

MINUTES
of a meeting of the Full Council
held at the George Watson Memorial Hall on 14th February 2022 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs J Raywood (Chair), P Aldridge, K Brennan, H Bowman, P Brookes, C Danter, P Devine, K Powell, S Raywood, M Sztymiak,

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk) & J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Rev Canon P Williams

21/22 - 130 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cody (work), Cllr Gurney (work), Cllr Smith (work)

21/22 - 131 To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Sztymiak – Tewkesbury Borough Councillor
Cllr S Raywood – Employed by the Planning Inspectorate

21/22 - 132 To consider requests for dispensation

None required.

21/22 - 133 To consider the application for co-option to Tewkesbury Town Council and to receive a short presentation from the applicant

The applicant has withdrawn due to a new job offer that poses a potential conflict of interest.

21/22 - 134 To receive written questions from members of the public

None received.

21/22 - 135 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

21/22 - 136 To note the Mayor's Announcements

- Town Crier's proclamation regarding 70th anniversary of Queen's ascension to the throne on 6th February is in the Town Hall noticeboard
- Nominations are still open for the 2022 Civic Awards, nomination forms are available on the website
- There are two Councillor vacancies that can be filled by co-option
- Play Ranger session is taking place on the Vineyards – Friday 25th February
- Stitch story will be in the Town Hall on Monday 21st February

21/22 - 137 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022. Proposed by Cllr Bowman, seconded by Cllr Powell.

21/22 - 138 To note the following Committee Minutes: Planning – Buildings & Moorings – 1st December 2021, Planning – 8th & 22nd December 2021, Finance – 13th December 2021, Staffing – 20th December 2021

The above minutes were noted.

A Councillor asked about the C2 electrical work that is required at the Watson Hall (B&M 21.051). Advised that electrical inspections grade work as C1 - Danger present. Risk of injury. Immediate remedial action required. C2 - Potentially dangerous – urgent remedial action required. C3 – Improvement recommended. This is the last C2 item from the electrical inspection and a reinspection is due later this year.

21/22 - 138 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

21/22-110 – Tewkesbury 2030 feedback

- Analysis of postcodes for responses. Electoral roll now received - ongoing
- Town Mayor to contact MP to ask for a progress report on Severn Vale MP's working together re: flooding – response received Laurence Robertson MP regarding MPs working together in the River Severn catchment and promoting the benefit of the River Severn partnership having its own management. The issue remains live with both DEFRA and the treasury. Mr Robertson will keep the council updated.

21/22-120 – Feedback from the bar working group – meeting on 21st Feb

21/22 - 139 To receive Councillor reports for Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council

Written reports were received and circulated.

The closing date for comments on GCC's consultation on M5 junction 10 is 15th February 2022. Councillors should respond as individuals.

21/22 - 140 To receive the finance reports for December 2021 and earmarked reserves report

The reports were received.

21/22 - 141 To receive the bank reconciliations for Q3 as approved by the Finance Committee

The bank reconciliations were received.

21/22 - 142 To receive the payment reports for December 2021

The payment reports were received.

21/22 - 143 To note the review of the Health & Safety Policy by the Council's appointed advisor

The review was noted and accepted with the addition of the word Council in front of members on the second line. There were no other changes to the document from the current one.

21/22 - 144 To receive an update on 64 Barton Street

Historic England 'At Risk Register' - Historic England visited the property earlier in the year with a view to the building being placed on the 'At Risk Register'. The Town Council has now been informed by Historic England that the property has now been added to the register. This opens funding opportunities for the building.

Since being on the register Historic England have visited the site and provided advice on applying for their repairs fund, which would enable the specialist surveys to be

carried out that are required before further work can be done. Historic England have requested that the application be submitted within four weeks.

Current pressing issues are the leak around the chimney and the Jacobean ceiling on the second floor, which is at risk of collapse.

Confirmation on whether the property has to be used to house a museum

The Town Clerk has reviewed Town Council documentation and visited Gloucester Records Office to establish whether there is any requirement for 64 Barton Street to be used specifically to house a museum.

There is no record of such a requirement in the conveyance of 64 Barton Street to the Municipal Borough of Tewkesbury dated 18th June 1957. Nor is there record of such a requirement in the Municipal Borough minutes over the period that the building was up for sales and subsequently acquired and altered by the Council.

However, members are advised that the conveyance stipulates that the property is held upon the same trusts as the George Watson Memorial Hall. Therefore, legal advice is required about whether the building could be taken out of trust.

21/22 - 145

To agree to appoint Thomson & Bancks to deal with land registration of Town Council assets currently unregistered or with registration anomalies

There are earmarked reserves for legal costs, the trust and land registry issues were a known problem and provision has been made for it. Records show that the issues surrounding the George Watson Memorial Trust were being debated in 2013 and not resolved.

Concerns were raised regarding the amount and cost of the work and that it is not clearly known what is required. The work spans multiple committees and includes registration issues or anomalies with Derek Graham, St Mary's Road, Severn Ham, Back of Avon and Anglo-American Garden, Town Hall, and George Watson Memorial Trust. It was noted that Thomson & Bancks had done some of the groundwork in 2013, so they already have the background to the issues. It was proposed by Cllr Sztymiak and seconded by Cllr Powell that a list of the assets of anomalies be prepared and brought back to Full Council to prioritise before a decision was made, but it was felt this would further delay the process and the following amendments were made:

It was RESOLVED to appoint Thomson & Bancks to look at the trust documents and issues arising from it, including the registration of 64 Barton Street and George Watson Memorial Trust. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Danter.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Thomson & Bancks to register St Mary's Road as a test case. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

Cllr Sztymiak wished to record that he felt there was insufficient information to make this decision.

Councillors asked if the solicitors could provide regular updates, as historically legal work has taken longer than was desirable.

21/22 - 146 To retrospectively approve paying Bulb Energy by direct debit for electricity supply and to approve paying Smiths Waste Management by direct debit for fortnightly commercial recycling at the Watson Hall

The energy supplier 'Squeaky' went into administration and our electricity supplier was changed. The costs increased from 14p per unit to 60p per unit and the standing charge increased to £1.59 a day. Officers investigated alternatives and have switched the supplier to Bulb Energy at a cost of 31p per unit and a standing charge of 27.4p per day. There are no fixed term deals available at present. It was RESOLVED to retrospectively approve to pay Bulb Energy by direct debit. Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Brennan.

Waste collection from the Watson Hall was taking place under domestic arrangements and these needed to be changed to a commercial agreement. A cost of £9.50 per collection was agreed and was approved by Buildings & Moorings. It was RESOLVED to approve paying Smiths Waste Management by direct debit. Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Danter.

21/22 - 147 To receive reports from members representing the Town Council on outside bodies

Cllr J Raywood provide a written report on TTRP, Tewkesbury Hospital League of Friends and Trustees of Tewkesbury Museum.

Tewkesbury Hospital League of Friends are looking for volunteers with IT skills to help patients use technology to connect with their loved ones.

GAPTC update was received from Cllr S Raywood. AGM coming up in July, call for resolutions will be out soon.

Action: Town Clerk to check whether a GAPTC newsletter is available.

Councillors asked if it would be possible to have an update on the Build Back Better funding. The Town Clerk advised that the deep cleaning started last week. The pavements were due to be jet washed last weekend, but the weather conditions delayed it.

Action: Town Clerk to follow up the progress on the cycle storage and the updated Riverside Walk signs.

21/22 - 148 Correspondence

Tewkesbury Borough Parish Boundary Review Draft Recommendations are now available. There are no changes proposed for Tewkesbury Town.

Action: Details to be circulated to all Councillors.

Thanks were received from Tewkesbury Friends of the Earth for the grant.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 14th March 2022