

MINUTES
of the
Full Council meeting held on 9th December 2019
In the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, High Street, Tewkesbury

Present: Cllrs K Brennan (Chair), P Aldridge, K Powell, A Rudge, C Danter, H Davis, S Raywood, M Sztymiak, J Raywood, A Carter.

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk); J King (Assistant Town Clerk)
Four members of the public

19/20 - 127 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Walker (health), Cllr Smith (business), Cllr Cody (business) & Cllr Bowman (business)

19/20 - 128 To receive declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19/20 - 129 To consider requests for dispensation

None requested.

19/20 - 130 To receive written questions from members of the public

Questions concerning a historic legal case concerning the Red Lane Moorings 2010-2014 were raised as detailed below

Report on the legal case – does the Clerk confirm that no formal report exists at the Town Hall or at the County Archives, concerning the outcome of the case or the costs to the Council and people of Tewkesbury?

As previously advised to the member of the public, there is a moratorium in discussing this case for a period of 99 years. Therefore, the Council cannot answer this question.

Payments of Legal costs concerning the case – Does the Clerk agree that, from payments agreed at various Council meetings, the case cost the Town Council and people of Tewkesbury £80,200.63?

The Town Council's retention policy for financial records is six years and accordingly the Town Clerk cannot confirm that figure.

If she does not agree, would she provide her version of the figures before the next Full Council meeting in January.

As advised in point a. above, the Town Clerk cannot provide these figures. The Town Clerk has already advised the member of the public of this information under a prior Freedom of Information request.

Legal Indemnity – the Clerk has informed me that the Council is currently covered via WPS Insurance Broker and the Sun Alliance – would she inform us if any compensation to the Council since 2014 has been made and recorded in Council minutes?

The member of the public has already asked this question under a Freedom of Information request and accordingly is being dealt with through this channel.

Mediation - Does the Clerk agree that the case was terminated as a result of mediation which took place at the Baptist Church between July and September 2013 at a total cost of £2,600?

See question 1 – the Council cannot answer this question.

Will the Clerk undertake to recommend independent mediation at an early stage in any legal dispute, subsequent to this case, to limit the legal burden on municipal finances?

The Clerk and Town Council acts upon professional advice in such matters.

Monthly approval of Council Payments – would the Town Clerk make available for Councillor and public inspection the list of payments made in September and October 2019, any others not recently published and all those made henceforth?

Detailed payments lists are available on request. Details of all payments made are reported for noting to Full Council.

Will the Town Clerk make available a map showing the Moorings owned by the Town Council, recently agreed with the Land Registry?

The member of the public is advised that this would be made available upon receipt of a Freedom of Information request.

Confidential Minutes – does the Town Clerk agree with the opinion that there is no such thing as a confidential minute and will she put before the council by the end of the Council's year, a scheme for at least the annual review, with a non-councillor, of confidential minutes with the view of publishing as many as possible?

The Town Clerk confirms that at Parish and Town Council level, confidential minutes are not permitted. The Town Council will consider any Freedom of Information request for release of historic confidential minutes on a case by case basis. There is currently no plan to review all historic confidential minutes.

19/20 - 131 Public participation

A member of the public raised the following questions:

- Why are there no November minutes on the agenda? The Clerk subsequently stated that one full calendar month of minutes are available each month. For example, October's minutes are available in December.
- Can the Clerk provide an update regarding the review of standing orders and financial regulations?
- Can the Clerk provide an update on progress regarding the Local Council Award Scheme?

19/20 - 132 To note the Mayor's announcements

- The Mayor is currently unwell and the Deputy Mayor will be covering his duties for at least the next month.
- The Town Carol Service is taking place on Thursday 12th December at 7pm at the Methodist Church.
- Wed 18th December – Volunteers required to assist with the retiring collection at Radio Glos Christmas Service at the Abbey. All proceeds to Mayor's Charities.
- Upcoming Town Council events at the Watson Hall
 - 15th February – Albino Tarantino
 - 29th February – JC Quo
 - 11th April – Bon Giovi

- 19/20 - 133 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019**
 It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2019, subject to updating number of houses to 1000 in 19/20-115
 19/20-118 add to the end of 'if required'.
 Proposed by Cllr Rudge, seconded by Cllr Danter.
- 19/20 - 134 Matters arising from the Minutes – for information only**
19/20-060 Press releases – not covered under current standing orders but will be included in the review of the Standing Orders. Financial regulations have been reviewed - ongoing
19/20-096 GMTF Report – Requested but not yet available – ongoing
19/20-115 GCC Report – Flood defence spending – The Town Clerk has spoken to Cllr Cromwell and the request has been referred to an officer at GCC- ongoing
19/20-116 Finance Report – Councillor asked question regarding redacting staff names on payments list. Financial regulations 5.2 state that these should be redacted - complete
19/20-117 Bank reconciliations – Town Clerk has provided information to the Cllr - complete
19/20-118 Speed Reduction – The Town Clerk advised that GCC have confirmed that all necessary work and consideration has been given to the speed limits in this area and as such they are not prepared considered previously and subsequently they are not prepared to put 50% in, we would have to fund the whole thing ourselves.- complete
19/20-123 Grant Application – Tewkesbury In Bloom – deferred to next meeting
19/20-124 Prayer in meetings – Town Clerk investigating – ongoing
- 19/20 - 135 To note the following Committee Minutes:**
Finance – 7th October 2019
Environment & Amenities – 22nd October 2019
Buildings & Moorings – 23rd October 2019
Planning – 2nd, 16th & 30th October 2019
Staffing – 21st October 2019
 The above minutes were noted.
- 19/20 - 136 To receive Councillor reports for Tewkesbury Borough Council & Gloucestershire County Council**
 Due to purdah, Cllr Reid did not provide an update from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

 Cllr Smith provided a written report from Gloucestershire County Council.
- 19/20 - 137 To receive the finance report for October 2019**
 The finance report for October 2019 was received.
- 19/20 - 138 To consider a request from Cllr Bowman to join the Planning and Finance Committees and discuss any other Committee vacancies.**
 It was RESOLVED that Cllr Bowman join the Planning and Finance Committees.
 Proposed by Cllr Davies , seconded by Cllr J Raywood .

There are currently two vacancies on the Environment & Amenities Committee, four vacancies on Planning Committee and two vacancies on Building & Moorings Committee.

19/20 - 139 To discuss and agree that Tewkesbury Town council becomes a member of the Heritage Action Zone Cultural Consortium for Tewkesbury

It was RESOLVED that Tewkesbury Town Council becomes a member of the Heritage Action Zone Cultural Consortium, subject to resources being available.
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Carter.

19/20 - 140 To resolve to adopt the NALC Tree Charter

It was RESOLVED to adopt the NALC Tree charter.
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

19/20 - 141 To discuss and agree a process for Town Councillors to receive feedback from TTRP meetings

Councillors discussed the issues regarding feedback from TTRP meetings, particularly regarding the confidential issues that cannot be discussed in Full Council feedback.

It was felt that the nature of the meetings has changed since the formation of TTRP and that the meetings are more Tewkesbury Borough Council led than a partnership between the two Councils. Concerns were also raised regarding the time between meetings happening and the provision of minutes. Councillors want this to be a worthwhile partnership.

Action: Town Clerk to request the date of the next TTRP meeting from Tewkesbury Borough Council, together with the minutes from the last meeting. Councillors to hold an informal meeting one week before the meeting to discuss the Town Council's views.

19/20 - 142 To review the representation of the Town Council on outside bodies

The representation of the Town Council on outside bodies was reviewed.
PPNP – Cllr Danter currently attends these meetings.
GPFA & CPRE – if any Councillor would like to represent the Town Council at the Annual General Meetings of these organisations, please notify the Town Clerk.
GRCC – Cllr S Raywood agreed to attend.

19/20 - 143 To receive reports from members representing the Town Council on outside bodies

Cllr J Raywood provided reports from TTRP; held on 14th November, the Ashchurch Garden Town parish and town council seminar; held on 27th November and the Borough Car Parking Strategy meeting held on 3rd December.

Cllr Carter thanked the Councillors who attended the brainstorming session for 2021.

Cllr J Raywood attended the Tewkesbury Hospital League of Friends meeting and thanked Cllr Danter for running the very successful winter bazaar on behalf of the Friends.

Cllr Aldridge attended the Giles Geest Trustees meeting and advised that the monies have been distributed for the last year.

19/20 - 144 To approve the payments list

There was no payments list

19/20 - 145 To consider and agree grant applications from outside bodies

The application from Tewkesbury in Bloom deferred to January.

19/20 - 146 Correspondence

- Thank you from Tewkesbury Christmas Lights for their grant.
- Thank you from Gloucestershire Breastfeeding Support network for their grant.
- Thank you from Great Western Air Ambulance for their grant.

19/20 - 147 Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave during the consideration of the following items on the agenda

It was RESOLVED that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave during the consideration of the following items on the agenda.

Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

Cllr Powell left the meeting due to a conflict of interests at 7:10pm.

19/20 - 148 To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the money claim served on the Town Council on 11th April 2019 and to agree the next steps

The Town Clerk provided an update on the money claim.

Councillors agreed on the next steps.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Rudge.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 20th January 2019