

Woodley Town Council

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre  
on Tuesday 13 May 2014 at 8 pm**

**Present:** Councillors W. Soane (Chairman); K. Baker; T. Barker; A. Chadwick;  
P. Challis; J. Cheng; N. Cox; A. Downes; R. Duncan; B. Franklin;  
K. Gilder; K. Haines; L. Hayward; L. Higgs; M. Holmes; C. Lawley;  
D. Mills; R. Neall; S. Outen; S. Rahmouni; E. Rowland; D. Smith;  
M. Storry; M. Walker; M. Willson

**Officers in attendance:** D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Service Support Manager;  
L. Matthews, Committee Officer

*Before the start of the meeting, the Town Mayor presented grant cheques to representatives of the following local community groups and other organisations:*

*Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Earley and Woodley Stroke Club, Woodley Town Football Club, Hope Davies, Aleasha Lunn and Adrian Wakelin,*

*Following the presentation of the grant cheques a maximum of 30 minutes was set aside for members of the public to pose questions to the Council in the Town Forum, as reported in Appendix A.*

*Before opening the meeting the outgoing Town Mayor, Councillor Soane, asked for a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Joyce Wise, a former member of the Council.*

1. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Haines and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to elect Councillor Franklin to the office of Town Mayor of Woodley for the 2014/15 municipal year.

Councillor Franklin then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor and took the chair.

Councillor Franklin said that the position of Town Mayor was an honour and a privilege given to very few people and he would represent the town with dignity and enjoyment.

Councillor Franklin thanked the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Soane, and his wife for the time and effort they had spent representing Woodley over the past year. When presenting Councillor Soane with the Past Mayor's Badge, Councillor Franklin said that he would like past Mayors to be able to wear their badge on a ribbon around the neck and he intended to enquire if this could be arranged.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Downes and Councillor Storry.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Holmes	Agenda Item 18.1 Notice of Motion	Personal interest as Chairman of Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative
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Councillor Holmes did not take part in the discussion or the vote on Item 18.1.

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Franklin, seconded by Councillor Soane and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to elect Councillor Mills to the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2014/15 municipal year

5. **COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note the current composition of the Council:  
11 Conservative, 2 Independent and 12 Liberal Democrat Members.

6. **POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note the appointment of Councillor Rowland as Leader and Councillor Challis as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.
- ◆ to note the appointment of Councillor Cheng as Leader and Councillor Mills as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.
- ◆ to note the appointment of Councillor Hayward as Leader and Councillor Cox as Deputy Leader of the Independent Group.

7. **LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL**

7.1 It was proposed by Councillor Cheng, seconded by Councillor Haines and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to elect Councillor Baker as Leader of the Council for the 2014/15 municipal year.

7.2 It was proposed by Councillor Cheng, seconded by Councillor Baker and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to elect Councillor Haines as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2014/15 municipal year.

8. **STANDING COMMITTEES 2014/15**

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Haines and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that there be nine places on each of the standing committees for the 2014/15 municipal year.

## 8.1 **Strategy & Resources Committee**

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Challis, Cheng, Haines, Hayward, Lawley, Mills, Outen and Rowland to the Strategy and Resources Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.

## 8.2 **Leisure Services Committee**

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Barker, Chadwick, Challis, Cox, Downes, Franklin, Outen, Rahmouni and Soane to the Leisure Services Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.

## 8.3 **Community Services Committee**

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Hayward, Higgs, Holmes, Lawley, Mills, Neall, Smith, Soane and Walker to the Community Services Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.

## 8.4 **Plans Committee**

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Barker, Cheng, Duncan, Hayward, Holmes, Neall, Rahmouni, Walker and Willson to the Plans Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.

## 9. **CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Under Standing Order 4.d) members of the standing committees appointed the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the standing committees as follows:

### 9.1 **Strategy and Resources Committee**

#### a) **Chairman:**

It was proposed by Councillor Cheng, seconded by Councillor Mills and

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Baker Chairman of the Strategy & Resources Committee for the municipal year.

#### b) **Vice Chairman:**

Councillor Haines was proposed by Councillor Cheng and seconded by Councillor Baker.

Councillor Rowland was proposed by Councillor Challis and seconded by Councillor Lawley.

On being put to a vote it was:

### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Haines Vice Chairman of the Strategy & Resources Committee for the municipal year.

## 9.2 **Leisure Services Committee**

### a) **Chairman:**

It was proposed by Councillor Franklin, seconded by Councillor Barker and

#### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Soane Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee for the municipal year.

### b) **Vice Chairman:**

Councillor Barker was proposed by Councillor Franklin and seconded by Councillor Soane.

Councillor Challis was proposed by Councillor Outen and seconded by Councillor Rahmouni.

On being put to the vote it was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Barker Vice Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee for the municipal year.

## 9.3 **Community Services Committee**

### a) **Chairman:**

It was proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Soane and

#### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Smith Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the municipal year.

### b) **Vice Chairman:**

Councillor Hayward was proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Soane.

Councillor Lawley was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Higgs.

On being put to a vote it was:

#### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Hayward Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the municipal year.

## 9.4 **Plans Committee**

### a) **Chairman:**

It was proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Neall and

#### **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Cheng Chairman of the Plans Committee for the municipal year.

### b) **Vice Chairman:**

Councillor Duncan was proposed by Councillor Holmes and seconded by Councillor Neall.

Councillor Barker was proposed by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Hayward.

On being put to a vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Barker Vice Chairman of the Plans Committee for the municipal year.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTIES AND SUB COMMITTEE**

Under Standing Order 4 e) members of the parent standing committee appointed places and members to the working parties as follows:

10.1 **Strategy and Resources Committee**

a) **Investments Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Investments Working Party.
- ◆ to suspend Standing Order 4 f) in order to propose that all three groups be represented on the Investments Working Party for the municipal year.
- ◆ that there be 6 places on the Investments Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Challis, Cox, Franklin, Outen and Rowland to the Investments Working Party for the municipal year.

b) **Risk Management Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Risk Management Working Party.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Risk Management Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Challis, Haines, Mills and Outen to the Risk Management Working Party for the municipal year.

c) **Catering Partnership Management Panel:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Catering Partnership Management Panel.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Catering Partnership Management Panel for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Chadwick, Challis, Haines and Rowland to the Catering Partnership Working Party for the municipal year.

d) **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Working Party.
- ◆ to suspend Standing Order 4 f) in order to propose that all three groups be represented on the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Working Party for the municipal year.
- ◆ that there be 3 places on the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Challis and Hayward to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Working Party for the municipal year.

e) **Public Toilets Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Public Toilets Working Party.
- ◆ to suspend Standing Order 4 f) in order to propose that all three groups be represented on the Public Toilets Working Party for the municipal year.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Public Toilets Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Haines, Hayward, Outen and Rowland to the Public Toilets Working Party for the municipal year.

f) **Personnel Sub Committee:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Personnel Sub Committee.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Personnel Sub Committee for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Challis, Haines, and Rowland to the Personnel Sub Committee for the municipal year.

10.2 **Leisure Services Committee**

a) **Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Woodford Park Entrance Improvements Working Party.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Barker, Challis and Outen to the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Entrance Improvements Working Party for the municipal year.

10.3 **Community Services Committee**

a) **Allotments Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Allotments Working Party.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Allotments Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Downes, Haines, Mills and Storry to the Allotments Working Party for the municipal year.

b) **Keep Woodley Clean Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party.
- ◆ that there be 4 places on the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Chadwick, Downes, Higgs and Walker to the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party for the municipal year.

- ◆ To co-opt Mrs S. Flower to the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party for the municipal year.

c) **Youth Working Party:**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the terms of reference of the Youth Working Party.
- ◆ that there be 6 places on the Youth Working Party for the 2014/15 municipal year.
- ◆ to appoint Councillors Cheng, Gilder, Haines, Rahmouni, Rowland and Walker to the Youth Working Party for the municipal year.

11. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Having being duly nominated it was

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint the following:

**Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC)**

Councillor Haines

**Wokingham District Association of Local Councils**

Councillors Haines and Franklin

**Ambleside Neighbourhood Partnership Committee – 1 place**

Councillor Gilder

**Woodley Airfield Centre Management Committee – 2 places**

Councillors Challis and Soane

**Woodley Bowling Club Management Committee – 1 place**

Councillors Hayward and Neall were nominated to be the representative on this committee.

On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Hayward as the Town Council's representative on this committee.

**Citizens Advice Bureau – 1 place**

Councillors Challis and Cheng were nominated to be the representative on this body.

On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Cheng as the Town Council's representative on this body.

**Woodley Volunteer Centre – 1 place**

Councillors Hayward and Higgs were nominated to be the representative on this body.

On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Hayward as the Town Council's representative on this body.

**Sandford Farm Liaison Group – 1 place (plus 1 deputy)**

Councillor Franklin with Councillor Chadwick as the deputy representative.

**Age Concern (Woodley) – 1 place**

Councillor Gilder

**Highwood Management Conference – 2 places**

Councillors Gilder and Holmes

**ReadiBus – 1 place**

Councillor Haines

**Museum of Berkshire Aviation Trust – 2 places**

Councillors Franklin and Outen

**Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative – 2 places**

Councillors Haines and Holmes

**ARC – 2 places**

Mrs S. Flower and Mrs N. Quinnell

**Woodley War Memorial Project – 2 places**

Councillors Rahmouni and Soane

**Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum – 1 place**

Councillor Mills

**Road/Street Works Major Projects Meeting – 1 place (plus 2 deputies)**

Councillor Walker with Councillors Cheng and Holmes as the deputy representatives.

**Campaign Against Waste – 3 places**

Councillors Neall, Rahmouni and Walker

**Wokingham Traffic+ Forum – 1 place**

Councillor Mills

**Woodley Football Forum Project Steering Group – 1 place**

Councillors Baker and Outen were nominated and, following discussion, the Town Clerk agreed to request that the Council be allocated two places on this body.

*[Town Clerk's note: It is the understanding of the Woodley Town Football Club Chairman that Councillor Baker is to be nominated to represent Wokingham Borough Council on the steering group and therefore the Town Council does not require two places on this body.]*



**Poor's Land Charity – 2 places**

Mr L. Day and Councillor Mills were appointed to serve until 2018.

In addition to these appointments, it was noted that Councillor Cheng and Mrs S. Flower were the Council's other representatives, serving until 2016.

**Sonning & District Welfare & Education Trust – 1 place**

Councillors Outen and Smith were nominated to be the representative on this body.

On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillor Smith as the Town Council's representative on this body.

**Wokingham Borough/Parish Working Group – 1 place**

Councillor Mills

Representation on the following outside body was noted:

**Robert Palmer Almshouse Charity – 1 place**

Representative is Councillor Rahmouni (serving to 2016)

12. **CHEQUE SIGNATORIES 2014/15**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to appoint Councillors Baker, Challis, Franklin, Haines, Lawley, Mills and Rowland, as signatories to sign cheques and transfers on behalf of the Council.

13. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING - 11 FEBRUARY 2014**

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2014.

**Minute 72e): Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 4 February 2014: Minute 66: Budget estimates 2014/15, b) Leisure Services and Community Services Committees**

Councillor Challis asked for minute 72e to be amended to show that he had challenged the accuracy of minute 66 and that the Town Clerk agreed to amend the minute.

**Minute 72e): Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 4 February 2014: Minute 66: Budget estimates 2014/15, c) Budget and precept 2014/15**

Councillors Challis and Rowland asked for this minute to be expanded to reflect more of the discussion points.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 February 2014, with the requested amendments, and that the amended minutes be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

14. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

14.1 **Minutes of the Plans Committee: 18 February 2014**

Councillor Cheng presented the Plans Committee minutes of the meeting of 18 February 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Plans Committee held on 18 February 2014.

**14.2 Minutes of the Plans Committee: 18 March 2014**

Councillor Cheng presented the Plans Committee minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Plans Committee held on 18 March 2014.

**14.3 Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 26 March 2014**

Councillor Baker presented the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee of 26 March 2014.

**Minute 83: Public Toilets Working Party**

In reply to a question about the progress of the tender process for the public toilet the Town Clerk explained that the tender documents had not yet been produced as other items, such as the war memorial project, had taken precedence and that Section 106 funding for the public toilet had not yet been received. When asked whether the project could be forward funded Councillor Baker replied that he had spoken to Wokingham Borough Council about forward funding the war memorial project as this was more urgent if the memorial was to be installed before the centenary of the start of the first world war in August.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 26 March 2014.

**14.4 Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 9 April 2014**

Councillor Franklin presented the Leisure Services Committee minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee held on 8 April 2014.

**14.5 Minutes of the Plans Committee: 15 April 2014**

Councillor Cheng presented the Plans Committee minutes of the meeting of 15 April 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Plans Committee held on 15 April 2014.

**14.6 Minutes of the Community Services Committee: 22 April 2014**

Councillor Hayward presented the Community Services Committee minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2014.

**Minute 90: Bus shelter in Fairwater Drive**

When asked about progress on this matter the Service Support Manager reported that the money for the replacement bus shelter had finally been received and the order for the new bus shelter could now be placed.

**Minute 91: Air quality in Woodley**

Councillor Challis requested that the report referred to in this item be made available to Members and the Town Clerk agreed to distribute the link to the

Wokingham Borough Council website so that Members could view the report.

**Minute 93: Future agenda items**

Councillor Rowland requested that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive Officer of Reading Buses about the lack of consultation with the Council on the changes to bus routes in Woodley.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 22 April 2014.
- ◆ To write to the Chief Executive Officer of Reading Buses.

14.7. **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 29 April 2014**

Councillor Baker presented the Strategy and Resources Committee minutes of the meeting of 29 April 2014.

**Minute 88: Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 26 March 2014**

Councillor Challis asked for this minute to be amended to show that he had requested that the document he had submitted to the meeting be attached as it was referred to in the minutes.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 29 April 2014.

15. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"By the time I rise to make this statement the wider group of Independents and Conservatives will have retained control of the Town Council.

When we took control last year I said that we wanted to do things differently from the 40 years of Liberal Democrat control. I am pleased to say that we have been quite successful in our first year and look to repeat this in the second year.

The highlights of the year have been:

1. The first reduction in council tax for at least 8 years
2. Taken the first steps to return Bulmershe Leisure Centre back to its owners, Wokingham Borough Council
3. A new budget process which allows the opposition to see and debate the draft budget for the first time ever
4. Reduction in number of working parties
5. Changed the "winner takes all" mentality of the last 40 years by agreeing a certain number of opposition councillors into key roles such as chairmanship of the Youth Working Party

Now we will be in charge for the next year we will continue the targets we set ourselves including the completion of the return of Bulmershe Leisure Centre; full implementation of the 3G pitch and the continuing review of working practices.

Before I sit down I would like to pay tribute to Deborah and her staff for the patience and support they have given Kate and I. It has been a massive learning

curve for both of us and they have been most helpful. We look forward to continuing this successful working relationship.”

16. **BULMERSHE SITE OF URBAN LANDSCAPE VALUE JOINT WORKING PARTY**

16.1 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ to note the questions posed to the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Highways at the Wokingham Borough Council Executive meeting on 20 February 2014 and the responses given.

16.2 Councillor Baker reported that Earley Town Council had notified him that it no longer wished to continue this working party and he therefore proposed that no representatives be appointed from Woodley Town Council. This was seconded by Councillor Haines. Councillor Challis stated that he felt this was a bad move as both councils had gained by working together to defend the green space.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that no representatives be appointed to the Site of Urban landscape Value Joint Working Party

17. **3G ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH PROJECT – FUNDING**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. FC 1/14.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that the Council make an application for borrowing approval for a sum of £255,000 to fund the 3G artificial grass pitch and associated improvements project and, subject to receiving this, seek rates from the Public Works Loan Board and other reputable institutions for a loan over a period of 15 years at a fixed rate of interest, and apply for a loan from the organisation offering the most cost effective loan.

18. It was proposed by the Chairman and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that as the business was unlikely to be completed by 10pm the meeting continue until 10:30pm in order to complete the business set out in the agenda.

19. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

19.1 The following motion was proposed by Councillor Challis and seconded by Councillor Lawley:

“Woodley Town Council refuses to accept the recent decision taken by Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (WTCMI) to attempt to restrict the gathering of religious and political groups in the town centre.

Woodley Town Council’s reasons for refusing to accept this decision by WTCMI include:

- i) Woodley TCMCI is a partnership between Woodley Town Council, Wokingham Borough Council and local traders and no consultation was undertaken with Woodley Town Council prior to its introduction,
- ii) There is no legal basis for the WTCMI to either take or enforce this decision,
- iii) There was no public announcement of this policy or associated procedures that would place all political parties and independents on an equal footing,
- iv) There has never been an issue with religious groups gathering in the town centre.

Woodley Town Council notes the national trend of a decline of public involvement with politics and consequently this Council will:

- a) Seek an immediate public statement by WTCMI reversing the policy to limit access.
- b) Support any actions that promote the engagement of residents in the political process.
- c) Object to any actions which restrict the efforts of political parties to engage with the public."

Councillors Challis, Lawley and Rowland spoke in favour of the motion. Councillors Baker, Haines and Cox spoke against the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was defeated.

Voting: For: 9 Against: 11 Abstentions: 1

- 19.2 The following motion was proposed by councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Haines:

"The Members' Code of Conduct requires Members to ensure that the Council's resources are not used improperly for political purposes.

This Council notes that there are no existing guidelines regarding photographs being taken inside Council buildings for political purposes.

With this in mind and to avoid any confusion for Council employees all political parties wishing to take photographs for political purposes inside Council run/owned buildings will require prior written permission from the Town Clerk in order to do so."

Councillors Baker and Haines spoke in favour of the motion. Councillors Challis and Lawley spoke against the motion.

Following a vote it was

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ that the motion be carried.

Voting: For: 11 Against: 9 Abstentions: 1

20. It was proposed by the Chairman that as business had not been completed by 10:30pm the meeting continue in order to complete the business set out in the agenda.

Following a vote the proposal was not carried.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm

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Town Mayor

**TOWN FORUM**

**13 May 2014**

One Woodley resident was present at the Town Forum.

Mr Greg Bello said he had come to the forum as he had an interest in local democracy and he requested clarification regarding the recent decision taken by the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (WTCMI) to attempt to restrict the gathering of religious and political groups in the town centre. Mr Bellow asked if the Town Council was going to review the situation.

Councillor Baker explained that the decision had been taken by the WTCMI, which is an independent organisation, but that following legal advice the policy was no longer active. Councillor Challis commented that the decision had not been withdrawn, but was on hold and as the WTCMI is funded by the Town Council, the Council had an interest in the decisions made by the WTCMI.