

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Emergency Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, St. Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 12.00 Noon.

PRESENT: Councillor W T Moy (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor G R Brookes  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor A M Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor G Duffy

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## 81 JAPANESE KNOTWEED – WESTWOOD LODGE ALLOTMENTS

Pursuant to minute 77 of the Community and Amenities Committee meeting held on 1 July 2019, the Town Clerk updated the Committee on the current position with regards to the JKW at Westwood Lodge Allotments and adjoining Wychavon owned, Westwood Open Space. He informed the Councillors that despite best efforts and considerable endeavours to reach a collaborative resolution quickly with Wychavon, disappointingly this had not been achieved. As of today's date the JKW remained unchecked since first reported on 20 May 2019 and Wychavon were now wanting to do another survey (number 3). This would delay treatment of the infestation further despite it now being almost 2 months since originally escalated. It was also noted that DSTC allotment tenants were getting increasingly frustrated at the lack of action being taken by any Authority, given the risks of further contamination and prolific seasonal growth. Cllr Brookes proposed that a formal letter be sent through DSTC Solicitor's to WDC stating the responsibility and urgency that is associated with treatment of JKW in order to prompt a swift resolution including eradication and preventing further spread in the area. The risks of adverse public feedback through press and social media and possible counter claims for infestation of neighbouring land were mentioned in general discussion.

RESOLVED To send a formal letter through Droitwich Spa Town Council Solicitor's to Wychavon District Council to serve a notice of enforceable nuisance with regard to the Japanese Knotweed Outbreak and contamination at Westwood Lodge Allotments.

Councillor A M Sinton abstained from voting on this matter.

## 82 ST PETERS FIELD – NEW HOMES BONUS ALLOCATION

Councillor Sinton explained to the Committee, that following the 'Droitwich Matters' meeting at Wychavon District Council on 8 July 2019, he had been asked to ascertain whether the extension of the pavilion at St Peter's Field, for which a New Homes Bonus

contribution of £15,000 has been reserved in 2016, is still a viable project. It was discussed at the Wychavon meeting how the New Homes Bonus initiative was coming to a close so they are trying to determine which outstanding projects will still require their funding allocation so that money can be redistributed to other applications if the requirement is no longer there. Furthermore if the dynamics of the project have evolved considerably from the original proposals a resubmission of the application may have to be stipulated. It was considered appropriate to approach Peter Field and Kevin Bryan from the project group to establish the progression of their original concept and if they believed that was still viable.

RESOLVED To establish if the St Peter's Field Pavilion extension project was still viable, through making contact with Peter Field and Kevin Bryan and inviting them to discuss options with the Town Council. Thereafter to report to Full Council and update Wychavon District Council of the position.

### 83 HERITAGE ACTION ZONES

Wychavon District Council have said they would like to put in an expression of interest for Droitwich Spa to be nominated as a Heritage Action Zone through Historic England. To support this they had requested letters of support to enhance the application to be sent to Jim Burgin at Wychavon District Council by the end of the day. It was suggested that as well as sending a response from Droitwich Spa Town Council that that Councillor Moy could also send a letter of support from SOBBS (Save Our Brine Baths).

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk would email Jim Burgin at Wychavon District Council with a statement of support from Droitwich Spa Town Council and Councillor Moy would email on behalf of SOBBS.

### 84 DROITWICH SPA LIBRARY BUILDING OPTIONS

Councillor AM Sinton explained that from recent discussions at Wychavon District Council opportunities may exist for the current WCC Library building on Victoria Square to incorporate the Salt Museum and Heritage Centre. There could be an option to relocate that part of the Town Council provision from St Richards House. Other connected suggestions made included relocation of the Town Council Office to the Ground Floor of St Richards House and the creation of more office space for tenancies on the first floor and second floor.

The suggestions originate from a willingness from Wychavon District Council to support the County Council funding challenges for the existing library services across Worcestershire. The proposal could develop into a shared operation and information hub for the Town Centre.

In general discussion various points were raised including the likely financial arrangements for the suggestions, transferability of free access and accreditation status of the Museum to a different location, staffing and deliverability.

Reference was also made to the Community Legacy funding opportunity currently open in edition 2 of a three year programme through Wychavon which may help towards any such project.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that two recent decisions had been very recently resolved by Council pertinent to these matters as follows

- (a) Agreement to support two Community Legacy Application for Edition 2 of the funding scheme – namely the Norbury Theatre youth zone and High School “cabin” projects. This was the maximum permissible for each Town /Parish per year and this was likely to be the same for Edition 3 of the scheme in 2020/2021. The High School project had progressed to planning the full application (part 2) with a submission deadline in November 2019. To date the Norbury Theatre had not contacted the Town Council following the agreement in principle to proceed with support reached on 17 June 2019. The deadline for submission of their Expression of Interest (part1) was fast approaching for 23 August 2019 and this would entail a degree of preparatory work to be completed in advance too.
- (b) Agreement in principle was resolved on 1 July 2019 through the Community & Amenities Committee to resurrect the proposals to refurbish the Heritage Centre and Museum at St Richards House to coincide with the May Flower 400 Anniversary in June 2020. This project is now proceeding with the planning stage including structural work options & costings with designs, initial tendering preparations, work schedules and business contingency foresight. The future use of St Richards House is pivotal to this existing resolution and project delivery.

**RESOLVED** That Councillor AM Sinton and the Town Clerk meet with Wychavon District Council representatives to understand and report back to Full DSTC Council on the proposals to enable informed consideration.

Councillor A Humphries agreed to speak to the Norbury Theatre and to ascertain progress options and timescales for their Community Legacy funding application.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm.

Chairman of Council -----  
23 September 2019







