

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber at St Richards House on **Monday 26 September 2022** at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor GA Duffy (Mayor)
Councillor RG Beale
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor E Bowden
Councillor GR Brookes
Councillor Mrs JM Chaudry
Councillor DM Craigie
Councillor NR Griffiths
Councillor RP Hopkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor AH Laird
Councillor DJ Morris
Councillor RJ Morris
Councillor WT Moy
Councillor CM Murray
Councillor AM Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors Mrs K Fellows and J Grady.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

108. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 20 June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109. MINUTES OF THE EXTRA – ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18 JULY 2022

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that in his opinion the draft minutes of the Extra – Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 July 2022 were a “bad record” and that the “Members of the Opposition” would be voting against acceptance. He requested that this item be deferred and taken after the Police and High School Reports for the reason that he had a lot to say on the matter. He qualified that the Police and High School representatives were of course welcome to stay after their respective agenda items. The request to take the agenda item later was duly acknowledged by the Town Clerk and agreed by the Chairman.

Referring back to this item after the Police, High School and Youth Council Agenda Items, Councillor Hopkins stated that he had issues with the section (minute reference 77- Neighbourhood Plan Project Options, Pages 2,3 &4 and the component report from Councillor

GR Brookes entitled - "Report to Council from Cllr Brookes- EGM 18TH July 2022, Neighbourhood Planning - Options to Complete Our Plan". The Town Clerk made a point of order reminding Councillor Hopkins that the agenda item was to consider approval of the draft minutes presented and not to debate the contents of a report provided by Councillor Brookes which is included with those minutes. The Town Clerk & the Chairman explained to Councillor Hopkins that if he had issues with the report from Councillor Brookes then any points arising should be taken forward directly with him and as a separate matter. Consideration for acceptance of the draft minutes as presented was then taken forward to the vote. There were 9 votes in favour and 4 against, as well as 3 abstentions from Members who had notified that they were not present on 18th July 2022.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Extra – ordinary meeting of Council held on 18 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

110. LEADERSHIP OF THE MAJORITY CONSERVATIVE GROUP & LEADERSHIP OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Leadership of the Majority Conservative Group and the Leadership of the Town Council. To note that following communication to all Town Councillors issued on 1st July 2022 the Leadership Position has changed from Councillor AM Sinton to Councillor GR Brookes. The effective date was the same as the communication issued – 1st July 2022

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

111. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor GA Duffy updated the following information.

Mayor's announcements 26.09.22

Fellow Cllrs, ladies and gentleman,

"We started this municipal year in jubilation, joyous of the 70th year of Her Majesty's reign but now, with solemn pride, we commemorate our Queen and celebrate our new King. Our town Clerk and officers again showed excellence in preparation to create safe places for people to come together, hosting residents in the hundreds to pay their respects and sign their condolences at right here St Richards House for the Royal Proclamation as well as sharing their grief together with people around the country in a minute's silence at the lido park for Elizabeth 2nd's Vigil. Before joining Droitwich in silence, I had the pleasure of joining the Lord Lieutenant for an afternoon of choir song in touching memory of the queen.

In the months between, I've had the honour of representing our town on 30 occasions since our last full council meet. I've been in the heart of our town, enjoying our incredible Food & and Salt fest community events, during the latter of which we celebrated our Community first responders receiving the Queen's silver medal and helped launch things off in our annual duck race. I spent some time learning from our neighbours at theirs when attending the battle of Evesham as well as their civic service, the Stourport Carnival, Brosmgrove fashion show and Upton upon Severn civic service.

I've been going even more local, supporting open days and opening ceremonies across the town, having a great time at an open days for the Droitwich Mews care home dedicating to her late majesty a tree there and, for the Queen's green canopy, in our own copcut park. Through some extreme heat, the Westlands School held an excellent jubilee event then on much cooler afternoons Gloverspiece first school and the Droitwich Horticultural Society had me handing out some wonderful awards. Happy to see our town grow, I was I invited to open Petite Paws pet Salon, Lee Russell Independent Funeral Director, Woodland View Care Home, the Westlands revamped Play area, the Droitwich Art club's exhibition as well having

the honour of leading out the Droitwich Football team for their return to Droitwich, playing the first ever game on the new Droitwich stadia pitch. I also was able to support a recreation of the commonwealth baton handover to support motor neuron disease, an educational event about the work being done the Westlands Farmhouse, a Macmillan coffee morning at the Woodland view Care home and an incredible open day at the fire station that saw visitors from across the county”.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

112. 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. The passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the London Bridge protocol had increased the demand on Resources. The Droitwich Spa SNT had supported arrangements in London for the Policing of the State Funeral. Elsewhere local Officers had provided support for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham during the summer and more recently in Leicester dealing with the civil unrest and rioting issues. Locally a business as usual approach remains the priority and to this effect various Community led Summer Fetes & Events had been attended to help engage with the public and maintain visual Community Policing. Additional reassurance is being provided by attending Local Community Surgery forums including at the Westlands Hall, Central Town Library and in due course at Chawson Barns. A proactive and visual campaign to help address anti -social behaviour issues and the unauthorised gatherings of young people in parks and areas of public open space had been successful during the summer.

Recent successes had been the apprehension, conviction and detention of a prolific local shop lifter. Unusually there had been a burglary incident in the High Street area which had secured an arrest within 2 days. The suspect is currently bailed pending further enquiries.

The “Design out crime” Officer had visited the Town during July and spent time with the Town Clerk reviewing options to help combat vandalism and anti- social issues affecting land holdings and street infrastructure around the Town Centre and wider area. The visit had been very useful and suggested various subtle improvements to help enhance the defensive approach and target hardening measures. The officer was available for further visits including referrals to look at specific advice over issues for Individual Ward Members areas if needed.

Current issues include the Muller Dairy business operations and premises on Berry Hill Industrial Estate being targeted by demonstrators campaigning for plant based dietary issues. The protesters actions lasted for one week during September and was only halted following the National Announcement of the passing of the Queen. The original expectation was for two weeks of protesting. The Group are thought to be considering further action at the Droitwich Spa site and others in the West Midlands and a watching brief is maintained.

There are two changes in the local Police SNT following Officers leaving the force. Dan Cox (Droitwich Spa West Side) is a new CSO and Maria Francanasie (Droitwich Spa East Side) is an experienced Officer joining from Redditch. Looking ahead the Team will be out and about including the forthcoming Half Term, Halloween, Bonfire Night, Remembrance and Christmas Lights periods. During the afternoon of 14 November 2022 it is anticipated that the West Mercia Police “Anti Violence Bee“will visit the Town. This is a large free standing sculpture of a bee made from apprehended knives and firearms linked from criminal activity. The sculpture supports the campaign and messages for an “anti – violence society” and is on

an area wide tour of Communities. The details and location for the Droitwich Spa Visit will be publicised in due course.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her informative report.

Councillor GR Brookes welcomed the opportunity to meet with the newly recruited CSO's and suggested the local community surgery forum at the Central Library.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

113. HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Councillor RJ Morris introduced the Senior Student Team from the High School comprising the Head Boy & Head Girl and the Deputy Head Boy & Head Girl.

The following information was updated by the Students.

The Senior Team represents the High School overall and especially the Sixth Form/Year 13. Areas of responsibility include media, student welfare, finance and environment.

The Charities Week begins on 17 October 2022 and prior year raised approximately £3K.

Several Arts initiatives are planned for the week including theatre, poetry and artistic drawing/painting. A School Prom is being planned for July 2023 and will be the first since the onset of the Pandemic and Covid 19 era in 2020.

The recognition of achievement across different aspects of School Life including academic results, sports and team participation are being reviewed. New aspects include the introduction of a Sports Cup to complement the existing House Cup arrangements. A whole School Open Evening had taken place the previous week and a Sixth Form Open Evening takes place in early October.

The offer of support to participate in the arrangements for the Towns Remembrance Sunday on 13th November was pledged by the Students. Councillor A Humphries thanked the students for their interest and confirmed that he would make contact with them soon in his capacity as the Chairman of the Royal British Legion branch for Droitwich Spa [*for information*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted

114. YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

To note that the Youth Council updates will resume in due course. There is no report for 26th September 2022 Meeting.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

115. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Minute References 51/2022 & 52/2022 of the Meeting of Full Council on 20 June 2022 the Governance and Annual Accounts have been submitted to the External Auditors to accord with procedure. The return statement following examination is expected anytime and will be duly reported in due course.

To be advised of the attached AGAR submission amendment dated 7th July and accompanying file note. The actual allegation had been presented directly to the Auditor and was first received by the Town Clerk on 6th July 2022. The allegation raised that the past 4 years Town Council Accounts did not fully comply. The Auditor confirmed on 6th July that they will not investigate the 3 years (2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) for the reason that those are closed periods

following satisfactory year end audits. Only the last period up to 31 March 2022 (year 2021/2022) has been put forward for a recommendation as outlined in the accompanying file note. The auditor has confirmed that following their guidance the amendment for Assertion 2 submitted on the AGAR (dated 7th July 2022) and the connected adopted recommendation will ensure that this matter is not considered to be a finding on the Audit for the period Year Ended 31 March 2022. Details for all of the Town Council's financial transactions are fully transparent and information can be accessed by contacting the Office.

To note that the allegation was raised directly with the External Auditors and has not been presented as an enquiry to the Town Council. The resultant response for dealing with the challenge correspondence is chargeable by the Auditor at the rate of £355.00 per hour.

The annual review of Town Council Standing Orders & Financial Regulations is scheduled as part of the Resources Committee Meeting on 10 October 2022. This will include a recommendation to include the additional clause for all lists of individual authorised remittance cheques and the regular review of all automated standing order and direct debit payment lists to be attached to the website under a separate tab, following approval of the relevant Council Meeting minutes. Going forwards this will then be effective following acceptance of the next scheduled meeting of Full Council minutes from 12 December 2022 [*for information*].

The Town Clerk explained that the External Auditor had first brought this matter to his attention on 6th July. Following the discussion and taking the Auditors advice the recommended interventions were made the same day. This has been duly and acknowledged and confirmed as satisfactory by the Auditors. The Town Clerk updated that it had been explained to him that the context of the allegations made was that the sum total of all authorised cheque remittances expenditure quoted in the minutes of Full Council meetings during a Municipal period does not match the total of the AGAR Box 6 "All other payments" for the Year Ends. It was explained further that the reason for this is that the Box 6 figure includes cheque payments with all other regular payments (direct debits and standing orders) – for example some contracts and utility costs. As such the recommended course is to amend the financial regulations at the next review in October and to then add all direct debit and standing orders information to that presented on the Town Council website under a separate tab. All regular payments are already presented for review on a six monthly basis. The Town Clerk updated that the External Auditor had commented that this was an unusual enquiry but in the circumstances their outlined guidance and the additional measures being implemented are considered to be appropriate.

Councillor RP Hopkins stated that the originator of the allegations was known to him as someone "who had previously voted conservative up until last Fridays Parliamentary mini budget". Councillor Hopkins then made an accusation that the Town Clerk had ignored two letters (later referred to as emails) from the originator, failed to reply and had not reported the matter to Council. Councillor Hopkins stated that in these circumstances he had then supported the originators course of action to write directly to the External Auditor over this matter.

The Town Clerk asked the Chairman for permission to respond to Councillor Hopkins which was agreed. The Town Clerk acknowledged the accusations and statement made by Councillor Hopkins during an open public meeting. The Town Clerk reaffirmed the position and background to this agenda item as he had already presented during this evenings meeting. He strongly refuted the accusations made by Councillor Hopkins and has not received any challenge correspondence and/or specific emails from the originator concerning the accounting information questions. If a direct enquiry had been received it would have been actioned immediately and professionally in the same way as the cooperation evidenced when first notified through the External Auditor. It was added that scrutiny of the email system and digital

archives would prove this to be correct and fully transparent. The External Auditor had acknowledged in writing (email) that the Town Council response and measures taken are considered to be appropriate following discussion to address the challenge correspondence. .

The Town Clerk stated that he considered the accusations made by Councillor Hopkins to be very serious, offensive and questioning of integrity & professional conduct. The Town Clerk advised Councillor Hopkins that following his accusations and remarks, it would appear that he has been misinformed.

Councillor AM Sinton challenged Councillor Hopkins that as an Elected Member of the Town Council he should have a responsibility to guide the originator of the accounting allegation to contact the Town Clerk in the first instance and should not knowingly have allowed this matter to have been alternatively escalated elsewhere. His actions and the course taken had created a lot of additional work, distress for the Officer Team, unnecessary bad feelings, delays to the Audit outcome and incurred substantial additional costs of public money.

Councillor GR Brookes endorsed the concerns expressed by Councillor Sinton and added that Councillor Hopkins should be asked to explain his conduct and involvement with regard to this whole matter.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

116. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECT

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.

1. The minutes of the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been circulated to you, and follow a successful meeting with our consultant, Mr David Nicholson. The Town Clerk then submitted an application to Locality, and I am pleased to report that funding of £9000 has now been paid to DSTC. This has enabled us to instruct our consultant to proceed with the next stages of preparing our plan, based on the costed plan we now have. I would like to thank Mark for managing to fit this complex application in, with all the other duties and events he has managed so splendidly.
2. The SWDPR draft is now available on the link to the Worcester City Council agenda, kindly provided by Cllr Sinton. Any DSTC comments should be considered ready for discussion at our 7 November 2022 Planning Committee. This will be after the consultation period and sign off with the three component Councils - WDC, MHDC & Worcester City.
3. DSTC Website changes to include NHP content will now most likely be later in October or November because of the delays in the recruitment and start of the Deputy Town Clerk. Once appointed and in role the Web Site Service provider will support the new officer to make the adjustments to the existing website platform.
4. It is anticipated that the next Steering Group Meeting will be held in November as advised by our consultant - details will follow when available.
5. A preliminary meeting by Zoom was held with AECOM on 7th September. The notes of that meeting have been circulated for information. AECOM are the designated provider for technical advice to us with preparation of our design guide which will be an important component of our Neighbourhood Plan given that Droitwich is blessed with many unique heritage features. Although early days, it does look that the help

and support we will receive will provide valuable Design Code principles for whole town area.

Councillor A Humphries stated that he had several concerns and read out the following statement.

"Full Council – Neighbourhood Plan

-It's noted the member of the Steering Group are Councillor Brookes, Councillor Laird, Michael Howard, and Paul Jones. Why did it take until the day these papers were issued for this to be made known to the Council assuming the Conservative Group did not know about them like the Opposition Group didn't? When was its formation and membership agreed and who else was approached to be a member? Councillor Brookes on more than one occasion accused the previous NP group of being anonymous people hiding in the shadows. For over a month this could be perceived as the same thing. Where is the Steering Group's Terms of Reference which are supposed to be agreed by the Town Council? Where is the Business Plan and the Financial Plan?

- When will the Council see the plan for the project? We need to see the dates for key activities, review points, and cost estimates. What methodology is being used to plan the project?
- For many years Councillor Brookes has stated publicly that an NP for Droitwich would cost £100,000. Does he still think that is true? If so, how will he find the money to top up the Locality Grant? If he now thinks it can be done for less cost, what is your current estimate?
- Does Councillor Brookes now think it is time for the Council to implement its resolution made in December 2020 to set up a Council Neighbourhood Plan Support Group? What will be the make-up of that Support Group (Councillors, members of the public, other stakeholders). Who will lead it?
- Now the Council has applied for a Locality Grant without reference to or the permission of the Town Council, both of which the previous Neighbourhood Plan group were reminded constantly needed to be done, how does the timing of the application impact on the amount of funding to be made available?"

The Chairman referenced the resolution of minute number 77 of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18th July 2022 as follows,

RESOLVED This Council agrees to now resume work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and delegate's authority to the Leader and the Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to proceed in accord with the planning report. There were 9 votes in favour and three abstentions.

Councillor Brookes responded that the minutes of the first Steering Group meeting held in late August had been provided with the Agenda and Papers for this meeting and circulated on 20 September 2022. A second Steering Group meeting was anticipated during November with further details to follow. It is intended to include options for final consideration towards any suitable terms of reference for the Group. This is being guided with support from the professional Consultant drawing on his suggested approach from other successful NHP projects worked on. Councillor Brookes confirmed that members of the Steering Group did all reside within Droitwich Spa.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Grant application had been actioned during August following the advice of the Consultant to proceed timeously once the mandate to proceed for resurrection of the NHP project had been confirmed at the EGM on 18 July. This is for the reason to secure available funding prior to the Grants Scheme being subject to the anticipated

review at year end. It was reaffirmed that £9K had been secured and paid and eligibility for a further £9K application up to the maximum £18K had been indicated by Locality. This second tranche can only be applied for after 31 March 2023 and is subject to the Scheme continuing next year. The Town Clerk referenced the due diligence stage of the Grant process by Locality which includes full sight and verification of the project mandate, the three separate documented approaches made to consultants and the adopted DSTC Standing Orders & Financial Regulations.

Councillor A Humphries asked for the information from the three consultants to be forwarded to himself and Councillor RP Hopkins. This was noted and actioned the following day (27 September 2022).

Councillor AM Sinton respectfully suggested to Councillor Humphries that he may wish to become more involved and consider a meeting with Councillor Brookes and the Town Clerk if he had any further concerns or connected matters he wished to discuss.

Councillor Sinton updated that the link to access the SWDP Review draft was now available in the public domain (as at 26.09.2022). This is now subject to a period of consultation with each of the three component Councils - Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon. There will be an opportunity for Droitwich Spa Town Council to consider comments and feedback on the draft proposals of the review as part of the agenda at the scheduled DSTC Planning Committee Meeting on 7th November 2022. Members are encouraged to study the review documents using the link in preparation for this consideration. The Town Clerk was asked to forward the link to all Members – confirmed as actioned on 27th September 2022.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

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

1. Planning Committee – 4 July 2022 [*previously circulated*]
2. Community & Amenities Committee – 4 July 2022 [*previously circulated*]
3. Planning Committee – 25 July 2022 [*previously circulated*]
3. Resources Committee- 25 July 2022 [*previously circulated*]

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

118. 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. To receive an update from the designated Town Council Management Committee Elected Representatives (Councillors DM Craigie & RP Hopkins) covering the wider Community engagement, promotion and use of the facility - which is being taken forward by the Management Committee. This is slightly later than anticipated due

to deferment of some of the Management Committee Meeting arrangements during the Pandemic period and the summer recess and High School holidays. The original Community Legacy funding application and associated public consultation process emphasised the benefits of the new resource for the wider Community use. The funding granted has a conditional requirement for shared Community and High School use as part of meeting the Community Legacy Scheme public funding criteria *[for information]*.

Councillor RP Hopkins updated that a meeting had recently taken place between the High School Resources Manager and Wychavon District Council Community Officer to discuss wider use of the Cabin Facilities. A further update was expected in time for the next Cabin Management Committee meeting and he would provide more details in due course. It was reported that the Cabin facilities had been used for the Ukrainian relief and settlement activities to help coordinate English language skills.

- (b) Edition Three – Droitwich Spa Augmented Reality Heritage Trail App. See separate update as part of the Community & Amenities Meeting agenda item for 12th September (Item 9) deferred until 26th September 2022 *[for information]*.
- (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 and again on 7 September. The second visit was at the Request of the Football Club Management Committee to the Town Council as the Statutory Body for the project funding aspect of the new Pavilion. The reason is to verify and constructively escalate to Wychavon District Council some specific defects and outstanding finishing works associated with the cloakrooms and toilets. These points have been summarised and communicated to Wychavon as at 8th September 2022 for consideration and response. Further progress updates will be provided in due course.

Separately an Open Showcase Evening and Community Launch Event for the new facilities is being arranged by the Football Club for early November. Full details and publicity are anticipated shortly. Councillor A Humphries mentioned that Droitwich Spa Football Club First Team had drawn Worcester City in the League Cup and the Town was hosting the local Derby Game on Tuesday 18th October 2022 *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

119. 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 14 September 2022. The next phase begins from 12 October from when the public art mural for the Railway Station commences. Improved Lighting for this location has already been installed and some attention to defects on paving and drainage is being attended to. Cleaning and base coat preparation in advance of the commissioned artist starting work should be during the preceding week. All timescales are subject to changes due to any unforeseen issues arising.

The Steering Group discussed draft design proposals and gave feedback for the final underpass of the project underneath the A38 adjacent King George Playing Fields. An artist is commissioned and final proposals are currently being taken forward for the designs including

public consultation and the involvement of local Groups in the process. A further project reference Group meeting is expected in October with progress updates to follow *[for information]*.

Councillor A Humphries raised that the footpath from the Railway Station leading to the former Royal British Legion building site on Salwarpe Road was overgrown with vegetation. He asked if the Town Clerk will arrange for the path to be cleared using the County - Lengthsman Scheme, which was duly noted and acknowledged (request raised 27 September 2022). Councillor GR Brookes made a point of order requesting Councillor Humphries to kindly refer such routine operational matters to the office or through the WCC Self Service Hub rather than under separate agenda items in the course of a Council meeting.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

120. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor RJ Morris updated the following report.

County Council update by Cllr RJ Morris 26th September 2022

1. Westlands crossing

The County Council submitted a proposal for an allocation of the DFT's Active Travel Capital Fund in 2021, for a Westlands Roundabout crossing. The bid was for £730,000 with an additional £30,000 Section 106 contribution. We were very disappointed not to receive any funding from DFT for this project.

I have now met with the new cabinet member on site, and we are looking at how we can ring this important crossing about. To support this, I have started an online petition and now have 275 signatures

Link:<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.change.org%2Fp%2Fpedestrian-crossing-needed-at-westlands-roundabout&data=05%7C01%7C%7C20ec9011e8d8480980bd08da9f1c3761%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637997240780474164%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWw%7CilCjXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kAti%2Bs2DWUTryuWFzLlk%2Fo97STGMnqbGML1cyp1ovH8%3D&reserved=0>

- 2. County Roadshows -Over 350 persons attended the County Roadshow at Salt Fest, more than any other roadshow. Main discussions focused on Children's services, Environmental issues and Public Services**
- 3. Flooding** - The Droitwich Flood Risk Management Plan includes several distinct areas in the town and Hunter's Way. Queen St is also included and covers drains, surface water and canal/River overflows. Due recent flooding in Queen st a meeting will take place with: Businesses, Cllr Bob Brookes, County Officers and Severn Trent to try and find answers
- 4. Roads/Footpaths** -In October: George Bayliss Rd to be resurfaced; Pulley Lane will be closed to set up 40mph speeding limit (road markings & signs). Several other areas in the pipeline
- 5. Divisional Funds Payments -**
 - a) Roundabout on Westlands play area**

To support the amenities on the upgraded Westland's play area working with Platform Housing and Wychavon

b) The Droitwich Wellbeing Hub/Resilient Minds Counselling on Westlands

The money will help complete the work needed in the building to increase counselling rooms from 2 to 4 which will allow a larger volume of clients to be seen. One of the 2 additional rooms is going to be shared by a local NHS primary trust so that medical appointments can also be accessed locally for service users.

c) Saltfest

The funding will support security arrangements and organisation such as litter and toilets.

There were no further questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

121. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor AM Sinton updated on the following items.

1. The WDC Place Board had met in July for the initial discussions and a second meeting was scheduled for Tuesday evening 27th September 2022.
2. Two prominent local Planning Applications had recently been approved by WDC Planning Committee. These are for the former Raven Hotel site and the Chateaux Impney Hotel /Impney Village. He had proposed the Impney application for approval at Committee on 22 September and this had been seconded by Councillor Mrs Margaret Rowley.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

122. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To receive an update from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the designated Town Council Representative for the Calc Executive Committee *[if appropriate]*. Councillor Brookes updated that he had attended the AGM in July and the second meeting was due to be held by Zoom during mid- September. The Passing of her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September had necessitated deferment of the Zoom Meeting until a later date. A further update will be provided in due course.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

123. CALC CIVILITY PLEDGE

To consider the following project for adoption and sign up by Droitwich Spa Town Council. The Civility & Respect Pledge has been introduced nationally through NALC and County Associations (CALC) during August 2022. Full details can be accessed through the NALC web page at,

<https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project>

CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE BACKGROUND

NALC, SLCC, and OVW believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge is easy for councils to sign up for and it will enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

We invite all councils to take the Civility and Respect Pledge.

THE CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE

By signing the Pledge, your council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local [Local Council Award Scheme](#)
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

124. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council totalling £56,526.14 and supplementary payments totalling £755.00 (Total expenditure = £57,281.14).

Councillor RP Hopkins questioned cheque number 12173 for £25,411.05 payable to the Festive Lighting Company and asked why this item had not been subject to procurement? The Town Clerk clarified that the payment was year 4 of a 5 year contract for the Christmas Lights arrangement, which was next subject to renewal options after 2023. The cheque 12173 represented the 2022 annual fee for the existing arrangements and the contract underwent procurement at the point of renewal each time. There were no further questions arising.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £56,526.14 and supplementary payments totalling £755.00 be approved and duly passed for payment. (Total expenditure = £57,281.14).

The meeting ended at 8.22. PM.

Chairman of Council -----
12 December 2022