

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the Extra-Ordinary meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St. Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on **Monday 3 August 2015**, at 6.59pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R G Beale (Mayor)
Councillor S Best
Councillor Mrs J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor L Evans
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor S Laird
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor A Roberts

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor G R Brookes Mrs S Harris, , R J Morris, Mrs C Powell and A M Sinton.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

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90 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

91 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 22 JUNE 2015

Arising from consideration of Minute No 48 Councillor T J Noyes confirmed that ex-Councillor Mrs E A Taft had suffered a flare-up of her fibromyalgia and not a mini-stroke as first feared.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 22 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CASUAL VACANCY – DROITWICH EAST WARD – TO CONSIDER CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION

The Town Clerk advised that Mr J Cook had withdrawn his application.

There being no other candidates for co-option, it was proposed by Councillor R G Beale, seconded by Councillor T J Noyes, and unanimously

RESOLVED That Mrs Karen Tomlin be co-opted onto the Town Council to fill the vacancy in East Ward.

Mrs Tomalin then made the requisite Acceptance of Office and took her seat in the Chamber to a round of applause.

Councillor A Humphries, who had abstained from voting, made the following statement:

“May I start by welcoming Karen onto the Council on behalf of the local Labour Party in the hope that she enjoys her time with us and I am sure she will be a productive Councillor serving her Ward and adding to debates and discussions with her normal candour and honesty. I am sure we all agree we would rather not be in this position following the recent passing of Councillor Glenise Noyes who served Droitwich with distinction and will be sorely missed. The local Labour Party decided not to contest the Droitwich East Town Council seat for two reasons:-

1. *The cost to the Town Council; and*
2. *The local Conservative Party showed us the same courtesy when Councillor Roy Seabourne passed away last year agreeing to replace him with a Labour member who was also co-opted to the Council – for which we still thank them.*

Colleagues will be aware that before this evening there were two candidates who had put their names forward for co-option to the Council one of whom today withdrew his application. That second person was a Labour Party member but, despite this, at no time did I or the local Labour Party endorse or support this application as we believed it was the right and proper thing to do to not object to the proposed Conservative candidate as was the case last year with our candidate although I was not approached regarding the current candidate as the Labour Party representative to the Council. It is a disappointment to me that colleagues from the other side of this Chamber approached the withdrawing candidate and asked him to stand thereby creating the impression his candidature would be fully supported when, as we are all more than aware, it would not have been. This has created a difficult and embarrassing situation for both sides of the Chamber and both local parties which could have been avoided. It has also caused distress to an individual who is as committed to Droitwich Spa as any of us sitting here and was a former Deputy Mayor of the town. I would urge colleagues to be more mindful of the consequences of such actions in future; we all have our personal politics on which we can disagree in the right way. However such actions have the potential to embarrass us all and the Town Council on which we serve which I’m sure is something we can all agree on, should be avoided at all costs.”

Council noted that the Town Council's representation on Coventry Homes remained as Mrs P E Davey.

The Meeting ended at 7.07pm.

Chairman of Council
28 September 2015
