

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held at the Community Hall on **Monday 20 June 2022** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor GA Duffy (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor E Bowden
Councillor GR Brookes
Councillor Mrs JM Chaudry
Councillor Mrs K Fellows
Councillor J Grady
Councillor RP Hopkins
Councillor AH Laird
Councillor RJ Morris
Councillor CM Murray
Councillor AM Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors DM Craigie, NR Griffiths, A Humphries & WT Moy.

The Town Clerk explained that Councillor Moy had had to leave unexpectedly before the meeting started due to an unforeseen health matter arising.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

One Member of the Public joined the Meeting for the duration of open session and Full Council that followed.

At 5.40pm The Chairman welcomed Mr Steve Knight representing Wychavon District Council who provided a short presentation about the WDC Town Centre Prospectus for Droitwich Spa. This document had recently been launched on 4th May 2022.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

Councillor RP Hopkins asked for the Mayors Announcements (agenda item 5) to be taken next because he commented he had a lot he wished to raise about the Minutes of the Meeting of the 25th April 2022. The Town Clerk responded that this was not possible and the Agenda items needed to be taken in the order presented which is the normal practice.

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 25 APRIL 2022

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that he did not have any issue with the minutes apart from the Neighbourhood Plan project update report which was a component part. The NHP report had been provided and presented by Councillor GR Brookes, the designated Councillor with responsibility for the NHP matters including communications. Councillor Hopkins stated that he refused to name the Councillor responsible for the report.

Councillor Hopkins read out various critical opinion points about the report and stated that "Members of the Opposition" would not support acceptance of the minutes of the Council Meeting on 25th April unless the report was removed.

Councillor GR Brookes, Councillor RJ Morris, Councillor Mrs C Bowden and the Town Clerk all separately explained that the agenda item was for consideration of the acceptance of the minutes as a correct record of the meeting and the information provided at that time. Critical opinion towards the report was not a matter being considered for this agenda.

The Chairman asked whether Councillor Hopkins wished to propose an amendment to the minutes presented for consideration. Councillor Hopkins proposed removal of the NHP report. The amendment was taken to the vote with two in favour and ten against.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The vote was carried ten in favour, one not voting and one abstention.

46. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 9 MAY 2022

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 9 May 2022 at the Community Hall.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Annual Council held on 9 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor GA Duffy updated the following information.

“ It's a pleasure to be welcoming you to our first full meeting of the town council, a little over a month since beginning the civic year with our Mayor Making at the start of May. The month having been a full one with a lot of coming together to celebrate the reign of our Queen but even before this, I had the honour of congratulating and awarding certificates to our Air Cadets where I and their parents were treated to a demonstration of their parade that often fills us with such pride. As well as groups within the town, I enjoyed a damp welcoming of the first brass band in our annual summer schedule of musicians filling out Lido park bandstand each Sunday before staying much drier during a presentation from the Historic Pools of England hosted in our very own council chamber.

Then began the town's celebrations of the Jubilee, with many schools hosting events the week before to align with their school terms where Cllr Mrs Fellows stood in, proudly representing us as my Deputy in my stead. Being back in action, I spent the following week finding out how our residents were celebrating starting with a tree planting and dinner at Dorset House Care Home, who impressed massively with their homely and community styled care. The next day, I was first humbled by our British Legion's memorial service in Victoria Square then humbled again by the community spirit of the Westlands residents association's street party, welcoming a planned 80 families, where I thought best to remove the chain before getting stuck in making the sandwiches. My week finished on Saturday with an even bigger party, being joined by Cllr Sinton as chair of Wychavon to open our Town's own jubilee street party at Victoria Square, A day excellently put on by our Clerk, Mark Keld and event organisers he brought in. As well as our own event, the day held host to the Friar Street party led by local pubs who also had arranged music, stands and an all round welcoming day out.

Following a week of fewer attendances, I spent this past weekend outside our boundaries, Saturday spent ignoring some light showers to support the Droitwich Football Club raising money for male cancer at the Droitwich Rugby Club then spending Saturday with attendees from around the West Midlands at the Worcester Mayor's Civic Service. Though there may

be a difference in access to resources, it was a great chance for inspiration to host our own as well as a chance to meet and exchange ideas with our neighbours.

The Platinum Jubilee Beacon Illumination on the evening of 2nd June Bank Holiday were very successful. This was a unique and historic occasion for the Town and Wychavon, especially with Councillor Sinton and myself representing both Councils for the lighting ceremony. The full programme of Pageantry arrangements was very special as it represented the strong ties & Community Spirit for the Town and District, including,

- The Town Crier Edgar Harwood for the Proclamation and announcements during the afternoon and evening.
- The 2516 Droitwich Spa Squadron ATC Band, marking their 50th Anniversary Year.
- The Piper kindly provided by the Royal British Legion Droitwich Spa Branch.
- The 3 Buglers kindly provided by the Salvation Army, Droitwich Spa.
- The Community Choir, marking their 10th Anniversary Year.
- The Church and cooperation from St Augustine's for hosting the Beacon – Special mention for Reverend Nigel Byard, Laura, Richard Rose the Church Warden, Adam Crocker the Bell Captain and the Bell Ringers Team.

There were 1500 beacons illuminated throughout the Nation and Commonwealth. A photographic legacy of the Droitwich Spa beacon has been sent to the Pageant Master – Bruno Peake, which has been gratefully acknowledged. This will be retained as part of the National Archive Collection of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022. Special mention to Paul Jones who kindly provided a selection of photographs and permission for use. The Event was all the more special due to the tremendous public interest and turnout and the near perfect weather conditions which enabled the neighbouring beacons at Malvern and Clebury Mortimer to be seen illuminated simultaneously on the far horizon.

Finally on other matters – To accord with the Town Council Standing Orders I advise that a complaint was received on 10 June 2022 regarding an alleged GDPR Breach. This has been duly referred to the Wychavon District Council Monitoring Officer for their advice. I am pleased to confirm that following investigation of the circumstances their legal advice and response is that there is no case to answer. The case is now closed.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

48. POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

Sergeant Sarah Kent updated the following report.

Police Report

Sergeant Kent updated that her team were very busy at the moment throughout the Town. There had been a general upsurge in activities during the past two months which has no specific reason and may just be a seasonal fluctuation for workloads. Anti- social behaviour is a reoccurring issue in the summer months and the CSO Team are currently patrolling parks and open spaces. Problems generally relate to minor damage to public property, litter and evidence of people congregating and drinking. Arrangements have been made with the Town Clerk for the force “Design Out Crime Officer” to visit on 30th June. This will enable an itinerary to be taken forward and visits to affected locations including the Town Centre, Spring Meadow/ Door Step Green, Copcut Park and some footpaths and underpasses. The Design Out Crime Officer is a specialist who advises on subtle crime prevention measures for locations such as improving open visibility in public areas to mitigate against seclusion issues and help encourage public vigilance, reporting and a general improved feeling towards community safety. In addition local Officers will be visiting all Off Licence premises in order

to reinforce the licencing protocols and responsibilities, including “The Challenge 25 Initiative” which prohibits alcohol sales to under age persons.

A purse theft from a vulnerable elderly person was reported at Waitrose Supermarket last week. These kind of incidents are rare and are usually carried out by criminals from outside the area. Fortunately for this occasion a neighbouring force have apprehended a suspect today in connection with the incident. Speed of reporting is important for these kind of crimes and sadly the criminals do appear to target vulnerable persons.

Car key burglaries targeting high performance and high value vehicles continues to be an issue locally. This criminals are believed to reside further away within the West Midlands, possibly the Birmingham area and target Droitwich Spa due to the connectivity with the Motorway network. Incidents are usually linked and two have taken place recently at Swan Drive and on Primsland. Two individuals have been arrested in connection with the first incident and enquiries continue for the second.

The Local Police team recently visited two local car wash businesses as part of the modern slavery awareness programme. This is a multi- agency approach which includes the Police, Immigration and the Health and Safety Executive looking at business which may have connections with modern day slavery and exploitation. The public are encouraged to be vigilant towards the working practices and employee welfare when visiting businesses as customers. Any concerns should be notified to the Police through the usual reporting channels. There is also an App available called “Safe Car Wash App” which provides reassurance over legitimate business operations in the sector.

It was updated that an individual from the Westlands Estate had recently appeared in Court. This person has created a lot of problems and anxiety for local residents. The Court successfully served an Order on the Individual which will now ensure matters improve for the community.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her informative report.

Councillor RP Hopkins commented about a litter bin near to Park Way on the West Estate which is repeatedly targeted and vandalised. Sergeant Kent and The Town Clerk confirmed that this location will be included in the itinerary for the forthcoming “Design Out Crime” Officers visit later in the month.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

49. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Pursuant to minute reference 319 (a) of the meeting of Full Council held on 25 April 2022, to consider a proposal from Councillor RJ Morris for a mandate to formally request implementation of a Community Speed Watch programme for the area of Celvestune Way. Details of sufficient active volunteers (minimum 6 persons) who wish to participate and register for the programme have been received, together with proposed nearby speed monitoring sites. To proceed with the mandate will enable the Police to register the scheme, begin the induction process for volunteers and properly assess the suggested monitoring sites for safety & suitability purposes.

Sergeant Kent remained at the meeting and pledged her support for the initiative and taking the local request forward for Celvestune Way.

Councillor RJ Morris updated that the speeding was more of a concern in the areas where there was no or restricted roadside parking. There were 4 main areas of current concern on Celvestune Way , these being – Copcut Wood (vicinity at the rear of the BP Service Station on adjacent Worcester Road), approaching Copcut Court and the Care Home, Celvestune Hill- from Bowerhill as far as the Chawson Estate and from Dale End to Chawson Pleck.

Councillor Morris thanked Members for their consideration towards a formal mandate to proceed request for the Police to take forward and implement the Scheme.

RESOLVED To support a formal mandate to proceed through the Police to implement and take forward a Community Speed Watch initiative for Celvestune Way in Droitwich Spa. Details of the four suggested locations for monitoring and local volunteers have been confirmed.

50. HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE & YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

To notify that the Head Boy & Head Girl reports and Youth Council Updates for Council will commence in September from the beginning of the new academic year. This is due to the exams season fast approaching and to some scheduling disruption attributed to the pandemic *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

51. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

To receive and approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee *[Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 refers]* pertinent to the Town Council's Annual Governance Statement made as part of the Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED To approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee *[Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 refers]* pertinent to the Town Council's Annual Governance Statement made as part of the Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2022.

52. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

To receive and approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee *[Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 refers]* pertinent to the Town Council's Accounts and Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2022.

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that the Town Council accounts should be published in their entirety on the Website in the same way as Limited Companies and Charities. He expressed an opinion that the Town Council should be the same as a Limited Company and residents were the shareholders.

The Town Clerk explained that the requisite documents from the AGAR (Governance Statement page 4 and Accounting Statement Page 5) were correctly published on the website each year, aligned with the associated notice period and procedure for the public rights, available for any persons wishing to access the accounting information. This fully complies with the recommended processes outlined within the Internal and External Auditors Instructions for Councils. It was advised that the suggested course being put forward by Councillor Hopkins was not a standard practice to be adopted by the Town Council or other Councils.

The Town Clerk reminded that the agenda item was to consider approval of the annual accounts as recommended at the Resources Committee on 13th June.

RESOLVED To approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee [*Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 refers*] pertinent to the Town Council's Accounts and Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2022.

53. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECT OPTIONS

To receive an update from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the designated Town Council Member with responsibility for the project options, including Communications & Liaison.

Councillor Brookes updated the following.

“Mr Mayor,

Quite some time has been spent, behind the scenes as it were, to look at the best options to move this project forward as circumstances are now beginning to permit, and of course making the best use of work contributed to date.

This activity culminated in a meeting that was held last Wednesday (15th June) with our Leader, our Town Clerk, DJN Planning Ltd, and Andy Ford who is the planning officer at Wychavon with responsibility for Neighbourhood Plans.

I am pleased to advise that the outcome was very, very, positive, and clearly identified the way forward to successfully complete our plan with the collaboration of Wychavon and a planning expert, and within our available budget.

At this point I would like to add my appreciation to Steve Knight and Wychavon for the work that has clearly gone into the Town Centre Prospectus, as we saw earlier tonight. The meeting also confirmed that by waiting for the Town Centre Prospectus for Droitwich to be published, our Neighbourhood Plan will be able to use, and build on this to benefit our town.

We have also been advised by the experts that the completion work can now be timetabled to fit in with the SWDPR finalisation so that we would not have the ridiculous situation where our Neighbourhood Plan would need revising almost immediately after publication.

As a result, fully costed proposals, and a plan to complete the work are now being finalised.

The next step is to seek a mandate to proceed. Since I expect to have this ready very soon, well before the next scheduled Council meeting, I will present a fully worked proposal to full council at an Extra-ordinary Meeting to be called shortly”.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

54. PUBLIC SECTOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME (PEEP)

To confirm that Officers from Pro Enviro attended to undertake the premises surveys for St Richards House & the Community Hall on Thursday 19th May. Energy consumption and trend data had been previously collated and submitted for analysis. The anticipated report of findings and recommendations has not been received to date. Further information will be updated once received.

To note that on 6 May 2022 Worcestershire County Council notified a change in Service Provider undertaking the PEEP Initiative. This may necessitate changes to the programme including the availability of funding and grant options. Further clarification of any impact is anticipated in due course

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

55. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE UNDER MENTIONED MEETINGS

1. Planning Committee – 13 June 2022 [*previously circulated*]

2. Community & Amenities Committee –13 June 2022 [*previously circulated*]
3. Resources Committee- 13 June 2022 [*previously circulated*]

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56. WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEGACY FUNDING

The Town Clerk confirmed the following project updates as presented on the agenda.

- (a) Edition Two – Droitwich Spa High School, Community Cabin. The Management Committee have recently updated that their scheduled Committee Meeting had been deferred. In the meantime an approach is being taken forward through the Committee with the High School to increase engagement for wider Community use and interest in the Cabin Facility. This is a condition of the Community Legacy funding provision for the project through Wychavon District Council (Provider) and the Town Council (Statutory Body) for the project. Further updates are expected in due course.
- (b) Edition Three – Droitwich Spa Augmented Reality Heritage Trail App. Following a transfer of Service Provider in January work is progressing to realign the App towards a full relaunch in August /September. The necessary steps include configuration of the App operating platform away from the original 3D Gaming structure on to a more user compatible arrangement and some content enhancement. The cost is within the scope of the original Community Legacy Grant award in 2021 and the remaining funds for draw down. A meeting took place with the Service Provider on 12 May 2022 to track progress. Significant progress has been confirmed and demonstrated including free running of all video content, redesigned map & locator markers, graphics, instructions presentation and overall layouts for user compatibility. Additional features currently being developed includes visual enhancement aspects linked to RNIB recommendations and a remote user location access function. These additions and extensive user field testing are continuing through the summer towards the tentative relaunch being planned for early September. A full demonstration will be provided for the Steering Group prior to the Launch Event. Thereafter provision has been made to further enhance and develop the App as part of the Heritage offering, budget and strategic projects for the current Municipal Year. This includes linking to the local schools and curriculum content.
- (c) Edition Three –Droitwich Spa Community Football Club Pavilion as part of the King George Playing Fields, Ground Fund Project. The Town Clerk visited the new facilities on 4 May. Final works and snagging are currently taking place for the Pavilion building. The Official Opening is anticipated later this year. Droitwich Spa Football Club recently announced promotion to the Football League for next Season which is a fantastic achievement and aligns perfectly with the opening of the new pitches, facilities and pavilion as their home venue, as well as for the whole Town & wider Community.

Councillor AM Sinton raised the correction that the Football Club had “achieved” their promotion at the end of the season, rather than announced their promotion. This was duly noted.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

57. WEST PROJECT & BEYOND – PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENTS

The Town Clerk updated from the Agenda as presented.

To note that a further Project Reference Group Meeting took place on 18 May 2022. This confirmed that work is being completed on the first two underpasses for the Scheme at Hunters Way and Paddock Way. LED Lighting is now being installed at Crofters Hill which will enable progression to the public art mural shortly.

The next phases begin from 27 June from when the public art murals are due to be installed for the two underpasses at Ombersley Way (Briar Mill) followed by the Railway Station shortly afterwards. The confirmed designs for all three underpasses were shared at the Meeting on 18 May 2022 and were well received by the Steering Group. These three underpasses are the ones directly funded by the Town Council contribution element of the project. There is a significant amount of coordination & preparation work including graffiti removal, defect repairs to drainage, structure and paving, and enhancements for LED lighting upgrades. These preparatory works commence around 20 June. All timescales are subject to changes due to unforeseen issues arising – for example there are currently nesting birds at one of the Briar Mill sites.

The Steering Group discussed the final underpass of the project underneath the A38 adjacent King George Playing Fields for which there is currently no artist or design commissioning in place. The suggestion has been put forward and accepted to take this forward by networking with the local Sports Community for ideas – embracing themes such as sports for all, inclusion, healthy living & wellbeing, Legacy and Civic Pride. It is hoped to possibly align the work for this underpass with the anticipated Official opening of the new Sports pitches and pavilion.

A further project reference Group meeting is expected in early July with progress updates to follow

RESOLVED That the information be noted

58. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor RJ Morris updated the following report.

Worcestershire County Council update – 20th June 2022

1. Worcestershire County Council Report an issue online ([Tell us about road or highway issues | Worcestershire County Council](#))

- We carry out regular inspections of roads and pavements on our network, but we know that issues may come up between these inspections. These could be potholes or other road surface issues, damaged street lights, overgrown trees or missing lit bollards.
- You can tell us about maintenance issues online by using our highways reporting application.

- Pothole, road, pathway issues
 - Drainage and Flooding
 - Overgrown Trees/shrubbery
 - Mud, oil on roads, paths
 - Street lighting
 - Traffic light issues
 - Grit bins
 - Gritting
 - Bridges, structures
 - Public Rights of way
 - Other highways issues
- **Issues WCC don't look after**
 - **A46 and motorways** contact the **National Highways** using **their reporting tool, info@nationalhighways.co.uk or 0300 1235000.**
 - **Litter or dog fouling** is your **District Council.**
 - **Parking or obstructive parking** is either your **District Council** if a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) is in place, or the **Police** if there is no TRO in place.
 - **Street Name plates** is your **District Council.**
 - **Car parks** is your **District Council.**
 - **PCN (Penalty Charge Notice)** - Worcestershire County Council maintain Samsome Street and Lowesmoor bus lanes only, others are your **District Council**
 - **Speeding** issues contact the **police.**
 - **Pest control** contact **Worcestershire Regulatory Services** or a private pest control company.
 - **Deceased animals** which do not block a road; **District Councils** are responsible for general disposal of deceased animals.
 - **Road sweeping and street cleaning** is done by your **District Council**, however we will handle oil or fuel spillages.
 - **Land drainage** is done by your **District Council** drainage team.
 - **Building control** is managed by North and South Worcestershire Building Control (a collective of **District Councils** within each region).

2. Cabinet Member for Environment

Pleased to have been offered a new position at County which means I have stepped down as Deputy Leader & Economy portfolio holder at Wychavon – I will now Chair the Town Centre Panel which includes the implementation of the Town Centre Prospectus amongst other initiatives.

Environment Portfolio covers:

- Carbon reduction plans & natural Environment
- Flooding
- Waste

3. Armed Forces Week

Armed Forces Week, is the annual week of celebration and recognition for our UK Armed Forces community, takes place this year from 20–26 June.

Throughout the week we recognise the men, women and families who make up the Armed Forces community

Armed Forces Day is on Saturday 25 June and Reserves Day, which recognises the civilians who give up their time to serve in the Reserve Forces, is on Wednesday 22 June.

4. Road & Paths

- Paths now resurfaced on Chawson: Rye Lea, Singer Hill, The Tynning, Parsons Green, Camp Hill
- Paths due to be resurfaced this month: Archers Close, Ledwych Drive
- Road resurfacing: Pulley Lane
-

5. Divisional Fund Spend 2022/23

- i. 2k towards new floor at Westlands Community Centre
- ii. 1k towards Food & drink festival

Councillor GR Brookes advised that he had no further matters to update regarding County Council business apart from to congratulate Councillor Morris on his new position at the County Council as Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Councillor AM Sinton asked about the 28 day timescale for the actioning of online service requests on the County Council self- service portal. Specifically how to track and possibly speed up some of the more urgent requests, for example seasonal overgrowth on footpaths and verges. Councillor Morris explained that most requests were actioned far sooner than the 28 day timeframe and all jobs were prioritised for urgency. Requests were allocated a unique tracking number once logged and accepted which can then be used to track progress on the WCC portal. WDC have an equivalent system on their District web site.

There were no further questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

59. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor AM Sinton updated on the following items.

1. SWDPR review delay until later in year.
2. Boundary Commission review of District ward boundaries will not report until late September.
3. Number of Ukrainian visitors continuing to increase.
4. Executive Board are considering a feasibility study regarding a possible replacement Leisure Centre at their meeting on 22nd June.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

60. ST. RICHARDS HOUSE – Initial Scope and Concept drawings for second floor space.

Pursuant to Minute References 247 of the Resources Committee meeting of 7 February 2022 & 298 of the Resources Committee meeting of 11 April 2022, provisional concept diagrams are attached for information.

These are design based scope diagrams rather than Architects drawings. At this stage the suggested approach is to delegate further work and stakeholder engagement to a Working Group to enable the project options to progress further. The next steps will include wider stakeholder contact & liaison to consider funding options, project deliverability & timescales and more detail on preferred designs, content and policy adherence. Practicalities including lift provision to maintain “DDA” compliance and energy efficiencies for the building will also require close attention. To consider setting up a Working Group for the ongoing project options.

RESOLVED To set up a working group to take this project forward. The arrangements for the Group to be initially discussed at a meeting between the Leader and the Mayor with support from the Town Clerk. Further details to be provided in due course.

61. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Clerk for the CALC Executive Committee has contacted the Town Council on 3rd June 2022 to request consideration for the above position. Councillor A Humphries was previously the designated Town Council representative put forward in 2020 and any changes or a reaffirmation have now been requested after 2 years. The Chairman of CALC and the Chief Executive Officer have both requested that the Representative kindly attends as many Executive Committee Meetings as possible or advises apologies in advance. This is to help ensure the smooth running of the Executive Committee arrangements.

Councillor RP Hopkins proposed that Councillor A Humphries be reaffirmed for the delegated representative position. Councillor AH Laird proposed that Councillor GR Brookes be put forward for the delegated representative position. There being two nominations these were then voted on. For Councillor Humphries there were two votes in favour and ten against. For Councillor Brookes there were nine votes in favour and two abstentions.

RESOLVED That Councillor GR Brookes be put forward as the designated Town Council Representative for the Calc Executive Committee.

62. COUNTY WIDE MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT. To consider the following communication & recommendation received from the Wychavon District Council Monitoring Officer on 18 May 2022. The recommendation for full adoption of the updated code has also been endorsed by Worcestershire CALC. The original communication and full code document has been circulated to all Members on 17 May 2022. The anticipated changes have also been updated at Full Council in December 2021 and April 2022.

Dear Clerk

You will recall in 2019 the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) into Local Government Ethical Standards produced a report based on their review of standards in local government. The CSPL concluded that high standards of conduct in local government are needed to protect the integrity of decision-making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy. They made 26 recommendations for central government many of which will require changes to primary legislation and 15 best practice recommendations for local authorities to consider as a benchmark of good ethical practice.

Last year, the Local Government Association (LGA) pursuant to the CSPL's work produced a model code of conduct and encouraged all local authorities to consider adoption of the model code with or without alteration.

In view of this report the Monitoring Officers from the Worcestershire district councils and the county council met to review the report and consider what changes/ updates were needed to our existing code to bring it in line with the model code.

Consequently the attached code has now been adopted by Wychavon District Council with a recommendation that all Parish and Town Councils within the district be encouraged to also adopt the same.

I would be grateful if you could contact my colleague, Julie Brain

(Julie.Brain@malvern hills.gov.uk) once your council has considered the model code confirming the date of the meeting and whether the code was adopted as a whole, adopted with amendments (and if so what the amendments were) or not adopted.

If your council decides not to adopt the revised version please could you send us a copy of the current code which you expect your members to abide by so we have this for our records when considering code of conduct complaints.

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that he had read the proposals with interest and that in his opinion there should be greater emphasis on consequences should Elected Members not fulfil their responsibilities in public life properly.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED To adopt the County wide Code of Conduct recommendations as presented without any amendments. To confirm accordingly to the Wychavon District Council Monitoring Officer.

63. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council totalling £2,684.25. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £2,684.25 be approved and duly passed for payment.

The meeting ended at 19.20 PM.

Chairman of Council -----
26 September 2022