

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, 21 March 2016 at 7 pm.

A G E N D A

1. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 30 March 2015.
2. To receive the reports of the Town Mayor 2015/16 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 12 Town Councillors were in attendance, also Town/County Councillor Mrs P E Davey and District/County Councillor Mrs L Duffy (late arrival).

Invited representatives present were Mrs Janet Yates, Droitwich Spa Business Partnerships Manager from Wychavon District Council, also Sergeant Sarah Kent and Detective Sergeant Louise Wall of West Mercia Constabulary.

The meeting was attended by 18 Town electors and 3 non-residents (residents of Hadzor civil parish).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Tristan Harris and Ms L Jeal – '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 30 March 2015 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 Graham Beale took the Chair and welcomed invited guests and members of the public present.

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

Councillor Bob Brookes, Chairman of Resources Committee;
Councillor Roy Murphy, Chairman of Planning 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 Mrs A J Hawkins, M A Lawley and A M Sinton.

MINUTES: the Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 30 March 2015 were submitted for adoption and confirmed as a correct record.

REPORTS: The Mayor read his written report that had been circulated and then invited the Chairmen of the Town Council's Resources Committee and Planning Committee to present their reports, which they duly did, advising of specific matters of interest and drawing attention to certain issues. In particular Councillor Brookes referred to the ability for members of the public to attend meetings of the Town Council and to submit questions beforehand, to use the Town Council's website and to refer matters to local councillors. Councillor R E Murphy advised upon procedures for planning applications.

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

1. Litter Bins and Dog Bins – Park Way

➤ Steve Sidaway, 203 Meadow Road

Mr Sidaway reported upon the need for a dog bin in particular in the vicinity of Park Way and the playing fields, the nearest litter and dog bins being full.

The Town Clerk asked if Wychavon District Council emptied the bins on a regular basis and the Mayor advised that this situation would be investigated.

2. Copcut Rise Development - Dust

➤ Edgar Harwood, 13 St Andrew's Close

Mr Harwood reported upon the extensive amount of dust arising from the development which was a nuisance to the residents nearby and also to businesses in the vicinity, the car dealership requiring the cars on display having to be cleaned every day.

The Mayor advised this was a planning matter and Councillor Murphy advised that he would arrange for this situation to be drawn to the attention of Wychavon District Council being the Local Planning Authority and further mentioned that there could well be 7 – 8 years of inconvenience as houses on this development would only be built in response to market forces.

3. Small area of land to the south of St Richard's House

➤ Alan Davies, 1 Riverside Road

Mr Davies suggested that this patch of land be resurfaced having been damaged by vehicles parking on it.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the area was within the ownership of Wychavon District Council but leased to Droitwich Hospital. She had been in discussion with the District Council with a view to the area being 'grasscrete' and the car parking managed.

4. Hanbury Road – Double Yellow Lines

➤ Christopher Knight, 3 Hammond Court, Galton Way, Hadzor (non-resident)

Mr Knight queried why there were no 'double yellow lines' preventing parking on the pavement/Hanbury Road. Currently there was not enough space for a lorry and a car to

pass successfully owing to the excessive amount of vehicles parked along the south side of Hanbury Road.

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised of her disappointment in the powers of the Police, prosecution only taking place if the driver of the obstructing vehicle had been seen. The process for the installation of the 'double yellow lines' road markings was lengthy. It involved both informal and formal consultation with the Town Council. However the matter was in hand and she did take every opportunity to remind the Highways Officer of the need to process with the road markings. In response to further questions she confirmed that the road markings were not part of the initial improvements as the situation was assessed for a short period. Any further improvements to the traffic situation were reliant upon any future developments with the old Rover Garage site.

5. Lay-by at Woodmans Way

➤ Charlotte Chan, 82 Woodmans Green

Ms Chan advised that the lay-by in Woodmans Way was in need of resurfacing, the area being pot-holed, muddy and full of puddles. She considered it unsafe.

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised that this was within County Councillor Mrs L Duffy's Ward. It was agreed to pass these concerns on to County Councillor Mrs Duffy for her attention and advise the Town Councillors for West Ward accordingly for their attention.

6. Land at the junction of Heritage Way and Nine Foot Way - Air Cadets Garden Area

➤ Edgar Harwood, 13 St Andrew's Close

Mr Harwood suggested that the above-mentioned area be incorporated into the Town Council's Gardening Contract to ensure a good display as per other areas within the contract.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Air Cadets managed this area under licence from the Town Council and therefore this would be possible. She would take this matter up with the Air Cadets in the first instance.

7. Use of Vines Park for Festivals and Events

➤ John Dudley, 21 Westbury Avenue

Mr Dudley referred to the work undertaken by the 4 Shires Festivals Co Ltd, For Droitwich Spa and Droitwich Arts Network in producing the Music Festival which had been refused use of Vines Park for the Whitsun Holiday weekend and therefore had relocated to the Briar Mill area (Sports Centre) for 29 – 31 July 2016. It was a business proposition and Wychavon District Council was dictating where his group held events. He requested confirmation as to the Town Council's opinion in this matter.

Mrs J Yates, Business Partnerships Manager, Wychavon District Council, advised that there had been several complaints from the residents of Vines Lane regarding the loudness and proliferation of events. This could be demonstrated in there being 4 nights in 2014 of live music in Vines Park, increasing to 12 nights in 2015. Thereafter, the suitability of using Lido Park had been reviewed, although it was noted that this park also was close to residential properties and in addition was the venue for the Town Council's Programme of Band Concerts which took place in the Lido Bandstand on Sunday afternoons during the summer.

The Mayor advised that there had to be a balance and that all the events happening was a big plus for the Town. He had done as much as he could and at least the event would take place, also he urged Mr Dudley not to give up.

8. St Mary de Witton Churchyard - Maintenance

➤ Anne Gittins, 36 Tagwell Road

Ms Gittins complained about the poor state of St Mary's Churchyard.

The Town Clerk advised that the sum of £1,300 was granted annually to the church for the specific maintenance of this churchyard and that she would draw these concerns to the Parochial Church Council for their attention.

There being no further questions or comments, and no communications for consideration, the Mayor concluded the meeting at 7.40pm. He thanked everybody for their attendance and support.