

MINUTES
of an Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council
held at the George Watson Memorial Hall on 21st June 2021 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllrs J Raywood (Chair), P Aldridge, H Bowman, K Brennan, C Cody, H Davis, P Devine, S Raywood, V Smith.

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk) & J King (Assistant Town Clerk)

21/22 - 1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Carter (work), Cllr Sztymiak (personal) and Cllr Gurney (work)

21/22 - 2 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Cody declared the following interests in relation to the Garden Town:

Member of Tewkesbury Garden Town Member Reference Panel

Member of the JCS member reference panel

Borough & County Councillor

Cllr Smith declared that he was a County & Borough Councillor on working groups in relation to the Garden Town.

Cllr Brennan declared an interest in the grant application from Tewkesbury Christmas Lights.

Cllr Aldridge raised a point of order that meetings are not allowed in a place that serves alcohol. The Chair advised that according to the 1972 Local Government Act "Meetings of a parish council shall be held at such a place, as they may direct but shall not be held in premises which at the time of such a meeting may, by virtue of a premises licence or temporary event notice be used for the supply of alcohol, unless no other suitable room is available either free of charge or at reasonable cost". The Chair advised that the Clerk had deemed there was no other suitable meeting place (outside and under cover) given the current coronavirus restrictions and therefore it was suitable. Cllr Aldridge wished to note his ongoing objection.

21/22 - 3 To consider requests for dispensation

None requested.

21/22 - 4 To receive written questions from member of the public

None received.

21/22 - 5 To receive the year end budget for 2020-21

The year end budget was received.

21/22 - 6 To receive the year end earmarked reserves report for 2020-21

The year end earmarked reserves report was received.

21/22 - 7 To receive the year end bank reconciliations for 2020-21

The year end bank reconciliations were received.

- 21/22 - 8** **To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 as recommended by the Finance Committee**
The Town Council read out the Annual Governance Statement and advised that the Internal Audit has been signed off.
- It was RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020-21.
Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Bowman.
- Cllr Aldridge thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their hard work over the last year.
- 21/22 - 9** **To approve the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for 2020-21**
The Town Clerk noted that the overall reserves have increased this year to £319,361. The earmarked reserves this year have increased from £112,002 to £183,280 due to the work programme, whilst general reserves have decreased from £181,146 to £136,081. The Clerk feels that the overall reserve figure is just about acceptable, but the Council need to be mindful that their responsibilities are for three historic buildings and moorings are also costly to maintain. Ideally reserves would be higher and this is an ongoing concern. Cllrs asked what level of reserves would be suitable. As a minimum a Council should hold at least six months in general reserves, to cover one instalment of the precept if it is not received. However, the assets and responsibilities in Tewkesbury are significant compared to the population and the amount that can be raised through the precept. It was noted that earmarked reserves will be monitored throughout the year to see if any can be released to general reserves.
- It was RESOLVED to approve the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for 2020-21. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Davis.
- 21/22 - 10** **To consider and approve the Accounting Statements 2020-21**
It was RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements 2020-21.
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Brennan.
- 21/22 - 11** **To agree to pay the £10,000 2021 grant direct to Tewkesbury Abbey PCC**
The Town Council originally agreed to award a grant of £10,000 to support the 2021 celebrations and particularly the 'son et lumiere' at the Abbey, which would draw people in to the town. The 2021 have disbanded and the event is now being run by Tewkesbury Abbey PCC. The Council have concerns that the event may now be centred around the Abbey and not draw people into the Town.
Action: The Council would like to ask the PCC for further details about the planned event and to invite them to the next meeting.
- 21/22 - 12** **To consider and agree the grant application from Tewkesbury Christmas Lights**
It was RESOLVED to grant £2,500 to Tewkesbury Christmas Lights.
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Smith.
- 21/22 - 13** **To agree to join the Gloucestershire & Worcestershire Parish Council Association**
It was RESOLVED to join the Gloucestershire & Worcestershire Parish Council Association. Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.
Action: Town Clerk to write and confirm that Tewkesbury Town Council wishes to join the Association.

21/22 - 14

To agree that the Clerk writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to urge him to visit Tewkesbury to discuss the Garden Town and associated issues.

Cllrs discussed the importance of having the correct infrastructure in place, rather than just piecemeal development and that the Garden Town plan gives structure to the developments. If houses are built first, then the roads are built around them. Cllrs discussed the current issues with the M5 Junction 9 plans and ensuring that the right decisions are made. The consultation from Highways England should take place in Summer 2021. Cllrs also discussed flooding and the two sources of data; Severn Trent data is based on rainfall and the Environment Agency data is based on river levels, and the fact that developers just pick the source that suits them, rather than looking at both. Cllrs agreed that development in general should be the main area for discussion, rather than just the Garden Town and that the changes to Government Policy will have a detrimental impact to Tewkesbury.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to urge him to visit Tewkesbury to discuss development and associated issues.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Bowman.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 19th July 2021