

MINUTES
of the Full Council meeting held remotely via Zoom
on 8th February 2021 at 6pm

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

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk), J King (Assistant Town Clerk), County Cllr Cromwell.
Two members of the public.

- 20/21 - 164 To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Fowler (health).
- 20/21 - 165 To receive declarations of interest**
No declarations of interest.
- 20/21 - 166 To consider requests for dispensation**
None requested.
- 20/21 - 167 To receive written questions from member of the public**
None received.
- 20/21 - 168 Public participation**
There was no public participation.
- 20/21 - 169 To note the Mayor's announcements**
- Nomination papers for Mayor & Deputy Mayor will be available in a couple of weeks.
- 20/21 - 170 To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 18th January 2021**
Three Cllrs wished to note that in item 20/21-155 regarding the budget that they did not feel it was discussed 'at length'.
It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2021 .
Proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr J Raywood.
- 20/21 - 171 To note the following Committee Minutes:**
- Buildings & Moorings – 10th December 2020**
 - Planning – 2nd & 16th December 2020**
 - Staffing – 1st December 2020**
 - Finance – 8th December 2020**

The above minutes were noted.

A Cllr asked about the bar staff at the Watson Hall being on furlough as it was thought they were on zero hours contracts. The Town Clerk advised that they were entitled to furlough based on their average hours from previous months.

A Cllr asked about noting minutes when they were still in draft format. The Town Clerk advised that this was the case that minutes will sometimes still be in draft and other times will be confirmed. However, Full Council is noting the committee minutes, not approving them.

20/21 - 172 Matters arising from the Minutes – for information only

20/21-149 Tewkesbury in Bloom – The Town Clerk has spoken to Cllr Brennan and the signs are on order.

20/21 - 173 To receive Councillor reports for Tewkesbury Borough Council from Cllr Reid and Gloucestershire County Council from Cllr Cromwell

Cllr Reid provided a written update from Tewkesbury Borough Council.

- Ubico have had their contract extended for five years.
- New lockdown grant is available, detail at www.tewkesbury.gov.uk

Cllr Cromwell provided a written report from GCC:

- Covid Community Hub number for those who need help 01452 583519
- Free School Meals to continue to be provided during half term.
- Further £200,000 to provide laptops for children during lockdown.
- Mental health and wellbeing support available here <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershire-county-council-news/news-january-2021/be-well-gloucestershire-improving-access-to-support-in-the-county/>

20/21 - 174 To receive the finance reports for December 2020

The finance reports were received.

The first instalment of the latest business lockdown grant has been received on 1st February for £6,477. Further payments will be made automatically depending on the length of lockdown.

A recent bid for grant funding for urgent repair work to the Museum roof has been successful. Further details and publicity to be released in due course.

20/21 - 175 To receive the bank reconciliation reports for Q3 2020/21 as reviewed by the Finance Committee

The bank reconciliation reports were received.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the bank reconciliations are presented to the Finance Committee every month and they review the corresponding bank statements. The financial regulations then require them to come to Full Council each quarter.

20/21 - 176 To consider and agree an increase in membership from eight to nine Councillors on Building & Moorings Committee

It was RESOLVED to an increase in membership from eight to nine Councillors on Building & Moorings Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Rudge.

Cllrs discussed the format of Committees, the role of ex-officio members and whether they should have voting rights.

Action: Item to be added to Annual Meeting agenda in May when committee structure is reviewed, to discuss the role of ex-officio members and whether they should have voting rights.

20/21 - 177 To consider a request from Cllrs Gurney & Devine to join Buildings & Moorings Committee

It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Gurney & Devine to join Buildings & Moorings Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Brennan.

20/21 - 178 To consider a request from Cllr Devine to join Environment & Amenities Committee

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Devine join the Environment & Amenities Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Powell.

20/21 - 179 To recruit additional internal control checkers

Cllrs Bowman, Gurney & Brennan volunteered to become internal control checkers. It is proposed that there is a remote meeting to run through the next one, so that people felt more comfortable with what they need to do.

20/21 - 180 To agree the response to the Government consultation: Right to Regenerate: reform of the Right to Contest

The Planning Committee proposed a draft response to the above consultation. The right to regenerate currently exists, but few people use the right.

It was requested that in Q3, the words 'natural habitat' be added, as it could relate to a piece of scrubland that would be really good for insects. It was also requested that the following phrase be extended to read 'Public health, including the natural environment and mental health'.

In response to Q6 it was requested that the point that 'it could save people time applying' be added.

It was RESOLVED to agree the response to Government consultation:- Right to Regenerate: reform of the Right to Contest, subject to the inclusion of the comments above.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Bowman.

20/21 - 181 To receive reports from members representing the Town Council on outside bodies

Cllr J Raywood provided a written report from the Hospital League of Friends. They are short of trustees and would welcome anyone who was interested.

Cllr Brennan advised that Tewkesbury in Bloom met last week, and they will be entering the 'In Bloom' competition this year. Judging will be via a portfolio rather than in person.

Cllr Brennan also advised that Tewkesbury Museum has vacancies for Council Trustees.

Cllr Aldridge advises that the Wheelchair Bus is seeking new drivers.

The Clerk provided an update on Tewkesbury 20:21. Unfortunately, some of the events planned for the first half of the year are not going to go ahead, due to a lack of confidence in being able to hold them and the lead time required to organise them. A community launch is planned for June and the Son et Lumiere still on track for November.

Cllr S Raywood provided an update from GAPTC. The remote meeting regulations that expire on 7th May have not yet been extended. NALC continue to push for this extension with the Government. NALC are also pushing for a date for the removal of non-domestic business rates from public toilets. A second reading has taken place, but there is no date for it to become law.

20/21 - 182 To review and agree grant applications

There were no grant applications.

20/21 - 183 To approve the payments list

It was RESOLVED to approve the payments list totalling £100.
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.

20/21 - 184 Correspondence

Play Gloucestershire has offered twenty 'Bags of Play' to the Town Council. These will be distributed to families in need via the Foodbank.

The Clerk advised that the External Audit has been received. The Clerk is happy with the outcome; there was one except regarding the Watson Hall. The full report will go on to the website and will be discussed at the next Finance Committee and Full Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.57pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 8th March 2021