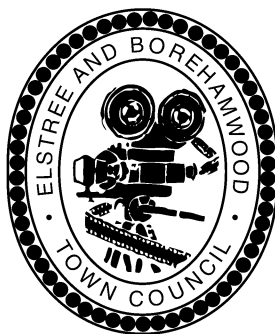


## ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL



### FULL COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting held at Fairway Hall, Town Council Offices, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT on Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present:

- Cllr R Challice - Shenley Road (Mayor)
- Cllr G Alexander – Brookmeadow
- Cllr R Butler - Cowley Hill
- Cllr P Kaza – Kenilworth North
- Cllr T Kumar - Hillside
- Cllr J Newmark – Cowley Hill
- Cllr P Nirmalkumaran – Kenilworth South
- Cllr D Ozarow – Kenilworth South
- Cllr Mrs S Parnell – Hillside
- Cllr L Smith – Cowley Hill
- Cllr F Turner - Elstree

In Attendance:

- Tracey Malton – Town Clerk
- G Martell – Deputy Clerk
- D Salter – Technical Support
- Jenny Simon – Admin Assistant

Present: 1 member of the public – A Kaza

**Cllr Rebecca Challice in the Chair (Mayor)**

### **63. APOLOGIES**

**It was RESOLVED that:**

**apologies for absence be received and approved in respect of Cllr A Plancey (other business) and Cllr A Collins (unwell).**

#### **64. DECARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **65. MINUTES**

**It was RESOLVED that:**

**the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29 November 2023 be signed by the Mayor as a true record and adopted by the Council.**

#### **66. SIGNED MINUTES**

**It was RESOLVED that:**

The following minutes were approved.

- **Environment and Planning Committee 19 September 2023 and 25 November 2023**
- **Transport and Community Safety Forum 24 May 2023 and 5 July 2023**

#### **Mayoral Announcement – International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

*The Mayor made an eloquent speech marking Holocaust, both past and present, reflecting on the memory of those that suffered unimaginable horrors during one of the darkest moments in human history. Commenting that we stand united in our commitment to remembrance, ensuring lessons of the past are never forgotten. The Holocaust serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of hatred, prejudice, and indifference. It is our committed responsibility to ensure that the atrocities of the past are never repeated.*

The Mayor invited those present to the Holocaust candle lit Remembrance Parade organised by Hertsmere, on Thursday 27 January 2024 at 6.00pm from Manor Road Car Park to the Wylllyotts Centre, Potters Bar.

The Mayor concluded by saying:

*Together as a community in Borehamwood and Elstree we must foster towards understanding, acceptance and compassion. We want a world where we can live in a democracy respecting other people's differences in opinion.*

#### **67. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

**It was RESOLVED that the accounts be approved.**

## **68. FINANCE BUDGET AND PRECEPT DEMAND FOR 2024/25**

**It was RESOLVED that: the Budget and Precept demand for 2024/25 be approved.**

- (i) the Budget for 2024/25 recommended by Budget and Precept be approved as set out in the report before Members;**
- (ii) the In-House Audit report drafted by Cllr J Newmark be received, with no issues outstanding. Report attached. (APPENDIX A); and**
- (iii) the Town Council Precept demand for 2024/25 be adopted and submitted to Hertsmere Borough Council as follows;**

**Band D £57.27 per annum for all Town Council Services**

**Base Rate 13774.20 = £788,911**

	68(i)	68(ii)	68(iii)
Cllr R Challice – Shenley Road (Mayor)	For	For	For
Cllr G Alexander - Brookmeadow	For	For	For
Cllr R Butler – Cowley Hill	For	For	For
Cllr P Kaza – Kenilworth North	For	For	For
Cllr T Kumar - Hillside	For	For	For
Cllr J Newmark – Cowley Hill	For	For	For
Cllr P Nirmalakumaran – Kenilworth South	For	For	For
Cllr D Ozarow – Kenilworth South	For	For	For
Cllr Mrs S Parnell - Hillside	For	For	For
Cllr L Smith – Cowley Hill	For	For	For
Cllr Mrs F Turner - Elstree	For	For	For

Following approval of the budget and precept Cllr R Butler made the following observations.

- Welcomed the approval of an Enforcement Officer in conjunction with HBC.
- Reinstatement of a Market.
- Provision for religious celebrations such as Diwali.

Cllr J Newmark commended the Budget remarking that it gave stability to EBTC finances with a positive contribution to residents, diverse religious support, and an opportunity to generate income for the Council commenting ‘it was a great step forward’.

Cllr D Ozarow remarked that the Budget was good value for money with the precept well below national average considering the benefit provided to the community to include:

- Programme of events
- Civic festival
- Fireworks night
- Christmas lights switch-on
- Coach trips for the over 60s, Summer and Winter
- Community Grants
- Allotments
- Cultural links
- Support for Boreham Wood Football Club
- WD6 publication of events

Cllr Mrs S Parnell felt that there was a lack of communication between parties pointing out that she had not been kept informed or included in any discussions, plans or progress in connection with the creation of a Farmers Market in Elstree and Borehamwood. Cllr R Butler responded by saying that the previous administration had wanted to bring a market back to the town but it was the present administration that would be providing it. Cllr Mrs S Parnell asked that the remark be minuted.

It was noted that all members were in support of the engagement of an Enforcement Officer, as this would forge important community links, giving advice and help to residents as well as dealing with problems that may arise.

## **69. BOREHAM WOOD FOOTBALL CLUB SPONSORSHIP**

Members were asked to consider sponsorship of the North Stand as recommended by the General Management Committee at its meeting on **16 November 2023. (Minute 58)** noting that sponsorship for improvements to the club would be £17,500 per annum for three years, paid in two tranches.

Cllr D Ozarow spoke in favour of sponsorship remarking that BWFC is an asset to the community attended by thousands of fans, especially when Arsenal Ladies play (the top ladies' team in the country) and brings considerable revenue into the town. The Club also invest in the community after school clubs and support for vulnerable residents. Sponsorship will help towards improving the ground which has already been transformed to a very high spec making it ready if they achieve their aim of Football League status. They provide great publicity for the Town, especially when matches are televised, as the Town Council logo is displayed. Cllr Mrs S Parnell echoed appreciation of what Boreham Wood Football Club does for the town. All members were in favour and support of the Club.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- (i) Sponsorship contribution towards Boreham Wood Football Club towards the North Stand be made; and**
- (ii) expenditure of £17,500 per annum for three years be taken from CIL fund.**

## **70. CIL FUND**

CIL Fund Balance **£359,584.96**

Agreed CIL Earmarked Committed Spend:

- 1- Reel Cinema - £100,000
- 2- All Saints Churchyard - £15,000
- 3- St Nicholas Churchyard - £7,500
- 4- Neighbourhood Plan - £10,000
- 5- Boreham Wood Football Club £17,500 per annum for three years = £52,500

Total = **£185,000**

CIL Fund Balance = **£174,584.96**

## **71. LIVING WAGE ACCREDITATION**

Deputy Clerk Gillian Martell tabled a report on the Living Wage. Cllr J Newmark commented that it was an excellent paper (APPENDIX B)

**It was AGREED that: The Council should progress and achieve accreditation.**

## **72. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**There were no questions from the public.**

## **73. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**The Mayor to move the following resolution: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s.1 (2), the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst matters pertaining to staffing are discussed.**

## **74. REEL CINEMA**

Members were presented with a report from Reel Cinema. (APPENDIX C). The formation of a foundation provisionally known as “Screen Heritage Foundation” was discussed to consist of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and Hertsmere Borough Council.

“Screen Heritage Foundation” to hold the funds and be the body that signs the deal with REEL Cinema. The body to be made up of HBC Officer or Member. EBTC Town Clerk (in their absence Deputy Clerk), and member of the Entertainments Committee. The investment proposal was noted as £6,000 per annum for three years from revenue funding and £100,000 from CIL fund.

Cllr J Newmark said that closure of the cinema was imminent, and action must be taken urgently to secure the agreement. A panel with input into programming, decoration, heritage memorabilia etc could then be set up. If unsuccessful funds would revert to Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council. It was noted that there was a possibility of funding from other bodies such as the Arts Council, local film studios etc who may want input.

Cllr D Ozarow commented that ideas had been discussed at GMC and Entertainments Officer D Salter had worked on suggestions such as foyer refurbishment with heritage theme, gift shop and other revenue generators. Cllr D Ozarow was concerned that this had not been mentioned in the agreement and felt the wording was not tight enough. Cllr J Newmark said that initially, CIL funding will be used for foyer/toilet improvements, but that EBTC would have an input as they are providing the bulk of the funding.

Cllr S Parnell asked if Hertsmere Borough Council were contributing, and Cllr J Newmark responded saying that HBC funding may be in the form of rates rebate etc. Cllr L Smith felt that REEL should be responsible for maintaining the foyer and toilets, but Cllr J Newmark said deterioration was due to the fact that closure had been mooted. Cllr L Smith also thought the wording should include local events, film schedules etc but Cllr J Newmark pointed out that this would follow later as this was a proposal not a contract set out clause by clause. Cllr S Parnell was in agreement saying that the cinema should be kept open for the benefit of the residents as many had expressed concern at possible closure. Cllr R Butler said that Cllr D Ozarow and Cllr L Smith could be involved in the eventual programme planning at a later stage. Cllr J Newmark said that the idea at the moment is to save the cinema. If this didn't work, EBTC could withdraw. Cllr G Alexander felt it was a good initial agreement.

**It was RESOLVED that:**

- (i) A CIC (Community Interest Company) be formed made up of EBTC and HBC;**
- (ii) a solicitor be appointed to establish the CIC with the Town Clerk; and**
- (iii) funding be approved.**

## **75. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 8.29pm

The Mayor announced the date of the Annual Parish Meeting as Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 7.30 pm at Fairway Hall.

It was noted that the next meeting of Council was scheduled for Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 7.30 pm at Fairway Hall.

Date:.....MAYOR.....