

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE EXTRAORDINARY WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT:

Cllr M Parkinson (Mayor)

Cllr P Jay

Cllr U Parkinson

Cllr S Rasch

Cllr T Redpath

Cllr A Grant (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr J Cooper

Cllr S Parnes

Cllr E Poskitt

Cllr P Redpath

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: C Carruthers (Clerk), CCllr I Hudspeth, Will Barton (WODC Officer) and 7 members of the public.

WTC264/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

WTC265/20 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST:

Cllr M Parkinson

Item 4 Planning & Licensing: Personal interest as he works within the hospitality sector within the town.

WTC266/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION:

Five members of the public addressed the meeting, the first being; John Bleakley who voiced his concern about WODC's proposal to 'help' the town's hospitality businesses from 12th April 2021 by removing town centre parking spaces and encouraging the hospitality business to serve alcoholic drinks on the streets of Woodstock.

Joanna Lamb supported the points made by John Bleakley and again reiterated that she was concerned about the loss of parking spaces in the town centre, making way for tables and chairs. She did not see how this would help retail shops if their trade has nowhere to park. She also commented on the great risk to the public if pavement licences were to be accepted for tables in close proximity to the A44.

Dennis Allen, Chair of Wake up to Woodstock, supported WODC's proposal and roadmap along with the suggestion of issuing pavement licences to some hospitality businesses, but thought this is vital to the sustainability of the businesses in the town.

Themis Avraamides another local resident who feels he will be deeply impacted by WODC's proposal, he stated that WTC rightly rejected WODC's divisive proposals last summer for the reasons detailed then - nothing material has changed. Indeed, the anticipated antisocial behaviour over the summer was extreme, and only reinforces the reasons given for rejecting the WODC proposals which were, and remain, wrong and inappropriate for this town; the town centre is predominantly residential, with those residents being mostly elderly or young families. These were all good reasons to have rejected WODC plans and remain so. We ask that the WODC plans remain rejected.

Grace Manson a younger resident of Woodstock spoke to highlight the anti-social behaviour and noise impact on her family home with the granting of pavement licenses. She recalled occasions where intervention by members of her family has been required to help stop "pub brawls" and foul language along with smashing of glasses. She urged WTC to not support WODC's roadmap proposal.

A hard copy of the updates is available (on request via the Clerk) for anyone who would like a copy.

WTC267/20 PLANNING AND LICENSING:

Cllr T Redpath proposed the following response to WODC's outdoor hospitality phased reopening, seconded by Cllr A Grant.

"Woodstock Town Council has a remit to look after the interests of all residents and businesses.

Whilst appreciating that there are a few businesses that will benefit from the pavement licensing proposals there are many other businesses in the centre and town centre residents for which it will be detrimental.

WTC therefore urges WODC to recognise that the layout of the Woodstock centre means that extended pavement licencing will have a detrimental effect for the majority and requests that WODC does not proceed with its proposals on the grounds of "very good reasons not to" in accordance with the Secretary of State letter".

VOTE:	For:	7	Cllrs U Parkinson, S Parnes, P Redpath, T Redpath, S Rasch, A Grant, P Jay
	Against:	2	Cllrs J Cooper, E Poskitt
	Abstaining:	1	Cllr M Parkinson

RESOLVED: The motion was carried

Cllr P Redpath noted that it will not logistically work within Woodstock to allow the outside hospitality but suggested that a suitable open space be found and allow the businesses to run a festival of sorts.

Cllr J Cooper said that the traffic was light in comparison to normal trading due to COVID-19 and that he would bring back the issue of traffic to the April meeting.

Cllr S Parnes supported the above motion and proposed the following, seconded by Cllr M Parkinson.

"Woodstock Town Council recognises local residents' support for local businesses and endorses further exploration of residents' ideas for a Pavement Licence and Recovery Plan Strategy, in the form of :

- 1. Ensure that each application be considered on its own merits, having regard to all the circumstances and history of the premises e.g. dealing with antisocial behaviour.*
- 2. Look favourably where there are existing tables and chairs on pavements, where no parking or road space has been used.*
- 3. Look unfavourably at any applications where parking or road space would be lost or affected.*

4. *Take a holistic approach so that ALL the businesses' and residents' concerns are taken into account, not just hospitality.*

5. *Ensure that, should individual Pavement Licences be granted, WODC commit to providing enforcement and make sure that procedures are in place for breaches and antisocial behaviour”.*

VOTE: For: 10 Against: 0 Abstaining: 0

RESOLVED: The motion was carried.

He added the further proposal which was not seconded, so the motion fell.

“Woodstock Town Council calls on WODC to explore prospects of operating limited, designated open spaces for hospitality in designated areas such as the Town Square and/or Museum Garden subject to an acceptable plan to be developed for considerate and effective regulation and management of those areas”.

Will Barton (WODC) said it was obvious that WTC did not have a preferred solution for a roadmap, that he noted WTC were unsatisfied with the approach proposed by WODC and that he would take that WTC would prefer each application be considered on its own merit.

It was agreed that WTC does not support the roadmap issued by WODC and that they strong stand by the above motions.

The meeting closed at 8:32pm

Chair:

Date: