

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 23 June 2014**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor G R Brookes (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor Mrs P E Davey
Councillor E Harwood
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor Mrs G Noyes
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor P J Pinfield
Councillor R G Seabourne
Councillor A M Sinton
Councillor Mrs E A Taft

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors M C J Barratt, K J Jennings, L Evans, Mrs L Hobson and Mrs M A Lawley.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

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44 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor G R Brookes declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 – Accounts for Payment – Creditor Payment No 10361.

Councillor T J Noyes declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 – Accounts for Payment – Creditor Payment No 10365.

45 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 28 APRIL 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

46 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MAY 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 19 May 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that:

- (a) It was to be a joint Chaplaincy this year, with Rev Jane Wilson, Rev Peter Tibke and Captain Jenny Forman sharing the role. The Civic Service would take place on Sunday 5 October at 3pm in Sacred Heart Church.
- (b) He was sad to report the death of the Bill Walton, who had been Consort to his late wife and ex-Mayor Mrs Ann Walton in 1988/89. For those who wished to attend, the funeral would be at 2.30pm in Salwarpe Church on 30 June 2014.
- (c) Following the Tercentenary Celebrations of the Droitwich – Worcester Turnpike, a letter of thanks had been received from the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Lt Col Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE. The Mayor read an extract from the letter to those present.

48 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Sergeant Kent introduced P C Raid Abdo, newly appointed to Droitwich West policing area with P C Paul Cound.

Sergeant Kent reported on and answered questions upon:

- The campaign launched during the World Cup 2014 to deter perpetrators of domestic abuse and encourage those affected to seek help.
- Theft of garden paraphernalia such as hanging baskets, garden ornaments, conifers. The penalty for purchasing such goods was as severe as for the actual theft.
- Shoplifting in the area was mostly down to some 10 individuals working independently. CCTV assisted although the sentence for such crime was not long. Some perpetrators had been bailed and some banned from certain shops. The Police were working hard to keep the Town safe.
- An email from an individual with reference to residential concerns in Ombersley Street West had included some incorrect and misleading information. No further incidents had occurred at the Westcroft Inn. The Richmond Guesthouse owners had taken steps with regard to one disruptive person (who had also been barred from the Westcroft Inn) and other measures such as the installation of CCTV and the erection of railings around the Guesthouse was in progress. She would investigate the alleged unauthorised extension of opening hours of 'King Kebab' fast food shop.
- The Police were involved with the unauthorised encampment of travellers and advised upon the powers under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 which required the impact upon the community to be taken into account.

Councillor Brookes advised upon Wychavon District Council's procedures to date, and that a Court Order was due to be served on the travellers at 10am the following day. Thereafter an Order of Possession would be sought and then the land cleared and cleansed at cost to the Council Taxpayer. Council noted the complaints about the

large amount of rubbish, animal and human excrement in the surrounding area, including on the canal tow-path.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her very informative report.

49 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Konner and Keiran from Youth Council to the meeting.

They advised upon their links with DAFFY (Droitwich Action for Future Youth) and with Councillor R J Morris. Until recently they had restraints upon their commitment to the Youth Council owing to school examinations (GCSEs) but now intended to progress with:

- A bonding session for the Youth Council to drive the Youth Council forward as one unit.
- To influence improvements to Vines Park area, such as street lighting and policing, to allay the perceived fears of adults and youth alike who used the area at night.
- The provision of another skate park, possibly by a Birmingham provider, utilising fundraising.
- To improve adults' perception of the youth of the Town.
- To liaise with Westacre and Witton Middle Schools to identify future youth needs.

In response to questions, in addition to the above it was noted that:

- The current skate park was subject to anti-social behaviour from some youths which deterred the others using it. It was intended to meet with the Birmingham Skate Park company to gather information and to invite them to run a similar facility in the Town, and/or to enable a fully costed project to be brought to fruition.
- Several individual Councillors reported upon their personal and very positive interactions with local youth.
- Westlands and Vines Park had an undeservedly poor reputation. This coupled with public perception and the perceived fear of crime needed to be addressed.
- County Councillor A P Miller offered £250 from his County Local Ward Member monies to 'kick-start' research, with the option of match-funding (ie £500 raised would be matched by £500, £1,000 by £1,000). County Councillor Mrs P Davey also had a similar Local Ward Member budget. Councillor A Sinton advised that grants were also available from the Town Council upon application.

The Chairman thanked Konnor and Keiran for their detailed and positive report.

50 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 June 2014 be approved and adopted.

51 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 2 June 2014 be approved and adopted.

52 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 2 June 2014 be approved and adopted, save for Minute Nos 38 and 39, which were to be dealt with as a separate item [see Minute No 53 below].

53 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE TOWN COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

[Councillor E Harwood declared an interest in this item inasmuch as he was a member of the Droitwich Allotments Association and plotholder.]

As recommended by Resources Committee at its meeting on 2 June 2014 (Minutes 38 and 39 refer), Council considered the approval of the following:-

- a) The Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014; and
- b) The Annual Return report and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2014.

RESOLVED That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014, together with the Annual Return Report and Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2014, be accepted and approved.

54 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. COUNTY WARD MEMBER MONIES

Council noted that a sum of £2,750 had been received from Worcestershire County Council by way of Local Ward Member monies from County Councillor Mrs P E Davey for the purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and a Worcestershire Flag. These had not been purchased yet. In response to questions the Assistant Town Clerk advised upon the current arrangement and its disadvantages, and confirmed that activation data for the VAS at Primsland would be submitted to the Planning Committee in due course.

2. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised:

- a) Forces Week – Worcestershire County Council had raised the flag for the start of Forces Week. Towns and Parishes were becoming involved with this and it was likely that the momentum would increase in future years.
- b) In response to a question from Councillor R G Seabourne, it was noted that the ‘Park & Ride’ facilities at Perdiswell and Sixways were to close, owing to the decline in usage coupled with the requirement for savings by Worcestershire County Council of £100m with £1.6m cuts to the public transport budget.

County Councillor A P Miller advised upon:

- a) Worcestershire County Council’s booklet ‘World Class Worcestershire’, which summarised Worcestershire’s Strategic Economic Plan, a ten year plan for more, better paid jobs and a stronger local economy. It was intended to secure new money from both central Government and businesses to deliver the commitment to create over 25,000 new jobs and bring an extra £2.9 billion into the local economy by 2025. This had been produced in association with the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership.
- b) He had a VAS available, which was not portable. Its batteries were not good but if it was of use the Town Council was welcome to use it.

55 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Mrs G Noyes reported upon the following District items:

- a) Wychavon District Council had raised the flag for Forces Week that morning.
- b) A response from the Inspector to the South Worcestershire Development Plan was awaited, due October.
- c) Wychavon District Council and Malvern Hills District Council had commenced negotiations upon the possibility of a joint Chief Executive.
- d) There was renewed interest in the long-awaited Blake Avenue development, however matters were still at an early stage.

56 GENERAL MATTERS

1. Post Office, Victoria Square: Council noted that this was to be modernised to one of the new main style branches, being part of a three-year investment and support programme. Closure to facilitate these works was scheduled for 1pm on Saturday 12 July 2014 reopening 1pm on Friday 25 July 2014. Once refurbished a key improvement would be longer opening hours.

Although pleased to hear of the modernisation of the Victoria Square Post Office, Councillors were very concerned that with Witton Post Office closed inadequate arrangements were in place to cater for the needs of the Town Centre businesses and residents (particularly the elderly) and that perhaps a mobile unit would assist.

It was therefore

RESOLVED That Post Office Ltd be advised that although the Town Council is pleased to hear that the Victoria Square Branch is scheduled for imminent modernisation, there are very strong concerns and a deep disappointment that inadequate arrangements have been put in place during the temporary closure to cater for the needs of the Town Centre businesses and residents, many of whom are elderly. The Town Council requests that a mobile unit is installed for the duration.

57 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

[Councillor G R Brookes declared an interest in No 10361 and Councillor T J Noyes declared an interest in No 10365]

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council.

In response to concerns about the current state of St Mary de Witton churchyard, it was

- RESOLVED
1. That the concerns of the Council as to the current state of St Mary de Witton churchyard be drawn to the attention of the Parochial Church Council.

Thereafter it was

- RESOLVED
2. That the statement of accounts for payment be received with the amendments as now reported above and the expenditure totalling £30,214.13 as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.02pm.

Chairman of Council _____
29 September 2014

COUNCIL MEETING 23 JUNE 2014 – MINUTE NO 47 REFERS**Creditor Payments List**

10361	G R Brookes Mayoral Allowance - 1st Instalment	£1,500.00
10362	A J Bourne Macebearer Allowance	£150.00
10363	S Bennett Macebearer Allowance	£150.00
10364	Petty Cash Reclaim Voucher Nos. 1314 to 1331	£168.29
10365	T J Noyes Mayoral Mileage -February to May 2014	£118.35
10366	Dudley's Coaches Limited May TIC ticket sales less commission	£913.95
10367	N Hunt TIC Purchases	£10.50
10368	E L Pickering TIC Purchases	£24.30
10369	P R Support Services Handyman duties - May 2014	£330.58
10370	Mint Electrical Services Emergency light testing & replacement of faulty switchgear outdoor power supply box	£390.00
10371	Top Cut Mowing Services Limited Parks Contract & clear fallen tree - Copcut Park	£871.20
10372	Spotless Cleaning Contractors Window cleaning - St Richard's House & Community Hall	£95.00
10373	County Security Limited Security duties - St Richard's House & Community Hall	£706.80
10374	ADT Fire and Security plc Maintenance of Access Control Panel 29 June to 28 September 2014	£131.75

10375	Smith of Derby Limited Annual service of Town Clock	£344.40
10376	NALC Renewal of Subscription	£35.00
10377	Wychavon District Council Recharge for salaries paid through WDC - April/May 2014	£22,481.70
10378	R T Harrison Handyman duties - Community Hall/ Westwood Lodge Allotments/Colford Walk coppicing	£900.00
10379	R Davis TIC Purchases	£13.50
10380	GCD Consultancy Installation and configuration Scribe database on new Windows 2008 database server. Resolving IT issues	£405.00
10381	Merlin Office Supplies Limited Stationery and washroom equipment	£423.81
10382	Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Limited TIC Purchases	£50.00
	TOTAL	£30,214.13