

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St. Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on **Monday 20 June 2016**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R E Murphy (Mayor)  
Councillor R G Beale  
Councillor S Best  
Councillor Mrs J Bolton  
Councillor G R Brookes  
Councillor L Evans  
Councillor Mrs S Harris  
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor S Laird  
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley  
Councillor R J Morris  
Councillor A Roberts  
Councillor A M Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors Mrs C Bowden, T J Noyes and Mrs K Tomalin.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

Mrs S Meyrick, 16 Danube Close, WR9 8DD

*"I recall that there was a public consultation regarding improvements to Droitwich High Street. Whilst I understand that this is the responsibility of the County Council, I would like to know what can be done by the Town Council to encourage the County Council to publish the results of the consultation and a timetable of when work will begin? Further, has the Town Council got in place a policy about how it communicates results of consultations like this, including to all sections of society, including people with learning disabilities?"*

The Chairman invited County Councillor Mrs P E Davey to respond. County Councillor Mrs Davey confirmed that the County Council had not yet produced an amended scheme but that it was in progress and public comments were being addressed. The Town Clerk confirmed that the consultation procedures had been laid down by Worcestershire County Council and had involved, for example, leaflets being available in the press, on a stall at Salt Fest, in the Tourist Information Centre etc.

Mrs V Humphries, 17 West Street

*"When will the Town Council update the public on the final distribution of the New Homes Bonus funds. Also can the Council confirm if there is further funds to be allocated for this financial year and if there are any plans to make the allocation process quicker and more transparent?"*

The Chairman advised upon the procedure for New Homes Bonus. It was confirmed that a press release had been sent out to the local press after Resources Committee made its decisions and information sent to the applicants. The role of the District Council in the

distribution of funds was referred to, as mentioned in the press release the recommended allocation then went to Wychavon District Council's Localism Panel for approval. The Town Clerk advised that all funds both now and for the future have been expended as it was decided to pledge future monies for the Community Pavilion for St Peters Fields Sports Association, this being dependent upon other funding being achieved (ie to ensure deliverability). Matters pertaining to the New Homes Bonus were governed by the procedures and protocol set up by Wychavon District Council, who administered the scheme and all applicants were aware of the system. The initial consultation had been done via the Droitwich Standard (local newspaper). Information would be sent to Mrs Humphries.

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47 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

48 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 25 APRIL 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 April 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16 MAY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16 MAY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 16 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R E Murphy reported upon the civic events and projects he had attended, including those involving the German and French Twinning Associations and their overseas guests, and the presentation of awards to members of Droitwich Boys and Girls Football Clubs.

He thanked Councillor Shaun Best, Deputy Mayor for his arrangements in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday at the Band Concert in Lido Park on 12 June. He also thanked Mr Patrick Davis for the successful Food & Drink Festival held the previous weekend.

For future diaries, he advised that tickets for the Mayor's Sunday lunch at Droitwich Golf Club on 24 July were now available and that the date for the Mayor's Big Band Concert at the Norbury Theatre was Saturday 29 October.

52 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Sergeant Kent reported and answered questions upon burglary and thefts that had occurred, including:

- Purse-dipping
  - o There had been no reported incidents during the Food & Drink Festival weekend, although there had been a distraction theft since. Following intelligence, a vehicle had been stopped on the motorway which had resulted in two females and one male, all Romanian Nationals, being committed to 18 months imprisonment with possible deportation thereafter.
  
- Burglary
  - o Following a house search during which cannabis and stolen goods had been discovered a male had been placed on remand. Expectations were that this would result in a significant impact on crime reduction in Droitwich.
  
- Shoplifting
  - o Criminal Behaviour Orders were being put in place.
  
- Burglary from dwellings
  - o There appeared to be no pattern to these, two having taken place in Droitwich and two at Wychbold.
  
- Burglary at Berry Hill Industrial Estate (non-dwellings)
  - o There had been a spate of criminal damage, vehicle thefts etc. Visits had been made to all businesses and the situation had improved.
  
- Phone Fraud
  - o Regretfully there had been a number of such offences with individuals' bank accounts accessed. These were being dealt with by CID. Sergeant Kent stressed that Police Officers would not collect bank cards, ask for money to be taken from accounts etc etc. Awareness needed to be raised so for example information had been distributed to schools to advise grandparents etc.

Sergeant Kent confirmed that the Police were attending fetes and raising awareness, and were willing to accept any invitations. She also confirmed to Councillor A Humphries that reports regarding a raid on a property in Westlands were wrong.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report.

53 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Tom Hughes, Deputy Head Boy and Charlotte Cartwright, Head Girl, were welcomed to the meeting.

Both advised that they were just starting out in their new roles. Exams were nearly over and Sports Day would be taking place the following month. Other than that there was very little to report upon at the present time.

Councillor Humphries and the Chairman thanked Tom and Charlotte for coming along to the meeting and for their report.

54 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Katie Bowen to the meeting. Katie reported upon the recent projects in hand for the Youth Council, including:

- ‘Cupcake Competition’ organised for the Food & Drink Festival (photographs were displayed at the meeting). Sponsors were thanked for their input, including Councillor A H Laird and Mr M Nicoll.
- Waitress service at the Bands in the Park on Sundays, including the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration on 12 June and the forthcoming concert on 26 June.
- The Youth Council’s Constitution had been agreed and a bank account had been set up. The Treasurer was Declan King and Trustees were Councillors Best, Mrs Harris, Morris and Mr M Nicoll.

Katie then introduced Tia Cole from Year 7 and Sam Price from Year 6, both at Westacre Middle School. Sam and Tia presented their manifestos.

Individual Councillors asked Tia, Sam and Katie some questions and thanked them all for their interest in the Town, the excellent knowledge and research done in producing their manifestos and also for all their input into the Youth Council.

55 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED            That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 June 2016 be approved and adopted.

56 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED            That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 6 June 2016 be approved and adopted.

57 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 6 June 2016 be approved and adopted, save for Minute Nos 38 and 39, which were to be dealt with as a separate item [see Minute No 58 below].

58 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

As recommended by Resources Committee at its meeting on 6 June 2016 (Minutes 38 and 39 refer), Council considered the approval of the following:-

- a) The Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016; and
- b) The Annual Governance Statement and Annual Return report for the year ended 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, together with the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Return Report for the year ended 31 March 2016, be accepted and approved.

59 COUNCILLOR G R BROOKES – BRINE EXTRACTION

*[A proposed amendment from Councillor R J Morris, supported by documentation produced by the Brine Heritage Group, was circulated at the meeting.]*

Councillor Brookes introduced his report. He confirmed that the Brine Extraction Rights and the Tower Hill Pumping Station were owned by Wychavon District Council and that he had been in discussion with District Council Officers for brine to be available initially for testing and then for possible use. He was currently awaiting a report from Phil Merrick, Wychavon District Council's Head of Economy and Communities. He had requested this in his role as District Councillor.

Councillor Morris supported this proposal but felt that this should go forward under the auspices of the Brine Heritage Group. He referred to the documentation circulated at his request. He was hoping that the brine testing could be funded in part by the Local Enterprise Partnership and was due to have a meeting in his role as a District Councillor. Councillor Mrs Harris advised that the use of the Brine Heritage Group would ensure consistency and a professional approach.

Councillor Brookes advised that the access to brine was paramount and that to stipulate that this had to be via the Brine Heritage Group was not necessary at this stage. Councillor Morris saw the merit of this phased approach and suggested that the wording be amended to indicate that the access to the brine would be 'in support of the vision of the Brine Heritage Group'.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor G R Brookes, seconded by Councillor R J Morris and

RESOLVED That the Town Council endorses and supports Councillor G R Brookes in his requests to Wychavon District Council for:

- changes to be carried out at the Tower Hill Brine Pumping Station to enable brine to be routinely extracted for testing; together with the allocation of funds to complete a full formal analysis of the brine and therefore of the salt produced from it. The aim of which was for the possible use of Droitwich Salt in tourist promotional purposes including small-scale food production, or depending upon the results, a number of "tourist" applications for Droitwich salt which do not require it to be ingested (eg "Salt pipes" and salt crystals).
- This to be in support of the vision of the Brine Heritage Group

## 60 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

### 1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised:

- a) County Councillor A Hardman – in response to the reported comments of Councillor T J Noyes at the previous meeting, County Councillor Mrs Davey advised that County Councillor Hardman had stood down from his position as Leader of the County Council, rather than having lost the confidence of the County Council.
- b) High Street Road Closure – having thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in sorting out the road closure required as part of the BT upgrades in time for the Food & Drink Festival, in response to concerns from the High Street Traders she had met with the Works Supervisor and the High Street had opened for business for the weekend prior, plus the works had been completed within 10 days rather than the three weeks envisaged. This had been appreciated by all concerned and she commended BT on their customer service.
- c) She had made a Local Ward Member grant to the organisers of the Food & Drink Festival which had enabled Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain to be booked. This had been a big attraction.
- d) The Lengthsman Scheme was going very well with lots of requests being dealt with. This scheme required good co-operation between the County and Town Councils and provided a speedy and efficient way of dealing with local issues.
- e) In response to a query from Councillor G R Brookes, the Town Clerk advised upon the situation regarding Union Lane.

61 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mrs Tomalin being absent, Councillor R G Beale reported that progression with the Blake Avenue Scheme was at last underway with a new more economical design. He also advised that the new access at Copcut Island was successful and that the first houses would be available from September. There were two designs for the four-bedroomed houses on the site.

In response to a question Councillor R E Murphy confirmed that he had paid formal tribute to Patrick Davis, organiser of the Food & Drink Festival in a press article.

62 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council. Supplementary creditor payments were submitted as shown attached.

RESOLVED                      That the statement of accounts for payment be received with the amendments as now reported above and the expenditure totalling £5008.70 (£1,233.50 + £3,775.20) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.10pm.

Chairman of Council \_\_\_\_\_  
26 September 2016

**COUNCIL MEETING 20 JUNE 2016 – MINUTE NO 62 REFERS**

## Creditor Payments List

10829	Dudley's Coaches Limited TIC Sales less commission	£481.50
10830	A J Manton, Hillhampton Honey TIC Purchases	£235.00
10831	Tagwell Tea Rooms Buffet for Mayor Making 16 May 2016	£517.00

## Supplementary Creditor Payments List

10832	Bryland Fire Protection Limited 6 Monthly Fire Alarm Service, St Richard's - £91.20 6 Monthly Fire Alarm Service, Community Hall - £174.00	£265.20
10833	Westcotec Limited Portable Speed Sign, battery operated (Net amount to be reclaimed from Worcs County Council)	£3,510.00

TOTAL      £5,008.70