

MINUTES
of a meeting of the Full Council
held at the Tewkesbury Town Hall on 14th November 2022 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs S Raywood (Chair), P Aldridge, H Bowman, K Brennan, P Brookes, C Cody, C Danter, P Jones, R Langdon, R Gurney, K Powell, J Raywood, C Robertson, M Sztymiak.

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk), J King (Assistant Town Clerk), Rev D Coulton & one member of the public.

22/23 - 99 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies received from Cllr Smith (personal).

22/23 - 100 To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Cody– Tewkesbury Borough & Gloucestershire County Council Councillor
Cllr Sztymiak – Tewkesbury Borough Councillor
Cllr S Raywood – item 15 – local planning

22/23 - 101 To consider requests for dispensation
None required.

22/23 - 102 To receive written questions from members of the public
None received.

22/23 - 103 Public Participation
There was no public participation.

22/23 - 104 To receive a presentation from Guideposts and agree any grant to be awarded
Robin Brunner-Ellis kindly attended to provide a presentation on Guideposts and their work in Tewkesbury and throughout Gloucestershire.

It was RESOLVED to award £300 to Guideposts.
Proposed by Cllr Sztymiak, seconded by Cllr Cody.

22/23 - 105 To note the Mayor's Announcements

- Thank you to everyone who attended the Remembrance Parade.
- Next dates for the diaries:

Christmas light switch on – Sunday 20th November at 5pm.

Town Council Carol Service with the Town Band and the Young Voices Choir from Mitton Manor School - Wednesday 14th December at 6.30pm at the Methodist Church.

- It was with sadness that we heard that Paul Stanford, former Mayor's Chaplain has passed away. We send our condolences to his family at this time.

22/23 - 106 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2022
Subject to the amendment that Cllr Cody does not agree that the meetings should be back in the Town Hall as it is inaccessible under item 22/23-95

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2022. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Cody.

22/23 - 107 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only

21/22-147 **Cycle storage and Riverside Walk signs** – ongoing.

22/23-74 **Shared Prosperity Fund** - Town Clerk has been in touch with GCC, their share of the Shared Prosperity Fund is going to the twelve most deprived areas in Gloucestershire, none of which are in Tewkesbury.

22/23-86 **Payments List** - Query was raised about the gas cost. Amounts were checked and are correct as the gas only heats the hot water in the summer.

22/23-92 **Grants** - A Cllr requested that a check be made regarding whether the Local Government Act restricts grants being awarded to religious organisations. Answer: It does not. There are restrictions regarding the cutting of grass in churches, but these are not relevant to the Town Council.

22/23-95 **Accessibility of Town Hall.** Working with DB Pixels who installed the streaming equipment at the Abbey to investigate options for the Council Chamber.

22/23 - 108 To note the following Committee Minutes: Finance – 1st September 2022, Buildings & Moorings – 29th September 2022, Planning – 17th & 31st August 2022 and 28th September 2022, Severn Ham – 29th September 2022

The above minutes were noted.

Councillors raised questions regarding the replacement chairs for the bar and recommended an alternative supply and queried the choice of tree for St Mary's Road.

22/23 - 109 To receive the finance reports for August & September 2022 and earmarked reserves report

The reports were received.

The Town Clerk advised that the second half of the precept has now been received. Expected income for the Town Hall and Watson Hall are all on track for this financial year at the six month position.

Earmarked reserves for Insurance and Tewkesbury Live have been released into the man account and the Finance Shop Window reserve has been released back into general reserves.

22/23 - 110 To receive the payments reports for August & September 2022

The reports were received.

22/23 - 111 To receive the Q2 bank reconciliations & Mayor's Charity bank account reconciliation

The bank reconciliations were received.

22/23 - 112 To consider and agree a request from Cllr Brookes to join the Severn Ham and Finance committees, and from Cllrs Langdon & Robertson to join the Buildings & Moorings Committee

It was RESOLVED to approve the above requests.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Cody.

Cllr S Raywood left the meeting due to a conflict of interest. Cllr Sztymiak took over chairing the meeting.

22/23 - 113 To review and approve the Planning Committees' response to the Section 19 consultation documents for the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

Councillors reviewed the Planning Committees' response to the SWDP. The consultation closes at midnight on 13th December 2022.

There was a consensus that the Council opposes the building of this number of houses in Mitton and the following resolution was passed.

It was RESOLVED that Tewkesbury Town Council are against the inclusion of the 1000 houses in Mitton in the SWDP.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Powell.

Councillors raised the following points as issues with the proposed house building in Mitton:

- The active travel bridge should not be extended for motor vehicles as it is there to promote cycling and walking.
- Although the building takes place in Worcestershire, all of the services that they will use will come from Tewkesbury / Gloucestershire, so moving the County boundary should be considered.
- There are severe concerns about flooding, particularly the Carrant Brook. There is no full assessment of the flooding issues in Tewkesbury.
- It is not felt that this is sustainable development, particularly without any flood defences. It also fails the test of soundness on justified development, the flooding issue still remains.
- The houses are not required. Tewkesbury Borough already has a 5.9 year supply of houses and the proposed Garden Town being built. The needs of the Borough can be met within the Borough, they do not need to be built in the next County.
- Insufficient thought on the routes that will be used to Tewkesbury School, there is already a bottleneck that forms on Northway Lane.
- The SWDP ignores Bredon Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Cllr J Raywood noted the above changes requested and also advised that the SWDP in its current form stipulates that the Mitton site cannot be developed unless Severn Trent has done the requisite upgrade work, which actually makes it very hard to develop the site at all.

The report will be revised and will be reviewed at an extra-ordinary Full Council meeting. Date to be advised.

22/23 - 114 To delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Chair of the Planning Committee to appoint a specialist planning consultant when required to professionally represent the interests of Tewkesbury Town Parish

A neighbouring Parish Council has recently required specialist planning consultants to examine proposals for developments in their boundaries. It is not always possible to approve this at Full Council due to tight timescales so delegated authority is sought.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, Chair of the Planning Committee and one other Councillor to appoint a specialist planning consultant when required to professionally represent the interests of Tewkesbury Town Parish up to £10,000.

Proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Aldridge.

22/23 - 115 To review the list of direct debits and standing orders

Deferred to the next meeting.

22/23 - 116 To review the list of retained contractors

Deferred to the next meeting.

22/23 - 117 To agree to set up standing orders to Imex Data Communications Limited and Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd.

Deferred to the next meeting.

22/23 - 118 To review the proposed budgets from Tewkesbury Town Council's Committees and the impact on the precept requirement

Deferred to the next meeting.

22/23 - 119 To receive reports from Tewkesbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council

Deferred to the next meeting.

22/23 - 120 Correspondence

Thanks were received from Tewkesbury Rejuvenation Initiative for the £1000 grant towards the whale.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.01

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes November 30th 2022