

# TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 6.00pm IN THE TOWN HALL

### PRESENT

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

*Also in attendance: Borough Councillor K Cromwell, Borough Councillor J Greening, Alan Snarey.*

### 10346(01) APOLOGIES

- i. Cllr R. Mills: *On holiday from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July*
- ii. Cllr A. Smith: *Prior commitments at work*

#### **Absent without apology:**

- i. Cllr S. Carter

### 10347 (02) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- i. Cllr V. Smith: Tewkesbury Borough Councillor and Gloucestershire County Councillor
- ii. Cllr Sztymiak: Tewkesbury Borough Councillor and Gloucestershire County Councillor
- iii. Cllr Workman: Tewkesbury Borough Councillor

### 10348(03) DISPENSATION REQUESTS RECEIVED

- i. Cllr Raywood (Employee of BWB Consulting) – will introduce but not vote on the planning application referred to Full Council.

### 10349(04) MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Burns suggested that not for profit organisations were included in the 20% discount for venue hire.

Cllr Badham noted that the Town Council should write to the auditors expressing concern with the issues that emerged during the audit.

Cllr Brennan noted that Cllr Poxon was included on the Environment & Amenities committee and that the 6<sup>th</sup> June minutes should be amended to reflect this.

Cllr Burns expressed concern that a part of the minutes was describing events after the meeting and stated that this information should be removed.

### **10350(05) MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor noted 2 Clean for the Queen events that have taken place and expressed her wish to advertise them more widely. The Mayor also noted her recent visit to Tewkesbury Cricket Pavilion, and promised to provide photos of the extensions made to councillors in future. It was noted that no further information about Council vacancies has been forthcoming since the last meeting. The Mayor invited Cllr Burns to inform the Council about the Market Town Forum, which will be held at 4:30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> July in the Watson Hall. Cllr Clatworthy commented that goodie bags have been arranged, with a programme of the Medieval Festival to go into them. The Mayor invited Cllr Badham to update the Council on Tewkesbury in Bloom, which is currently hoping to achieve best in category. Cllr Badham noted that 2 men have been employed for 10 hours to do weeding in advance of the event, and that a gathering has been planned at 10:00 on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at the Crescent to do more. Cllr Brennan also noted that 2 meetings of the 3 Year plan have gone ahead, and that a report would be put forward in future.

*Councillors voted to move the public participation section to the end of the meeting in light of an absence of written comments.*

### **10351(07) TO RECOMMEND THAT CLLR A. SMITH IS ELECTED TO VACANT SEATS IN BUILDINGS & MOORINGS AND ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES**

Cllr Danter and Cllr Aldridge expressed some concern that such an election would not leave sufficient room for the two councillors expected to be elected by co-option, but the Mayor gave her assurances that there would be sufficient room on both committees for more members. It was agreed that Cllr A Smith would be elected to the vacant seats in Buildings & Moorings and Environment & Amenities.

### **10352(08) REPORT BY CLLR BADHAM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPRING GARDENS BY TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllr Badham noted that his remarks in the attached report could only be vague as the development proposals are still in progress. Cllr Raywood agreed that the content of the report was true and accurate, although Cllr Poxon queried whether the statement "the needs of the mop fair and market would be fully considered" was unclear. Cllr Badham clarified that the same amount of land would be left available for open space markets, and Cllr Aldridge agreed that there is no reason to believe that Tewkesbury Borough Council would alter the area available.

### **10353(09) TO CONSIDER A PLANNING APPLICATION REFERRED TO FULL COUNCIL BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Raywood noted that the application is composed of two distinct planning numbers which are being considered separately. He added that traffic studies had taken place to identify potential congestion issues and those issues were manageable. Cllr Sztymiak

asked the reason for the item being brought before the Council. Cllr Raywood stated that the item was presented to take feedback and refer an opinion to the Borough Council's planning department as a whole council, due to the significance of the proposal. Cllr Aldridge expressed concern regarding the impact of the added traffic on Newtown, and Cllr Raywood added that the traffic survey studied Wheatpieces as a case study to determine how much traffic volume is generated by a similar number of dwellings.

Cllr Sztymiak expressed his opposition to the application on the basis that the flood plain cannot take the pressure, and Cllr Aldridge concurred on the basis that the Swilgate at the top edge of the development has not been factored into the study. Cllr Danter also expressed concern about the drainage and asked for an LEA report. Cllr V Smith noted that the original road into the development has had planning permission since 2009, but the nature of the road has been altered and the recommendation is not to proceed. It was suggested that further reports are needed and a recommendation cannot yet be made.

Cllr Raywood thanked councillors for their guidance and said that enough had been said to guide the Planning Committee's recommendation. Cllr Badham asked the Council not to agree with the plan as currently constructed and Cllr Aldridge seconded this, which was passed by council.

#### **10354(10) TO ARRANGE A DATE FOR A MEETING OF THE CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP**

It was agreed that Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July is the best date, starting at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

#### **10355(11) TO CONSIDER RECORDING "ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGY" AND "REJECTION OF APOLOGY" ON MINUTES**

Cllr Aldridge argued that recording absence without apology is good practice and common, and that reasons for apology need to be noted. It was noted that the Clerk must be informed in advance of the meeting rather than the Chair if an apology is given.

Cllr Sztymiak suggested that rejection of apology is cause for further conflict and asked for a better way to record the same concept. Cllr Aldridge suggested that persistent absence for the same reason is one basis for rejection of apology. Cllr Burns agreed that the apology given does not need to be accepted by the Chair or Clerk. Cllr Badham noted that it may be too toxic to discuss the reasonability of an apology among councillors. Cllr Sztymiak proposed that the Council should simply begin to record absence without apology which was seconded by Cllr Raywood and approved by council.

#### **10356(12) DISTRIBUTION OF NALC BOOKLETS TO ALL COUNCILLORS**

Councillors received three booklets from NALC giving guidance on how parish councillors operate and how parish councillors can work effectively.

#### **10357(13) TO RECEIVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2016**

Cllr Aldridge noted the presence of new soil for the grassed area at Derek Graham park laid by Severn Trent.

Cllr Badham expressed his gratitude for the time provided by Clean Space operatives for Tewkesbury in Bloom, although Cllr Brennan noted that further scheduled work would be done by Tewkesbury in Bloom volunteers instead. It was noted that the sign at Newtown is simply a replacement for a sign originally saying Ashchurch. Cllr Raywood suggested that the issue with the sign was related to the location and potential for confusion. Cllr V Smith said the sign was a boundary sign between parishes and would be free of charge.

The Mayor asked the Clerk to contact the Prior's Park Neighbourhood Project to determine whether they would be interested in getting involved with the new group. Cllr Sztymiak said he was happy to work with any community group in the area, but wanted to be sure the council is in control of the process of performing a residents' survey.

A discussion about the financial information provided at the last meeting occurred and councillors asked for more detailed accounts so that committee work can proceed.

### **10358(06) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- i. Borough Councillor J Greening requested that the reference number for planning applications be included on the main agenda. Furthermore, she requested that minutes should be kept of decisions in the planning committee. Cllr Aldridge concurred with this request. Cllr Raywood noted that minutes did previously exist, but that they stopped sometime during the tenure of the previous Clerk as the resolutions were non-binding.
- ii. Alan Snarey disagreed with proposed changes to the seating arrangement and stated that the system used currently is ideal, and has addressed his prior concerns about not being able to hear councillors.
- iii. Borough Councillor K Cromwell noted that the Mayor was the hardest to hear due to her distance from the public seating. Cllr Badham asked the minutes to record that microphones are checked before meetings. Cllr Brennan reminded councillors to use their microphones when speaking.

*The meeting closed at 7:00pm.*