

MINUTES
of the Full Council meeting held remotely via Zoom
on 9th November 2020 at 6pm

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), H Davis, S Raywood, M Sztymiak, J Raywood, V Smith, K Powell, C Cody, H Bowman, C Danter, S Raywood, P Devine, R Gurney

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk), J King (Assistant Town Clerk) and 2 members of the public

20/21 - 109 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fowler & Cllr Brennan

20/21 - 110 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Aldridge declared an interest in item 20/21-123 – Payments list, re: Mayor's Stipend.

20/21 - 111 To consider requests for dispensation

None requested.

20/21 - 112 To receive written questions from member of the public

No questions have been received.

20/21 - 113 Public participation

There was no public participation.

20/21 - 114 To note the Mayor's announcements

The Mayor provided an update on the following:

- The virtual Remembrance Service took place on Sunday 8th November
- Town Clerk is on a phased return to work following her surgery

20/21 - 115 To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 12th October 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2020.
Proposed by Cllr Bowman, seconded by Cllr Davis

20/21 - 116 To note the following Committee Minutes:

Planning – 9th & 23rd September 2020

Staffing – 21st September 2020

Environment & Amenities – 1st September 2020

Severn Ham – 10th September 2020

The above minutes were noted.

20/21 - 117 Matters arising from the Minutes – for information only

19/20-187 Air Pollution – Deferred to a future meeting.

20/21-058 Impact of Covid-19 on Town Hall & Watson Hall income – will be discussed further in the next Finance meeting and then back to Full Council.

20/21-104 Lights for the outside of the Town Hall – Nicole is working with Cllr Danter regarding the lights. They need to be static and white.

20/21 - 118 To receive Councillor reports for Tewkesbury Borough Council from Cllr Cody and Gloucestershire County Council from Cllr Smith

Cllr Cody provided an update from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

- There has been no meeting since the last Full Council meeting.
- There is a new Covid Compliance Officer to help community engagement.
- Covid safety stickers and signage are being installed on the High Street in November
- Current issue with plastic recycling – encouraging people to check what can and cannot be recycled on the website.

Cllr Smith provided an update on behalf of GCC:

- Public rights of way – will circulate the details on Tewkesbury for local information. Cllr Cody advised that the Government has set a deadline of 1st January 2026 for all historic paths to be registered for inclusion on official maps. Full details can be found at <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/dont-lose-your-way-2026.aspx>
- Launched the school safe streets – pilot at Tewkesbury C of E. Looking at other schools where it could be rolled out.
- GCC currently working on the survey and works for junction 9 and the options, these will be put out to consultation in January 2021. The junction 10 consultation is currently open until 25th November <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/m5-junction-10-improvements-scheme/>
- GCC have joined the Severn partnership, working with Worcestershire & Warwickshire on cross boundary issues, including flooding.

20/21 - 119 To receive the finance reports for September 2020

The finance reports were received.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the six month position. Income for the buildings is down due to Covid. Non precepted income was budgeted to be £133,000, but this is likely to now be in the region of £50,000. Income has been helped by a business grant for £10,000 to cover lost income at the Watson Hall. The expenditure for the year on buildings is front loaded, so currently only essential expenditure is being approved.

Cllr Danter noted that a guide to how to read accounts was being prepared for Environment & Amenities and asked if this could be circulated to all.

Action: Assistant Town Clerk to circulate when completed.

20/21 - 120 To receive the Q2 bank reconciliations

The bank reconciliations were received.

20/21 - 121 To discuss the Government guidance regarding making venues available during this and any potential future lockdowns and to agree any actions required

Cllrs discussed the current guidance and noted that the second lockdown is different to the lockdown in March & April, in that there are exceptions for groups that are still allowed to meet, in groups of up to 15, such as support for victims of crime,

people in drug or alcohol recovery, new parents, people with long term illnesses and vulnerable young people. The Town Council acknowledges the benefit of these types of groups and if it fits within the Government guidelines of providing essential community support, the Town Council will provide a venue. If required, the Town Council can check with GCC Health Protection for advice if it is not clear that a group falls under the guidelines.

It was RESOLVED to devolve responsibility to the Chair of the Buildings & Moorings Committee or Lead Member for the Venue in conjunction with the Town Clerk to make decisions regarding allowable groups in Town Council owned venues. Where there is doubt regarding the legal guidance, the Town Clerk will check with GCC Health Protection. All Councillors will be advised of any groups using the buildings during a lockdown.

Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Rudge.

20/21 - 122 To review and agree grant applications

There were no grant applications.

20/21 - 123 To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £4,220.00.

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Smith.

20/21 - 124 Correspondence

A letter of thanks had been received from the Medieval Festival for their grant.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.46pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 14th December 2020