

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING OF DROITWICH SPA TOWN COUNCIL
held in the Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa
on Monday 18 May 2015 at 6 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor G R Brookes - Mayor
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor S Best
Councillor Mrs J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
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 R E Murphy
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor Mrs C Powell
Councillor A Roberts

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G Noyes and A M Sinton.

1 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor T J Noyes and seconded by Councillor R E Murphy that Councillor R G Beale be appointed to the office of Town Mayor.

In support of his proposal, Councillor T J Noyes advised upon Councillor Beale's service over the past four years, the last as Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor R G Beale be duly elected Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillors G R Brookes and R G Beale retired from the meeting and exchanged robes.

Upon return, Councillor R G Beale made the statutory acceptance of office before the Town Clerk.

Councillor R G Beale, Mayor - In the Chair.

2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor T J Noyes and seconded by Councillor L Evans that Councillor R E Muphy be appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor. In making this proposal Councillor Noyes referred to Councillor Murphy's involvement with the local Photographical Society, History & Archaeological Society and the Pamela May Trust.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor R E Murphy be duly elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Murphy signed the acceptance of office before the Town Clerk and then the Mayor presented him with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

3 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor Mrs M A Lawley, in proposing the vote of thanks, congratulated Councillor G R Brookes, outgoing Mayor, on his year in office. She referred to it being an eventful year culminating in the Local Government Elections and welcomed the newly-elected and returning councillors to the Town Council. She thanked Councillor Brookes's wife and Consort Veronica for all her support. Both have been excellent ambassadors and had taken the many and varied duties in their stride. Councillor Ms J H Bolton seconded the vote of thanks.

Whereupon the Mayor presented Councillor G R Brookes with the Past Mayor's Jewel.

4 REPLY BY THE OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor G R Brookes made the following response:

"Mr Mayor, Invited Chairmen and Mayors, County, District and Town Councillors, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It has been a great honour to wear the chain of office, and to represent our Town of Droitwich Spa. It has also been a great opportunity to learn more about the Town in which I, and my wife, Veronica, live. In my role as Mayor, I met many of the groups of residents who do so much to enrich our lives, for example the parents who give their time to run the Boys' and Girls' Football Club and the Dolphins, the Scout leaders, the churches and voluntary groups, the Air Cadets and our own Norbury Theatre, the French and German Twinners, the Droitwich Arts Network, Rotary, Probus, and so many more, and of course not forgetting all those involved in making our festivals a great success. They all play a part to enrich and shape our town for the better. My wife and I were very privileged to offer them our support and to be invited to take a part in their activities. (At this point in the proceedings a cheque by way of a donation to the Droitwich Spa Boys and Girls Football Club from the Mayor's Charity Account was presented in the sum of £2,000).

There is also a more serious side to being Mayor, and this last year has been a very eventful time with much happening which will determine what Droitwich will be like over the next century. I was very impressed with the response from local residents to the various public meetings I called to help everyone have their say as to how our High Street, and the Raven Hotel area, will be changed and developed. Thank you. You all make our town a great place to live.

It is clear that there are already fresh challenges appearing for the new Mayor's year.

The make-up of the Council has changed, with many councillors standing down at the recent election and new faces here today. We also have the situation where there is only a single member of the opposition. Strangely enough this makes the job of the majority party much more difficult and demanding. In order to ensure that the right decisions are made and the electorate are properly represented, this Council must continually challenge itself. The responsibility lies with both the Mayor and with each and every councillor to see this is done and I am confident everyone will rise to the challenge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Cllr Tom Noyes, for passing on his experience, and for all the help and support he has given me in developing my role as Mayor. I will try to do the same for our new Mayor. I am also very grateful to the Town Clerk and her staff for carefully guiding me as to the correct way to handle formal proceedings, keeping me within the rules, and also for supporting me when organising public meetings outside of office hours. Those who know me will realise that was not an easy task! (Presents to the staff were handed out at this point in the proceedings).

I would like to wish our new Mayor every success, for the busy and no doubt demanding year he is about to start. It will be a tough time but I am sure, with the full support of officers and councillors, he will acquit himself well in serving Droitwich Spa. Mr. Mayor - Good Luck!"

5 ADDRESS BY THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor made the following Address:

"I am honoured to have this privilege granted to me of Mayor for Droitwich Spa at this time. We are unfortunately continuing to see significant developments in the Town from companies imposing their plans to make changes to the shape and character of this beautiful compact town, to the great irritation and dislike of many of our residents. The Town Council has delayed or altered several large complexes that were on the list and hope to continue where possible in defending the wishes of constituents, by being the voice of the local people. We may have won a few battles but we need to do more.

Wychavon has increased their involvement in the control of our parks and open spaces over recent years and together with many of our powers and responsibilities. We must therefore make every effort to involve the Town Council in protecting and enhancing what we have. Adding where possible new outlets for business from small individuals to attracting more sustainable businesses of some size to the light industrial complexes that we already have.

However we have demonstrated we can still do things. Your Council has achieved much under the stewardship of my predecessor Councillor Bob Brookes with his considerable efforts in obtaining our Friday Markets on a regular basis. These have brought stability and continuance that has put some colour and activity which is much appreciated into the Town Centre. His efforts for the remembrance of the 800th year of the Charter on 1 August will be another feather in his hat.

On a relatively small but could be a winner, is the production of the Droitwich Spa sweet called 'Salt Flavours Everything' which was intended to be initiated during the St Richard's Day festivities. They will be available from the sweet shop 'Izzy Wizzy' in High Street shortly. I am very happy to support any new products or attractions within Droitwich Spa no matter how small they may start off as. They are all important in attracting visitors to our lovely Town and increasing our business abilities.

I have chosen to support two charities: Speakeasy N.O.W. helping those with learning difficulties. Its base is situated in St Richard's House. The other is Blesma which attempts to enable limbless veterans back into society.

It is hoped that the Mayor's Chaplaincy and the Town's Civic Service will be shared between Churches Together and one of my own Chapel's leaders when necessary.

I am very much looking forward to this coming Civic Year to do what I can to enhance this beautiful town of Droitwich Spa."

6 POLITICAL PARTY LEADERSHIP

It was

RESOLVED That it be noted that the Leadership of each political party on the Town Council is as follows:-
Councillor T J Noyes, Conservative;
Councillor A Humphries, Labour;
and that therefore Councillor T J Noyes be designated as the Leader of the Council.

7 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposition by Councillor T J Noyes, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Harris, it was

RESOLVED (1) That the three Standing Committees be constituted as follows, each having nine members, Mayor as ex-officio on each:-

Planning Committee
Community and Amenities Committee
Resources Committee

- (2) That the membership of the Council's Standing Committee's for the ensuing municipal year be in accordance with the list attached as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes, including the Chairmanship.
- (3) That the Vice-Chairman of each Committee be appointed at the first meeting thereof.

8 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

The list of representatives on other bodies was considered.

It was proposed by Councillor T H Noyes, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Hawkins, that the circulated list of nominations be approved.

RESOLVED That the list of Representatives on Outside Bodies attached at Appendix B be approved.

9 PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2015/2016

Council noted that some dates required amendment.

It was proposed by Councillor T J Noyes, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Hawkins and

RESOLVED That the Programme of Council and Committee Meetings for 2015/2016 attached at Appendix C be approved.

10 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no communications.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and advised that he was looking forward to celebrating the start of his Mayoral year with those joining him in the John Corbett Room afterwards, for light refreshments.

Chairman of Council _____
21 June 2015

Droitwich Spa Town Council - Annual Meeting 18 May 2015

Minute 7 – Membership of Committees 2015/16

Planning Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Councillors:

R E Murphy (Chairman)

R G Beale (Ex-officio)

Ms J Bolton

G R Brookes

Mrs A Hawkins

A Humphries

Mrs M A Lawley

R J Morris

T J Noyes

Community & Amenities Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Councillors:

A M Sinton (Chairman)

R G Beale (Ex-officio)

S Best

Mrs C Bowden

Mrs A Hawkins

Mrs S Harris

A Humphries

A H Laird

Mrs G Noyes

Resources Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Councillors:

G R Brookes (Chairman)

R G Beale (Ex-officio)

L Evans

A Humphries

A H Laird

Mrs M A Lawley

R Murphy

T J Noyes

A M Sinton

Appendix B

Droitwich Spa Town Council - Annual Meeting 18 May 2015 – Minute 8

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives 2015/2016</u>
1. Droitwich Spa Twinning Association (Voiron and Bad Ems)	Mayor (ex-officio) as President.
2. Droitwich Council for Voluntary Service (Executive Committee)	Cllr Ms J H Bolton and Mrs M A Lawley
3. Age Concern (Droitwich & District Exec. Committee) (bi-monthly - 2nd Thurs.)	Cllr Mrs C Bowden
4. Droitwich Spa Arts Network and Arts for All	Cllr Mrs A Hawkins
5. Coventry Homes	Cllr Mrs G Noyes
6. Fair Trade Organisation (Droitwich Branch)	Cllr Mrs C Powell
7. Droitwich Spa Area Young People's Action Group	Cllr R J Morris (substitute Cllr Mrs S Harris).
8. Droitwich & Rural Neighbourhood Watch Association	Councillor R G Beale

DROITWICH SPA TOWN COUNCIL - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2015 – 2016

Town Council & Standing Committees meet on Mondays at 6pm in the Council Chamber
(except the Annual Meeting which is held in the Community Hall*)

The Town Meeting takes place at 7pm in the Community Hall**.

Sub-Committees and Panels meet at times to suit.

Please note:

1. The Annual Accounts must be approved by Council by 30 June in each year.
2. Precept requests, and therefore the Financial Estimates for the following year, should be finalised by the end of December each year.
3. It has not been possible to set a date for the Civic Service at the present time.

MAY 2015		JUNE 2015	
04	Bank Holiday	01	Planning Committee
07	Local Government Elections		Community & Amenities Committee <i>(Sub-Cttee appointments etc)</i>
18	Annual Council*	01	Resources Committee
25	Bank Holiday	15	<i>Grants Appraisal Panel</i>
		22	Council
JULY 2015		AUGUST 2015	
06	Planning Committee	03	Planning Committee
06	Community & Amenities Committee	03	Resources Committee
		31	Bank Holiday
SEPTEMBER 2015		OCTOBER 2015	
07	<i>Grants Appraisal Panel</i>	12	Planning Committee
14	Planning Committee	12	Resources Committee
14	Community & Amenities Committee		
28	Council		
NOVEMBER 2015		DECEMBER 2015	
02	<i>Grants Appraisal Panel</i>	07	Planning Committee
09	Planning Committee	07	Resources Committee
09	Community & Amenities Committee	14	Council <i>(Budget Estimates and Precept)</i>
JANUARY 2016		FEBRUARY 2016	
04	<i>Grants Appraisal Panel (if required)</i>	08	Planning Committee
18	Planning Committee	08	Resources Committee
18	Community & Amenities Committee	22	Council
MARCH 2016		APRIL 2016	
07	Planning Committee	04	Bank Holiday
07	Community & Amenities Committee	11	Planning Committee
07	Resources Committee	11	Resources Committee
21	Town Meeting **	25	Council
28	Bank Holiday		
MAY 2016		JUNE 2016	
02	Bank Holiday	06	Planning Committee
			Community & Amenities Committee <i>(Sub-Cttee appointments etc)</i>
16	Annual Council*	06	Resources Committee
30	Bank Holiday	13	<i>Grants Appraisal Panel</i>
		20	Council