

# 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 6 July 2015 at 6.42pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors G R Brookes, Mrs M A Lawley, R J Morris, R Murphy, T Noyes and A Roberts.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – there were none received.

## 67. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

## 68. REVISED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The revised Membership of the Committee, as endorsed by Council at its meeting on 22 June 2015 was noted and Councillor Ms J H Bolton welcomed to the Committee.

## 69. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 1 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 70. PRESENTATION – CHARLES HAZZARD: DONATION OF RESIN SCULPTURE

Mr Hazzard explained that he had been a resident of Droitwich Spa since 1996 and currently has a working studio in the Vale of Evesham. Following a recent presentation to the Droitwich Arts Network which included the Wychavon District Council Arts Officer he was seeking an agreement in principle from the Town Council in support of his proposal to donate one of two life-sized figurative pieces of art work for permanent public display in an agreed location in the town. The donation concept was to enable his art work to be enjoyed in the public domain and not exclusively inside an exhibition environment. All installation and ongoing maintenance costs and requirements would be the responsibility of Mr Hazzard.

Several concerns regarding recent acts of vandalism to statues and similar fixtures in the town were raised by Councillors present. Mr Hazzard acknowledged that the figurative art work was made from fire retardant fibre glass resin on a steel framework. The fibreglass resin was considered to be durable, robust and able to withstand children climbing on the top. The preferred piece of art work thought to be most befitting to the town was entitled “Crawling Man” and would be anchored in concrete fixed to the steel frame through the hands and feet. Mr Hazzard also updated that he may be able consider a bronze cast for the art work, subject to getting a business sponsor on board.

Mr Hazzard showed photographs at the meeting of the areas of the town that he considered appropriate for location of his sculpture which were Victoria Square, St Andrews Shopping Centre, Saltbarrow Market, Vines Park, Gurneys Lane and the paved area into the precinct from St Andrews Street. The preferred site was Saltbarrow Market and negotiations would be required with Wychavon District Council as the Landowner. Planning permission would also be required.

**RECOMMENDED** That the Town Council agrees in principle to the donation of the “Crawling Man” figurative artwork to the town by Mr Charles Hazzard, and that the location be determined through liaison between Mr Hazzard and Wychavon District Council as landowners, the preferred site being Saltbarrow Market.

#### 71. GRANTS APPRAISAL PANEL - GRANTS

The Chairman referred to the schedule of proposed Grant awards recommended by the Grants Appraisal Panel from the Meeting on Monday 15 June 2015. The Chairman also advised that a further application for the St Peter’s Pre-school had been considered and had been deferred until the September Grants Appraisal meeting whilst estimates for their project were produced.

**RESOLVED** That the following Grants be approved:

1. Droitwich Spa Art Club £400.00
2. Droitwich Spa & District Horticultural Society £500.00
3. Royal British Legion (Droitwich Spa branch) £300.00
4. Droitwich Forum for Older People £500.00
5. Speakeasy N.O.W £1000.00
6. Spectrum Days £900.00

#### 72. GRANTS APPRAISAL PANEL – MEMBERSHIP

**RESOLVED** That Councillor Mrs Sital Harris be appointed to the Panel and that therefore the membership of the Grants Appraisal Panel be increased by one accordingly.

73. WOODEN “TOWN GATEWAY” SIGNS

Pursuant to Minute No 27 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting held on 1 June 2015 the Committee reviewed the options in relation to the above-mentioned signs.

Councillor Humphries suggested an additional option to those outlined on the report which had been prepared and circulated in advance by the Assistant Town Clerk. Councillor Humphries explained that due to the escalating and ongoing costs of this project with two of the sign posts having now been verified as completely rotten through, consideration should be made to dispose of all five signs without replacement. Councillor Morris expressed concern that in his opinion it was a mistake not to proceed with the full restoration of all five signs due to their iconic heritage association with the town. Councillor Morris also suggested a compromise that two signs were restored and replaced for the A38 Copcut roundabout and Chateau Impney locations. The Assistant Town Clerk emphasised that a decision was needed by the Committee due to the short term storage availability at the Wychavon District Council, Berry Hill compound.

Options were discussed to encourage schools and voluntary sector input in the town to assist with the restoration project. This was not considered to be practical due to the logistics of handling, transporting and storing heavy equipment, as well as the very short window of opportunity available. Following further debate the proposal was put forward by Councillor Beale that the five sign tops should be retained and stored for possible restoration in the future and the sign posts should be scrapped. This motion was seconded by Councillor Mrs Bowden.

RESOLVED            That the five sign tops be stored in a suitable place until such time that restoration can be reconsidered and the posts be scrapped immediately

74. VICTORIA SQUARE NOTICEBOARD

The Committee noted the details for the replacement signage for this Notice board. This was the final phase of the new Town Guide publication and tourism website project authorised in 2014.

It was anticipated that the works would be undertaken during the week commencing 13 July 2015. This final stage of the project was jointly funded by contribution from Mrs Janet Yates, Wychavon District Council.

75. VINES LANE ALLOTMENTS – DIESEL/WASTE OIL POLLUTION INTO THE RIVER SALWARPE

Information upon the above-mentioned pollution incident and action taken to date were reported to the Committee.

RESOLVED            That Town Council continues to monitor the pollution matter including the clean-up responsibilities resting with Severn Trent Water Authority and the Environment Agency.

76. ALLOTMENT SITES – CCTV PROPOSAL

Following a request arising from representatives of the Droitwich Allotments Association as part of the regular quarterly Allotment site liaison meetings, the Committee considered a proposal for CCTV cameras to be located at the Westwood Lodge, Chawson Lane and Copcut Park allotment sites. The Assistant Town Clerk made reference to the previously circulated report and explained that the proposal was made on an anticipated matched funding arrangement with the Allotments Association. The regular maintenance and asset insurance cover for the equipment would be the responsibility of the Town Council.

RESOLVED That the purchase of three battery cell powered, motion triggered recording cameras be authorised on a matched funding arrangement with the Droitwich Allotments Association. The cameras are to be placed at fixed points covering the main vehicular entrances to Westwood Lodge, Chawson Lane and Copcut Park allotments sites.

77. BUS SHELTERS OMBERSLEY STREET EAST

Repairs necessitated to the Bus Shelters in Ombersley Street East were advised.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

78. BBC "THE ONE SHOW" FILMING – DROITWICH SPA HERITAGE CENTRE AND MUSEUM

Filming by the BBC for 'The One Show' had taken place on 17 June 2015 to feature the Radio Room and the local broadcasting heritage.

It was noted that Rebecca Pye (Heritage Manager) had facilitated the occasion which included an interview with Mr John Phillips covering his considerable knowledge and interest in the radio room and associated artefacts. General coverage was also recorded featuring the Museum, Council Chamber and outside gardens. It was anticipated that the broadcast will be made during July or August, subject to scheduling. Details would be advised in due course.

79. DROITWICH OLDER PEOPLES FORUM, TEA CUPS CAFÉ MEMORIAL EVENT FOR THE LATE COUNCILLOR MRS GLENISE NOYES – 17 JULY 2015, 10.00AM TO 12 NOON

Further to Minute No 71 above, the Committee was advised of the above event. It was hoped that many previous and current serving Town Councillors would be able to support the occasion.

80. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT RENEWAL AND SWITCH ON EVENT – SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2015

Pursuant to Minute Nos 220 and 221 of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2015 the Committee noted that Festive Lighting Company had been successful in tendering for the Christmas lights contract for the period 2015 to 2017 inclusive. The Assistant Town Clerk advised of the proposed arrangements for the 2015 Switch on event to date.

RESOLVED            That the information be noted and the arrangements endorsed.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

Chairman of Committee            .....  
14 September 2015

Chairman of Council                .....  
28 September 2015