

MINUTES
of the Full Council meeting held remotely via Zoom
on 12th October 2020 at 6pm

Present: Cllrs P Aldridge (Chair), K Brennan, H Davis, S Raywood, M Sztymiak, J Raywood, C Cody, H Bowman, C Danter, A Carter, P Devine, R Gurney, T Fowler

In attendance: J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Nicole Finnegan (Admin Assistant) and 1 member of the public

20/21 - 91 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Smith (personal) & Cllr Rudge.

20/21 - 92 To receive declarations of interest
Cllr S. Raywood declared an interest in items 20/21-102 & 103 as a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
Cllr Aldridge declared an interest in an item on the payments list re: Simply Flowers.

20/21 - 93 To consider requests for dispensation
None requested.

20/21 - 94 To receive written questions from member of the public
No questions have been received.

20/21 - 95 Public participation
There was no public participation.

20/21 - 96 To note the Mayor's announcements
The Mayor provided an update on the following:

- The Town Clerk is recovering from surgery on her leg following an accident
- Welcome to our new Town Councillors
- The Mop Fair was honoured as per the Royal Charter on 9th October, as the full Mop Fair was not possible this year
- The Remembrance Service will be a small service in the Abbey this year. There will be no parade or laying of wreaths at the Memorial Cross.
- Tewkesbury Christmas Lights will be holding a virtual 'switch on' on 21st November.

Item 10: Reports from Gloucestershire County Council & Tewkesbury Borough Council were moved up the agenda, due to Councillor availability.

20/21 - 97 To receive Councillor reports for Tewkesbury Borough Council from Cllr Sztymiak and Gloucestershire County Council from Cllr Cromwell
Cllr Cromwell provided an update on behalf of GCC:

- Ongoing trial of E-scooters in Gloucestershire.
- GCC Plan to plant 35 million trees over the next ten years.
- As part of the School Streets campaign, Rope Walk will be closed to vehicles during school drop-off/pick-up times.

- Money has been released for the replacement of concrete roads; York Road and Wenlock Road. It will be disruptive but is necessary work.

Cllr Sztymiak provided an update on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council:

- COVID-19 response. Gloucestershire is currently below average in terms of cases but rising with the national trend. Tewkesbury Borough Council is planning and getting prepared for a second lockdown along with a recovery and response plan.

20/21 - 98 To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th & 28th September 2020

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2020 subject to the minor word change from 'Council' to 'Clerk' in item 20/21 – 076. Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Davis.

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2020. Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Davis.

20/21 - 99 To note the following Committee Minutes:

Planning – 19th August 2020

Staffing – 10th August 2020

Finance – 26th August 2020

The above minutes were noted.

20/21 - 100 Matters arising from the Minutes – for information only

19/20-115 GCC Flooding Report – Information was provided from GCC:

In the last three years ditch maintenance was carried out on watercourses around Morrisons / bypass junction. Total cost £27,190.

The Environment Agency has carried out maintenance work within the Town.

Tewkesbury Borough Council have riparian responsibilities from Mill Avon River, along Tirl Brook to Link Road and an eastern section of the Carrant Brook. The Environment Agency carry out flail cutting annually for inspection purposes on these stretches, which is often sufficient that no further action is required.

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

20/21-058 Impact of Covid-19 on Town Hall & Watson Hall income – ongoing.

20/21-059 Petition NALC re: use of gender-neutral pronouns – on agenda to go to GAPTC AGM – complete.

20/21-075 Safer High Streets – Information circulated – complete.

20/21-076 Reserves – Information circulated – complete.

20/21-083 Climate Change Working Group – Information circulated – complete.

20/21 - 101 To receive the budget report for August 2020

The budget report was received.

Cllr Sztymiak asked could the budget reports be sent out sooner. The Assistant Town Clerk advised that although in some months it may be possible to provide a report sooner, when the meeting falls close to the start of the month, there is insufficient time to prepare the month end reports. For consistency, the timing of reports has to remain as they currently are.

- 20/21 - 102 To review and agree the response to the NALC consultation regarding the White Paper 'Planning for the Future'**
Cllr J Raywood gave an overview of the proposed changes to the planning process, the main concern is Planning Committees having enough time to be well informed and give feedback, as well as concerns regarding flooding.
Cllr Sztymiak requested that requiring buildings to be carbon neutral be added to the sustainability section.
Subject to this addition, it was RESOLVED to approve the response to the NALC consultation prepared by the Planning Committee.
Proposed by Cllr Bowman, seconded by Cllr Davis.
- 20/21 - 103 To review and agree the response to the NALC consultation regarding the White Paper 'Transparency & Competition'**
Cllr J Raywood gave overview of the consultation, which primarily looks at increasing the transparency of land ownership. Cllr S Raywood commented that this consultation really showed the value of the new co-opted members to the planning committee.
It was RESOLVED to approve the response to the NALC consultation prepared by the Planning Committee. Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Bowman.
- 20/21 - 104 To consider a proposal from Cllr Danter that Tewkesbury Town Council displays two lit Christmas Trees on the outside of the Town Hall this year to support Tewkesbury Christmas Lights**
It was considered that Tewkesbury Town Council should display two lit Christmas Trees on the outside of the Town Hall this year to support Tewkesbury Christmas Lights. Cllr Cody commented that the trees should be sustainably sourced and then composted. It was noted that the condition of the Town Hall stonework is fragile, and permission may be required to install brackets from the Conservation Officer.
Action: Assistant Town Clerk to find out cost/source of tree and investigate permission for brackets.
- 20/21 - 105 To consider and agree any resolutions to be submitted for consideration at GAPTC AGM**
It was RESOLVED to propose the following resolution for consideration at GAPTC AGM: 'Tewkesbury Town Council would like to propose that GAPTC use gender neutral pronouns within their model documents and petition NALC to do the same, for example within their model standing orders.'
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr Bowman.
- 20/21 - 106 To review and agree grant applications**
There were no grant applications.
- 20/21 - 107 To approve the payments list**
It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £16,053.57.
Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Bowman.
- 20/21 - 108 Correspondence**
No correspondence received.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:04pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 9th November 2020