

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at St Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Monday 14 November 2016 at 7.05 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor A M Sinton - Chairman
Councillor R Murphy (Ex-officio)
Councillor S Best
Councillor Ms J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor Mrs S Harris
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor A H Laird

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors R G Beale, G R Brookes, T J Noyes, A Roberts and Mrs K Tomalin.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Mrs A J Hawkins, committee member, and Councillor Mrs M A Lawley. An apology was submitted for Councillor R J Morris from Councillor Mrs Harris following the close of the meeting.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs K Tomalin declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 for the Tourism Website Maintenance Schedule as a business advertiser and that Mr N Moreton was her business's technical adviser.

165. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

166. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT – SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2016.

Pursuant to Minute number 212 of the Community and Amenities meeting held on the 18 January 2016 the Chairman, and Councillor Best had met on 11th August 2016 with the Assistant Town Clerk to finalise arrangements for this year's event. A publicity poster was attached and the programme of entertainment and attractions posted on the Town Council tourism website www.visitdroitwichspa.com with associated social media posting links for information purposes. Press releases were being arranged in the customary fashion. The arrangements were noted.

167. CHRISTMAS MARKET 2016

On the 21st October 2016 Mr Joe Jones from One To One Events had requested permission to operate a festive market in Victoria Square. The proposed dates were Tuesday 20th December to Thursday 22nd December inclusive. Mr Jones had indicated that the format would be similar to the past two years with entertainment, with the weekly Charter Market operating as normal on Friday 23rd December.

Councillor Brookes remarked that many people enjoyed the Christmas Market. The Chairman expressed the opinion that the market in 2015 had operated for too many days whereas the arrangements for 2016 seemed more suitable.

168. TOURISM WEBSITE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

[Councillor Mrs K Tomalin had declared a prejudicial interest in this item and left the meeting during the consideration thereof.]

A proposal to outsource the regular website and linked social media essential updates to the Regional Digital Marketing Company was considered. The Assistant Town Clerk explained the report supporting the desire to maintain the Town Council tourism website and associated social media postings to a good and up to date standard. It was emphasised that the services of a professional website designer with the appropriate Google licence was required in order to maintain the current arrangements and formats. Councillor Best enquired when the maintenance contract should start. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that most editorial aspects of the website were in good order but components such as the events diary listings, regular changes of material and some social media postings would require attention by the end of 2016. Councillor Noyes advised that he was very disappointed that some component parts of the website had diminished. The Chairman requested that this item be deferred and considered as part of the 2017 estimates process.

169. REBECCA REDFERN, PARALYMPIAN SILVER MEDALLIST, RIO DE JANEIRO 2016 – COMMEMORATIVE POST BOX

Following enquiries received from members of the public a request had been sent to the Royal Mail to ascertain consideration and options towards a commemorative post box to mark Rebecca's sporting achievement. A response was awaited. Rebecca had also been invited to accompany the Mayor in switching on the Christmas Lights on Saturday 26th November. The Chairman requested that if and when a response was received from the Royal Mail a proposal should be considered to designate the post box outside the post office on Victoria Square for this commemoration. The Town Clerk requested that this suggestion be formalised.

It was therefore generally agreed and

RESOLVED That should Royal Mail confirm that a suitable post box could be painted silver to commemorate Rebecca Redfern's achievement as Paralympian Silver Medallist at the Rio De Janeiro Games, then the post box outside the main Post Office in Victoria Square be selected.

170. DROITWICH SPA & RURAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Members were advised for information purposes that the CVS building and registered address located at the Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street East, Droitwich Spa was currently affected by serious structural cracks and suspected subsidence. These problems had arisen and deteriorated very quickly over the past few weeks. The building was leased on a 125 year arrangement from the County Council with all repairs being the responsibility of the CVS. Practical support was being provided towards instructing professional surveyors to investigate and address the structural faults, insurance and business interruption and contingency plans, including possible temporary relocation. Important community services provided by CVS included the Community Transport hub, educational contracts awarded by Worcestershire County Council and room hire facilities for many groups and organisations in the Town and surrounding rural area. A full structural report including surveyor's recommendations and specialist loss adjusters input was anticipated imminently. The Assistant Town Clerk explained the predicament affecting the CVS premises and the details were noted.

171. WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HUB

Members were reminded that it was possible for their constituents to utilise the Hub facilities for County Council services, thus enabling the enquiry to be tracked and a direct response obtained. Reports lodged had a 28 day maximum timescale for investigation with a response sent to the originator of the enquiry or else advised as to which authority or persons to approach for responsibility. Councillor Brookes asked whether a simple pdf guidance/advice sheet showing the steps involved could be obtained from the County Council Hub in order to assist users. The Assistant Town Clerk agreed to look into this and circulate if available. Councillor Humphries stated that it was important that people unable to use the internet were not prevented from registering their enquiries. The Town Clerk advised that Worcestershire County Council also responded to telephone enquiries. There was also the further option to request assistance through Droitwich Town Council should any difficulties arise.

The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm

Chairman of Committee
12 December 2016

Chairman of Council
30 January 2017