



## TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

To: Cllr. Joanne Raywood, Cllr. Simon Raywood, Cllr. Hilarie Bowman, Mr Ryan Maggs and Mr Richard Carey

You are summoned to a meeting of the Planning Committee, to be held by video conferencing  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

**Members of the public and press are welcome to attend.**

Zoom meeting id: 824 5088 2307

Zoom meeting password: 954171

Debbie Hill  
Town Clerk  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

## AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and a reminder of how the meeting will be conducted.**
- 2. To receive apologies for absence**
- 3. To receive declarations of interest**
- 4. To receive and consider requests for dispensations**
- 5. Public participation** *(to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders this will not exceed 12 minutes in total and 3 minutes per person)*
- 6. To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**
- 7. To receive updates on matters arising from the minutes – for information only**
- 8. To note correspondence**



**9. Erection of a front porch and single storey rear extension.**

Planning Application

25 Canterbury Leys Newtown Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 8BP

Ref. No: 21/00073/FUL

Observations:

**10. Erection of a summerhouse**

Planning Application

1 The Almonry Abbey Precinct Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5SR

Ref. No: 21/00367/FUL

Observations:

**11. Retention of replacement windows on front elevation and replacement door and ground floor level window on rear elevation (retrospective)**

Planning Application

8 Oldbury Road Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5NA

Ref. No: 21/00287/FUL

Observations:

**12. Erection of a single storey rear extension.**

Planning Application

17 Newtown Lane Newtown Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 8BU

Ref. No: 21/00392/FUL

Observations:

**13. To note all remaining applications on the Planning Portal and agree a response to each**

**14. To agree to set up a Planning Working Group which will continue to meet via Zoom on a regular basis to understand and appraise new Planning Applications on the planning Portal, until such time as the Committee can legally meet again.**

NB: All information relating to the Planning Applications listed above can be obtained in a digital format through the Planning Portal. Access to these can be gained by holding the cursor over the Application's title within the agenda and following the instructions in the dialogue box that appears on the screen, as shown, right.

| Letter reference   | Date requested   | Expiry date     |
|--|--|-----------------|
| DC/E07000083/P9J7ODQD01P00   | Wed 30 May 2018  | Wed 20 Jun 2018 |
| Observations:  | <a href="http://publicaccess.tewkesbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationdetails.do?activeTab=summary&amp;keyval=p8pvvgqdhnc008&amp;prevpage=intray">http://publicaccess.tewkesbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationdetails.do?activeTab=summary&amp;keyval=p8pvvgqdhnc008&amp;prevpage=intray</a><br>Ctrl+Click to follow link |                 |
| <b>8. <u>Single storey front and rear extension.</u></b><br>Planning Application<br>10 Abbey Meadow Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5FF<br>Ref. No: 18/00480/FUL   Received: Mon 14 May 2018   Validated: Mon 21 May 2018  <br>Status: Pending Consideration<br><br><b>Requests for consultation</b> |  |                 |
| Letter reference   | Date requested   | Expiry date     |
| DC/E07000083/P9J7ODQD01P00   | Wed 30 May 2018  | Wed 20 Jun 2018 |
| Observations:  |  |                 |



### **Item 16:**

**Call for evidence on the current arrangements which have allowed local authorities to hold meetings remotely or in a hybrid format during the Coronavirus pandemic.**

### **Questions**

The government would like to gather evidence about the use of the arrangements that make express provision for local authorities to meet remotely or in hybrid format during the coronavirus pandemic, including the arrangements that existed for Scottish Authorities prior to the pandemic.



**Q1. Generally speaking, how well do you feel the current remote meetings arrangements work?**

- Very Well
- Well
- Neither well nor poorly
- Poorly
- Very Poorly
- Unsure

While the powers in section 78 of the Coronavirus Act were brought in specifically to help local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland deal with the challenges of holding meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, the government would also like to hear from interested parties about the pros and cons of making permanent express provision, in whole or in part, for local authorities in England.

**Q2. Generally speaking, do you think local authorities in England should have the express ability to hold at least some meetings remotely on a permanent basis?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Beyond having express provision to avoid face-to-face meetings during the coronavirus pandemic, we are aware of feedback from local authorities about additional benefits of being able to hold remote meetings including, but not limited to, the environmental and cost benefits of reduced travel, increased participation from local residents, and the potential to attract more diverse local authority members. We are keen to obtain representative views on the benefits of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support these views.

**Q3. What do you think are some of the benefits of the remote meetings arrangements? Please select all that apply.**

- More accessible for local authority members
- Reduction in travel time for councillors
- Meetings more easily accessed by local residents
- Greater transparency for local authority meetings
- Documents (e.g. minutes, agendas, supporting papers) are more accessible to local residents and others online
- Easier to chair meetings in an orderly fashion
- A virtual format promotes greater equality in speaking time during meetings
- I do not think there are any benefits to remote meetings
- Other (please specify)



In their representations to us, many local authorities have referenced the cost savings they have achieved through implementing remote meetings, particularly regarding a reduction in travel expenses and accommodation costs.

For example, one upper tier authority has reported that running meetings remotely has enabled them to save in the order of £6,000 per month through reduced travel expenses. We would be interested to receive more quantitative data about the cost savings that have been achieved, including any estimates of the comparative cost of running a remote meeting versus a face-to-face meeting.

**Q4. (For local authorities only) Have you seen a reduction in costs since implementing remote meetings in your authority?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Some local authorities have also made reference to the difficulty that some members have had with the remote meeting format, particularly in relation to the difficulties in managing misconduct, the challenges of working with unfamiliar software, and technological issues caused by a poor internet connection. We are keen to obtain representative views on the disadvantages of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support these views.

**Q5. What do you think are some of the disadvantages of the remote meetings arrangements, and do you have any suggestions for how they could be mitigated/overcome? Please select all that apply.**

- It is harder for members to talk to one another informally
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who have a poor-quality internet connection
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who are unfamiliar with video conferencing/technology
- There is less opportunity for local residents to speak or ask questions
- Some find it more difficult to read documents online than in a physical format
- Debate is restricted by the remote format
- It is more difficult to provide effective opposition or scrutiny in a remote format
- It is more difficult to chair meetings in an orderly fashion
- Virtual meetings can be more easily dominated by individual speakers



- It might enable democratically elected members to live and perform their duties outside their local area on a permanent basis, therefore detaching them from the communities they serve
- It may create too substantial a division between the way national democracy (e.g. in the House of Commons) and local democracy is conducted
- I do not think there are any disadvantages to remote meetings
- Other (please specify)

The government considers that there are also many advantages of holding meetings face-to-face. For example, physical meetings provide numerous opportunities for local authority members to speak with one another informally and build alliances, as well as to encounter local residents in the flesh and listen to their concerns in person.

Additionally, some members have referenced the vast improvement in the quality of debate when there is a lively atmosphere and they are able to make full use of their oratory skills to persuade and influence others. Some may consider remote meetings stifling and that physical meetings are essential to effective democracy and scrutiny.

**Q6. What do you think are some of the main advantages of holding face-to-face meetings, as opposed to remote meetings?**

If express provision for remote meetings were made permanent, it might be preferable for the government to constrain the meetings or circumstances in which remote meetings can be held to ensure that effective democracy and scrutiny can still take place.

There are some occasions, for example, where a remote meeting format may be seen as more appropriate, such as for smaller sub-committees, meetings convened at short notice, or for meetings where attendees are drawn from a large geographical area i.e. for some joint committees, combined authorities and large rural authorities. On the other hand, there are occasions where a remote meeting format may be viewed as less appropriate, for example larger meetings involving Full Council or an authority's Annual Meeting.

**Q7. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, for which meetings do you think they should have the option to hold remote meetings?**

- For all meetings
- For most meetings with a few exceptions (please specify)
- Only for some meetings (please specify)
- I think local should be able to decide for themselves which meetings they should have the option to meet remotely
- I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings for any meetings
- Unsure



**Q8. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, in which circumstances do you think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings?**

- In any circumstances
- Only in extenuating circumstances where a meeting cannot be held face-to-face or some members would be unable to attend (e.g. severe weather events, coronavirus restrictions)
- I think local authorities should be able to decide for themselves which circumstances they should have the option to meet remotely
- I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold remote meetings under any circumstances
- Other (please specify)
- Unsure

While local authorities have risen magnificently to the challenge of ensuring vital council business continues by conducting meetings remotely during these unprecedented times, there may be concerns that, if the arrangements were to be made permanent, a situation could arise where remote meetings arrangements were used by a ruling party to avoid effective scrutiny or abuse the power in some other way.

**Q9. Would you have any concerns if local authorities in England were given the power to decide for themselves which meetings, and in what circumstances, they have the option to hold remote meetings?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**Q10. If yes, do you have any suggestions for how your concerns could be mitigated/overcome?**

In deciding whether and how remote meetings arrangements may be made permanent for local authorities in England, the government needs to ensure that it has due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. In particular, the government would need to avoid unlawfully discriminating (either directly or indirectly) against individuals with a protected characteristic, and also consider whether the arrangements advance equality of opportunity or help to foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.



Many local authorities have spoken of the potential benefits that remote meetings could have for members or potential members with disabilities or young families. However, there are also those for whom remote meetings could pose additional difficulties, for example those with hearing or visual impairments or those more likely to struggle with the technology.

We are keen to consider views on these aspects of remote meetings and would particularly welcome any quantitative evidence to support views provided.

**Q11. In your view, would making express provision for English local authorities to meet remotely particularly benefit or disadvantage any individuals with protected characteristics e.g. those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure





## TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Present:** Cllrs. J Raywood, S Raywood, H Bowman and Mr R Maggs

**In attendance:** Mrs J King, Assistant Town Clerk

**Also present:** Three members of the public

### MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

**P.20.368**      **Welcome and a reminder of how the meeting will be conducted.**  
**(1)**

After welcoming everyone to the meeting and it was established that everyone present could hear everyone else, the chairman explained that, in the event of a loss of connection, everyone should try to reconnect as soon as possible. If this could not be achieved within 10 minutes, then the meeting would be deemed to have been adjourned and would be reconvened on another occasion.

**P.20.369**      **To receive apologies for absence**  
**(2)**

Mr R Carey

**P.20.370**      **To receive declarations of interest**  
**(3)**

None

**P.20.371**      **To receive and consider requests for dispensations**  
**(4)**

None

**P.20.372**      **Public participation** *(to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders this will not exceed 12 minutes in total and 3 minutes per person)*  
**(5)**

None



**P.20.373 (6) To approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

Proposed by Cllr. H. Bowman    Seconded by Cllr. S. Raywood  
**It was resolved to approve the minutes.**

**P.20.374 (7) To receive updates on matters arising from the minutes – for information only**

None

**P.20.375 (8) To note correspondence**

None

**P.20.376 (9) Installation of dropped kerbs and formation of a new vehicular access**

Planning Application  
Mythe Crest Mythe Road Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 6EB  
Ref. No: 21/00387/FUL

Observations:

No objection, subject to the approval of County Highways. The Town Council's own investigations indicate that the required visibility from the proposed gateway appears to meet the terms of current legal requirements, although it would appreciate the County Highways team's confirmation of this. The Town Council understands that the neighbour has offered to remove the hedge (not an ancient one) and replace it with ranch style fencing to match existing. It would further improve the safety of egress from both this property and the neighbouring property if this was done.

**P.20.377 (10) Erection of a single storey rear and side extension**

Planning Application  
10 Harbourside Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5DT  
Ref. No: 21/00393/FUL

Observations:

The Town Council requests further information prior to providing a response. It is not clear, from the information provided, how the proposed extension would impact on the neighbouring conservatory. The Town Council has also observed that there is no green notice in evidence and we are therefore not sure if the neighbour is aware of the application.



- P.20.378 (11)**      **Installation of 1no. replacement fascia sign and 1no. replacement wall mounted sign**  
Planning Application  
Crescent Veterinary Centre 31 Church Street Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5PD  
Ref. No: 21/00114/LBC

Observations:

Objection. The Town Council considers that the materials proposed for the signs are not appropriate in such a key heritage location.

- P.20.379 (12)**      **Installation of 1no. replacement fascia sign and 1no. replacement wall mounted sign**  
Planning Application  
Crescent Veterinary Centre 31 Church Street Tewkesbury Gloucestershire GL20 5PD  
Ref. No: 21/00113/ADV

Observations:

Objection. The Town Council considers that the materials proposed for the signs are not appropriate in such a key heritage location.

Three members of the public left the meeting at this point.

- P.20.380 (13)**      **Proposed extraction of sand and gravel** with restoration using site-derived and imported inert material to wetland, nature conservation and agriculture (cross-boundary application)  
Bow Farm, Bow Lane, Ripple, Worcestershire  
19/000048/CM (Worcestershire CC) and 19/0081/TWMAJM (Gloucestershire CC)

Observations:

A previous submission related to this application indicated that HGVs from the site would not come through Tewkesbury or over the Mythe Bridge. The current submission seems less clear on this point. Due to concerns about the potential adverse impact of HGVs from the site on Tewkesbury's road infrastructure and also on air quality in the vicinity of the Black Bear roundabout, the Town Council requests that, in the event of the development being permitted, it should be on condition that, in addition to the Mythe Bridge and Tewkesbury Town Centre, HGVs from the site will also not attempt to use the Black Bear roundabout and Bredon Road.

- P.20.381 (14)**      **To note any additional applications on the Planning Portal which will expire before 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and agree further actions**

None.

It was noted that, at the next meeting, a similar agenda item to this will be extended to encompass any applications that remain in the Council's in-tray, since the 28<sup>th</sup> April



2021 will be the last occasion on which the committee will be able to meet and agree responses, until the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at the earliest. Committee members asked the chairman to write to our MP, Laurence Robertson, to request his support for the resumption of the right of parish councils to hold remote meetings.

**P.20.382 (15) To note any additional information on the Planning Portal regarding applications to which this committee has already responded, and agree further actions**

None

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.54pm**

**Signature of chairman**

**Date**