

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING OF DROITWICH SPA TOWN COUNCIL
held in the Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa
on Monday 15 May 2017 at 6 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R Murphy - Mayor
Councillor S Best
Councillor Ms J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor G Duffy
Councillor L Evans
Councillor Mrs A Hawkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor S Laird
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor W T Moy
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor A Roberts
Councillor A M Sinton
Councillor Mrs K Tomalin

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mrs S Harris

1 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor R J Morris and seconded by Councillor T J Noyes that Councillor S Best be appointed to the office of Town Mayor.

In support of his proposal, Councillor Morris advised upon Councillor Best's service over the past four years, the last as Deputy Mayor and referred to his connections with the local hostelry, his musical background and the fact that he was born and bred in Droitwich. Their mothers were friends. It was obvious that Councillor Best was passionate about the town and his musical talents had been on display during Sunday church services and in his leadership of local choirs. He would be supported very ably by his wife Helen. Councillor Noyes seconded the proposal, referring to the many roles that Councillor Best had undertaken involving music and event organisation together with a willingness to offer his services so readily. His mother had been a stalwart of the community and it would have given her great pleasure to see all that her son had achieved.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor S Best be duly elected Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillors R E Murphy and S Best retired from the meeting and exchanged robes.

Upon return, Councillor S Best made the statutory acceptance of office before the Town Clerk.

Councillor S Best, Mayor - In the Chair.

The Mayor introduced his wife Helen as his Mayoress and presented her with the badge of office.

2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor T J Noyes and seconded by Councillor Ms J Bolton that Councillor Mrs C Bowden be appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor.

In support of his nomination Councillor Noyes reported that he had met Councillor Mrs Bowden in 2008 during a visit to Droitwich Stroke Club in his role as Mayoral Consort to his late wife Glenise. Trained as a nurse, Councillor Mrs Bowden's organisational skills had been put to good use at the club. She had been Chairman of the Town Planning Committee and having resigned her position there had been identified as an ideal candidate for the council. She was ably supported by her husband Eric and he had no hesitation in recommending her as Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor Mrs Bowden be duly elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Mrs Bowden signed the acceptance of office before the Town Clerk and then the Mayor presented her with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office. Councillor Bowden then introduced her husband Eric as her Consort and presented him with the badge of office.

3 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor G R Brookes proposed the vote of thanks and congratulated Councillor R E Murphy, outgoing Mayor, on his year in office. Despite the heavy commitments of the mayoral diary Councillor Murphy had managed to keep up his Town Walks commitment, was heavily involved in the History & Archaeological Society, the Civic Society, the Photographic Society, was a trustee of the Droitwich Council for Voluntary Service and also crewed on the Pamela May. During the year he had hosted a Sunday Lunch at Droitwich Golf Club, a Jazz Evening at the Norbury Theatre with the Phoenix Band performing, a Jazz night at the Working Men's Club with Sauce City Jazz Band and also a Quiz Night at the Working Men's Club. Councillor Murphy was very willing to stand up and speak off-the-cuff, and was a strong supporter of the extensive volunteering taking place in the Town. He supported the weekly Charter Market and was a strong believer in shopping locally. He also kept himself fit by taking regular exercise so it was amazing that all this was achieved given the busy year that he had undertaken.

This was seconded by Councillor Mrs A Hawkins, who referred to all the support he had given throughout his year in office and his willingness to involve himself in all events. She thanked him for all his service over the past twelve months.

RESOLVED That a Vote of Thanks to Councillor R E Murphy for his year as Mayor 2016/2017 be given.

Whereupon the Mayor presented Councillor R E Murphy with the Past Mayor's Jewel.

4 REPLY BY THE OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor R Murphy responded by advising that it had been a great honour to wear the chain of office and to represent the Town throughout the year. Having visited many voluntary groups including sporting activities, church groups, cultural societies and associations he had been impressed that so many people contributed their time and expertise.

He thanked Councillor G R Brookes for his kind words and reported upon the efforts made during his year in office by Councillor Brookes to get Droitwich Brine flowing again in the town and had succeeded to the extent whereby the Droitwich Salted Caramel Fudge was being launched that evening (*see Minute No 10 below*).

Volunteering was extremely strong in Droitwich. He referred to the many sporting and youth organisations that abounded. Sporting clubs, notably football, cricket, swimming and tennis were well supported not only by young people but also by their families. Young Firefighters Association, Hereford and Worcester Cadet Forces, Girl Guides, Scouts and Boys Brigade all played an active part in the life of the town and presented a range of activities. /during his year in office awards had been made to Droitwich Boys' and Girls' Football Clubs and to the members of Dolphins Swimming Club. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by their trainers and parents was excellent. Societies providing help and support for disabled people and less able members of the community such as Spectrum Days, the Stroke Club, the Safe Place Scheme, the Forum for Older People, Alzheimer's Society and groups linked to our churches to name but a few were unsung heroes. It was acknowledged that their effectiveness would be greatly increased if more helpers were recruited. Exchange schemes organised by the French and German Twinning Associations together with a varied programme of events were extremely well-organised and enjoyable. The Town's heritage was celebrated with annual festivals including St Richard's Day, Salt Fest and Food Festival.

He thanked everyone for their assistance throughout his year in office, and made a presentation to Pam Craney, Town Clerk, and the two Assistant Town Clerks, Mark Keld and Jane Greenfield for their help and support.

He wished the new Mayor a very enjoyable term of office.

5 ADDRESS BY THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone and made the following Address:

"Invited Chairmen and Mayors, County, District and Town Councillors, invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with an enormous sense of Honour (and an even larger sense of Trepidation), that I accept the privilege which has been bestowed on me tonight. Some months ago I voiced my fears of this moment (to someone in this

room), about how to go about being a Mayor. The answer I got was 'just be you'. As Helen will tell you 'this gets more frightening by the minute', however, both she and I admit that the task seems less formidable by the knowledge that to keep us in check are three of the BEST, (no pun intended) administrators it has ever been our pleasure to be associated with. I refer, of course, to Pam Craney, Mark Keld and Jane Greenfield, who keep Droitwich ticking. I have always been a Church of England devotee, (though in my years as an itinerant musician I have played in all the churches in Droitwich and a fair number abroad), but in particular St Andrews Church, where in 1959 I first walked down the nave as a boy chorister with my mother and father, grandmother and grandfather just behind me also in the choir. With this in mind I announce that my minister for the coming year will be the Reverend Nigel Byard, the Rector of Droitwich Spa. (Incidentally anyone coming to the Civic Service in St Andrews please take time to look at the painted window inside the church that is called "All things bright and beautiful" as it is my mother's, and her legacy to the church).

My Charities took a lot of thought, and I can now sympathise with people who find making the choice of music for Desert Island Discs so difficult. In the end I came up with two, one in Droitwich and one seven miles away. The first one is The Droitwich Challengers Gateway Club which is based at Amphlet House, where they meet every Wednesday evening. It is led by Eunice Williams and a team of volunteers and helps adults who have learning difficulties. Eunice by the way, means Happy Victory, but enough of Lexical Semantics. The second charity is St Richards Hospice. Founded by Dr Jenny Bulman, in her home, before moving to Castle Street Worcester. It has helped thousands of people through home care services which started in 1984, and a Day Hospice and educational programme which started in 1988. At the moment the Hospice helps around 2,500 people a year which is no mean feat and they don't charge anyone. I take office in a year when Droitwich is starting to put itself on the map. Thanks to the tenacity of Councillor Bob Brookes, we have the resurgence of Droitwich Brine. Though small at the moment, it has the potential to grow through Salted Butter from Churchfields Farm, and as most of you hopefully will have experienced upon your entry the 'Salted Fudge' samples given to us by Patrick Stewart, the organizer of the Food and Drink Festival who will give us a presentation a bit later. I know I haven't mentioned the Brine Baths, but anything brine in Droitwich is not a rapid process. Two of our sports teams have done very well during the winter. Droitwich 1st Rugby team played at Twickenham on the 6th May, and although they came second in that game, it was the only game of the season they did, also for the first time in over 20 years a Droitwich Spa Football Team has earned promotion as Champions, and as sport is a good legacical heritage, well done all of you, long may it continue and good luck in your new leagues. For the first time starting on July 15th, we will have a Music Festival which lasts for three weeks and encompasses all types of music and art, as well as the week before, July 8th in the Lido Park, thanks to the efforts of the Youth Council and Councillor Mrs Sital Harris, we will be holding a Youth Festival that will encompass all types of youth. There are several Mayors Charity events coming up, and the planning for the first three of these is well under way and includes a 'Best' Ladies Evening, a Concert in St Andrews Church which will include the St Richards Hospice Choir, and a Pig Roast at the Talbot. (Though if any of you have seen the garden at the Talbot recently you may think this slightly ambitious). Hey ho such is life. Also there is a little something going on here in the main hall while everyone is having their buffet tonight. So if after you have all got your food and had a 'Chin-Wag' you could make your way back in here please. It will last about 20 minutes. For a boy who grew up thinking that a 'Fathead' was a playing position in American Football, and whose father said "you

“speak three types of English—Victorian, Modern and Rubbish” this year is going to be a Challenge, and I will try my best not to muck it up. Finally, and with apologies for the innumerable clichés already used, I walk around Droitwich nearly every day, it is my home town, and I feel at ease here. I want to be accessible, to be approachable and talk to people. So if anyone wants to find me do what Helen does and phone The Talbot. Thank you all for this honour.”

6 POLITICAL PARTY LEADERSHIP

RESOLVED That it be noted that the Leadership of each political party on the Town Council is as follows:-
Councillor T J Noyes, Conservative:
Councillor A Humphries, Labour.

7 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposition by Councillor T J Noyes, seconded by Councillor Ms J Bolton, it was

RESOLVED (1) That the three Standing Committees be constituted as follows, each having nine members, Mayor as ex-officio on each:-
Planning Committee
Community and Amenities Committee
Resources Committee.

(2) That the membership of the Council’s Standing Committees for the ensuing municipal year be in accordance with the list attached as Appendix ‘A’ to these Minutes, including the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship thereof.

(3) That the Grants Appraisal Panel be re-appointed in accordance with the list attached as Appendix A to these Minutes, including the Chairmanship thereof.

8 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

The list of representatives on other bodies was considered.

It was proposed by Councillor R J Morris, seconded by Councillor R G Beale, that the amended list of nominations be approved.

RESOLVED That the list of Representatives on Outside Bodies attached at Appendix B be approved.

9 PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017/2018

It was proposed by Councillor S Best, seconded by Councillor Mrs C Bowden and

RESOLVED That the Programme of Council and Committee Meetings for 2017/2018 attached at Appendix C be approved.

10 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR – DROITWICH SALTED FUDGE

[Mr Patrick Davis, organiser of the Food & Drink Festival and Mr Justin Bowen of Wychbold Fudge had displayed the fudge and other associated Droitwich Salted Products in the Hall prior to the meeting. Samples were available to the public attending and also handed out to the individual councillors during the presentation.]

Mr Davis gave a brief resume of his background being lately involved in the food industry until his retirement. As well as organising the Food & Drink Festival he was now using his expertise to bring the unique product that was Droitwich Spa Brine to the fore. Rigorous testing to ensure that the brine was fit for human consumption had been undertaken and it had passed with flying colours. The first foodstuff to be made was the Salted Caramel Fudge now produced by Mr Justin Bowen of Wychbold Fudge, but the possibilities were endless – butter, bacon etc. One example was the Himalayan Salt Aged Beef, which was now a major industry.

The Mayor thanked Mr Davis and Mr Bowen for their attendance, and advised that further samples were available.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and advised that he was looking forward to celebrating the start of his Mayoral year with those joining him in the John Corbett Room afterwards for light refreshments, following which there would be a short performance by The Hussingtree Chorale conducted by him.

Chairman of Council _____

19 June 2017

Droitwich Spa Town Council - Annual Meeting 15 May 2017

Minute 7 – Membership of Committees 2017/18

Planning Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Councillors:

T J Noyes - Chairman

Mrs C Bowden – Vice-Chairman

S Best (Ex-Officio)

Ms J Bolton

G R Brookes

Mrs A Hawkins

R E Murphy

R J Morris

A Humphries

Community & Amenities Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Mrs S Harris - Chairman

A Sinton – Vice-Chairman

S Best (Ex-officio)

Ms J Bolton

Mrs C Bowden

G Duffy

A H Laird

Mrs K Tomalin

A Humphries

Resources Committee

(9 Members, including The Mayor, Ex-officio)

Councillors:

Mrs K Tomalin - Chairman

A Humphries – Vice-Chairman

S Best (Ex-officio)

G Beale

G R Brookes

G Duffy

L Evans

A H Laird

T J Noyes

Grants Appraisal Panel (Community & Amenities Committee)

A M Sinton – Chairman (V-Ch C&A)

Mrs S Harris

A H Laird

A Roberts

A Humphries

Droitwich Spa Town Council - Annual Meeting 15 May 2017 – Minute 8

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives 2016/2017</u>
1. Droitwich Spa Twinning Association (Voiron and Bad Ems)	Mayor (ex-officio) as President.
2. Droitwich Council for Voluntary Service (Executive Committee)	Cllr Mrs C Bowden and A H Laird
3. Age UK (Droitwich)	Cllr A L Roberts
4. Droitwich Spa Arts Network and Arts for All	Cllr Mrs A Hawkins
5. Coventry Homes	Cllr Mrs A Hawkins
6. Fair Trade Organisation (Droitwich Branch)	Cllr Mrs S Harris
7. Droitwich Spa Area Young People's Action Group	Cllr R J Morris and Cllr Mrs S Harris).
8. Droitwich & Rural Neighbourhood Watch Association	Councillor R G Beale

DROITWICH SPA TOWN COUNCIL - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017 – 2018

Town Council & Standing Committees meet on Mondays at 6pm in the Council Chamber
(except the Annual Meeting which is held in the Community Hall*)

The Town Meeting takes place at 7pm in the Community Hall**

Sub-Committees and Panels etc meet at times to suit.

Please note:

1. The Annual Accounts must be approved by Council by 30 June in each year.
2. Precept requests, and therefore the Financial Estimates for the following year, are now to be finalised by the end of January each year.

MAY 2017		JUNE 2017	
01	Bank Holiday	04	CIVIC SERVICE
04	County Council Elections	05	Planning Committee
15	Annual Council*	05	Community & Amenities Committee (<i>Sub-Ctee appointments etc</i>)
29	Bank Holiday	05	Resources Committee
		12	Grants Appraisal Panel
		19	Council (<i>Annual Accounts</i>)
JULY 2017		AUGUST 2017	
03	Planning Committee	28	Bank Holiday
03	Community & Amenities Committee		
31	Planning Committee		
31	Resources Committee		
SEPTEMBER 2017		OCTOBER 2017	
04	Grants Appraisal Panel	16	Planning Committee
11	Planning Committee	16	Resources Committee
11	Community & Amenities Committee	30	Grants Appraisal Panel [<i>if required</i>]
25	Council		
NOVEMBER 2017		DECEMBER 2017	
13	Planning Committee	11	Planning Committee
13	Community & Amenities Committee	11	Resources Committee
JANUARY 2018		FEBRUARY 2018	
01	Bank Holiday	12	Planning Committee
15	Planning Committee	12	Resources Committee
15	Community & Amenities Committee (<i>Budget Estimates and Precept</i>)		
15	Resources Committee (<i>Budget Estimates and Precept</i>)		
29	Council (<i>Budget Estimates and Precept</i>)		
MARCH 2018		APRIL 2018	
05	Planning Committee	02	Bank Holiday
05	Community & Amenities Committee	09	Planning Committee
05	Resources Committee	09	Resources Committee
19	Town Meeting **	23	Council
MAY 2018		JUNE 2018	
07	Bank Holiday	04	Grants Appraisal Panel
14	Annual Council*	11	Planning Committee
28	Bank Holiday	11	Community & Amenities Committee (<i>Sub-Ctee appointments etc</i>)
		11	Resources Committee
		18	Council (<i>Annual Accounts</i>)