be delivered until 2025/26.

This was broadly based on a building cost of £2,500/m², plus demolition of the existing building (circa £150,000), plus 15% professional fees. Obviously, the cost will vary depending on the size of the building and the specification.

A design for an enhanced single storey building is being drafted, this will then be consulted on with the community.

WTC707: Feedback from members of external groups (Cllrs)

- Friend of Ware Priory (GH)
- Town Twinning (KTM)
- Southern Maltings (GW)
- Ware Drill Hall (AZ)
- Ware Museum (BB)
- Ware Society (RM)
- Ware Charities (TJP)
- Air Training Corps (TD)

Invitation to provide a Councillor to be part of the Drill Hall Committee.

WTC708: Reports from Committees – to receive and note the minutes of following committees:

Finance and Policy – The final committee meeting will be 29th January 2024

Community and Environment – The final committee meeting will be 12th February 2024

Human Resources –

WTC709: Motion from Cllr Shaw:

Resolved: "To write to H.M. Government calling for a change in electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections and all Local elections."

Thirty-one councils have now adopted the motion of P.R. It is also the national policy of the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru. Proportional Representation ensures all votes count, have equal value and that seats won match votes cast.

WTC710: Agenda items for next meeting

WTC711: Mayor's Closing Remarks

Cllr Day paid tribute to Mike Tucker former Mayor of Ware.

Mike served as a Town Councillor from 1983 to 1991 and as Town Mayor 1985/6.

He also served as a District Councillor from 1987 to 1995 where he was Chairman of the Works Committee.

He is succeeded by his wife Wendy and adult daughters.

A minute's silence was observed.

Resolved: To exclude the press and public for the next two agenda items.

WTC712: Appointment Climate and Biodiversity Manager (HR)

Resolved: To approve the recruitment of the above position to be managed by the Clerks Office.

WTC713: Property update (Commercially confidential)

An update on the property review and discussion with East Herts Council was briefed to members, work is ongoing.

Signed

Dated