

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at St Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Monday 6 June 2016 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor A H Laird (Vice-Chairman) – In the Chair
Councillor R Murphy (Ex-officio)
Councillor S Best
Councillor Ms J H Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors G R Brookes, R G Beale, Mrs K Tomalin and A Roberts.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors A M Sinton (Chairman) and Mrs S Harris, committee members, and Councillors L Evans, Mrs M A Lawley and T J Noyes.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Under Public Participation County Councillor Mrs PE Davey of Kantara , Hanbury Road,,WR9 7DN expressed a concern that within the report for Agenda Item 6 for her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations taking place on the 12th June 2016 only limited community interest had been recorded as being received since January. Councillor Mrs Davey explained that Four Shires Festivals had arranged a Children's Party, Entertainment and a Queen Tribute Act performance scheduled to take place in the St Andrews Square Shopping Centre on the afternoon and evening of the 11th June. The Town Clerk had explained that details had not been passed to the Town Council by Four Shires and as such the full arrangements had not been known. Councillor Mrs Davey acknowledged this and also commended the Town Council on the arrangements for the Lido Park Band Concert on the 12th June which overall should help ensure that the commemoration weekend was well received in Droitwich Spa.

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24. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

25. MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the new Committee.

The Membership, Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of the Committee, as determined at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2016, were noted.

26. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GRANTS APPRAISAL PANEL

The Membership and Chairmanship of the Grants Appraisal Panel, as determined at the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2016, were noted as follows:

Councillor Laird – Chairman and Councillors S Best, Mrs S Harris, A Humphries and A M Sinton.

28. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS, 12TH JUNE 2016

Pursuant to Minute No 211 of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th January 2016 arrangements for a suitable community commemoration were progressing. Disappointingly very few expressions of interest had been received from community groups despite a front page press release and feature in the Droitwich Standard Newspaper published on the 22nd January 2016. Arrangements had now been taken forward by Councillor Best to mark the occasion at the Sunday Bands in the Park concert on the actual date. The Older Peoples Forum, Youth Council and Reverend Nigel Byard had kindly agreed to provide support and participate on the day. The scheduled band was Bedworth Brass and Councillor Best would be officiating for the afternoon. The Town Council was providing directional support and logistics for the occasion. Councillor Brookes expressed thanks to Councillor Best for leading the organisation of this event.

RESOLVED That the report be noted and Councillor Best be thanked for his actions.

29. TOWN CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT 2016

Pursuant to Minute No 212 of the meeting of the Committee held on the 18th January 2016 the arrangements for the Switch-On Event, displays and entertainment programme have been delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Assistant Town Clerk - Community & Amenities, with Councillor Best. Subsequently correspondence representing the opinions of various High Street business proprietors had been received for consideration and response. The Assistant Town Clerk updated that there were several valid points and positive suggestions put forward in the letter received from the High Street business proprietors. There were various other factors to consider with regard to the location, format and actual date of the Christmas Lights Switch On event including safety for large crowds congregating, inclement weather contingency, suitable space and access with planned street works programmes, the clash of dates with other events and nearby towns (including Worcester) and forward publicity already in place for the 2016 date. The Chairman was pleased to hear that the High Street traders were taking a corporate interest in the arrangements and suggested that it may be

pertinent to consider all options carefully before proposing changes to be made for the 2017 Switch On Event, particularly as the date had already been publicised.

RESOLVED That the delegation of Councillors meet with the assistant Town Clerk to discuss all aspects before preparing a full response and action plan to the High Street traders enquiry.

30. VANDALISM AT COPCUT PARK AND SPRING MEADOW OPEN SPACE

Regrettably a series of incidents took place during April and May in both areas. The Committee was apprised of the details and that all repairs had been completed. Similarly all matters had been reported to the police for investigation and follow up.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

31. ASSET SPONSORSHIP SCHEME - IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS

Pursuant to Minute No 102 of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14th September 2015, introductory letters were being sent to potential interested businesses for follow up by Mr P Evans, Immediate Solutions Project Manager who had confirmed that the project was now in full swing with over 100 companies contacted and 12 meetings held. Proposals had been supplied to various potential sponsors including Listers, Leaders and McDonalds and responses from these were imminent. He had also confirmed that sales activity would continue at that rate over the next couple of months at which point the progress would be reviewed formally. The project had been well received generally with interest from businesses large and small.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

32. ST RICHARD'S FESTIVAL VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR EVENT – SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2016

The Committee noted that despite changeable weather on the day the event was very well supported with over 70 vintage and classic cars and 2 large steam traction engines attending. The town centre had been extremely busy with visitors attracted by the historic vehicle display. Donations of £550 had been paid to the County Air Ambulance Charity in this their 25th anniversary year.

RESOLVED That congratulations and thanks be extended to former Mayor and Town Councillor Mrs Anne Taft and her dedicated team of volunteers for organising this popular component part of the St Richard's Festival weekend.

The meeting concluded at 6.42 pm

Chairman of Committee
4 July 2016

Chairman of Council
20 June 2016