

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 29 January 2018** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S Best (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor G A Duffy
Councillor L Evans
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor A H Laird
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor W T Moy
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor A Roberts
Councillor A M Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors Ms J Bolton, Mrs S Harris and Mrs K Tomalin. Also from Katie Bowen, Youth Council representative.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

No questions were submitted for consideration.

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210 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor S Best, Mayor, declared an interest in Agenda item 18, Accounts for Payment Number 11201.

Councillor R Morris declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 – Neighbourhood Planning Group inasmuch as he was the Chairman of that Group.

Councillor Mrs A Hawkins declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 – Neighbourhood Planning Group – Update Report inasmuch as she and her husband were members of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

Councillor W T Moy declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11 – Brine Heritage Group – Update Report inasmuch as he was Chairman of SOBBS (Save Our Brine Baths).

211 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

212 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 18 December 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

213 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 15 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

214 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor S Best reported upon recent events that he had attended, including:

- the Archery Competition at the Royal Grammar School, the attendance having been depleted owing to the inclement weather;
- the Pantomime at Norbury Theatre, which had been excellent; and
- the official opening of the Reconnect Hearing Shop at No 2 High Street, a new business in Droitwich Spa owned by Jason Hogan.

He also advised that he was trying to contact the family of the late Frank Holliday to organise the handover of the Memorial Trophy.

215 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Sergeant Kent reported upon burglaries and thefts that had occurred in the period since her last report.

Thankfully Christmas had been a fairly peaceful time in Droitwich. The several burglaries that had taken place included two that had involved car key burglaries. Technological innovations with car keys meant that addition security such as keeping such keys in tins etc was required. Thefts from motor vehicles continued, these were from either unsecured vehicles or no means of entry shown. Items stolen varied from nothing to anything.

Two brothers with connections to the town had been thought responsible for many incidents and thanks to social media had been arrested. Three warrants had been executed in ten days under 'Op Blade' which aimed to address the influx of drug dealers to the town who then took over the homes of vulnerable people in exchange

for free drugs. Drugs had been recovered and a Closure Order on a property at Shepherds Place had been implemented, with others being reviewed in conjunction with the Housing Authority. There had been a great deal of vital support from the residents of Westlands Estate.

A recent random spot-check had been very successful, with a large quantity of heroin found. The person had been charged with 'intention to supply'.

Sergeant Kent advised that despite the incidents, the town remained a safe place and reminded Councillors that if they received any complaints of, for example, anti-social behaviour then they should get in touch with her.

Councillors R J Morris and T J Noyes thanked Sergeant Kent and her team for the excellent work they did in keeping the town safe and congratulated PC Richard Rees on his award of Policeman of the Year. The Mayor thanked Sergeant Kent for her informative report.

216 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Ella Comerford, Head Girl and Jake Hemming, Head Boy were welcomed to the meeting. Ella advised of:

- statistics relating Year 13 applications for university with 75 UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) applications and lots of unconditional offers;
- the forthcoming trip to New York in February;
- fundraising by Mr Buckle which had raised £2,500 to purchase robots for Design & Technology lessons;
- currently, Year 11 were taking their mock GCSE examinations.
- Implementation of Epraise (*an online school rewards system for secondary schools designed to motivate students to work harder, attend more and behave better*) had been extremely successful.

Councillor Noyes and the Mayor thanked Ella and Jake for reporting upon the activities at the school so well.

217 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

Apologies for absence had been received from Katie Bowen, who was unwell. She had provided a report for the meeting which Jake Hemming, Head Boy at the High School, presented.

The relocation of the Youth Council to the High School had enabled greater ease of access for membership and facilities. Projects in hand were the Youth Fest event on 19 July 2018 in collaboration with the Arts Network and an Outdoor Cinema.

Membership of the Youth Council was to be widened, currently DAFFY (Droitwich Action For Future Youth) and Westacre Middle School were involved but it was hoped to include others eg Witton Middle School.

Banking arrangements were being reviewed.

The Mayor suggested that Dodderhill School be contacted also and offered to assist in case of any problems. In response to a question from Councillor A M Sinton Jake advised that the Outdoor Cinema would be located on the school fields and the proposed operator provided this facility at Droitwich Rugby Club also.

The Mayor wished Katie a speedy recovery and good luck with her mock exams. Jake was thanked for delivering Katie's informative report.

218 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP [NPG] – UPDATE REPORT

[Councillors R J Morris and Mrs A Hawkins declared an interest in this item as detailed in Minute No 210 above.]

Councillor R J Morris presented the Neighbourhood Planning Group's fourth report. He drew attention to the Group's logo which had been created by Rosie Philpott and referred to the decision of the Town Council at its Special Meeting on 15 January 2018 *[Minute No 209 refers]*. He reported that Mr Peter Hamilton of Cass Associates was highly regarded by the Malvern Town Councillors and its Neighbourhood Planning Group.

The Town Clerk advised that she was drawing up the contract for Mr Hamilton and had drafted a protocol for liaison between all parties, this would be presented in due course. A timetable for meeting with Mr Hamilton on 31 January 2018 had been agreed and would be circulated to Councillors the following day.

219 BRINE HERITAGE GROUP – UPDATE REPORT

Councillor W T Moy, Chairman of SOBBS (Save Our Brine Baths) stated that Councillor Richard Morris was Chairman of the Brine Heritage Group.

Councillor Moy had advised that the current position was that planning permission for the Brine Baths building in Lido Park had been applied for utilising a Planning Consultancy based in Evesham. To date approximately £2,500 (*amended sum*) had been expended by the Group covering various reports stipulated by Wychavon Planning Department as being pertinent to the application. Also a further two reports have been requested by the planners, which were not considered mandatory by the Consultancy – ecology and open & leisure areas. As SOBBS had realised that a professional report was required the former had now been authorised at a cost of approximately £690 (*amended sum*) and the latter report now considered unnecessary. The quiz evening held on 19 January 2018 was very successful having raised £535. SOBBS [Save Our Brine Baths] had now registered as a Community Interest Company [CIC] to improve the prospects of grant aid. There were five directors and banking arrangements have been switched from Lloyds Bank in Droitwich Spa to Nat West in Worcester, being well-established to support CICs with banking arrangements. It was considered that the steps taken put SOBBS in a strong position for the future and supports delivering their objectives. He was pleased to advise that the planning application had been validated.

Councillor G R Brookes stated the following:

“I would like to thank Cllr Moy for his report. I would also like to thank him for all the work he has done, and is doing, to literally put the “Spa” back into Droitwich. I attended the recent fund raising quiz night at St Andrew's Hotel with my wife. It was impressive just how well-attended the event was, and as we have seen at other events, like the picnic in the park, there is a huge groundswell of support amongst local people to see the return of our brine baths. New Brine Baths in the Lido Park and linked with the Lido, would also make economic sense in promoting tourism and creating local jobs. It would create something unique in the whole of Europe. I hope you will all agree with my belief that we, as a Town Council, need to show our support tonight to Councillor Moy and SOBBS. The path to achieve new Brine Baths is not easy. Those of you with long memories will remember how another group of local people formed “SALT” or “Save a Lido Today”, and successfully opposed moves by Wychavon District Council to close our Lido. (I think Councillor Moy had a hand in this too). SALT forced a parish poll so that the wishes of local people could be clearly heard and reject the bureaucratic decisions being forced upon us from outside the town. I am also pleased to see that SOBBS is now a legally constituted Community Interest Company in whom we may have confidence to invest public money. I am pleased that Councillor Liz Eyre, the Chairman of Wychavon District Council is supporting this cause. I will also be supporting them from my divisional fund to which I have access as a County Councillor. It was said to be impossible, but after 100 years we now have Droitwich Salt back in production. I firmly believe that if we try hard enough we can also have a new Brine Baths.”

It was therefore proposed by Councillor G R Brookes and seconded by Councillor A Humphries and unanimously

RESOLVED

1. That the Town Council records it's thanks to the SOBBS (Save Our Brine Baths) group of local residents for their efforts to bring about the return of a Brine Baths facility in Lido Park.
2. That this Council fully supports this initiative as in the best interests of our Town.
3. That the Town Clerk be asked to write to Wychavon District Council as owners of the Lido Park, the Brine Wells, and our brine itself, advising of this full support of the Town Council. Furthermore Wychavon District Council is to be urged to do everything reasonably in its power to support, work positively with, and facilitate the work of SOBBS to achieve its objective of a new Brine Baths, effectively putting the “Spa” back into Droitwich.

[Copies of this correspondence to be sent to District Councillors and County Councillors).

Councillor R J Morris thanked Councillor Moy and SOBBS and then presented his report as circulated at the meeting. Reference was also made to the portrait of Edward Winslow.

- 220 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2017
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 October 2017 be approved and adopted.
- 221 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2017
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 16 October 2017 be approved and adopted.
- 222 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 November 2017 be approved and adopted.
- 223 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2017
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 13 November 2017 be approved and adopted.
- 224 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2017 [MEETING POSTPONED FROM 11 DECEMBER 2017]
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 December 2017 be approved and adopted.
- 225 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 DECEMBER 2017 [MEETING POSTPONED FROM 11 DECEMBER 2017]
- RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 18 December 2017 be approved and adopted.

226 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15 January 2018 be approved and adopted.

227 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Amenities Committee held on 15 January 2018 be approved and adopted save for Minute No 198 considered at Minute No 229 below.

228 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2018

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 15 January 2018 be approved and adopted, save for Minute No 204 considered at Minute No 229 below.

229 COUNCIL'S ESTIMATES 2018/2019 - TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND FROM THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE SETTING OF ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019 AND TO SET THE PRECEPTUAL REQUEST

Council considered the recommendations of the Resources Committee (Minute No 204 refers) upon the setting of the Council's Estimates for the forthcoming financial year, and upon the setting of the preceptual request. These supported the recommendations set out in Minute No 198 of the Community & Amenities Committee.

Pursuant to Minute No 209(6) of the Special Meeting of Council held on 15 January 2018 the Town Clerk advised that an appropriate budget for the Neighbourhood Plan of £30,000 had been incorporated utilising the Town Council's Reserves and Balances and with grant aid sought. It was hoped that successful financial assistance would offset the corresponding reduction in balances.

RESOLVED

1. That there be no changes to the fees and charges as now set out below:

ALLOTMENT RENTAL		
£5 Reduction for senior citizens or registered disabled who are Allotment Plot tenants		
Chawson Lane	£35	
Copcut Park	£35	
Westwood Lodge	£35	£25 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 recommendations as set out in Minute No 198 of the Community and Amenities Committee and Minute 204 of the Resources Committee meetings held on 15 January 2018 be approved.
3. That therefore the 2018/19 Grants Budget for the Grants Appraisal Panel be set at £15,000 and the current arrangements for the Grants Appraisal Panel be amended so that all requests for sponsorship of Events and Festivals to be addressed by application by the Panel as per other requests for financial assistance, with the threshold for the allocation of grants to be lifted.
4. That the estimates now attached at Appendix A to the Minutes for financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 be approved and the perceptual request be set at £379,743 being £343,624 in precept and with a precept support grant element of £36,119 as recommended by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 15 January 2018 (Minute No 204 refers).

5. That, pursuant to Minute No 209, Council meeting 15 January 2018, it be noted that £30,000 has been identified from the Town Council's Reserves and Balances to enable delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan and with grant aid being sought.

230 HONORARY ALDERMAN AND HONORARY FREEMAN

In accordance with Section 249 the Local Government Act 1972 (As Amended) Council considered making arrangements to confer Honorary Alderman status on ex-Councillor Mrs P E Davey for her distinguished contribution to the civic and community life of the Town. In addition to also confer the status of Honorary Freeman on Mr A Davey for his exceptional service to the Town.

In support of the proposals, and pertinent to ex-Councillor Mrs P E Davey, Councillor T J Noyes advised:

“Pam Davey has lived in Droitwich Spa for over 30 years and once here joined the Local Conservative association. 20 years ago, 1997, Pam was elected to WDC and became chairman – 2005/6. Pam was first elected to the Town Council in 1999 and was Leader of the Council until 2003. Likewise, Pam was the Chairman of the County Council and under the mantle of Chairman, has raised many thousands of pounds for charities both at County and District level. Pam has always been heavily involved in local volunteering and this has seen her as:-

Secretary of Droitwich Spa Town Plan Group

Chairman of Droitwich Waterways (Pamela May) Trust.

Chairman of Droitwich Heritage Project Group

Trustee of Coventry Homes

Member of Charles Corbett Trust for the Partially Sighted

Droitwich Horticulture Society

Droitwich Civic Society and Droitwich Local Area Partnership.

Pam resigned from politics in 2017 in favour of her garden and her boat but continues her local interests.”

Councillor A H Laird spoke in support of Mrs Davey.

For Mr A Davey, Councillor Noyes stated:

“I have known Alan for many years. We were both married to Politicians and endured many a late evening waiting for our spouses to finish their debates – and wine! We were the nominated drivers and general door openers and rememberers of names. Whilst supporting his wife in her political career, exceptional service in its own right, Alan has also maintained his own interests and so many have been to the benefit of the Spa. Alan became interested in local history and has researched the history of Droitwich Spa for 29 years. His output of all things interesting is quite prolific. In the world of Movers and Shakers Alan is one of the great movers. The concept, artistry and manufacture of those magnificent banners in the Heritage Centre are his. (If you have not seen the write up that goes with them then you have been deprived of more of his talent). He has been making salt for public interest at Saltfest and other festivals for years. He is a leading member of Droitwich Arts Network, a leading member of Probus 87 and remains the main contact for them. As

you can imagine Alan is a keen and very active member of the Droitwich Waterways Trust and spends as much time as possible on his own narrow boat. Alan has always been interested in photography and the arts. When Pam needed news articles then Alan would exercise his skills on the computer to generate finished artwork for newspaper or printers. Scouting has remained a major interest of Alan's and he played Table Tennis to a high standard for many years. Through his membership of so many organisations, Alan continues to give exceptional Service to the Town and I have great pleasure in nominating him for the position of Honorary Freeman of Droitwich Spa."

In support of both, Councillor A Humphries advised:

"There is not much I can add to that already said by Councillor Noyes other than I'm very aware of the many things that Pam and Alan have done for the town and continue to do. They have served the town tirelessly in a variety of ways and I believe that there would be no finer way of recognising this service than by bestowing the titles of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman on them. I completely endorse and support this proposal and look forward to attending the ceremony at which it takes place."

It was then formally proposed by Councillor T J Noyes, seconded by Councillor A Humphries and unanimously

RESOLVED

1. That appropriate arrangements be made by the Town Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Droitwich Spa, acting by the Town Council, to admit ex-Councillor Mrs P E Davey to be an Honorary Alderman of the Town of Droitwich Spa, in recognition of the eminent service she has rendered to the community as an elected member of the town and for her meritorious services to the town in a non-civic capacity.
2. Additionally, that appropriate arrangements be made by the Town Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Droitwich Spa, acting by the Town Council, to admit Mr A Davey to be an Honorary Freeman of the Town of Droitwich Spa, in recognition of the exceptional service he has given to the Town.

231 CHANGE OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP'S LEADERSHIP

Councillors Best, Humphries, Morris and Sinton all spoke in tribute to Councillor Noyes' leadership which had been undertaken with kindness and humour. Councillor Noyes responded appropriately and received a round of applause in time-honoured fashion.

RESOLVED

That the change in the Conservative Group's Leadership whereby Councillor A M Sinton replaced Councillor T J Noyes with immediate effect, be noted.

232 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor G R Brookes advised that in his first term as a County Councillor he had been instructed in the following facilities:

- a) Road gritting operations;
- b) Gully emptying (drains etc) which incorporated the use of GPS systems;
- c) Incinerator plant at Hartlebury; and
- d) Recycling plant.

County Councillor R J Morris advised:

- e) Bus Timetable changes (No 17 bus) owing to new contractor following the withdrawal of the previous contractor;
- f) Pavement improvements at Westlands being achieved via local Ward Member (Divisional) budgets.

233 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor T J Noyes advised upon

- Wonderful Worcestershire Awards: launched in October 2017, with nominations taken in ten categories, Mrs Lynne Duffy had been nominated in two of the award categories – Significant Achievement of the Year and Volunteer of the Year – for Gloverspiece Minifarm, the community care farm and animal sanctuary providing placements and alternate provision for people autism, learning difficulties and anxiety. He urged Councillors to vote for Mrs Duffy.
- Resurfacing investment: this was the resurfacing of car parks at Ricketts Lane and Covercroft, which would be carried out over the next two years to minimise inconvenience for the car park users. The cost of the works would be met from capital receipts. The details were:
 - o Covercroft (South) Droitwich – rebuilding wall and steps £20,000 (2018); and
 - o Ricketts Lane Car Park Droitwich – works to access ramp £10,000 (2019).

It was budget time, and the level of Council Tax was being discussed at present, with every indication that Wychavon District Council's Council Tax would remain one of the lowest in the country.

District Councillor G R Brookes advised upon the 'Promises' which included a proposed new 'promise' to "*Produce a visitor action plan setting out what we will do to increase visitor numbers and overnight stays, market the district more effectively and exploit further opportunities to champion things that make Wychavon special (e.g. salt, local food, lido) and provision for coaches.*"

District Councillor R J Morris advised upon the County Council's forthcoming 'Homelessness Summit' being a forerunner to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. There was also to be a Social Mobility Summit. He referred to the Partners Together initiative for spring which related to volunteering and confirmed that he would be giving an update on the Droitwich West project at a future meeting. He had been pleased when attending the Westlands Community Christmas Fair that some 25 residents had expressed an interest in the setting up of a Residents' Association.

234 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

[Councillor S Best, Mayor, declared an interest in this item as recorded in Minute No 112 above.]

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £8,192.98 as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.15pm.

Chairman of Council _____
23 April 2018

COUNCIL MEETING 29 JANUARY 2018 – MINUTE NO 234 REFERS**Creditor Payments List**

11191	Bryland Fire Protection Limited 6 Monthly Fire Alarm Service St Richard's House - £91.20 Community Hall - £174.00	£265.20
11192	Bourne Decorators Limited Hire of heras fencing to compound at Cockshute Hill Hire period 01/07 to 30/11/2017	£1,330.56
11193	D H Gittins Limited CCTV installation - St Richard's TIC - £1,545.60 CCTV installation/electric/lighting - Copcut Compound - £2,013.60	£3,559.20
11194	Weldon Heating & Plumbing Work carried out to first floor gents toilet area	£170.00
11195	Mint Electrical Services Emergency light testing November & December 2017 - £180.00 Replace spur for boiler in Community Hall - £60.00 Supply & install surge protection cartridge to server - £138.00	£378.00
11196	Drain Doctor Plumbing Investigatory work on drains and CCTV inspection	£720.00
11197	House of Marbles TIC Purchases	£438.72
11198	Link Mailing Systems Limited Cartridges for Franking Machine (Replace cheque lost in post)	£292.30
11199	Friends of Droitwich Spa Lido TIC Purchases - 2018 Calendar sales	£64.00
11200	R T Harrison Handyman & Caretaker duties, work carried out at Community Hall and tree work at Copcut Park including equipment	£945.00
11201	Cllr S Best Mileage - Civic Engagement	£30.00
	TOTAL	<u>£8,192.98</u>