

# 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 15 April 2019** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C Bowden (Mayor)  
Councillor R G Beale  
Councillor Ms J Bolton  
Councillor G R Brookes  
Councillor L Evans  
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor A H Laird  
Councillor W T Moy  
Councillor RE Murphy  
Councillor A Roberts  
Councillor A M Sinton  
Councillor Mrs K Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors GA Duffy, RJ Morris and T Noyes.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

Mr S Sidaway of 203 Meadow Road, Droitwich Spa attended and had notified the Town Clerk in advance on 10 April 2019 in person and in writing of the following points.

“That the cars coming down the A38 Dual carriageway towards the roundabout in Droitwich Spa are going too fast. The speed limit is 60 mph. We would like to see 40 mph signs to be put up by the lay bye to give drivers chance to slow down before getting to the crossing”.

On behalf of the Mayor the Town Clerk thanked Mr Sidaway for his update and explained that whilst these were Worcestershire County Council Highways and Road Safety responsibilities these matters had been brought to the attention of the County Ward Member, Councillor RJ Morris. The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately Councillor Morris was unable to attend this evening but information had been provided which may help address some of Mr Sidaway's concerns. To this effect that a programme of works to improve the Westlands roundabout in Droitwich Spa and approach roads was nearing completion. The works were being undertaken by the County Council Highways contractors – Ringway. Component parts of the improvement works include enhanced street lighting and approach signage, retraced carriageway road marking, and replacement drop kerb facilities at tactile locations to enable safer pedestrian crossings.

The Town Clerk further reported that Councillor Morris “continued to fight for a more substantial solution but this will require a larger investment”. The speeding concerns will also be referred to the West Mercia, Safer Roads Partnership for consideration towards options for speed monitoring, data gathering and possible enforcement.

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## 261 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

## 262. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 28 January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 263. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs C Bowden reflected on her Mayoral Year in Office as this was the last Full Council Meeting of the current Administration. It was reported that,

- During the Mayoral Year, Councillor Mrs Bowden had successfully raised £3723.00 for her nominated charities through a series of events and funding initiatives.
- Prior to the Annual Council scheduled for 13 May 2019 there were only a few Mayoral engagements remaining which include, the unveiling of the St Andrews Road restored Mural, the Malvern Civic Service , the Inner wheel Charity event and the St Richards Festival weekend.
- Councillor Mrs Bowden expressed appreciation to everybody who had supported her during her Mayoral year including fellow- Councillors, Town Council Officers and everybody who had contributed towards the charity fund raising.
- Councillor Mrs Bowden explained that she had really enjoyed her year as Mayor and was sorry that the term and Council Administration was coming to an end. It had been a privilege to represent the Town. Best wishes were extended to all Councillors for the future whether they were retiring after this Administration or choosing to stand for re- election in May 2019.

Councillor AM Sinton expressed that Councillor Mrs Bowden and her consort, Mr Eric Bowden had represented the Town very well during the past Municipal Year and wished them all the best for the future.

## 264. TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. To begin Sergeant Kent reminded Councillors to ensure that they were registered with the Police messaging service and also to access the "Droitwich Cops Facebook page" in order to receive information and regular updates on local police matters including crime prevention advice. Sergeant Kent then reported on the work of her team during the past few months.

A notable success had been the detection and disruption of supply for a quantity of class B drugs. A member of the CSO team had successfully discovered and confiscated the haul of drugs estimated value to be approximately £30k, hidden underground on park land. The case was still subject to ongoing forensic and DNA profiling and an offender had not been identified so far.

A further success was the apprehension & arrest of a 46 year old male under suspicion for intent to supply drugs and having failed to stop in a vehicle whilst evading capture. The individual is currently awaiting full charges. For a similar drug related incident a

female resident of the Town had been detained in connection with the intent to supply class A drugs. In this case the resident had given permission for two males from the Birmingham area to move in and reside at the property with the intent to supply drugs. This fitted the “cuckoo and county lines” criminal activity profiles and had resulted in the female being evicted by Fortis Housing. The two male associates had both received custodial sentences.

Following the reports of criminal damage to Town Council assets in January 2019 a newly appointed CSO – Warren Edwards had made tangible progress towards reducing the incidents of vandalism and general anti- social behaviours by groups of youths across the Town. CSO Edwards had been appointed following the recent promotion of CSO Tony Carter. The gang behaviours have been tracked and successfully disrupted. Various individuals remained under suspicion and surveillance although it is hoped that the current trend of anti-social behaviour incidents will continue to diminish through the spring into summer. Affected areas targeted include Copcut Park, Spring Meadow / Door Step Green public open space, Vines Park and Lido Park. Other measures to help combat similar related criminal activity include wider use of rotated CCTV and warning signs.

Councillor G Beale thanked Sergeant Kent and her team for their work and commended the use of social media in promoting advice on crime prevention in general. Councillor GR Brookes asked whether the local Police had received many concerns or reports about minor traffic collisions or altercations with pedestrians from vehicles carrying out manoeuvres in the delineated sections adjacent Ombersley Street and the West Croft pedestrian underpass. This point was in the context of various public concerns raised at the recent Town Meeting and the proposed programme of WCC Highways improvement works for the vicinity scheduled to begin later in the year. Sergeant Kent confirmed that she was aware of concerns but had not encountered any specific incidents. It was added that the Police do have a dedicated liaison officer available for any Highways related matters should problems persist and by way of additional support during the anticipated road and pathway improvements work.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her work and the informative report.

## 265. HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Eluned Perkins, Head Girl and Oliver Sinnassamy, Head Boy were welcomed to the meeting and advised of:

- The Sixth Form Council were currently raising funds for the 2019 Prom Night.
- Year 9 pupils were currently taking part in a trip to Paris.
- The Newly appointed Headships to take effect after the Easter Holidays were Katie Bowen – Head Girl, Maya Pillay – Deputy Head Girl, Ben Daniels- Head Boy and Arthur Carter – Deputy Head Boy.
- Year 12 Geography students were visiting Swanage to assist with their course work and field studies. A practice Duke of Edinburgh Scheme expedition was taking place at Malvern in preparation for the official one anticipated for June 2019. Year 8 & 9 students had recently participated in a mock court trial competition at Worcester with other local schools and finished in fourth place.
- The Annual Spring Concert was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Teacher Mr Jarvis had recently run continuous circuits of the sports field running track in a day in order to raise money for charity in support of his forthcoming entry for the London Marathon. Lower School pupils had recently competed in the “Robotics World Finals” at Newport and achieved a fourth placing.

- A level and GCSE examinations were to begin in May through June. One student has successfully secured a placement for the Harvard Law School, Summer School in the United States of America. This was reported as a first for the High School and a tremendous achievement.

Councillor Mrs Bowden thanked Eluned and Oliver for reporting upon the activities at the school so well during the past year and wished them every success for the future. Councillor AM Sinton endorsed this appreciation and commented that the achievements at the High School were inspirational and certainly diminished the atrocious reports of criminal actions by a small minority of youths in the Town received within the update from Sergeant Kent earlier this evening.

## 266. YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

Katie Bowen, representing the Youth Council was welcomed to the Meeting.

Katie reported on recent Youth Council activities including:

The Youth Council main project was currently collaborating with Wychavon District Council as part of the “West Project” initiative to improve the pedestrian underpasses leading to the Westlands estate. This is to remove graffiti and replace wall coverings with artwork and designs by local youth groups. The Youth Council had recently held a successful meeting with David Manning representing Wychavon District Council and various designs were now being considered for the underpasses art work.

Another project is the “Big Switch Off” which promotes awareness towards Climate Change and greener environmental issues. An action day had taken place on 11 April 2019 when local businesses were encouraged to participate and turn off all electrical devices including smart phones, lap tops, tablets and similar devices for half an hour conducive towards saving energy. It was reported that local businesses had supported well.

The “Droitwich Sings Event” is planned for the 25 June 2019 to be held at Worcester Cathedral. Encouragingly many schools including first, middle and secondary are getting involved in the programme which will showcase performing arts.

Councillor Mrs Bowden thanked Katie for her excellent work and report before congratulating her on the recent accolade of the Wychavon – Volunteer of the Year Award, as part of the Wychavon District Council Community Recognition Awards. Councillors AM Sinton and WT Moy endorsed this achievement and wished Katie every success during the year.

## 267. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED                      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11 February 2019 be approved and adopted.

268. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 11 February 2019 be approved and adopted.

269. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 March 2019 be approved and adopted.

270. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 4 March 2019 be approved and adopted.

271. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 4 March 2019 be approved and adopted.

272. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 APRIL 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 April 2019 be approved and adopted.

273. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 APRIL 2019

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 1 April 2019 be approved and adopted.

274. ST RICHARDS FESTIVAL- CLASSIC & VINTAGE CAR RALLY 4 MAY 2019

The Town Clerk reported that,

Further to Minute Reference number 240 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 March 2019, regrettably the decision has been reached on 29 March 2019 to withdraw and cancel the event. Despite strong exhibitor interest all endeavours to recruit sufficient competent volunteers & marshals to officiate have been unsuccessful. From a public safety and liability perspective it is therefore prohibitive to proceed without sufficient marshals in place on the day. This has been a decision of last resort and is very disappointing. All exhibitors have been notified and the canal side St Richards Festival part remains unaffected. The report was noted.*[for information only]*

## 275. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor GR Brookes reported that due to constraints of purdah for District and Town/Parish local election from 22 March 2019 to 2 May 2019 there was currently no further Divisional fund nominations possible. All other County Council matters remained unaffected during the period of purdah. There were no further County Council matters to update on.

## 276. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

### (a) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor GR Brookes advised that due to purdah there was nothing immediate to update on District Council matters.

### (b) COMMUNITY LEGACY APPLICATION

To receive the decision for the Community Legacy application for the Mayflower 400 Legacy Project submitted to Wychavon District Council between November 2018 & January 2019. The outcome letter received from Wychavon District Council dated 21 March 2019 is attached. The decision was noted.

The Town Clerk advised that three New Homes Bonus funding applications for the Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust, the Norbury Theatre and a match funding arrangement towards the West Project had all been successfully approved by the Wychavon District Council Localism Committee and the Executive Board on Monday 8 April and Wednesday 10 April respectively. It was further reported that other tentative New Homes Bonus scheme enquiries had been received for consideration at the beginning of the new Administration post- elections as well as a provisional Community Legacy proposal received from the High School. The Town Clerk suggested that interested parties should be included as part of the agenda and invited to the first meeting of Full Council on 17 June 2019.

### (c) FORMER RAVEN HOTEL BUILDING UPDATE

To receive a report prepared by Mr Vic Allison – Deputy Managing Director of Wychavon District Council regarding the condition of the former Raven Hotel building. This follows various concerns raised at the Annual Town Meeting which took place on 18 March 2019 and a subsequent inspection of the site by the WDC Officer during March 2019. The report outlined below and received from Mr Jim Burgin- Heritage Services Manager for Wychavon District Council earlier on 15 April 2019 was circulated and noted.

*Following questions raised at the Droitwich Spa Town meeting on 20 March 2019, contact was made with Rod Spollon of Greyfort Group, highlighting a number of issues of concern relating to the deteriorating condition and neglected appearance of the Raven Hotel and in*

*particular that part of the site which is listed. Matters raised included open and broken windows affording the potential for unauthorised access and invasive vegetation causing damage to the historic fabric of the listed building. It was noted that security fencing and an onsite security presence were in place and appeared to be functioning reasonably satisfactorily. In response Mr Spollon advised that the property was about to be sold and that the matters raised would be forwarded to the new owners.*

*Since then contact has been made by Malvern Homes Limited who took ownership on the 22 March 2019. It is understood that Malvern Homes Limited will be making approaches to Wychavon Planning to discuss possible new plans for the site and in the meantime have given assurance that essential works to prevent further deterioration of the listed building will be undertaken as early as possible.*

#### 277. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council.

RESOLVED

That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £4354.90 as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

To conclude the meeting Councillor L Evans, Ms J Bolton, Mrs K Tomalin, A Humphries and AM Sinton all expressed thanks to fellow Councillors and best wishes for the future in recognition of the end of the Administration term. Appreciation was also conveyed to Town Council Officers for their support during the period. Councillor Sinton stated that Councillor Humphries had “represented the opposition superbly” and asked for it to be recorded in the minutes as such.

The Meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

Chairman of Council \_\_\_\_\_  
17 June 2019

