

DROITWICH SPA TOWN COUNCIL

DROITWICH SPA TOWN MEETING - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Annual Droitwich Spa Town Meeting held in the Main Hall, Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa on Monday, 20 March 2017 at 7 pm.

A G E N D A

1. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21 March 2016.
2. To receive the reports of the Town Mayor 2016/17 and the Chairmen of the Council's Standing Committees.
3. To receive items to be referred to the Town Council by members of the public.
4. Communications as permitted by the Mayor.

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MINUTES

The Town Mayor and 13 Town Councillors were in attendance, also County Councillor Mrs P E Davey and District/County Councillor Mrs L Duffy.

Invited representatives present were Mr Vic Allison, Deputy Managing Director, Wychavon District Council, also Sergeant Sarah Kent and Detective Sergeant Louise Wall of West Mercia Constabulary.

The meeting was attended by 20 Town electors.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Tristan Harris – Editor, 'Droitwich Standard'.

A public notice convening the meeting had been displayed on noticeboards in the Town and at the Community Hall for the required period. Copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 21 March 2016 were available for members of the public, together with copies of reports from the Mayor and the Chairmen of the Town Council's Standing Committees.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Roy Murphy took the Chair and welcomed invited guests and members of the public present.

Councillor Murphy then introduced the Chairmen of the Town Council's Standing Committees:-

Councillor Mrs Christine Bowden, Chairman of Planning Committee;
Councillor Alan Humphries, Chairman of Resources Committee;
Councillor A H Laird, Vice-Chairman of Community & Amenities Committee
[Councillor Alex Sinton, Chairman of Community and Amenities Committee having submitted apologies for absence]

The Mayor advised that there were other members of the Town Council that were in attendance at the meeting, who would be speaking in their capacity as residents.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from: Councillors L Evans, A Roberts and A M Sinton, Also County Councillor A Miller.

MINUTES: the Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 21 March 2016 were submitted for adoption and confirmed as a correct record.

REPORTS: The Mayor referred to his written report that had been circulated. He commented that during his many engagements he had been most impressed by the vibrant community and skilled voluntary sector existing in the Town. Also, he had attended recently a Skills Day organised by Worcestershire County Council and driven by County Councillor Miller. This had essentially been a careers convention and had been well-attended by over 2000 teenagers. Copies of the leaflets available at that Skills Day were available. The Mayor then invited the Chairmen of the Town Council's Planning and Resources Committees, and the Vice-Chairman of the Community & Amenities Committee to present their reports, which they duly did, advising of specific matters of interest and drawing attention to certain issues.

Thereafter the Mayor invited residents at the meeting to speak on their matters of concern.

1. John Corbett 200th Anniversary Picnic in the grounds of the Chateau Impney

➤ Peter Hawkins, 3 Nuffield Drive

Mr Hawkins advised that the event was to take place on 25 June 2017 and not the date advised in the Community & Amenity Committee's report.

2. Droitwich Lido – Brown & White Tourism Signs

➤ Suzi Wood, 22 Dovecote Road

Mrs Wood queried why there was no brown & white tourism signage for the Lido (a Wychavon District Council facility).

Mr V Allison, Deputy Managing Director at Wychavon District Council advised that he would check on this matter and report back.

3. Damage caused to verge by tree located in East Park Drive

➤ James Williams, 2 East Park Drive

Mr Williams advised of correspondence with both Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council in this matter. The County Council had advised that the road was not adopted and that therefore Wychavon District Council needed to address the problem. Correspondence with Mr M Tout from the Property Department at Wychavon District Council had been unsatisfactory.

Mr V Allison, Deputy Managing Director at Wychavon District Council advised that he would review the matter.

4. Drug Dealing, Westlands

➤ Patrick Healey, 28 Thatchers Place

Mr Healey advised of his concerns and those of his neighbours at the level of drug-dealing that was taking place in the vicinity, and the underpasses nearby. Residents had undertaken some monitoring of the situation and reported their findings to Crimestoppers. However there seemed to be little or no action taking place by the Police and he was concerned that the situation would escalate to the level of that taking place in cities.

Sergeant Sarah Kent advised that all information and intelligence-gathering had to be developed to the critical point and that warrants were not issued easily. The Police were aware of the situation and that all incidents should be reported - she had not been advised of the vandalism to pensioners' windows. Certain individuals were being monitored and things were moving along, the Police were working on the case.

5. Drovers Way/Shepherds Walk

➤ Rod Hopkins, 1 Park Way

Mr Hopkins queried the Town Council's decision with regard to Planning Application W/16/02071/PN - Proposed Demolition of Garage Blocks and Redevelopment of Vacant Land off Drovers Way, Droitwich Spa for the erection of 8 Affordable Houses with re-provision of car parking in place of Demolished Garages and Associated Site Access and Infrastructure made by Fortis Living. *[The Town Council had recommended approval and had suggested to Wychavon District Council, the Local Planning Authority, that the Planning Officer looked to condition the building work to minimise its effect on nearby residents and schoolchildren using this route to and from school.]* Mr Hopkins advised that the application was as yet undetermined, having been reduced to 5 Affordable Houses. Previously the site had been put forward by Fortis Living as a play area via the use of New Homes Bonus monies, but had not been successful in obtaining funding.

The Mayor and County/ District Councillor Mrs L Duffy suggested that as the planning application was still 'live' then the residents should write or email their comments to the Local Planning Authority. Councillor G Duffy advised that he would take the matter up with the Planning Officer.

6. Highways issues

➤ Mark Heel, 43 Burrish Street

Mr Heel advised of two areas that he considered needed highway improvements:

- Burrish Street/Bourne Close area where the removal of two trees had compromised the barriers and the ensuing gap was being used as a 'rat run'. It was his opinion that an extension to the barriers was required.
- Hatched area at the end of Omberley Street East by the Health Centre was suggested for expansion to the road edge between the double yellow lines, he had seen cars being reversed dangerously, one having hit a child-buggy which was empty fortunately at the time.

County Councillors Mrs L Duffy and Mrs P Davey advised that they would take up these ward matters respectively with the County Council Highways Officers.

➤ Mr M Darkin, 3 Adrian Close

Mr Darkin had submitted a written note of his concerns as follows:

"Poor condition of pavements – especially for physically challenged and wheelchair users.

Pavements – dropped kerbs, more of them. Remove those which have become unused eg parked vehicles.

Broken concrete slabs replaced by tarmacadam – unsightly.

Ironworks surrounds – removal of original stone pieces.

Ironworks on roads brought level with highway.

Saltway – remove 'bumps' on carriageway.

Smaller Covercroft car park – introduce a one-way system with parking bays at a diagonal allowing straight drive-in and reverse-out. Repaint bays.

Footpaths, The Tagwell Road and Lyttleton Road to St Peter's Church paths are a disgrace during and after rain.

Tagwell/Worcester Road Traffic Lights. Improve traffic flow.

Council plans to cope with anticipated increase of people and cars in the new future (with all the development taking place on the south side of Droitwich Spa)."

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey referred to the forthcoming High Street Enhancement Scheme, which would improve the surfaces and be more user-friendly for all. She also advised of a footpath review that was being undertaken by the County Council with additional funding having been identified within the budget for footpath improvements. Having addressed the Busy Urban & Rural Footpaths it was now the turn of Quiet Urban & Rural Footpaths, which would encourage walking for health. Improvements would be seen over the next two years and the footpaths monitored. She suggested closer liaison with the Ward County Councillor post-Elections (the County Council Elections being scheduled for 4 May 2017). She would ensure that Mr Darkin's concerns were relayed to the Highways Officers.

➤ Mrs D M Stanley, 35 Jackdaw Lane

Mrs Stanley was concerned at the damage being done to Tagwell Road by construction traffic travelling to and from the Copcut Rise development site. Councillor G R Brooks advised upon the recent court judgement which had identified the route for construction traffic and therefore any changes were beyond the remit of the Councils. He advised that the Police had been involved in individual instances. Councillor R J Morris recommended reporting all incidents to the Planning Enforcement Officers to investigate if there had been a breach of the requirements.

➤ Mrs B M Manthorp, 24 Charlcot Road

Mrs Manthorp supported Mrs Stanley in her comments above, advising that the situation was not compliant with the judgement, construction traffic was operating in both directions. Pulley Lane was being damaged. She had reported the situation to the Police and others including Wychavon District Council and had received a terse email from Mr Gary Williams, Head of Housing and Planning. She was now in correspondence with Nigel Huddleston, MP.

Mr V Allison, Deputy Managing Director at Wychavon District Council requested sight of the correspondence and advised that all breaches by construction traffic should be reported through to the District Council.

There being no further questions or comments, and no communications for consideration, the Mayor concluded the meeting at 7.50pm. He thanked the representatives from Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police for their attendance and support.