

MINUTES

of the

Full Council meeting held remotely via Zoom on 8th June 2020

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

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk), J King (Assistant Town Clerk) and 6 members of the public

20/21 - 001 To formally appoint the Town Mayor for 2020-21

Cllr Aldridge was formally appointed Town Mayor for 2020-21

Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

Cllr Rudge wished to record that he voted against the nomination.

Cllr Aldridge took over as Chair.

20/21 - 002 To formally appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for 2020-21

Cllr S Raywood declared an interest in this item.

Cllr J Raywood was formally appointed Deputy Town Mayor for 2020-21

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Bowman.

Cllr Rudge wished to record that he voted against the nomination.

20/21 - 003 To consider the application for co-option to Tewkesbury Town Council and receive a short presentation from the applicant

Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 004 To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

20/21 - 005 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr S Raywood declared an interest in item 20/21-003

Cllrs Sztymiak & Cody & Smith declared interests in items 20/21-025 & 026 as Borough Councillors.

20/21 - 006 To consider requests for dispensation

None requested.

20/21 - 007 To receive written questions from members of the public

None received.

20/21 - 008 Public participation

Mr Mayor and Councillors, I am very pleased to be able to hear and see the business of the Tewkesbury Town Council. Recently I have become restricted in my mobility especially the climbing of stairs. My previous communication with the Town Clerk regarding the exclusion of disabled persons from using the Council Chamber met, as yet, with no solution. Maybe this system of communication even if only within the

confines of the Town Hall could be a solution. Members of the Public could stay in the Corn Hall area and the proceedings be transmitted to them there. Being a closed circuit transmission there would be no disruption to meetings.

The Mayor responded that this would be investigated when in person Full Council meetings resume.

20/21 - 009 To note the Mayor's announcements

Office continues to run on a reduced staff, with staff working remotely where possible. Two members of staff were furloughed on 11th May. One member of staff returned from furlough on 1st June, one continues to be furloughed. Two members of staff are also working core hours only (37 hours reduced to 30 and 25 hours reduced to 20).

Mayor's charities for 2020 will be:

- Tewkesbury in Bloom
- Victoria Pleasure Gardens
- Tewkesbury Town North
- Tewkesbury Christmas Lights
- Banners for the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society

20/21 - 010 To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th & 12th March 2020
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 011 Matters arising from the Minutes – for information only
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 012 To approve the payment of the annual stipend to the Town Crier and the Mayor's allowance.
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 013 To receive the expenditure report for March & April 2020
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 014 To receive the year end bank reconciliations for 2019-2020
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 015 To receive the year end accounts for 2019-2020
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 016 To receive the internal audit report and to note recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting held on 5th March 2020
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 017 To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 018 To approve the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year ending 31st March 2020

Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 019 To consider and approve the Accounting Statement 2019/20

Deferred to the next meeting.

20/21 - 020 To ratify the emergency procedures put in place on 19th March 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic

It was RESOLVED to ratify the emergency procedures.

Proposed by Cllr Bowman, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.

A Cllr asked if normal practice and procedures would now apply. The Clerk advised that everything is being handled through remote meetings as normal.

20/21 - 021 To note the implementation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations)

The legislation was noted.

20/21 - 022 To resolve to add to Standing Orders section 3 (x) A remote meeting shall not exceed a period of one and a half hours

It was RESOLVED to amend the standing orders.

Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Danter.

A Cllr asked if the time limit could be applied to all meetings. The Clerk advised that the Standing Orders were currently being reviewed. Cllr Bowman to join the review of Standing Orders.

20/21 - 023 To note that Cllr Aldridge automatically becomes Chair of Finance and Cllr J Raywood automatically becomes Chair of Staffing, due to the change in Mayor / Deputy Mayor

The change in Chairs was noted.

20/21 - 024 To request volunteers to fill the spaces remaining on committees

Cllr Sztymiak volunteered to join the Finance Committee. Cllr Brennan also happy to continue on the Finance Committee. Volunteers requested for Planning Committee.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to check vacancies.

20/21 - 025 To consider the Planning Committee's proposal for a corporate response to Tewkesbury Borough Council's Ashchurch Bridge Project consultation and to agree further actions.

It was RESOLVED to agree the response to the Ashchurch Bridge Project consultation:

The Town Council has experienced some difficulty in providing a useful response to this consultation due to the limited context within which this proposed bridge will operate. It is difficult to determine the potential effectiveness of such a bridge when it is unknown how the surrounding infrastructure will link it with communities and the existing network. Whilst the Town Council is generally supportive of the provision of infrastructure in advance of new development, in this case, it is unclear

due to a lack of information on the approach roads, how this bridge will operate within the wider context and its impact on the operation of the surrounding highway and transport network. It is understood that the bridge location is responding to the constraints outlined in the supporting information, but it is felt that there is still a concern regarding the impact on hydrology and flooding. The Town Council is also concerned that the geological conditions may make the construction of a suitable bridge structure difficult.

The Town Council considers that this bridge should encourage journeys by active travel and public transport as well as private vehicles. We would urge that extra consideration is given to providing the footway/cycleway as segregated facilities or at least providing passive provision to facilitate this to be done in the future. Whilst the 4-metre shared footway and cycleway has the potential to provide sufficient space post-development, shared infrastructure is potentially less desirable to the users of these modes. The Town Council notes that the span of the bridge allows for two tracks to be provided but is aware of the potential need identified in the Western Route Utilisation Strategy dating from 2015 for dynamic passing loops between Ashchurch and Eckington which may require space to be provided for four tracks. It would be regrettable if some passive provision was not made and either the bridge needed to be replaced by Network Rail or the requirements of the national railway network was impeded by this bridge.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Davis.
Cllr Rudge abstained, Cllrs Szymiak & Danter voted against.

20/21 - 026 To discuss the parking arrangements in Tewkesbury further to the loss of spaces on the High Street due to Covid-19 changes and agree next steps

Cllrs discussed the issue of parking charges being reintroduced in the Tewkesbury Borough Council owned car parks and the impact of the removal of free spaces on the High Street due to the increased space for pedestrians due to social distancing measures. A decision is due to be made by TBC on 10th June.

Cllrs raised the following points

- That there are still disabled spaces available on the High Street and free parking available in the Town
- Walking and cycling should be encouraged as easier and safer
- Public health should come before parking charges – the additional space on the High Street is appreciated
- Social distancing measures will make visiting shops take longer
- Concerns for the survival of the High Street – need it to thrive
- Would one hours free parking be sufficient? Or would it encourage multiple visits rather than one longer one?
- Is there a process for individuals who keep their cars on the street who may have to isolate, in order to prevent them from having to move them.
- Free parking & the reintroduction of charges needs to be well publicized
- Should the High Street be pedestrianized? Perhaps as a trial?

Cllrs wished to encourage more ongoing dialogue with GCC, TBC and the town traders. GCC would welcome feedback on the social distancing measures that have been introduced, together with any further suggestions.

Cllrs also wished to know what costs would be lost from delaying the reintroduction of parking costs by 2 weeks to 12th July.

It was RESOLVED to write to Tewkesbury Borough Council to petition for the extension of the free parking until 12th July, whilst also noting the Town Council's awareness of the ongoing public health issue.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Smith.

20/21 - 027 To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totaling £806.87.

Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Sztymiak.

20/21 - 028 Correspondence

An email of thanks was received for the grant to Tewkesbury Medieval Festival – due to Covid-19 the grant has subsequently been returned.

Email of thanks received from Jason Kinghorn – Civic Award Recipient.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.25 pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes13th July 2020