

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 25th JULY 2016 AT 6.00pm IN THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Councillors K Brennan (Chairman), J. Badham, P. Aldridge, H. Burns, P Clatworthy, C. Danter, R. Mills, C. Monk, M. Poxon, S. Raywood, A. Smith, V. Smith, M. Sztymiak, and P. Workman.

Also in attendance: Alan Snarey, Bill Adie, Julie Greening, Alan Purkiss, I Bartlett, Bill Hunt

10359(01) CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR FOR TOWN WITH MITTON WARD

Mr Protheroe made a presentation followed by questions from Councillors. Mr Monk made a presentation followed by questions from Councillors. The two applicants left the Council Chamber whilst Councillors voted in a secret ballot. Mr Monk was then duly elected as Tewkesbury Town Councillor for Town with Mitton Ward.

10360(02) ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

The public were admitted to the Council Chamber at 6:50pm. Cllr V Smith left the meeting.

10361(03) APOLOGIES

None

Absent without apology:

- i. Cllr Carter

10362(04) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. Cllr Sztymiak – Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council
- ii. Cllr Workman – Tewkesbury Borough Council

10363(05) DISPENSATIONS

None

10364(06) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2016 FOR APPROVAL

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2016 were amended to remove a typing error. Approval of the amended minutes was proposed by Cllr Badham, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy and approved by Councillors.

10365(07) CONSIDERATION OF POLLING CARDS FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS OF A NEW COUNCILLOR FOR TOWN WITH MITTON WARD

The Clerk informed the Council that the Monitoring Officer had given the costs of an election with polling cards as between £7000-£8000. Councillor Sztymiak suggested that polling cards represented £3000-£4000 of that cost. The Clerk reminded councillors that no provision had been made in the 2016/17 budget for election costs. Cllr Badham noted that only 15% of constituents voted at the last election and suggested that the money could be used more effectively elsewhere. He suggested advertising the by-election on social media and on the Town Council website instead of using polling cards. Cllr Aldridge reminded Councillors that they were criticised at the last election for not using polling cards. Cllr Burns suggested that the turnout at the previous election was low because there were no polling cards. Cllr Monk suggested that to not use polling cards may therefore invite further criticism from the public. Cllr Poxon proposed that the Council use polling cards and Cllr Mills seconded this. There were 6 votes for and 7 against this proposal. The Council therefore resolved not to use polling cards at the forthcoming by-election.

10366(08) TO AGREE TO CHANGE OF NAME ON THE MAYOR'S CHARITY BANK ACCOUNT

Cllr Raywood proposed that the Council change the name on the Lloyds Bank Mayor's Charity Account to the current Mayor, Karen Brennan. This was seconded by Cllr Aldridge and approved.

10367(09) PROPOSED TRANSFER OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE MOORINGS OPPOSITE RED LANE

Following a presentation by the Clerk illustrating the area recommended for transfer the Clerk further informed the Council that the Buildings and Moorings committee had recommended that this process should begin subject to a satisfactory survey. The majority of councillors voted in favour of this.

10368(10) FINANCIAL POSITION

The Clerk reminded Councillors and members of the Public that the Council's current accounting system requires adaptation and that therefore the budget reports for each committee were delayed. She assured Councillors and members of the Public however that any spending was being monitored by herself and the Chairman of the committee relevant to the spending. Her presentation later during Confidential Matters would illustrate the details and costs of a work programme proposed the Finance & Staffing committee to address income and expenditure accounting issues following recommendations by the auditors.

10369(11) TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

The draft minutes of the Finance & Staffing committee were amended to remove a typing error and then accepted in amended form. The remainder of the draft minutes of committees were accepted as presented.

10370(12) REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

GMTF: Councillor Burns reported that the AGM was held this year in Tewkesbury.

Riverside Partnership: The Mayor reported that the Riverside Walk is now complete. She also said that a working group had been put together to look at street furniture and interpretation boards.

Regeneration Group: Councillor Raywood updated the Council on the Spring Gardens project which he explained was delayed. Cllr Danter reported that the Regeneration Group might amalgamate with other groups in the future.

3 Year Plan: The Chairman reported that there had been two meetings so far and thanked those Councillors who attended. She said that there needed to be more energy and enthusiasm from Councillors to engage with the public and to source funding streams. The next meeting will be in September and she urged more Councillors to participate.

10371(13) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Bill Adie asked for an update on the request to Grant Thornton for a refund following the audit results which did not include every bank account. The Chairman replied that we would wait until this year's audit report had been received before writing to Grant Thornton.

Alan Purkiss asked what remit Town Councillors have on the Regeneration Group. The Chairman suggested that her 3 Year Plan could be taken to the Regeneration Group to show the Town Council's aspirations. Alan Purkiss felt that the opportunity for the Town and Borough Council to work together is currently being missed. He asked why the Environment & Amenities committee had not sent agenda items to this group. Cllr Szymiak said that this had happened. Alan Purkiss accepted that the second clause of the Regeneration Group to promote TTC work hadn't happened.

Bill Adie commented that although TBC may be leading on the Regeneration Group the Town Council must be more proactive to direct the discussion. The Clerk reported that she would be attending a Regeneration Partnership officers meeting at the Borough Council and would report back at the next meeting.

The Mayor asked if she should propose that the Riverside Partnership should be kept separate from the Regeneration Group. This was seconded by Cllr Danter and was approved by Councillors.

10372(14) EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the business to be discussed was of a confidential nature.

10373(15) FORMAL ACCOUNTANCY SUPPORT. TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION BY THE FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTING INCLUDING A PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN CLERK

The Clerk repeated a presentation that she had made to the Finance & Staffing committee. The committee have unanimously proposed to support the Clerk's recommendation for the introduction of formal accountancy support. Cllr Aldridge summarised that Council should formally accept this proposal and this motion was carried with 2 abstentions.

10374(16) TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL BY THE TOWN BAND TO DEVELOP AND OCCUPY SAFFRON ROAD TOILETS AS A REHEARSAL SPACE AND STORAGE FACILITY

Councillors considered both the Town Band proposal and the Floating Globe proposal together as they both represent future development of the Watson Hall. Cllr Workman summarised the proposals of the Town Band and Floating Globe to Councillors.

With reference to the Town Band, Councillors agreed that the Town Clerk should visit Thomson Bancks solicitors to obtain legal advice on a lease/sale contract and produce a report for the 12th September meeting of the Full Council. Cllr Raywood was also asked to submit the form for change of use as soon as possible.

With reference to the Floating Globe, negotiations have slowed due to high running costs of the Watson Hall but a new meeting would be arranged with the group once the festival season is over. It was hoped that these negotiations could continue.

10375(17) TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION BY THE BUILDINGS & MOORINGS COMMITTEE TO PROGRESS THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BOILER AT THE WATSON HALL

Councillor Danter proposed that the recommendation by the Buildings & Moorings committee to progress the installation of a new boiler through delegation to working groups of this committee be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Badham and approved by councillors. The Clerk was instructed to proceed with the procurement process.

10376(18) UPDATE ON THE FLOATING GLOBE PROPOSAL

Councillors noted that this agenda item had been considered jointly with item **10373(16)**.

10377(19) READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved: That the Press and Public be readmitted to the meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th September 2016 at 6pm

Final date for agenda items: 5th September 2016
Final date for dispensation requests: 8th September 2016

The meeting ended at 8.45pm