

Farmers Market - To consider whether to waive costs to Farmers Market stallholders for six months as a short term measure to encourage more stalls; and whether this is affordable in the current financial year. A backing document explained budget impact and discussions centred on the most effective method of attracting new stalls whilst being fair also to existing stallholders. Concern that farmers markets were not so fashionable in these times of austerity prompted a request for the market operator to speak to the next council meeting.

T.5138 Committee Vacancies – To appoint Councillors to the following vacancies:

Town Regeneration Partnership Committee – none forthcoming

Youth Liaison Group – Cllr A Proctor agreed to join.

Wotton in Bloom - following the resignation of Cllr Farmer, a discussion took place regarding the number of representatives to various groups and their reasons. It was proposed by Cllr John Cordwell and seconded by Cllr A Wilkinson to defer a second Wotton in Bloom representative appointment until the November agenda, agreed 7 in favour, 6 against.

Chamber of Trade - following the resignation of Cllr Smith, it was proposed by Cllr A Wilkinson, seconded by Cllr P Smith to defer this appointment until after clarification talks with the SDC Monitoring Officer regarding any conflict of interest in possible fire station car park application, agreed 12 in favour, 1 abstention.

T.5139 The Boundary Commission for England published proposals for new parliamentary constituencies as part of reducing the number of Members of Parliament from 650 to 600 and equalising number of voters in constituencies. The proposals affect Stroud District in the following way; Stroud Constituency - Quedgeley added to it. Cam, Dursley, Berkeley, Wotton areas to be part of a more southern constituency. Nailsworth area to be part of the Cotswold constituency. Effectively, the District will be covered by 3 parliamentary constituencies as against the current 2. There is a 12 week statutory period for consultation by the BCE. SDC is analysing its proposals and bringing a report to Strategy & Resources Committee. To consider a response. This Council is concerned that by stretching across the county boundary to South Gloucestershire, the community connection with Stroud District would be lost- even though council taxes would still be paid there. The reasons for change are because of the 'first past the post' election system, a small degree of proportionality is introduced by insisting the number of electors in each constituency are within narrow limits (between 71031 and 78507 this time round). Community identity is a consideration but is a secondary one. Clerk is asked to find out views of councils of Cam, Dursley, Berkeley, and Kingswood parish councils, and Councillors are asked to visit the Boundary Commission website to understand the background numbers and establish views to feed into an official response.

T.5140 Wotton Car Parking

a) to discuss car park survey/questionnaire results and form a conclusion. The draft final report was circulated after adding extra figures gained from the Mayor's additional observations carried out to check original anomalies regarding the Chipping car park in the afternoons. 85% is the ideal occupancy figure to aim for. Indications show that there is adequate parking most of the time at Potters Pond, the Civic Centre car park is beyond capacity most of the time, and that the Chipping car park is busy all day until a lull mid pm. Indications overall show 30 more spaces needed to match 85% levels. If 40 extra spaces are added to meet future anticipated growth in demand, then it could be argued that 70 extra spaces are needed to park in Wotton overall. The survey was undertaken to give an indication if extra parking could lead to more people visiting the town and was a snapshot of 3 days, 9am to 6pm, across 3 car parks. It was not designed to question on future

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Developer proposals for car parks. Animated discussions concerned future levels of demand when the extra parking is not in the centre, and the results of the 2011 SDC parking survey, which drew similar conclusions. It was proposed by Cllr A Wilkinson and seconded by Cllr N Clement that the car park survey should be put on our website for public perusal, stating that this latest WTC survey supports the original SDC survey that more car parking is needed in Wotton, voted 6 in favour, 6 against, Chair used casting vote in favour – motion passed.

b) To note Glos County Council intentions for library car park out of hours usage & residents' need for parking. It was proposed by Cllr P Smith and seconded by Cllr P Barton, that a response is made to Glos CC stating that although we welcome the allowed usage by residents of Wotton, we are concerned that evening activities at the library may suffer and we question how they are proposing to accommodate parking for those user groups, agreed all in favour.

T.5141 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation
– to consider response to this consultation, which could impose referendum principles onto Town and Parish Councils exceeding the proposed council tax increase threshold. Although this Council is not unhappy with the principle of capping, we do not wish to see an arbitrary figure placed on it, eg 2%, since inflation could be a problem in the future, and also it ultimately just raises the costs to the local taxpayer of holding a referendum – which can amount to a few thousand pounds.

T.5142 Dispensation Grant - To consider whether Wotton Town Council should grant itself a dispensation to enable it to consider a Planning Application for land behind the fire station when it materialises. The Clerk referred to the SDC Monitoring Officer for advice, explaining the situation that this Town Council in January supported in principle the provision of a car park on land behind the fire station although reserved judgement on housing matters until an application is received.

It is therefore considered in the best interests of local representation, that Wotton Town Council is still able to represent views of the electorate and discuss and vote on the planning application when it arrives, despite already having considered the principle of it, and it is for this reason that a dispensation is requested to be granted to the whole Town Council, to allow it to continue to consider a future planning application, because of individual councillors' perceived interests arising out of their involvement in the Town Council's January decision to support in principle the provision of a car park.

This does not cover any other personal interests (which individual councillors may have for other reasons) and which must be declared and acted upon in accordance with the Code of Conduct. This was proposed by Cllr L Farmer, seconded by Cllr A Kendall and agreed 12 in favour 1 abstention.

It is also noted that the current Code of Conduct is incorrect and needs altering, as it states that Dispensations must be granted by the Monitoring Officer of SDC – who has stated that Dispensations must now be granted by the Town Council itself following new legislation.

T.5143 Good Deeds Section –It was agreed to send a card of thanks to Mrs S Plant for watering the War Memorial planters all summer, also a card to Mr C Grimes for consistent litter collection up on Wotton Hill, and to Mr D Howse for the excellent hanging basket maintenance this summer in Wotton, which helped him win a BALI award recently.

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