

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 16 January 2017 at 6.15 pm.

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Mrs S Harris, committee member, and Councillors Mrs M A Lawley and Ms J Bolton.

193. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Tomalin declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4 - Estimates for 2017/2018 and the Tourism Website as a business advertiser and that Mr N Moreton was her business's technical adviser. They were also neighbours.

194. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the header of the Minutes to record the correct date as Monday 14 November 2016.

195. ESTIMATES 2017/2018 AND REVIEW OF CHARGES

[Councillor Mrs K Tomalin declared an interest in this item as reported in Minute No 193above.]

The Committee considered the Council's Estimates 2017/2018 for services, fees and charges within its remit. It was noted that the Committee was invited to make recommendations thereon for consideration by Resources Committee at its meeting later that evening and thereafter by Council on 30 January 2017. The report had been reviewed by the Leader of the Council and Chairmen of the Council's Standing Committees

The Town Clerk advised upon the fees and charges applicable, also the income and expenditure details.

During the debate the following matters were considered:

- Sponsorship of festivals and events with due consideration to provide support during the forthcoming year towards the expected disruption whilst the High Street improvement works are completed.
- Increase of the Community Grants from £6000 to £7500 and for some of the Festivals to apply for funding as required (Youth Festival and Arts Festival).
- Allotment tenancy fees and the requirement to maintain the £5 discount for those tenants who were in receipt of the state old age pension or registered disabled.
- In response to a question from Councillor Evans relating to the tourism website www.visitdroitwichspa.com the Town Clerk advised that market comparison pricing had been completed in conjunction with Evesham Town Council which is completing a similar project. The recommended contract was competitive and also preserved the standards and progress already achieved by the Regional Digital Marketing Company over the past two years and therefore any changes would necessitate starting from the beginning. Over these two years the website project had been progressed from planning and inception stages to its current position.

RECOMMENDED 1. That as from 1 April 2017 the Council's Fees and Charges be set as follows:

<u>ALLOTMENT RENTAL</u>		
£5 Reduction for senior citizens or registered disabled who are Allotment Plot tenants		
Chawson Lane	£35	
Copcut Park	£35	
Westwood Lodge	£35	£22 for a half-plot with full discount applicable
Vines Lane	£25	Nb no water

COMMUNITY HALL HIRE OF ROOM		
20% Discount for Registered Charities		
Main Hall	£20 per hour	£150 full day (inc evening)
John Corbett Room	£15 per hour	£90 full day (inc evening)
Small Meeting Room	£10 per hour	£60 full day (inc evening)
ST RICHARD'S HOUSE HIRE OF CHAMBER		
20% Discount for Registered Charities		
Council Chamber	£25 per hour	£150 full day (inc evening)
Council Chamber - Weddings	£100 flat rate payable in advance	

2. That the 2016/17 Grants Budget for the Grants Appraisal Panel be set at £7,500.

3. That the current arrangements for the Grants Appraisal Panel be maintained, ie with the Panel operating to a maximum award of £500 with £1,000 awarded only in very exceptional circumstances. Requests for other financial assistance to be directed to the Resources Committee for consideration.
4. That sponsorship of the following Festivals and Events be included for 2017/18:

EVENT	DATE(S)	RECOMMENDATION
St Richard's Festival	29 April – 1 May 2017	£1,000
Food & Drink Festival	17 & 18 June 2017	£1,000
John Corbett Picnic	25 June 2017 (Sunday 12pm – 5pm)	£500
Youth Festival	8 July 2017	Dependent upon a grant application being made for consideration by the Grants Appraisal Panel
Arts Fest	15 July 2017 for three or four weeks	Dependent upon a grant application being made for consideration by the Grants Appraisal Panel

5. That the inclusion of a sum of £12,000 within the Estimates for annual maintenance and upkeep of the www.visitdroitwichspa.com website by the Regional Digital Marketing Company be endorsed.

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

Pursuant to Minute Number 169 of the Community and Amenities meeting held on 14 November 2016 a reply had been received from Royal Mail. Unfortunately permission had not been granted to paint a local post box silver. The response explained that “*Royal Mail painted over 100 boxes gold to commemorate the 2012 London Olympics- there are no plans to continue this for any future event. 2017 was Rios’s turn to host the games and have/will be commemorating it in their own way*”.

RESOLVED That the report be noted with regret.

197. IMMEDIATE MEDIA SOLUTIONS – ROUNDABOUT ASSET MEDIA SPONSORSHIP

Pursuant to Minute Number 102 of the Community and Amenities meeting held on 14 September 2015 a resolution was reached to proceed in principle with the signage scheme to cover 9 roundabout locations and 5 gateway sign positions in the town. To date three sponsors had been identified and there were several pending enquiries. Indicative revenue had been confirmed by the company and factored into the Town Council estimates provision for the forthcoming municipal year.

Two recent problems have arisen with the signage and the Assistant Town Clerk advised upon these issues accordingly. Currently Immediate Media Solutions were discussing the need or otherwise for advertisement permission with Wychavon District Council. Endeavours were continuing to coordinate with the company in order to resolve these issues. The Assistant Town Clerk updated that Immediate Media Solutions had confirmed that arrangements were still progressing with Wychavon District Council Planning Department as at 13th January 2017. The Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that all Councillors would be kept informed fully of developments in this matter.

RESOLVED That the report be noted with regret.

The meeting concluded at 6.22 pm

Chairman of Committee -----
6 March 2017

Chairman of Council -----
30 January 2017