

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St. Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on **Monday 28 September 2015**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R G Beale (Mayor)
Councillor S Best
Councillor Mrs J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor Mrs S Harris
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor S Laird
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor Mrs C Powell
Councillor A Roberts
Councillor A M Sinton
Councillor Mrs K L Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor L Evans

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were no Questions.

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A Minute's Silence was held in memory of ex-Councillor Mrs Eileen Hope who had died the previous day.

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

112 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 August 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

113 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R G Beale thanked all those who had attended and been involved with the Civic Service. It had been a very enjoyable occasion and he had received many good reports upon the service itself.

He reported that ex-Councillor Mrs Eileen Hope's funeral would take place on Monday 12 October 2015 at 12.15pm at Worcester Crematorium. Mrs Hope had been Town Mayor in 1982 and 1987 and Chairman of Wychavon District Council in 1990/91 and again in 1999/2000.

114 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Sergeant Kent reported and answered questions upon burglary and thefts, including:

- Thefts from stores/shoplifting
 - o Police dealt with these quite often and one perpetrator had been convicted of 14 separate offences and was currently in prison.
- Arson attempt at Vines Park
 - o This had been reported in the press in August and involved an item of clothing that had been set alight on the 'Volunteer' barge structure in the park. No permanent damage had been sustained and there had been no further incidences.
- Burglary from non-dwellings
 - o Burglaries from sheds and garages were ongoing and Sergeant Kent encouraged expensive tools and equipment to be 'property-marked'.
 - o Business premises in High Street and Queen Street had been broken into and a person was awaiting the Crown Court having been charged with four of the six offences and a further twelve offences across South Worcestershire.
- Burglary from dwellings
 - o Two had taken place, plus there had been some attempted burglaries. The major period was between 1pm – 6pm and with the earlier lighting-up times the latest Police campaign promoted 'lighting up your house' as part of the crime prevention measures.
- Theft from vehicles
 - o such thefts had reduced whilst one particular offender had been in prison for two months but since release there had been six offences on 22/23 September 2015 in the Primsland area, all of which involved unlocked vehicles. The advice was to lock cars and to remove all valuables.
 - o There had been some break-ins involving vans and tools and equipment had been stolen.

Other matters reported included:

- The busy summer which had also involved appearances by Peeler the Police Mascot at Salt Fest and the Antiques Roadshow;
- Liaison with Worcestershire Regulatory Services as part of 'Rogue Trader Week';

- The run-up to Hallowe'en (firework and egg sellers)
- Internet pages for the Local Policing Teams which incorporated specifically local advice, plus 'facebook' and 'twitter' use.

In response to questions from individual councillors, it was noted that:

- The report of immigrants at Rushwick was confirmed to be labourers walking to work.
- No reports of drug-dealing in Manning Road/Albert Street area had been reported to the Police recently, although there had been reports some eighteen months ago that had been dealt with. Any incident/information should be reported either via telephoning 101 or on the website to enable intelligence gathering.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report.

115 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Don Pickworth Head Boy attended and submitted apologies for absence on behalf of Allie Wilson Head Girl who was visiting her father in hospital.

Although school had only just returned following on from the summer holiday period, Don advised upon:

- the visit to Thailand by 20 members of the Sixth Form to undertake charity work for Hands, a charity which helped combat the trafficking of children in Northern Thailand;
- the new Science Block and improved entrance to the school;
- the new intake of pupils;
- the introduction of Sixth Form and Lower School Councils based on the School House system which was being championed by a very enthusiastic teacher which assisted with the community life of the school;
- 10th Anniversary of the school's international links with its partner school in Ngobit, Kenya, pupils from this school having been to visit and presented a Year 11 Assembly;
- Annual Charities Week, each year the Sixth Form council chose a local, national and international charity to benefit from the money raised during Charities' Week, the international charity usually being the partner school in Ngobit, Kenya however this year it was the Hands Charity for Thailand, Papyrus (Prevention of Young Suicide UK as the national charity and locally the charity set up in memory of Jack Stephens (a former pupil) to support people for whom finance was a genuine barrier to studying at degree level.

The Chairman thanked Donald for his informative report and Council sent their good wishes to Mr Wilson, father of the Head Girl, for a speedy return to good health.

116 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Katie Bowen to the meeting. Katie reported upon the recent projects in hand for the Youth Council, including:

- The stall at Salt Fest which had been well-supported by Councillors and Nigel Huddleston MP, the feedback forms relating to the needs of the youth had been completed and the results of which would be discussed at the next meeting of the Youth Council. £58 had been raised on the stall from the photographic competition.
- Stronger links had been made with the High School.
- Involvement with other clubs and organisations such as Scouts and Brownies would be progressed to enable a Youth Forum to be set up.
- It was hoped that discussions with Norbury Theatre would result in the setting up of a Youth Cinema with films screened applicable to teenagers and younger and that the basement could be utilised as a Youth Activity Centre.
- An increase in communications in general to promote the Youth Council.

Councillor Mrs S Harris confirmed that local youth groups wanted to be involved and in response to a question from Councillor Mrs C Powell Katie confirmed that the Boys Brigade would be contacted. Councillor Mrs Powell offered her assistance with contacting the Boys Brigade and advised that she would be very interested to see the report on youth needs arising from the feedback forms. Councillor Humphries referred to his contacts with the Norbury Theatre and offered assistance.

The Chairman and individual Councillors thanked Katie for her very enthusiastic, informative and well-delivered report.

117 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 JULY 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 July 2015 be approved and adopted.

118 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2015

Arising from consideration of Minute No 70, Council noted that Wychavon District Council had refused permission for the figurative artwork to be located in Saltbarrow Market owing to existing agreed rights of way (pedestrian and vehicular) plus concerns that the installation would interfere with the operation of the Charter Market in this area. A letter dated 20 August 2015 from Peter Hawkins, Chair of Droitwich Arts Network was also noted.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 6 July 2015 be approved and adopted, save for Minute No 70 which is not approved.

119 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3 August 2015 be approved and adopted.

120 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 3 August 2015 be approved and adopted.

121 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

Arising from consideration of Minute No 95 – Planning Application No W/15/02029/OU – Erection of four dwellings, Mr B Sims, Casa Colina, Newland Road, WR9 7JQ Councillor R J Morris advised that as Local District Ward Member he had called for the application to be considered by Wychavon District Council’s Planning Committee and urged attendance by a member of the Town Council’s Planning Committee to object to the application as per the resolution. Councillor Morris also advised that he was lobbying for public meetings to be held with regard to the Persimmon and Redrow Homes developments at Yew Tree Hill.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 September 2015 be approved and adopted.

122 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14 September 2015 be approved and adopted.

123 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised:

- a) Public Realm Enhancements: County Officers had advised that the process was on schedule and she had every faith that they would be on track;
- b) Hanbury Road: the onus lay with McCarthy & Stone to complete the road surfacing and ‘double yellow lines’. This was pressing as the situation was somewhat dangerous. Worcestershire County Council Highways Officers had confirmed that the technicality of three months notice for the road closure would be waived to enable these essential works to proceed with due haste.

- c) Immigration commitments - Funding had been requested from the Government for five years for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme to enable the accommodation of 'an equitable and realistic number of refugees here in Worcestershire as soon as it is practicable to do so'.
- d) Devolution bid – the 'County Solution' was being sought (eg Cornwall) which would enable the local councils to work closely together, it would not result in a unitary or super-Council.

County Councillor Mrs Lynne Duffy advised:

- e) Child Exploitation Strategy – this important and vital document had now been published and the Town Clerk confirmed that she would send this to all Town Councillors via email.
- f) Copcut/DFS Traffic Island – at the appropriate time she would be asking for the Town Council to formally support her request for improvements.

124 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

Council considered nominations for the Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award 2014.

In the absence of any immediate nominations the matter was deferred to the next meeting of Council and in the meantime any individual suggestions be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED That the matter be deferred to the next meeting of Council and in the meantime any individual suggestions be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

2. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor R G Brookes reported upon:

- a. Webcast facility was operational and this enabled the public to view meetings of the District Council and was of interest for example to residents who wished to see the debate upon a particular planning application but were unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Councillor Mrs Karen Tomalin had been welcomed to the District Council following the recent by-election for Droitwich East Ward.
- c. He was now a member of the Licensing Committee and if any individual Town Councillors had a matter of concern they were welcome to raise it with him.
- d. Now that the new administration was elected preparation on the Four Year Strategy had begun.
- e. If any Town Councillor had any comments upon the Planning Enforcement Service they were welcome to draw this to the attention of Councillor Mrs Tomalin or himself.

125 GENERAL MATTERS

1. COUNCILLOR S BEST – HEALTH MATTERS: NUMBER OF PATIENTS PER GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Councillor Best had asked for this matter to be drawn to the attention of Council as he was concerned that there were no guidelines from Government or anyone else upon the doctor/patient ratio per General Practice. The Town Clerk suggested that this matter could be addressed via the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Councillor R J Morris supported Councillor Best in his concerns given the increase in the number of properties due for development in the town. He advised that he had already requested a meeting with, inter alia, the Clinical Commissioning Group NHS (CCG) for Health [*Minute 63, Planning Committee meeting 6 July 2015 refers*] and the Town Clerk confirmed that she would report on this matter to the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Mrs S Harris confirmed that there were four surgeries in the Droitwich ‘umbrella’.

County Councillor Mrs Lynne Duffy advised that some five years ago she has tried to get a new Health Centre above the pharmacy on Westlands Estate but this had been blocked by the CCG as it was deemed that there was a good capacity for expansion in those already in existence.

The difficulty in getting information upon surgery capacity and numbers was noted owing to Data Protection Regulations. Councillors Mrs S Harris and G R Brookes advised that they had contacts that could perhaps assist in this quest.

126 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council. Supplementary Creditor Payments in the sum of £21,705.32 were also presented.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received with the amendments as now reported above and the expenditure totalling £78,364.51 (£56,659.19 + £21,705.32) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 6.55pm.

Chairman of Council _____
14 December 2015

COUNCIL MEETING 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 – MINUTE NO 126 REFERS**Cheques signed 14 September 2015**

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| 10654 | Wychavon District Council Salaries paid via WDC June & July 2015 | £23,382.46 |
| 10655 | NALC Magazine Subscription renewal | £40.00 |
| 10656 | R T Harrison Setting up chairs for 2015 Summer Bands Concerts - £360.00 Handyman duties 3.8.15 to 4.9.15 - £609.00 Lengthsman duties - August 2015 - £241.60 | £1,210.60 |
| 10657 | Dodderhill Parish Survey Project TIC Purchases | £20.00 |
| 10658 | Dudley's Coaches Limited TIC - Tickets sold in July 2015 less commission | £1,028.70 |
| 10659 | N Hunt TIC Purchases | £28.50 |
| 10660 | Performing Right Society Ltd - PRS for Music Renewal of Music Licence - TIC | £104.27 |
| 10661 | Derek Bruce Entertainments Clients A/C Summer Band Concerts - 2015 | £4,327.50 |
| 10662 | Merlin Office Supplies Limited Stationery/washroom facilities/sundries | £534.13 |
| 10663 | Speakeasy N.O.W. Grant | £1,000.00 |
| 10664 | Mint Electrical Services Emergency light testing - St Richard's House & Community Hall July and August 2015 plus additional electrical work | £324.00 |
| 10665 | PR Support Services Handyman duties - August 2015 | £280.37 |
| 10666 | A J Manton, Hillhampton Honey Products TIC Purchases | £225.00 |

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| 10667 | David Whyman Map Sales TIC Purchases | £25.93 |
| 10668 | Hedgerow Publishing Limited Christmas Cards - TIC & Mayoral | £223.79 |
| 10669 | Evac+Chair International Limited Servicare Renewal 10.11.15 to 10.11.16 | £108.00 |
| 10670 | Grant Thornton UK LLP 2015 Annual Return | £960.00 |
| 10671 | ADT Fire & Security plc Maintenance of Access Control System 29 Sept – 28 Dec 2015 | £136.36 |
| 10672 | Petty Cash Reclaim Voucher Nos. 1372 - 1382 | £113.79 |
| 10673 | Cheltenham Borough Council Grounds Maintenance April to September 2015 | £15,303.14 |

Cheques signed 28 September 2015

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| 10674 | Droitwich Spa Foodbank Grant | £1,000.00 |
| 10675 | St Peter's Pre-School Grant | £1,000.00 |
| 10676 | Droitwich Spa Ladies FC Grant | £500.00 |
| 10677 | Charisma Training Grant | £750.00 |
| 10678 | Dudley's Coaches Limited TIC - Tickets sold in August 2015 less commission | £511.65 |
| 10679 | Luke Hall, Worcester Curtains & Blinds Three pairs of Velvet curtains for the Council Chamber | £1,446.00 |
| 10680 | Cllr R G Beale Second instalment of Mayoral Allowance | £1,500.00 |
| 10681 | St Andrew's Church Donation for flowers, choir & organist – Civic Service 27 September 2015 | £75.00 |

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| 10682 | Worcester Birmingham & Droitwich Canal Society Grant | £500.00 |
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| TOTAL | £56,659.19 |
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Supplementary Cheques signed 28 September 2015

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| 10683 | Alzheimer's Society Grant | £1,000.00 |
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| 10684 | Wychavon District Council Parish election recharge cost for May 2015 | £19,006.51 |
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| 10685 | Droitwich Print Printing of Civic Service Booklets | £132.00 |
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| 10686 | Bryland Fire Protection Limited 6 Monthly Service of Fire Extinguishers St Richard's House - £121.75 Community Hall - £148.31 | £270.06 |
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| 10687 | S C Entertainments TIC - Sale of Upton Festival tickets | £1,296.75 |
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| TOTAL | £21,705.32 |
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| GRAND TOTAL | £78,364.51 |
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