

MINUTES
of a meeting of the Full Council
held at Tewkesbury Town Hall on Monday 15th January 2024 at 6.00pm

Present: Cllrs C Danter (Chair), E Ash, J Baddams, H Bowman, P Brookes, M Dimond-Brown, A Hayes, P Jones, R Langdon, K Moran, J Raywood, S Raywood, C Robertson, V Smith, M Sztymiak.

In attendance: D Hill (Town Clerk), J King (Deputy Town Clerk) and four members of the public.

23/24 - 125 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies received from Cllr Cody (personal).

23/24 - 126 To receive declarations of interest
Cllrs Sztymiak, Dimond-Brown & Bowman – Tewkesbury Borough Councillors
Cllr S Raywood – employed with the Planning Inspectorate – item 23/24-139
Town Clerk – item 23/24-141

23/24 - 127 To consider requests for dispensation
None required.

23/24 - 128 To receive written questions from members of the public
There were no questions received.

23/24 - 129 Public Participation
There was no public participation.

23/24 - 130 To note the Mayor's Announcements
Thank you to all the Councillors who helped during the recent floods.

A flood recovery surgery has been organised by Tewkesbury Borough Council and will take place on 16th January at Holy Trinity Church at 6pm.

Gaia appears in the Abbey on 2nd February and the CAMRA beer festival starts the same evening.

23/24 - 131 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th November 2023
Subject to a minor typographical error in 23/24-119, it was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023.
Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Moran.

23/24 - 132 To note the following Committee Minutes – Planning – 4th & 18th October, 1st, 15th & 29th November 2023, Finance – 6th November 2023, Environment & Amenities – 10th October 2023, Building & Moorings – 24th October 2023, Staffing – 31st October 2023
The above minutes were noted.

A councillor asked questions about why the correspondence concerning the licensing review at the Black Bear had not been on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting held on 15th November. The Town Clerk advised that it had

arrived as an email on 15th November and therefore there was insufficient time to add it to the agenda and it was dealt with as correspondence.

Another councillor advised that licensing reviews do not appear via the planning portal, as they are not planning applications and the Town Council is not regularly consulted about licensing reviews. The Borough Solicitor has been in touch about this and the Town Clerk has responded accordingly. For completeness the response sent will be ratified at the Planning Committee meeting on 17th January and is clearly on the agenda.

A councillor asked about Building and Moorings meeting on 24th October and whether a decision has been made about the request to retain a commercial mooring at 15% of the normal commercial mooring fee on Back of Avon (item B&M23.050). The item was deferred to the next meeting. The item was dealt with in the Buildings & Moorings meeting in December, no decision was made as questions were raised at the meeting. These minutes will be included in the next Full Council pack.

23/24 - 133 Matters arising from the minutes

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

22/23-95 Accessibility of Town Hall - ongoing. Next meeting will involve the conservation officer.

23/24-66 Civic Pride / Our Town working group – terms of reference to return to Full Council – ongoing.

23/24-89 Tewkesbury Live – discussed at January Finance Committee meeting, there are further actions following that meeting.

23/24-95 TBC archaeological collection – No update available from Cllrs Bowman / Cody

23/24-117 Civility & Respect Training – Cllr Robertson & Town Clerk are trialling the online training.

23/24-119 Burials – Town Clerk to write to Strategic Planning to find out what provision is being made for burials in Tewkesbury. TBC advised that the local plan may earmark land for future additional burial spaces in the event of this being shown to be necessary and feasible. TBC will keep the Town Council informed – complete.

23/24-120 Splitting committees – Town Clerk to return with more information and terms of reference for each of the proposed committees – carried forward.

23/24-121 Biodiversity statement – on the website – complete.

23/24 - 134 To receive the budget reports for October & November 2023 and earmarked reserves report

The reports were received.

The Town Clerk advised that at the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th January, a potential discrepancy around accounting for HSHAZ funding had been identified. Once rectified, a revised budget report will be circulated to all Councillors. This does not have an impact on the budget setting for 2024/25.

23/24 - 135 To receive the payments reports for October & November 2023

The reports were received.

23/24 - 136 To agree the budget for financial year 2024-25

The Finance Committee discussed amending the budget to make provision for new robes for the new Town Crier, but as the earmarked reserve for the Mythe Nature Reserve has just been released, this could be funded from general reserves. The budget is the recommendation from the Finance Committee meeting held on 8th January, with an expenditure of £649,873 and income of £150,833.

The Town Clerk was asked what her view was on the expected year-end position in terms of reserves. The Town Clerk advised that she expects a surplus but for reserves but anticipates much of this will be earmarked at year end for projects e.g, playpark improvements.

A councillor raised concerns that the budget is too high and that it is not scrutinised enough. They gave the example of the bar income. A number of other councillors disagreed with this and stated that the figures had been scrutinised and that any concerns that they had raised had been answered and they were happy with how the budget is set.

Another councillor asked if the Town Council is maximising the income from moorings, the Town Hall and Watson Hall. The Town Clerk responded that as the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer this is something the office takes very seriously. Over the last six years the income from the Watson Hall has increased from £6,000 to £30,000 per annum. Moorings currently bring in £2,000 more per annum than six years ago. It is noted that there are going to be difficult decisions regarding the moorings for the Buildings & Moorings committee to take this year.

It was RESOLVED to agree the budget for the financial year 2024-25.
Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Bowman.

23/24 - 137 To agree the Council's precept request for financial year 2024-25

It was RESOLVED to approve the precept request of £494,540 for financial year 2024-25. Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

23/24 - 138 To note the GAPTC subscription fee for 2024-25

The subscription fee has not yet been released. Deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr S Raywood left the meeting.

23/24 - 139 To delegate authority to the Planning Committee to respond to the Strategic & Local Plan consultation and the draft charter for Tewkesbury Garden Communities.

Cllr J Raywood has circulated information explaining the reasons for taking this route and the delegated authority. This is the only Full Council meeting before the Strategic & Local Plan consultation closes and there hasn't been sufficient time to prepare a response within planning. All Councillors are welcome to go to the planning meeting. Both consultations are open to the public and it is up to Councillors to make sure that their constituents are aware of them and take part.

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to respond to the Planning Committee.
Proposed by Cllr Moran, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

Cllr S Raywood rejoined the meeting.

23/24 - 140 To agree to register the Derek Graham Play Area with Land Registry

In order to apply for grants, the land needs to be registered and this will be funded from the legal budget.

It was RESOLVED to register the Derek Graham Play Area with Land Registry.

Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Baddams.

The Town Clerk left the meeting.

23/24 - 141 To agree the retained contractors list

It was RESOLVED to approve the retained contractors list.

Proposed by Cllr J Raywood, seconded by Cllr Bowman.

The Town Clerk rejoined the meeting.

23/24 - 142 To grant an extension to the six-month attendance rule for Cllr Dimond-Brown due to ill health

No longer required.

23/24 - 143 To receive an update from the Climate Change Working Group

Deferred to the next meeting.

23/24 - 144 To note the reports from Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) and Gloucestershire County Council

The report from GCC was noted.

Cllr Sztymiak provided an update from Tewkesbury Borough Council. The recent floods were the worst since 2007, but were still 60cm below those levels. Sandbags were distributed and rescue centres opened and TBC has now moved into recovery mode. There is further grant information to come from GCC. The flood recovery surgery is on 17th January at Holy Trinity at 6pm.

The Garden Town Charter; now referred to as Garden Community, consultation is open and responses are required by 31st January.

There will shortly be a public consultation on the possibility of changing the name from Tewkesbury Borough Council. Possible suggestions include North Gloucestershire Borough Council.

23/24 - 145 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 11th March 2024