

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TEWKESBURY TOWN HALL AT 6.00 PM

Present: Cllrs P Clatworthy (Mayor), C Danter (Deputy Mayor), P Aldridge, K Brennan, H Burns, S Carter, K Powell, M Poxon, J Raywood, S Raywood, V Smith, M Sztymiak, T Walker and P Workman
D Hill (Locum Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr K Cromwell (GCC), The Reverend Canon Paul Williams and two members of the public

The Reverend Canon Paul Williams said prayers.

At the start of the meeting Cllr Clatworthy introduced Debbie Hill as Locum Clerk in the absence of the Clerk.

17/18-84 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr A Smith.

17/18-85 To receive declarations of interests

Cllr V Smith – Tewkesbury Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council

Cllr M Sztymiak – Tewkesbury Borough Council

Cllr P Workman – Tewkesbury Borough Council

17/18-86 To consider requests for dispensation

None received.

17/18-87 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th September 2017

Cllr V Smith raised the point that the written report referred to in item 17/18-71 was missing and that minutes from the Personnel Committee need to be submitted to the Finance & Staffing committee. Cllr S Raywood advised that the report relating to Queen Margaret School Warwick Place consultation should have been appended to the Environment & Amenities committee minutes rather than Full Council minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September were not approved. The process for noting draft committee minutes at Full Council was discussed. **Action: the Locum Clerk was asked to check previous minutes to ensure that all committee minutes have been presented to Full Council.**

17/18-88 To receive questions from members of the public

A point was raised on behalf of Tewkesbury Art Society relating to problems encountered when trying to book room hire relating to bookings having been taken for more than a year in advance. Cllr Clatworthy said that the remarks had been noted and apologised for this on behalf of the Council.

One member of the public left at this juncture.

17/18-89 To note the Mayor's announcements

The Mayor queried whether the Town Council's emergency plans were up to date. Cllr Sztymiak commented that there is an emergency plan and that the Town Council's role is documented. Cllr Brennan also agreed that the Town Council is prepared but that telephone numbers should be checked to ensure they are up to date. The Mayor reported that the Mop Fair was successful and acknowledged receipt of a generous cheque. A group of children who had recently arrived from Syria were treated to a turn on several rides at the fair. The Mayor commented that it had been nice to see a large turnout at the recent funeral of Cllr Greenland. The Town Crier has recently passed on sincerest condolences to Tewkesbury Massachusetts on the recent Las Vegas shootings. It is hoped that the message reached the family concerned. There will be a Civic Service in the Abbey on Sunday 10th November at 10am and at The Cross at 11am.

17/18-90 To note draft minutes of the following committees:

Environment & Amenities minutes of 5th September were noted.

Buildings & Moorings minutes of 5th October were noted.

Planning minutes of 20th September and 4th October were noted.

Finance & Staffing minutes of 28th September and 5th October were noted.

Severn Ham minutes of 12th October were not yet available. Cllr Aldridge informed the Council that the bun has been finished and will hopefully stop anti-social behaviour. Cllr Poxon queried whether the appraisal training mentioned in the Finance & Staffing minutes of 28th September, had taken place. Cllr Poxon also pointed out that draft committee budgets need to be submitted to the Finance & Staffing Committee by 31st October in accordance with Financial Regulations. Cllr V Smith queried whether all committee minutes have been presented to Full Council. **Action: the Clerk was asked to check whether all minutes have been presented.** Cllr Smith further commented that he felt that the membership of the Personnel Committee should be reviewed. Cllr Danter replied that the committee had been formed by the Clerk and that she had been tasked with seeing this through. Cllr Workman stated that GAPTC had advised that the committee members appointed were acceptable.

17/18-91 To receive a Tewkesbury Town Regeneration Partnership report from Cllr S Raywood

Cllr Carter reported that the Regeneration Partnership meeting was very positive. The group will meet every three months moving forward but it is felt that the group needs to be stronger. A lot of what the group would like to achieve is dependent on s.106 monies Ashchurch and if the money is not available then progression would be extremely difficult. The Masterplan is at the heart of regeneration. Cllr Brennan felt that a further meeting is needed to discuss the regeneration ideas and to put these forward to the next partnership meeting in January. **Action: Cllr Brennan to set up a meeting.**

17/18-92 To receive reports from outside bodies

The Mayor reported that the Museum was a little damp but progress was being made and they are now looking forward to the Christmas activities planned.

17/18-93 To approve payments for September and to note the September bank reconciliation

Details of payments made in September were not available. Cllr Poxon queried payments and receipts details not presented. This information is required for the report. Cllr Sztymiak queried the plans that were in place for making payments. Cllr Danter advised that the office staff were carrying on with their responsibilities in relation to payments and receipts. The Locum Clerk had circulated bank reconciliations for the business account and the savings account to 30th September 2017. Details of payments greater than £500 made in September had been added to the website.

17/18-94 To receive the September budget report

The budget report had been circulated with the agenda pack.

17/18-95 To receive a report from Councillors on the Tewkesbury Town Survey conducted in March 2017

Cllr Poxon reported that he was disappointed with the number of responses (140).

17/18-96 To receive a report from Councillor Auditors

Report not available.

17/18-97 To note that a report by the Clerk & RFO on the external audit by Grant Thornton will be presented once the audit is concluded

Cllr Aldridge queried why Tewkesbury Town Council has not yet heard back from Grant Thornton. The Locum Clerk advised that submission dates vary from council to council and that accordingly the date that grant Thornton communicate the outcome of the audit process will also vary from council to council.

17/18-98 To receive a proposal by Cllr V Smith (seconded by Cllr Walker) to support Andrew Turner and the volunteers of the Christmas Lights Committee by funding the additional money required for Tewkesbury's Christmas lights

This motion was superceded by the recent grant application. Tewkesbury Town Council has agreed in full to the grant application submitted.

17/18-99 To discuss and agree the Town Council's response to planning application 17/00520/OUT regarding a proposed development of 850 dwellings, a primary school and local centre at Fiddington Lane, close to Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Cllr S Raywood advised Council that although the application related to an area just outside the boundary of the Town Council, it was still appropriate for the planning application to be considered. Cllr Aldridge stated that he had recently attended a meeting concerning junction 9 and access to the A46. Given the location of a 2,000 pupil school so close to the junction, pollution in this area is already above average and concerns in relation to this and also concerns regarding flooding have been considered. Members generally felt that insufficient consideration had been given to pollution, flooding, infrastructure and medical facilities, the Joint Core Strategy and the proposed development at Mitton. Cllr Szymiak suggested that the public should be consulted. Cllr V Smith suggested that in the first instance the Severn & Avon Valley Combined Flood Group membership could be contacted as their membership is currently around 1,500 people. **Action: Cllr V Smith to contact the flood group.** Cllr Aldridge suggested adding this to the forthcoming surgery. The Reverend Canon Paul Williams kindly offered the use of The Abbey for a public meeting. Cllr Aldridge proposed a motion that the Town Council should object to the planning application. The motion was seconded by Cllr Brennan. All in favour, with one abstention from Cllr Workman. **Action: Cllr S Raywood to formulate a response for consideration at the planning meeting in two weeks.**

17/18-99 To receive reports from Tewkesbury Borough Council (Cllr Sztymiak) and Gloucestershire County Council (Cllr V Smith)

A report was received from Cllr Sztymiak as follows:

At the last full council meeting the Borough Council considered a petition from the public to not sell the small tree area on the Gloucester Road to Aldi for car parking. Most of the speakers during the debate were against the sale but nevertheless the council decided to continue with the sale. The community have registered the land as a community right to buy. If they wish to pursue this the community would have 6 months to try and raise funds for the purchase which would then be considered by the Borough.

The developers of land north of Mitton are holding consultation events about building 500 houses north of Mitton in Wychavon. An event was held in the Town Hall last Thursday and another one is in Bredon Village Hall tomorrow between 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm. It is expected that a planning application will be submitted within the next couple of months. It will be determined by Wychavon Planning Committee but people of Tewkesbury can send in their comments. It should be noted that new homes bonus and council tax from the new dwellings will go to Wychavon District as well as 75% community infrastructure levy with the other 25% going to Bredon Parish.

Cllr Aldridge commented that Bredon Parish Council are opposed to the Mitton development.

A report was received from Cllr V Smith as follows:

A46 Partnership Group:

This group consists of members from Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire and as a chair of the group I feel that working together we are making real progress with Highways England and the Department for Transport.

The group have completed a prospectus, this should be available from the end of October and this has been put together working with partners, business and with case studies of individual companies. An added advantage is that local MPs, especially Laurence Robertson have been taking all your views on this project to the very heart of government and I thank them for their support of the A46 partnership.

Moving forward the partnership has £250,000 funding and working with Highways England modelling of Traffic Flows for highways improvement is currently taking place in Gloucestershire.

In the short term we will look at:

- A438 Morrisons extra traffic filter lane.
- 2nd route out of Northway Business Park to relieve Shannon Way, connecting to the existing 3 way traffic light near Morrisons.
- We have forwarded a bid to Government for improvements to Junction 9 and the A46.

In the medium term we will look at:

- Continue working with Highways England to aid Government to produce plans to bypass Ashchurch and reduce congestion at Junction 9.
- Find improvements to the A46 that can be made now deceleration/acceleration lane etc.
- Improve the Evesham bypass

Feasibility studies long term:

- In Worcestershire modelling and feasibility of a new dual track from Evesham connecting with M5/Junction 8.
- Traffic flow study for £100 million upgrade of M5 Junction 10 changing from 2 to 4 way.

The A46 Partnership next meeting is on 26th September 2017.

Elmbridge junction improvement on time and budget GCC £7 million scheme.

Cllr S Raywood thanked Cllr V Smith for his comprehensive report but queried what timescales related to the short, medium and long term. Cllr V Smith explained that short term relates to a two to five year period, medium term related to less than 10 years and long term to greater than 10 years. Cllr Burns queried the stabilisation of the Eastern relief road. Cllr V Smith advised that there will be a few years of patching before there is a final solution.

17/18-100 Cheques for signature

The cheques were signed in accordance with the payments list.

17/18-101 Public Participation

It was queried whether access to the building is covered in the emergency plan.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of Minutes 13th November 2017