

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10TH JULY 2017 AT 6.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Councillors C. Danter (Chair), K. Powell, M. Sztymiak, P. Workman, H. Burns, M. Poxon, S. Carter, R. Mills, K. Brennan, S. Raywood, P. Aldridge

Cllr K Cromwell from GCC, Cllr J Greening from TBC, Cllr T Spencer TBC and 4 members of the public.

The Chairman proposed to bring forward item 8 to enable the invited guest, Paul O'Neil, to make his presentation. Members agreed.

17/18-50 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM PAUL O'NEIL TO PROMOTE AND MANAGE THE WATSON HALL

Paul O'Neil addressed the council to offer his experience as a local promoter and events organiser in developing the use of the Watson Hall. He proposed to manage the venue and to use his established contacts with nationally renowned bands to put on music events as well as giving space to local groups such as yoga, arts and a café style drop in centre. He suggested the hall needed a structured promotional process and social media development. Mr O'Neil answered questions from members of the council about capacity, parking and licence restrictions. He went on to explain that well-known bands would bring followers to Tewkesbury if they knew their performances would be well promoted. Cllr Burns reminded councillors that the Watson Hall is a charity. Cllr Poxon welcomed any project that would make it a viable venue, taking into account the current spending plans for Health & Safety work. Mr O'Neil suggested that it would be possible to increase attendance numbers and to work on the maintenance at the same time.

Members of the public contributed to the discussion and urged the council to develop the venue.

The Chairman thanked Mr O'Neil for his attendance at the meeting.

17/18-43 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllr P. Clatworthy (*Civic role with Italian visitors*)

Cllr A. Smith

Cllr V. Smith

17/18-44 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M Sztymiak – Tewkesbury Borough Councillor

Cllr P Workman – Tewkesbury Borough Councillor

17/18-45 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None received

Signed, Chairman...../...../.....

17/18-46 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 15th MAY AND 12th JUNE 2017

Minutes of 15th May 2017 were agreed. Minutes of 12th June to be distributed by the Clerk to all Councillors again for confirmation and agreement. With reference to outside bodies on this agenda, Councillors took part in a written vote and Cllrs S. Carter, S. Raywood and K. Brennan were duly elected to the Tewkesbury Town Regeneration Partnership. June Minutes will be re-circulated and signed by Cllr C. Danter once confirmed.

17/18-47 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following questions were received:

Mr. A. Snarey:

“When can we expect Councillors to abide by the Standing Orders as published on the website of Tewkesbury Town Council dated May 2015. Standing Order 3i (a person should stand when speaking) and 3k (only one person to speak at a time) are those most pertinent to my comments.

I was appalled at the bad manners at the last Full Council meeting on 12th June. At one time 4 groups of Councillors were talking and neither the Public or Councillors were aware of which motion was being considered.

Councillors in meetings are not answering in a disciplined or responsible manner and should give a considered response on how, in future, they hope to better represent this town.”

Mr S. Goodchild:

‘I note that since the Borough Council withdrew the recycling bin from the Watson Hall some two years ago because of constant contamination with non-recyclable waste no steps appear to have been taken to improve procedures to allow its return, and all waste, including all the hundreds of bottles from the bar and all the food waste from the kitchen is taken to landfill. Does the Council agree that this is unacceptable, and that urgent steps should be taken to demonstrate community leadership in responsible waste management as part of an overall commitment to excellent environmental practice?’

The chairman told members of the public that they would receive a written reply from the Clerk.

Members requested that public question be printed on the agenda in future.

The Clerk asked for clarity from members as the Council’s ‘Public Participation Scheme’ currently contradicts Standing Orders.

17/18-48 TO NOTE THE MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that monies collected by the Mayor at the Town Hall reception desk for the Grenfell fire appeal had raised £47, that the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival had been a resounding success and she extended an invitation to all members to attend the War Memorial working party’s commemoration of the start of the Third Battle of Ypres (Battle of Passchendaele) on Saturday 29th July at 10.45am outside the Town Hall.

Cllr Clatworthy and Cllr Danter have also attended a Chairmanship course at GAPTC.

17/18-49 TO NOTE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- i. Severn Ham - Brief update on the Weir from Cllr Aldridge
- ii. Environment & Amenities
- iii. Planning

The minutes were noted.

17/18-51 TO RECEIVE A TEWKESBURY TOWN REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP REPORT FROM CLLR S. RAYWOOD

Cllr Raywood reported on the Regeneration Partnership. Cllr Burns asked for an opportunity for other outside bodies to report on further agendas.

17/18-52 TO AGREE THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/18

The revised schedule of meetings was agreed.

17/18-53 TO AGREE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee Membership was received. Cllr S. Carter was voted on to the Environment & Amenities committee.

17/18-54 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE ELECTRICAL INSPECTION OF THE WATSON HALL

Councillors considered a report given by the Clerk and proposed to set aside Standing Orders in order to action the urgent electrical inspection recommended by the company named on the agenda. This report will form part of the specification being compiled for an upcoming tendering opportunity at the Watson Hall. Full council agreed to go ahead with the inspection and they requested that the report should list the priorities of the work with the most critical first.

17/18-55 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Council looked at the Complaint Procedure of 2015. One amendment was made as the committee is now called Finance & Staffing. Cllr Raywood proposed the document be accepted with this change, seconded by Cllr Brennan and all in favour.

Note: 7.15pm Cllr T. Spencer left the meeting.

17/18-56 TO APPROVE PAYMENTS FROM JUNE AND TO NOTE THE JUNE BANK RECONCILIATION

The payments were approved and the bank reconciliation noted.

17/18-57 TO RECEIVE THE JUNE BUDGET REPORT

The budget report was noted. Cllr Aldridge asked about closures of the extra bank accounts as recommended by the internal auditor and the Clerk confirmed that this process had begun.

17/18-58 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM FINANCE & STAFFING ON AD-HOC HUMAN RESOURCES SUPPORT

Councillors considered the cost of three providers of ad-hoc human resources advice. Cllr Brennan proposed to engage Diversity Biz immediately. Seconded by Cllr. Aldridge. Before voting commenced Cllr Sztymiak proposed that the Council should use the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils for their specialist knowledge in local government. Seconded by Cllr Workman. The Clerk also recommended using GAPTC as the Council already pay for their services through membership fees. However, the motion returned to Cllr Brennan's original proposal and seven Councillors voted in favour of this, four against. It was agreed to employ Diversity Biz for ad-hoc HR services immediately.

17/18-59 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR AUDITORS

Councillor auditors had not prepared a report.

17/18-60 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CLERK ON THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR WARWICK PLACE PARK

The Clerk updated the Council on the development plans for the park by way of a written report to each member. Cllr Raywood, as chair of the Environment & Amenities committee, Cllr Sztymiak and Cllr Carter will form a working group to progress the work required and to apply for grants. The Clerk is to request the grant forms and pass them to the group. The new noticeboard will be chosen by the Clerk and Chairman of Environment & Amenities. The Clerk is directed to invite the chosen play equipment company to a meeting at the Town Hall as soon as possible.

17/18-61 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Two reports were received from Cllr P. Workman and V. Smith as follows:-

Cllr P. Workman, Tewkesbury Borough Council

Report reads:

For your information at last week Borough planning meeting the application for 205 houses on the Mythe was unanimously refused in line with the Officer recommendation. The Town Council planning committee, as you know, had also recommended refusal.

The Play area at the Vineyards is due to be refurbished from September and is anticipated to take 6 weeks. This has been pushed back a little so it is available during the school holidays.

Healing Mill is currently being marketed and we are led to believe that if a normal

Signed, Chairman...../...../.....

sale is not achieved it will go to auction soon.

The is no further update on Spring Gardens Car Park at the moment but talks are ongoing with potential supermarkets/developers.

The sale of the land next to Aldi to make a larger car park for them will be discussed on Weds 12th by the Borough Executive. This will be under confidential but should a decision be made to sell to Aldi a planning application would be needed.

It is a late reminder but for those that have not picked this up there is a funding fair at the Borough tomorrow afternoon between 2 pm and 4 pm.

The consultation period has now opened for the Tewkesbury Electoral Review of the Borough wards and for the wider Tewkesbury Town area this will mean a reduction of two Councillors. The recommendation by the Borough is for the 2 person Priors Park ward to take on more of the Town, Twyning ward will join with Mitton and become a 2 person ward and Newton will expand and take in Wheatpieces and Rural Ashchurch and also become a 2 person ward. My feelings are that Twyning and Mitton should become both be single person wards as the needs of these Town and Country areas are very different and best represented by individual members. The consultation period finishes on the 4th Sept 2017 so if this Council or individual Councillors want to express a view now is the time to do it.

Cllr Philip Workman.
Tewkesbury Town with Mitton Ward

Cllr V. Smith, Gloucestershire County Council

Report reads:

Highways Issues in Tewkesbury Area

The County Council has allocated a Lengthsman Gang to be available for works in every County Councillor's area for three one week visits per year. Working for Councillor Kevin Cromwell the Lengthsman Gang visited Tewkesbury and the surrounding area commencing 22nd May 2017 and County Councillor Vernon Smith's area week commencing 19th June 2017. The Lengthsman undertook a range of works such as cutting back overhanging vegetation, clearing drains, straightening traffic signs etc. The Lengthsman's second visit for Councillor Cromwell starts week commencing 10th July and for Councillor Vernon Smith week commencing 7th August. If there are any particular issues which the Town Council would like to have addressed through this initiative then suggestions can be put forward to Richard Waters, the Local Highways Manager, to collate.

The County Council has arranged for highways in the Tewkesbury and surrounding area to have a weed spraying treatment. The programme of treatment started on 3rd July and includes Tewkesbury Town Centre, Priors Park, Battle Estate, Newtown and Mitton.

The County Council is investing in a weed ripping exercise which involves having a street sweeper fitted with steel brushes clean the weeds out of the channels of our main roads. This trial initiative includes the A38 through to Twyning and down to Longford and is already underway.

Signed, Chairman...../...../.....

Footway improvement works have recently been undertaken in Barton Road by the pedestrian entrance to Morrisons. This work was supported by Councillor Vernon Smith's Highways Local funding.

Two areas of paving have also been re-laid in Clark's Alley where the existing surface was particularly uneven. This work is designed to support the Alleycat initiative. A further substantial area of paving work is being planned for Trinity Walk which was identified as a high priority location by Project Alleycat and is supported with funding from Councillor Kevin Cromwell.

A second and final phase of footway resurfacing works is being planned for Wellfield which will complete works undertaken last year. Both phases of work were supported financially by Councillor Vernon Smith.

Substantial footway resurfacing works are being planned for Battle Road supported by Councillor Kevin Cromwell.

Carriageway resurfacing and patching works are being planned at the following locations with the support of the respective County Councillor:

1. Sun Street (Councillor Kevin Cromwell)
2. Churchill Grove cul-de-sac (Councillor Vernon Smith)
3. Lancaster Road (Councillor Kevin Cromwell)
4. Devonshire Place (Councillor Kevin Cromwell)
5. Green Lane (Councillor Vernon Smith)
6. Odessa to Tredington Road (Councillor Kevin Cromwell joint funding)

Improved traffic signing on Northway Lane by the Canterbury Leys junction is also being supported by Councillor Vernon Smith.

Following heavy rain in June a number of sites were identified in Prior Park where surface water became a particular issue. These sites were Queens Road, Abbots Road and York Road. Jetting and cleaning works have largely resolved the problems but further improvement works are being arranged for Queens Road.

17/18-62 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr J. Greening

Question about which version of the 15th May 2017 minutes the Council had accepted as it was not clear in the minutes. The Clerk explained that a proposal had been made to replace a section of the minutes written by the Clerk with minutes written by Cllr Poxon but it was eventually decided to leave the minutes in their original form.

Steve Goodchild

Question about the eel pass at the Abbey Mill.

It was agreed that Cllr Aldridge will respond to Mr Goodchild via email.

A member of the public questioned Cllr. Workman on the Tewkesbury Borough Council meeting to discuss the sale of the land next to Aldi. Cllr Workman explained that the meeting was confidential due to the high value contracts being discussed.

Cate Cody

The Green Party candidate for Tewkesbury invited a discussion about the blue recycling bin at the Watson Hall which is to be re-instated and offered advice about guiding users of the hall to dispose of their waste properly.

Cllr Workman agreed that education of users is the Council's next step. An agreement can be signed by users and deposits lost if the recycling is not done.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

DRAFT