

# 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 25 September 2017** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S Best (Mayor)  
Councillor Ms J Bolton  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor G R Brookes  
Councillor G A Duffy  
Councillor L Evans  
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor R J Morris  
Councillor W T Moy  
Councillor R E Murphy  
Councillor T J Noyes  
Councillor A Roberts  
Councillor Mrs K Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors Mrs S Harris, A H Laird and A M Sinton.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

No questions were submitted for consideration.

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## 112 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor S Best, Mayor, declared an interest in Agenda item 13, Accounts for Payment Numbers 11109 and 11116.

Councillor Mrs A Hawkins declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 – Neighbourhood Planning Group – Update Report inasmuch as she and her husband were members of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

## 113 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19 JUNE 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19 June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 114 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Councillor S Best

- confirmed that the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch-On were almost complete, this would be a good community event and he thanked all those who had pledged participation;
- thanked the efforts of individuals including Councillor Humphries, the Royal British Legion Droitwich Branch would be retained and the tradition of Remembrance Sunday in the town upheld; and
- complimented those involved in Salt Fest, the event had been extremely enjoyable, despite the inclement weather the turnout had been good and Brine organisations had been to the fore.

## 115 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

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

- Burglary from dwellings
  - Two burglaries, only one of which had been successful, at Laurelwood Road on 24 July. Another attempted burglary had been on 21 August at Lyttelton Road. Petty cash had been stolen from a Dental Surgery recently however an arrest had been made and a court appearance was imminent.
- Distraction Burglaries
  - There had been two recently. The perpetrator, Stacey Billington had been jailed for five years.
- Drugs Warrants
  - Two warrants had been implemented in Wychbold.
- Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Occurrences recently within the town centre had reduced, the school holidays had ended, and the perpetrators were known to the Police.
- Assaults
  - A female had assaulted four people in High Street and had received a custodial sentence for Greivous Bodily Harm [GBH].
- Theft from Motor Vehicles
  - These had reduced, people were locking their vehicles so there was less opportunity for such thefts.

Sergeant Kent also reported upon police attendance at Salt Fest and new technology and equipment that now formed part of her operational kit.

A month-long ‘Knife Amnesty’ campaign for the surrender of such implements had been launched as from 18 September.

In response to questions Sergeant Kent confirmed that the Police had not been involved in the Velo Birmingham event on 24 September. There had been only two issues reported for the area.

Councillors Brookes and Noyes thanked Sergeant Kent and her Team for the excellent policing of the town. The Mayor thanked Sergeant Kent for her informative report.

#### 116 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Ella Comerford, Head Girl and Joe Barley, Deputy Head Boy were welcomed to the meeting. Ella advised of the statistics relating to the excellent GCSE examination results and upon a question from Councillor T J Noyes reported upon the new grading system. Joe was pleased to report that the Mr Brook had now installed the roof on the amphitheatre. On 13 September there had been a school visit to St Peter’s College Oxford when a former pupil had given a talk on medicine. The charities for the year were Leukaemia Charity, Alzheimer’s Society and Acorns Children’s Hospice.

Individual Councillors congratulated the school on such excellent examination results.

The Mayor thanked Ella and Joe for reporting upon the activities at the school so well.

#### 117 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Katie Bowen to the meeting. Katie reported upon the success of Youth Fest and thanked Councillors Best, Mrs Harris, Duffy, Laird and Morris for their involvement. It had been a fantastic showcase for the local young musicians.

Arrangements were in hand for the Youth Council to meet at the High School, for logistical reasons. Councillor R J Morris confirmed that this would also enable matters such as safeguarding and insurance to be managed more easily. Both advised that projects for the future were being reviewed.

The Chairman thanked Katie for her concise report.

#### 118 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP [NPG] – UPDATE REPORT

*[Councillor Mrs A Hawkins declared an interest in this item as detailed in Minute No 112 above.]*

Pursuant to Minute No 263 Resources Committee meeting 6 March 2017 and Minute No 282 of Council meeting 24 April 2017 Councillor R J Morris presented the Neighbourhood Planning Group’s third report.

He reported that government had confirmed a fresh tranche of funding in the sum of £22.8m to support the development of neighbourhood plans across England.

With reference to the budget and grant application he advised that met with the Town Clerk, Councillor Noyes, Leader and Councillor G R Brookes to address concerns as to the adequacy of the budget. Discussions on the way in which the website was to be developed and the role of the Town Clerk were also reviewed. The Tenbury Wells Neighbourhood Plan website was the preferred way forward, operated by the Town Clerk. It had been decided to look further at the budget and grant documentation to demonstrate deliverability of the Neighbourhood Plan for presentation to Council (via a Special Meeting if necessary) for approval and progression with the website etc.

In addition, Councillor Morris advised:

- Tony Archer from Ormerod Rutter, Chartered Accountants had volunteered as Treasurer of the Group;
- contact with the Youth Council would be pursued to enable youth engagement with the plan;
- Peter Hawkins having done sterling work with communications mapping; and
- the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Group was Thursday 28 September 2017 7.30pm – 9pm in The Old Library.

#### 119 BRINE HERITAGE GROUP – UPDATE REPORT

Pursuant to Minute No 283 of Council meeting 24 April 2017 Councillor R J Morris presented the report of the Brine Heritage Group, advising that this Group had a strategic role and looked at all aspects connected with the town's Brine Heritage. With this in mind the 2020 commemoration of 400 years since the Pilgrim Fathers set sail in the 'Mayflower' for America was a major tourism project for the Group. Recent achievements in salt production for use in foodstuffs had been a similar project.

Councillor W T Moy, Chairman of SOBBS (Save Our Brine Baths) was invited to speak and advised upon the history and endeavours to date for the reinstatement of the Brine Baths, including reference to Wychavon District Council and Wychavon Leisure amongst others. A clear way forward had not yet been identified.

Mr Patrick Davis of the Droitwich Food Festival then spoke upon the successful launch of the Droitwich Salt at both the Ludlow Food Festival and Droitwich's Salt Fest at the start of September. There had been a high degree of interest from the media and from chefs etc, the salt being extremely pure. It was on sale locally already. It was early days but looked destined for high things. Mr Davis also reported that Droitwich Spa Food & Drink Festival had been the overall winner in the Best Festivals and Events category of the Visit Worcestershire Awards for Excellence and the plaque was donated to the Town Council. Next step was the Visit England National Awards.

Councillor T J Noyes advised that he had attended an event where the speaker, Ashley Giles, had enthused about the Droitwich Salt production. Councillor R E Murphy confirmed that he had several advance bookings for his talk on 'Droitwich, from Salt Production to Spa Town'.

Thanks were given to all involved including inter alia Cliff Billings the chemist that had assisted with the testing of the brine, Churchfields Farm, Patrick Davis, Councillors Brookes and Moy.

120 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 JULY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 July 2017 be approved and adopted.

121 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 3 July 2017 be approved and adopted.

122 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 JULY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31 July 2017 be approved and adopted.

123 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 31 July 2017 be approved and adopted.

124 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 September 2017 be approved and adopted.

125 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 11 September 2017 be approved and adopted.

126 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor G R Brookes advised:

- a) The updates on the High Street Enhancement Scheme continued, the scheme was currently ahead of schedule. Wychavon District Council was looking at an alternative car parking refund scheme through to 31 December 2017.
- b) The redundant Brine Baths signage on Hanbury Road had been removed.
- c) Highways improvements to enhance traffic flow had been discussed with County Councillor Alan Amos and County Highways Officers, including the possibility of traffic lights and potentially a pedestrian access for the Berry Hill Industrial Estate/Westlands traffic island. Other areas were being looked at including the parking arrangement in St Andrews Street.

County Councillor R J Morris advised:

- d) Highways improvements to the pavements on Westlands, there being a budget of £50,000.
- e) Improvements to the Berry Hill Industrial Estate/Westlands traffic island were needed to 'bring Westlands into the town' and other improvements had been discussed also. It was important that any improvements did not make the situation more dangerous.
- f) Railway Station car parking was an issue but it was hoped for improvements, it was noted that the Baxenden site was now operating as a car park the fee being £2 per day.
- g) There had been some complaints regarding the Velo Birmingham cycling event on 24 September, in particular that the roads had not been re-opened to traffic quickly enough.
- h) The focus of the County Council was Children's Services.

## 127 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

### 1. NEW HOMES BONUS

Council noted the Open Letter from Councillor Mrs Audrey Steel, Chairman of Wychavon's Localism and Community Funding Advisory Panel, which provided an update on the following matters to be taken into account when preparing New Homes Bonus proposals or making future plans:

- the future of New Homes Bonus;
- monies available for parishes and towns to make applications to spend;
- the making of successful NHB applications and what type of projects were likely to be successful.

It was noted that the Town Council's allocation was to the project for a new sports pavilion at St Peters Fields, a scheme that Councillor Brookes had offered to assist with the liaison with the Wychavon Heritage Planning Officers. The Town Clerk advised that this allocation may have to be reviewed at some point in the future should the project fail.

## 2. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor T J Noyes advised upon the various staffing changes at the District Council, the Signals of Success monitoring report, the possibility of a housing company being set up and the Community Safety shared service set up with Malvern Hills District Council. He further reported upon World Mental Health day and the proposals for a scheme to retain business rates, Wychavon District Council having made a bid to pilot this project.

District Councillor G R Brookes advised that it was not intended for the housing to be a business venture. Councillor Brookes suggested that Wychavon District Council should be asked to take a serious and active part in exploring possibilities for the provision of new brine baths.

Councillor Morris advised that a Feasibility Study was required to re-evaluate present-day needs of a brine facility. He reported upon the 'Win A Shop' competition.

Following a short discussion it was

**RESOLVED** That Wychavon District Council be asked to take a serious and active part in exploring possibilities for the provision of a new brine baths facility, and that therefore Mr Phil Merrick, Head of Economy and Communities at Wychavon District Council, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to advise upon the progress to date and future possibilities.

### 128 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

*[Councillor S Best, Mayor, declared an interest in this item as recorded in Minute No 112 above.]*

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council. Two 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 £44,553.68 (£44,089.30 + £464.38) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

### 129 DROITWICH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICES [DCVS] – TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MRS C BOWDEN.

Council noted that Councillor Mrs Chris Bowden had resigned as the Council's representative on the DCVS. The Town Clerk confirmed that Mr Mark Keld, Assistant Town Clerk had also resigned, having advised of concerns. The Town Clerk was corresponding with Mrs Lynda Gillespie, Chairman of the Trustees and would

advise Councillors in due course, therefore it was suggested that an appointment be deferred in the meantime.

It was noted that Councillor Laird was now a trustee in his own right (as was Councillor Roy Murphy). Councillor Murphy spoke in support of the work of the DCVS.

A deferment was therefore agreed.

RESOLVED                      That the appointment of representatives and other matters pertaining to the Droitwich Council for Voluntary Services be deferred.

The Meeting ended at 7.20pm.

Chairman of Council \_\_\_\_\_  
29 January 2018



**COUNCIL MEETING 19 JUNE 2017 – MINUTE NO 128 REFERS****Creditor Payments List****Cheques already signed 11 September 2017**

11082	A J Manton, Hill Hampton Honey TIC Purchases	£264.50
11083	NALC LCR Subscription Renewal	£40.00
11084	Justin Bowen - Wychbold Fudge TIC Purchases	£177.60
11085	Aquam Water Services Standpipe - Water Usage	£33.10
11086	Deva Designs TIC Purchases	£23.83
11087	Dudley's Coaches Limited TIC Ticket sales July & August 2017 - less 10% commission	£1,693.80
11088	Derek Bruce Entertainments Clients A/C Summer Band Concerts	£4,408.00
11089	Star Editions Limited TIC Purchases	£157.96
11090	R J Woodward Signwriting - Mayoral Board - 2 names	£80.00
11091	Wychavon District Council Supply & install litter bin - Copcut Park and empty once pw and cleanse twice pa	£616.98
11092	R T Harrison Chairs for Summer Band Concerts 2017 - £340.00 Handyman Duties - August 2017 - £120.00 Lengthsman duties - August 2017 - £227.70	£687.70
11093	Royal British Legion (Droitwich Branch) Donation - Remembrance Sunday	£100.00
11094	Performing Right Society Limited Music Licence - Droitwich Heritage & Tourist Information	£108.47

11095	JSL Productions Ragley Proms Tickets for 2017 sold less 10% commission	£171.00
11096	Mint Electrical Services Emergency light testing May to July 2017 - £225.00 Electrical work carried out in TIC - £170.00	£474.00
11097	Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust Limited TIC Purchases	£25.00
11098	The Festive Lighting Company Christmas Lights Hire and Installation Charges	£17,462.62
11099	Stannah Lift Services Limited Service - Stannah Stairlift	£155.81
11100	Merlin Office Supplies Limited Stationery & Cleaning Sundries	£737.41
11101	Wychavon District Council Droitwich Spa Town Council By-Election - Copcut	£2,697.48
11102	David Whyman Map Sales TIC Purchases	£24.37
11103	Western Power Distribution Electricity Connection Works at Copcut Park Compound	£7,129.68
11104	Orca Book Services Limited TIC Purchases	£48.72
11105	Moreton Show Society TIC Ticket sales less 10% commission	£202.50
11106	Evac+Chair International Service Contract Evac+ Chair 12/11/2017 to 12/11/2018	£108.00
11107	Mrs J C Fish Activ Web Design IT work carried out on website	£60.00
11108	ADT Fire & Security plc Maintenance of Access Control System 29.9.17 to 28.12.17	£146.06
<b>Cheques signed 25 September 2017</b>		
11109	Councillor S Best Mayoral travel expenses	£36.00
11110	Weekend365 Limited TIC Purchases (Replacement cheque no 11058 lost in post)	£114.00

11111	GCD Consultancy New PC workstation for Council Chamber	£750.00
11112	Churchfields Farmhouse Ice Cream TIC Purchases	£168.00
11113	Skipton Business Finance Limited of The Bailey (Droitwich Print) Car Park Sign - Droitwich Spa Town Council	£276.00
11114	Bryland Fire Protection Limited Engineer call outs re Alarm at Community Hall Install new Fire Alarm Panel	£1,410.71
11115	Lets Play Tennis Grant	£2,000.00
11116	Councillor S Best Mayoral Allowance - 2nd Instalment	£1,500.00
	<b>Supplementary Creditor Payments List</b>	
11117	R T Harrison Work carried out at Copcut Park	£300.00
11118	Wychavon District Council Annual charge to empty and cleanse litter bins at Copcut Park	£164.38
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>£44,553.68</u></b>