

Minutes of the Full Council of **FILTON TOWN COUNCIL** held at 7:00PM on **Tuesday 29th April 2025**. Studio 1, Active Nation Leisure Centre, Elm Park Filton.

PRESENT: Cllrs: T Mewies (Chair), B.Mead, E Adjeivi, J Baverstock, A Bird, A Doyle, D Harris.

ALSO, PRESENT: Simon Davies (Town Clerk & RFO), Robert Hutton (Deputy Clerk) and Peach Jones (Support Officer)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: D Boardman, B Dewfall, A. Monk, S Milestone, J Molloy.

NON-ATTENDANCE: A Kenyon.

0574. EVACUATION PROCEDURE: The Chair outlined the evacuation procedures.

0575. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: – Noted.

0576. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

3.01 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. – None Declared.

3.02 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (*if any.*) – None Declared.

3.03 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. – None Declared.

0577. EXCLUSION OF PRESS OR PUBLIC: – It was proposed and agreed by council that Item 16 f be excluded from the press and public.

0578. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: – A community group of residents wishing to apply for a grant by the council to cover 50% of the costs towards installation of four security gates to improve guaranteed safety to the communal back-alley between Charles Rd, Filton Avenue and Hunters Way.

Recent burglaries involving violence negatively affected residents in the area and felt that this act of support provided to the community and their families would deter and possibly prevent further attacks; as well as proving a safe place for their children to play, along with more defence for the rear of the resident's properties.

The council agreed to support the community group on condition that the gates would be code-locked and supplying proof that the road does not have a sole owner and for the community group to have proof as an association to manage the gate and to provide a signature support list from residents and landlords on the roads affected. – Vote deferred to next Council Meeting.

Further questions from residents were asked regarding the Filton Leisure Centre re-opening and when previous memberships will be honoured if at all.

The Town Clerk advised Active Nation did not and have still not responded to Filton Town Council with any plans on honouring memberships or when Filton Town Council will receive the membership lists.

Reassuring the public that Filton Town Council are earnestly trying to negotiate with Active Nation on the legalities regarding Staff and Community Leisure Provision since Active Nation have not formally entered into administration as they should have.

Filton Town Council's motive is actively working on solutions to get the Leisure Centre open again ASAP. However, it is not an easy or quick process

due to difficulties in obtaining insurances and bank accounts for the Arms-Length Business.

- 0579. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25th March 2025**
RESOLVED: Cllr Doyle proposed and seconded by Cllr Boardman for council to approve the minutes and for the Chair to sign the minutes as an accurate record of the previous meeting. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed.
- 0580. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA:** – None.
- 0581. SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
- Cllr Doyle spoke and gave a general update about talks happening relating to the airfield near Filton and the challenges surrounding the arena coming into play regarding potential parking and noise pollution issues.
- 0582. FILTON TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES:** – None.
- 0583. REPORT FROM LOCAL BEAT TEAM - (ANNEX A)**
- Noted. The Support Officer presented to the Council the monthly Filton Beat Team Report.
RESOLVE: FTC to request to Srgt Pretlove the inclusion of number of arrests made into report.
- 0584. SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS:** – None.
- a. **RESOLVED:** To instruct the Town Clerk that a new service provider must be in place and fully operational no later than January 1st 2026 for the operation for the leisure centre. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Doyle proposed with Cllr Bird seconding.)
 - b. **RESOLVED:** Following the Annual Meeting and the creation of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee, within the current financial year this committee will not commit to any additional capital projects without the full support of Filton Town Council. This restriction is to remain in place until the financial year commencing April 2026. – **Amendment: to include the Open Spaces & Assets Committee.** – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Doyle proposed with Cllr Mead seconding.)
 - c. **RESOLVED:** The Council to investigate the demand and possibility of hosting a first aid course for our partners (community groups like Filton Community Garden, Filton Athletic, etc) with the costs of the course to be split by those attending. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Baverstock proposed with Cllr Bird seconding.)
 - d. **RESOLVED:** Filton Town Council notes local schools have been mentioned in data released by the charity 'Everyone's Invited' as having been anonymously named by survivors of sexual abuse during their time at primary school. – **Vote:** Passed, 1 Abstention. (Cllr Mewies proposed with Cllr Baverstock seconding.)
 - e. **RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk to contact South Gloucestershire Council to ask for clarification on the policies in place regarding sexual abuse in schools, including peer-on-peer abuse, and how these policies are enforced and monitored. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Mewies proposed with Cllr Baverstock seconding.)

0585. MAY MEETING DATES: – Noted.

0586. CONSIDER A S137 GRANT APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY GATES AROUND THE CHARLTON ROAD AND FILTON AVENUE AREA – APPLICATION FOR £2500 – (ANNEX B)

RESOLVED: Deferred the vote to follow at the next Council Meeting.

0587. TO AMEND THE ‘SCHEME OF DELEGATION’ TO COME INTO EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2025

RESOLVED: Based on events transpired an emergency need to activate some of the articles to come into effect earlier than agreed. – **Vote:** Passed – 2 Abstentions. (Cllr Baverstock proposed with Cllr Doyle seconding.)

0588. THE TOWN CLERK TO SECURE THE SERVICES OF A LOCUM CLERK TO SUPPORT COUNCIL OPERATIONS FOR UP TO 3 MONTHS

RESOLVED: Members of the council understand the need for it with query to funds regarding budget. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Mead proposed with Cllr Baverstock seconding.)

0589. LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE – Noted.

The Town Clerk gave an update on the legality process and gave a general update on council matters relating to the leisure centre.

The Business Manager talked through the work completed thus far, with improvement ideas towards functionality and a café refresh along with an introduction of contracted staff from the previous contractor. (Active Nation)

The Town Clerk assured next steps with a hope of completing by the end of this year.

It was added by Cllr Doyle that once a target day of opening is established Filton Town Council will start looking at opportunities for making good will gestures to previous members.

a. **NOTED:** The Town Clerk to update the Council on matters relating to the leisure centre.

b. **RESOLVE:** To confirm the appointment of Irwin Mitchell as solicitors acting on behalf of the Council for all matter relating to the leisure centre and associated contracts. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed (Cllr Doyle proposed with Cllr Baverstock seconding.)

c. **RESOLVE:** The Town Clerk to use the services of an ‘umbrella company’ to bring in services of experienced staff to support the ongoing operation of the leisure centre. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Baverstock proposed with Cllr Doyle seconding.)

d. **RESOLVE:** The Finance and Scrutiny Committee to prepare an amended budget for financial year 2025 to 2026 to support operating the leisure centre – Amended budget to be submitted to Full Council for consideration. – **Amendment:** to add a date to end of June 2025. – **Vote:** Unanimously passed. (Cllr Baverstock proposed with Cllr Doyle seconding.)

- e. **RESOLVE:** The Deputy Clerk to work with the 'Asset & Open Spaces' and 'Finance & Scrutiny' Committees to create a list of priority projects for the current financial year within a proposed amended budget, for resolution by Full Council. – **Vote:** Passed, 1 Against, 1 Abstain. (Cllr Bird proposed with Cllr Baverstock seconding.)

Council entered into closed session at 8:16PM

- f. **RESOLVE:** The Town Clerk, and a working group of the Chair, Vice Chair, the Chair of Planning and another Councillor; to have the power to determine contract negotiations currently ongoing with Active Nation UK Ltd – including staffing arrangements.

The Town Clerk gave an update on Active Nation's communications and technicalities on the contract, detailing information agreed to be undisclosed to the press and the public.

– **Vote:** Unanimously carried. (Cllr Doyle proposed with Cllr Harris seconding.)

RESOLVE: Cllr Baverstock to be elected as the extra councillor in attendance. – **Vote:** Passed, 1 Abstention.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:22PM