

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 26 September 2016**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R E Murphy (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor S Best
Councillor Mrs J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor G A Duffy
Councillor L Evans
Councillor Mrs S Harris
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor S Laird
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor A Roberts
Councillor A M Sinton
Councillor Mrs K Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor Mrs A Hawkins.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

Mrs V Humphries, 17 West Street, WR9 8HU

"I note with concern that Fortis Housing are closing their office in Droitwich with seemingly little or no discussion, consultation or information provided to their tenants and the wider community. What is Droitwich Spa Town Council doing to ensure any more important services are not lost from the town? Do the Town Council believe that they can truly put the interests of Droitwich Spa first when so many of them are also District Councillors. Surely this could lead to a conflict of interest."

Councillor T J Noyes, Leader responded:

"Fortis has closed the office in Droitwich Spa and it has been closed for a number of months. Fortis have made their own arrangements with regard to maintaining a presence as they are able to do so as they are not answerable to either Town or District Councils. Back in February I understand that the average number of residents going to the office was less than ten per day. With new payment arrangements available Fortis sought to close the office and deal with any stragglers on an individual basis as it was reported there were very few. The wider community will have no interest in going to a Fortis office. As a member of the Customer Complaints Panel at Fortis I have no knowledge of reports accruing as a result of the office closing and the company seems to be happy with the progress so far. There is now a contact centre at Fortis which is 0330 123 0700. Fortis advertise this as one number for all your needs. Fortis tenants will be well aware of this."

Regarding Town and District dual councillorship, knowledge is power. The earlier you know the better you can be prepared. There is not likely to be a conflict of interest as we try to represent the Town at District level so that we get the best for the Town whenever we can. The attendance records demonstrate the councillors' allegiance to the Town. Conflicts of Interest mostly occur at Planning Meetings when a committee member recognises the applicant or his agent. Members of Droitwich Planning Committee need to declare a global declaration of interest if they are also members of Wychavon Planning Committee."

Mrs V Humphries responded that given the size of the town in her opinion there was an expectation that certain facilities should be provided.

Councillor T J Noyes responded that Fortis Living maintained a Mobile Office and were expanding into other counties. Councillor A M Sinton advised upon the very positive experiences he and his mother (a tenant of Fortis Living who had been bedridden for a number of years) had received from them, including ease of contact and home visits.

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119 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

120 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JUNE 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R E Murphy reported upon the recent appeal on BBC Midlands in connection with a memorial in St Mary de Witton Churchyard to Private Edgar Talbot who died at the Battle of Flers Courcelette on the Somme on 18 September 1916. His name, inscribed in the edging stones of his mother's grave, was found during a clear-up of St Mary's Cemetery in Droitwich, Worcestershire. A relative, Mr Charles Talbot, had been traced and permission was now to be sought to restore Private Talbot's memorial. Consideration would also be given to entering Private Talbot's name onto the town's War Memorial if appropriate.

Councillor Murphy advised of two forthcoming events, the Civic Service which would take place on 16 October 2016 at 10.30am in St Andrew's Church and also his charity event on 29 October 2016 being an evening of Swing Time and Music with the Crown Phoenix Big Band at 7.30pm in Norbury Theatre. Tickets were priced at £15 obtainable from Norbury Theatre.

122 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:

- Shoplifting
 - o This accounting for @ 25% of crimes in Droitwich Spa. Currently there had been meat stolen from local supermarket outlets, with associated concerns as to the handling of such stolen goods. Criminal Behaviour Orders were being put in place.
- Theft from Motor Vehicles
 - o Although some vehicles were still being left unlocked, two had been broken into.
- Theft of Pedal Cycles
 - o One perpetrator was going through the court process and another was awaiting the process.
- Burglary
 - o During August (the main summer holiday season) there had been a spate of burglaries involving properties in Alexander Avenue, Calder Close and Cockshute Hill. A Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was being set up by the residents of Cockshute Hill.

Sergeant Kent advised also upon the successful Facebook initiative, Police Stall at Salt Fest and the forthcoming Older Peoples Event on Saturday 1 October 2016 in the Community Hall.

In response to questions Sergeant Kent confirmed to Councillor Noyes that the telephone number for non-emergency situations was 101 and 999 if urgent; and advised Councillor Brookes to ring the emergency line should another incident occur involving a car left unattended with its engine running and young children unrestrained inside, and thanked him for his good citizenship in waiting for the driver's return.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report.

123 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Tom Hughes, Head Boy and Charlotte Cartwright, Head Girl, were welcomed to the meeting. Having only just returned to school following the summer break there was little to report at present. They advised Year 8 pupils were settling in well, and reported upon Annual Charities Week. Each year the Sixth Form council chose a local, national and international charity to benefit, the international charity being the partner school in Ngobit, Kenya, the national charity was Leukaemia CARE a UK charity dedicated to supporting patients and their families affected by blood cancer, and Acorns Children's Hospice the local children's charity. Pupils from the partner school in Kenya had recently visited the school and it had been very humbling to see the difference in lifestyles.

In response to a question from Councillor T J Noyes, they advised upon the arrangements in hand to welcome back Rebecca Redfern, a pupil at the school, who had achieved a silver medal for Great Britain at the Paralympic Games at Rio.

The Mayor thanked Tom and Charlotte for their report.

124 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:

- Youth Festival 2017
- Auditions for Youth Acts
- Breakfast Networking Meeting
- Remembrance Sunday
- Forthcoming website
- Structure of the Youth Council which was headed by Tom Hughes, Head Boy and Charlotte Cartwright, Head Girl at the High School, incorporated pupils from the High School and Middle Schools and hopefully would include pupils from the First Schools in future.

Councillor Mrs S Harris advised upon the theme for 2017 being to engage all local youth in music, arts and theatre.

The Mayor thanked Katie for her most informative report.

125 MRS B MIDDLEMASS – PRESENTATION ON JOHN CORBETT EVENT 2017

Mrs Middlemass, a well-known local authority on John Corbett, was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs Middlemass was part of the organising group to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of John Corbett, the ‘Salt King’, builder of the Chateau Impney, industrialist and philanthropist. He was born in Brierley Hill on 10 June and baptised on 29 June 1817. Mrs Middlemass gave a presentation upon the arrangements in hand for a free event on Sunday 25 June 2017, the owners of the Chateau Impney Hotel and Exhibition Centre having agreed to allow members of the public to picnic in their grounds as John Corbett did every week when in residence. Mrs Middlemass outlined both the fun and the educational aspects of the event which would be based on an old-fashioned fete with stocks and similar activities and confirmed that the Mayor was a member of the organising group.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Middlemass for her excellent presentation.

126 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN PLANNING GROUP

At Planning Committee meeting 9 November 2015 the following resolution was passed (Minute No 149 refers):

RESOLVED

1. That interested parties be requested to form a Town Planning Group to discuss and agree a possible way forward with regard to the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan/Stronger Town Plan.

2. That the Town Planning Group reports to the Town Council within six months approximately with a recommendation and outline on how to progress or not. Matters to be given consideration by the Group to include, inter alia:
 - the benefits of having a plan
 - costs
 - timescales for the plan
 - timescales to achieve
 - resources to complete
 - impact on South Worcestershire Development Plan and extra development
 - effect of Town Plan
 - scope of consideration of the plan.

Pursuant to this Councillor R J Morris presented the report of the Town Planning Group. He directed Members to the various paragraphs within his written report, in particular the importance of having a vision for the town. He advised that the plan accompanying his report included the Yew Tree Hill area but not Copcut, and that he hoped for the inclusion of Copcut within the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area subject to approval by Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council. County Councillor Mrs L Duffy was to advise the Parish Council in this regard.

Councillor Morris then addressed matters of grant-aid and finance and at his request a video 'Understanding Neighbourhood Planning' available at <http://mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/neighbourhood-planning/> on the Localities website was played at the meeting. He moved the motion contained within his report and this was seconded by Councillor A Humphries.

Councillor T J Noyes advised as follows:

"Firstly I would like to emphasise that as a responsible democratically elected council we always intend to act in the best interests of the people of Droitwich. Also, the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan have been discussed many times. We have had presentations at Town, District and individual levels. A Neighbourhood Plan would have been nice ten years ago but they are still only "to be taken into consideration." It has been well documented that without a completed South Worcestershire Development Plan, which at last is now in place, a Neighbourhood Plan lacked any weight at all. Developers have taken full advantage such as can be seen at Dawlish. The officialdom has supported them instead of localism and we are the losers. We could see no benefit for Droitwich Spa; the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan was considered too onerous for the Town Council to action and envisaged too little return for our Town. With so many bad reports, the size of the Town, the fact that the Town lacks further areas for housing developments, yes we discounted it, but at no time has Droitwich Spa Town Council blocked all chances of a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Morris wrote it into his election manifesto and has mentioned it regularly but there was a lack of resources and support evident. Consulting with Save Our Green Open Spaces (SOGOS) members and friends from the Civic Society and community it looks as if Councillor Morris has found a hard core of persons with time, skills and inclination to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and he has brought this

to the attention of the Town Council. From their experience, the Town Council gave Councillor Morris an agenda of conditions and the results were promising, and with the help of his team and a few other problems laid to rest, Councillor Morris has produced the report. The Town Council know that the Droitwich Spa people care about the area and this is evidenced all the year round. However the Town Clerk did produce a press article asking interested individuals to get involved but no new names came forward. Councillors are residents too, and have been elected by you to look after your best interests so we have reviewed the requirements of a Neighbourhood Plan again and the resulting motion from Councillor Morris is the result of a number of consultations. To his credit, Councillor Morris has convinced the Town Council that his Droitwich Neighbourhood Plan Community Group will produce a Neighbourhood Plan at no cost to the Town Council and that should there be a chance that the estimated cost is in danger of being exceeded then the project will be terminated. Now beware! How much work is involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan? Lots! It is not simply a wish-list of what residents would like to see. We have a Town Plan and on behalf of the Town Council I would like to thank all those who in the past participated in its production in whatever capacity. I understand that potential members of the committee already have extensive knowledge of this Town Plan which can help the project along. The new plan however must be evidence-based and deliverable. The recommended software takes the form of the Government-Approved GANTT Chart which will aid the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and enable it to be more easily monitored. We have a disc available for you and I know you will find it invaluable, it is a copy of the Project Planning software from the Department for Communities and Local Government which I now pass to you and suggest that this is used as it will keep down the consultancy costs.

We are a small Council with few resources and you will be hearing more on this in a minute as I have asked the Town Clerk to comment on this. Staffing was cut four years ago so there is no possibility of administrative support to any degree within the council. In a few minutes the Town Council will agree that a Neighbourhood Plan may be undertaken and certain Government grants can be applied for. This falls under the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan Community Group. The grants will fund the project. The Council is not able to fund any shortfall which may occur. The Town Council has been assured that the Neighbourhood Plan will be produced at no cost to the Town Council. Summary - No cost to the Town must mean "No Cost". I don't think that nominating dedicated councillors is necessary as all councillors have agreed to give their full support. All Councillors can attend if they wish. The standard item on Council agenda for updates and progress to be presented using the Gantt Action Plan software is a must. Otherwise I agree that the principle of a Neighbourhood Plan for Droitwich Spa be prepared by a Neighbourhood Planning Community Group. Finally, I would like to thank in advance all of those persons who have contributed into getting a Neighbourhood Plan thus far and for the work they intend to do in getting it ready for submission to the Wychavon District Council's Planning Department."

Councillor G R Brookes stated:

"I will support Councillor Morris since this is what local residents want. However before we go to the vote I want to take a few minutes to clarify exactly what we are voting for as there are several misunderstandings of fact being circulated. This information is directly from government sources. I am concerned that there is a belief

that a Neighbourhood Plan can be used to block development rather than promote it. I quote: "Can a Neighbourhood Plan can be used to block development rather than promote it? NO - Neighbourhood Planning is about shaping the development of a local area in a positive manner. It is not a tool to stop new development proposals from happening ..." (www.pas.gov.uk). As an example how this works, I have obtained a copy of a briefing document from the House of Commons Library <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN05838>. This makes reference to a Council where a Neighbourhood Plan was drawn up by local residents, and passed the inspection and referendum. This Plan was adopted last September. However a local developer did not think there was enough housing allocated in the plan. He mounted a legal challenge and obtained a judicial review. The outcome was that he won and the housing policies in the plan had to be scrapped, and of course additional houses are being built. To be clear - A Neighbourhood Plan is not a defence against development. Worryingly, it seems that a judicial review of a plan could increase its housing allocation. Local residents, led by Councillor Morris, are to be commended for their willingness to take on the very daunting task of producing this complex legal document and I hope that Councillor Morris will continue his support in the role of Chairman and liaison point. Community Infrastructure Levy – CIL - Councillor Morris has referred to this in his paper, but I will emphasise that the amount of CIL we are likely to receive even with a Neighbourhood Plan in place is virtually nothing. This is because the CIL rate for Droitwich will be zero when CIL is introduced in 2017. None of the recent housing in and around the town will contribute – they have already done this via s106 agreements.

I would suggest that the Group should also evaluate the effect of the new Neighbourhood Planning Bill that is presently going through Parliament and is expected to become law soon. I have obtained a copy of the DCLG Press Release dated 5th September

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-will-boost-growth-and-housebuilding>

"New [Neighbourhood Planning] Bill will Boost Housebuilding. Housing and Planning Minister Gavin Barwell said: The Prime Minister has been absolutely clear that we need to build more homes and this Bill is the first of a number of measures to deliver on that. We have already built more than 900,000 homes since 2010 and now this Bill will help speed up delivery of the further new homes our country needs and ensure our foot is still firmly on the pedal."

The Mayor then invited the Town Clerk to comment. Mrs P Craney, Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, circulated her written comments thus: "Droitwich Spa Town is unusual in that it has been subjected to town planning in one form or another since at least Victorian times, and has very little developable areas left. It is disappointing therefore that the use of Supplementary Planning Guidance documentation has been disregarded without exploration particularly as being the Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer my main concern relates solely to the financial situation of the Town Council. I am pleased to see that Councillor Morris has acknowledged this. Neighbourhood Plans are technical documents and require funding - the larger and more complex the area the more finance is required as more technical surveys are needed.

By way of an example and with regard to Malvern Town Council (MTC) I can confirm that its Neighbourhood Plan budget expended to date is £45,500 being £31,500 for the two years 15/16 & 16/17 (from MTC) plus £9,000 in 2016/16 (from Localities ie govt grant), plus an additional £5,000 to date for 2016/17. Malvern Town Council is expecting this to rise by a further £4,000 by the end of the current financial year. Malvern Town Council had not realised that they would not be receiving any CIL and currently are re-evaluating their position as this was a major attraction for them in doing the Neighbourhood Plan. To date they have set up 16 working groups.

	<i>Precept 2015/16</i>	<i>Council Tax Support Grant 2015/16</i>
<i>Malvern Town Council</i>	<i>£504,699</i>	<i>£50,801</i>
<i>Droitwich Spa Town Council</i>	<i>£289,881</i>	<i>£36,119</i>

North Claines is completing a Neighbourhood Plan. North Claines's Council Tax for a Band D property is £55.39. Droitwich Spa Band D council tax is £37.77.

The Town Council's reserves have only just reached an acceptable level of 50% of its precept ie 6 months operational budget.

To proceed there are some practices that I feel should be in place:

- If areas outside the civil parish are mooted for inclusion eg if the Copcut area is to be included then written approval is required from Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council.*
- Once the Town Council decides to proceed then all administration is prepared by the Neighbourhood Planning Group and passed to the Town Clerk for the necessary approvals to be obtained.*
- Timescales must be included within the action plan and any slippage reported to the Town Council.*
- I suggest that at least £20,000 should be lodged upfront with the Town Council.*
- The Town Council will appoint the consultants following tendering in accordance with the financial rules and regulations.*
- If there is no money in the budget then expenditure is halted until such time the Neighbourhood Planning Group replenishes the funds.*
- Town Councillors should act as individuals if joining the Neighbourhood Planning Group and not wear their 'Councillor Hat'.*

With these provisos in place the motion proposed by Councillor Morris may be agreed and the principle of a Neighbourhood Plan for Droitwich Spa to be prepared by a Neighbourhood Planning Group may be accepted. All relevant documentation as outlined above (to include also the grant application(s) and tendering brief for the appointment of consultants) should be presented for approval at a future meeting of the Council to enable the Town Clerk to proceed.

Councillor Morris confirmed that he was happy to incorporate all the provisos detailed above within his original motion, and confirmed that £30,000 was the target sum. The revised motion was then put to the vote. It was unanimously

- RESOLVED That the Town Council will lead and support the development of a neighbourhood plan and that therefore:
- members of the community are brought together to set up the ‘Droitwich Neighbourhood Plan Community Group’ to take forward, this group to have a constitution and financial agreements to be approved by the Town Council;
 - Work will not start until there is guaranteed funding to the value of £30,000 lodged with the Town Council;
 - If costs are at risk of being exceeded then progress is stopped;
 - Council staff support/sign-off documentation and booking of rooms;
 - There is a standard item on Council agenda for updates on progress;
 - The Town Council has the final say;
 - A public meeting is set up to enlist support from interested parties (this date arranged provisionally for Monday 7 November 2016 at 7.30pm in St Andrew’s Church).

This process to include the following provisos:

- Gantt Software be utilised wherever possible to assist with the regular reports to the Town Council on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan;
- Timescales must be included within the action plan and any slippage reported to the Town Council.
- Should the Copcut area (outside the civil parish of Droitwich Spa) be mooted for inclusion then written approval is to be obtained from Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council.
- all administration documentation is prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Community Group and passed to the Town Clerk for the necessary approvals to be obtained, this to include grant application and tender documentation.
- The Town Council will appoint the consultants following tendering in accordance with the financial rules and regulations.
- If there is no money in the budget then expenditure is halted until such time the Neighbourhood Planning Group replenishes the funds.
- That it be noted that Town Councillors are acting as individuals and not as Town Council Members if joining the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

127 HONORARY ALDERMAN - TO CONSIDER MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO CONFER HONORARY ALDERMAN STATUS ON EX-COUNCILLOR P J PINFIELD

In accordance with Section 249 the Local Government Act 1972 (As Amended) Council considered making arrangements to confer Honorary Alderman status on ex-Councillor P J Pinfield for his distinguished contribution to civic life.

In support of the proposal, Councillor T J Noyes advised that *“there are few people in the local community who have the necessary qualifications to be able to be considered for such a title. The person must have been a Town Councillor for a significant time, must have served the local community, have performed notable work with the Voluntary Sector or Educational Bodies, with Wychavon District Council or Worcestershire County Council. Peter Pinfield has done the lot and is the current Chairman of the independent health watchdog Healthwatch Worcestershire. I first met Peter some 30 years ago. He was already established as a pillar of the community and was the figurehead of the Droitwich Spa Allotments Association. Peter turned up at my house in Vernon Grove and signed me up for what was destined to be a short term allotment on what is now Homebase on the Kidderminster Road. We have been friends ever since. When Glen entered the political spectrum then Peter, as an established member of the opposition, was always around and it was great fun being friends and opponents at the same time. In case you don't know, I was the friend and Glenise was the opposition. Peter has represented Droitwich Spa West on Town Council for many years and because of his connections many local people still look to him for guidance and support. If Peter couldn't sort it he knew a man who could. It was a pleasure to be on the same side at District Council looking out for the people of Droitwich and we have enjoyed many mutual challenges. Be it locally in Droitwich Spa, the District of Wychavon, the County of Worcestershire or now Nationally through his NHS connections Peter has carved a niche for himself and I am pleased to second his nomination for Honorary Alderman as it is well earned and he deserves to be remembered for all he has done and continues to do for the good of Droitwich Spa.”*

Councillor A Humphries stated: *“Many of you will know Peter Pinfield. Peter served the Town and West Ward for over 32 years at all levels of local representation - Town, District and County Councils. Following his retirement at the Election in 2015, the public and press recognition of his service to Droitwich was widely welcomed across all political parties as he was renowned for putting the public good before party politics. Examples of his leadership and influence over the years can be found by looking no further than the Community Hall and the Council Offices. Add to this the Old Library, Covercroft, the traffic lights at Chateaux Impney, the swimming pool at the Leisure Centre, the flat roof changes all over the Westlands and capital projects at the High School and you can see the Droitwich has been at the heart of everything Peter has done. Despite all of this, perhaps his finest achievement was his determination to put together the grant funding and his commitment to the £2 million core funding that saw the completion of the Canal Project. All of the above are a permanent testament to his passion for both the Town and the people in it. There are many other projects that Peter has been involved in during his public life that could be mentioned but I think it is fair to say that, over the years, he has helped hundreds of Droitwich people with their problems and issues. Since Peter has retired from*

local politics he his now heading up a social enterprise, not for profit company Healthwatch, Worcestershire which provides an independent voice for patients and carers in all health and social care matters. I would like to nominate Peter for position of Honorary Alderman of the town of Droitwich Spa which I believe would show a recognition from us as a Town Council for the work he has done and would, I further believe, be widely welcomed and supported throughout the town.”

It was then formally proposed by Councillor A Humphries, seconded by Councillor T J Noyes and unanimously

RESOLVED That appropriate arrangements be made by the Town Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Droitwich Spa, acting by the Town Council, to admit ex-Councillor Peter Pinfield to be an Honorary Alderman of the Town of Droitwich Spa, in recognition of the eminent service he has rendered to the community as an elected member of the town and for his meritorious services to the town in a non-civic capacity.

128 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 JULY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 July 2016 be approved and adopted.

129 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 4 July 2016 be approved and adopted.

130 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 August 2016 be approved and adopted.

131 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 1 August 2016 be approved and adopted

132 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

133 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 12 September 2016 be approved and adopted.

134 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised:

- a) Hanbury Road – the County Council had received objections to the proposed Order for ‘No Waiting At Any Time’ (double yellow lines) in Hanbury Road and the matter had been referred to West Mercia Police. As the objections related to a possible increase in cars parked in Swan Drive this was not considered to be sufficient to abandon the Order and so matters were in hand for the Order to be confirmed and the appropriate double yellow lines painted.
- b) High Street Enhancement Scheme – the scheme was to be presented to Councillors shortly.
- c) Road and Footpaths – there was a programme of maintenance works being progressed, the weather being an important factor. Despite the inconvenience the works were necessary.

135 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor T J Noyes reported that

- Wychavon District Council had issued a draft scrap metal licensing policy to the general public for consultation. Anyone with comments or complaints should make them aware to the WDC.
- The District Council had also agreed to go out to consultation on a policy to change the age requirements of specialised Private Hire Vehicles. Another policy, one which had already been out for consultation, was recommended to the Executive Board for implementation in October this year. The policy involved tinted windows and engine sizes therefore allowing operators to use hybrid or electric vehicles in the future.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had received the much-awaited report of the Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Team.

- Councillors needed to be aware that deliberately placing residual rubbish in Green Bins could potentially contaminate a whole lorry's worth of recycling. This occurred a number of times and reduced the efficiency of the process.
- The District Council remained amongst the top performing councils. Despite austerity measures and Government cut-backs it remained in a healthy position with its forward-looking policies.
- The Five Year Housing Land Supply was currently 7.83 years with developers finding it much more difficult to get projects started or passed now that the South Worcestershire Development Plan had been adopted

136 GENERAL MATTERS

1. COUNCILLOR A HUMPHRIES – NOTICE OF MOTION

In support of the proposal Councillor Humphries advised upon a number of incidents that had taken place in the Westlands area.

Councillor T J Noyes reported that Wychavon District Council had also passed a similar motion and advised that any such incidents should be reported to West Mercia Police. Councillor A M Sinton suggested that as some of the incidents referred to were targeted at disability the proposal should be amended to include reference to this and this was agreed. Councillor S Best referred to changes taking place regarding local hostelrys, and advised on some instances.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor A Humphries, seconded by Councillor T J Noyes, and unanimously

RESOLVED That this Town Council condemns any act of racism, disability and hate crime in the area following the recent alarming increase in such incidents.

137 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were circulated at the meeting for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £59,686.26 as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.35pm.

Chairman of Council _____
30 January 2017

COUNCIL MEETING 26 SEPTEMBER 2016 – MINUTE NO 137 REFERS

Creditor Payments List

Cheque already signed 11 August 2016		
10865	Droitwich Spa FC	£450.00
	Grant	
Cheques already signed 15 August 2016		
10866	Performing Right Society Limited	£105.31
	Renewal of Music Licence - TIC	
10867	PPL	£153.62
	Music Licence - TIC	
Cheques already signed 1 September 2016		
10868	King George V Sports CIC	£25,000.00
	New Homes Bonus Grant	
10869	Droitwich Council for Voluntary Services	£4,000.00
	New Homes Bonus Grant	
Cheques already signed 12 September 2016		
10870	Dudley's Coaches Limited	£630.40
	TIC Sales - July 2016 less commission	
10871	Stannah Lift Services Limited	£151.70
	Service of Stairlift	
10872	Top Cut Mowing Services Limited	£102.00
	Replace fence post at Spring Meadow	
	Cut fallen tree at Copcut Park	
10873	Aquam Water Services	£16.20
	Standpipe - Water Useage	
10874	GCD Consultancy	£81.60
	Hardware for new franking machine	
10875	Merlin Office Supplies Limited	£86.37
	Stationery	
10876	PR Support Services	£309.27
	Handyman Duties - August 2016	
10877	The Festive Lighting Company Ltd	£17,462.62
	Christmas Lights Agreement and Installation	

Cheques signed 26th September 2016		
10878	Droitwich Spa Allotment & Leisure Gardening Association	£273.00
	Allotment Association Subscriptions for 2016/2017	
10879	The Bromsgrove Society	£8.50
	TIC Purchases	
10880	A J Manton, Hillhampton Honey	£227.50
	TIC Purchases	
10881	R G Beale	£558.72
	Mileage during Mayoral year 2015/2016	
10882	Bryland Fire Protection Limited	£304.49
	6 Monthly Fire Extinguisher Service	
	St Richard's House - £234.65	
	Community Hall - £69.84	
10883	SC Entertainment	£342.00
	TIC - Sunshine Music Festival ticket sales less commission	
10884	Cheltenham Borough Council	£7,551.02
	Grounds maintenance July to September 2016	
10885	ADT Fire and Security plc	£141.13
	Maintenance of Access Control System – 29 Sept – 28 Dec 2016	
10886	JSL Productions	£333.00
	TIC Ragley Hall Battle Proms ticket sales less commission	
10887	Evac+Chair	£108.00
	Annual Service of Evac Chair	
10888	Asbestos Group - Aldermore Bank PLC	£532.80
	Removal and disposal of asbestoc sheets from WL Allotments	
10889	The Festive Lighting Company	£99.00
	Call out charge - 6 September 2016	
10890	Droitwich Camera Club	£500.00
	Grant	
10891	Star Editions Limited	£128.01
	TIC Purchases	
10892	Mrs B Middlemass	£30.00
	TIC Purchases	
	TOTAL	£59,686.26