

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 15 December 2014**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor G R Brookes (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor Mrs P E Davey
Councillor L Evans
Councillor E Harwood
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley
Councillor R J Morris
Councillor R E Murphy
Councillor Mrs G Noyes
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor P J Pinfield

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor M C J Barratt, Mrs L Hobson, K J Jennings, A M Sinton and Mrs E A Taft.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr John Cook, Candidate for Vacancy in West Ward

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

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184 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations made.

185 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 29 September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

186 CO-OPTION: DROITWICH SPA WEST WARD: CANDIDATE MR JOHN COOK

Council noted that only one application had been received within the requisite timescale, being from Mr John Cook of 45 Oakleigh Road, Droitwich Spa WR9 8RQ. Mr Cook had been a member of the Town Council previously and was Deputy Mayor 2006/7. He was a member of the Labour Party and was supported by Councillor E Harwood in his candidacy.

There being no other candidates for co-option, it was proposed by Councillor E Harwood, seconded by Councillor T J Noyes, and unanimously

- RESOLVED
1. That Mr John Frederick Cook of 45 Oakleigh Road, Droitwich Spa WR9 8RQ be co-opted onto the Town Council to fill the vacancy in West Ward.
 2. That therefore he be appointed to
 - a. the existing vacancy on Planning Committee; and
 - b. as the Council's representative on the Fairtrade Association.

Mr Cook then made the requisite Acceptance of Office and took his seat in the Chamber.

187 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised:

- (a) He had attended 42 events since the last meeting of Council on 29 September, including the 11th Parish Conference at County Hall, when he had raised the matter of broadband access for businesses as well as residents.
- (b) He was pleased to announce that he had received a commitment from Sainsbury's for improvements to the Sainsbury's Local store in Worcester Road. This had been achieved outside the planning framework by direct intervention.
- (c) Re: Hanbury Road improvements he regretted to advise that there was no further update.
- (d) The Christmas Market had been arranged and he displayed photographs taken recently at the Evesham Christmas Market. A press release and posters had been done with assistance from the Norbury Theatre. The official opening of the Market would take place at 10am on Saturday 20 December 2014 and he thanked Councillor E Harwood in advance for confirming that he would attend in his role as 'Town Crier'.
- (e) One of the events he had hosted was a Questions & Answers session with Droitwich Scouts. Photographs were displayed. It had been an interesting session and he hoped that there would be some future councillors amongst them.
- (f) In his role as District Councillor he had been able to put forward a 'Member's Bill' which had been aimed at increased delegation and empowerment of the Town Council. He had referred to the arrangements at Eastleigh Borough Council and in response it was intended for a visit to Eastleigh to take place by District Councillors.
- (g) Sales of the Mayor's Calendar were going well and it was into its second print run. Seasonal refreshments would be available in the Mayor's Parlour at the close of the meeting, when the calendar would also be on sale.
- (h) Arrangements were in hand with the High School for those in the Young Entrepreneur Scheme to sell their produce on a stall at the Charter Market.
- (i) He was pleased with all that he had achieved since his appointment as Mayor, and mentioned in particular the Charter Market, the future attendance by Voiron Twinners/Farmers at the next Food & Drink Festival, helping to shape the Raven Hotel development and involvement of the public in the County Council's Public Realm Enhancements, with County Officers having been invited to attend a future

meeting of the Council in the New Year. He appreciated that the Town Council had limited powers but was still able to be a local voice for local people.

188 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Copies of the Neighbourhood Watch News Bulletin and samples of the '12 Days of Christmas' crime awareness leaflets were circulated.

Sergeant Kent reported on and answered questions upon:

- Crime Trends:
 - o Thefts from commercial vehicles were rising. Locks were being drilled out and tools taken, which impacted greatly on the individual and their trade.
 - o Thefts from motor vehicles were still taking place with the majority of cases involving unlocked cars and/or with items on display. She urged everyone to ensure that their vehicles were kept locked.
 - o Thefts of catalytic converters were decreasing.

- The timeframe for the theft of the Town's Christmas Tree Lights was unable to be narrowed down which made it difficult to review the CCTV.
- There had been two notable burglaries both in Tagwell Road. Cash and jewellery had been the target.
- Operation Fuchsia was well underway, a major operation to tackle burglary and drug dealing. Currently there was the 'Lighten Up' campaign to prevent burglary. With the short daylight hours it was important that the individual put deterrents in place.
- Thefts from stores had been addressed but the perpetrators had been before the courts and unfortunately were now back on the streets. CCTV assisted with the high detection rate.
- Drug warrants had been executed with rapid entry techniques utilised.
- The '12 Days of Christmas' leaflets were being supported by social media. The Don't Drink & Drive campaign was underway and breathalysing was taking place at all times of the day, including mornings.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report and also thanked Mark Keld, Assistant Town Clerk Community & Amenities for his prompt action over the Christmas Lights. He suggested the use of discs in CCTV cameras and referred to his and the Mayoress's actions in assisting the 80+ year old widow who had been burgled at her home in Tagwell Road, the victim had been left very distressed at the experience.

In response to a question from Councillor J F Cook, Sergeant Kent advised that statistics so far showed no significant increase in vandalism to vehicles arising from the street lights being turned off in the early hours. The situation was still being monitored.

In response to a question from Councillor E Harwood Sergeant Kent advised that there would still be a Safer Neighbourhood Team in Droitwich Spa, although at present it was uncertain if the Police Station would be relocated within the Town.

189 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Konner Gethins to the meeting. Konner apologised that Ciaran was not able to attend owing to sickness and advised that there had not been much progress with projects owing to A level and other school commitments. A meeting had been called for 17 December for things to ‘get back on the bandwagon’. It was intended for a wide spectrum of community involvement and talks were to take place with the Boxing Club and other such organisations to reach a wider audience which was easier said than done.

The Chairman thanked Konner for his attendance.

190 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Louis Holliday, Head Boy and Rebecca Hesk, Head Girl wished everyone a Merry Christmas and then reported upon the Charity Week which had raised @ £2,200 which had meant that each of the School’s nominated charities had received £700, these being:

- Local: Chadsgrove School in Bromsgrove;
- National: Teenage Cancer Trust;
- International: Ngobit School in Kenya.

Other activities included a Quiz organised by the PTA, an overseas visit to the partner school Ramjas RK Puram in Delhi (the trip included a trek in the Himalayas and home-stays) and a Christmas Party for senior citizens hosted by Year 9. A future ‘Chocs & Socks’ charity event on ‘none-school uniform day’ would raise awareness for this homelessness charity.

A project to renovate the school theatre was in the early stages, it was hoped that by updating various aspects including lighting and sound equipment would enable the theatre to become a local resource for the community. The Town Clerk advised that the Headmistress would be attending a future meeting of the Resources Committee to make a bid for New Homes Bonus monies for this project.

Councillor Mrs P E Davey queried whether the High School was to submit an entry for a video competition she had set up in her role as Chairman of Worcestershire County Council, for schools and youth groups to demonstrate their involvement with the local community. It was confirmed that they were not aware of this initiative, although this might be because of missing correspondence.

The Mayor thanked Louis and Rebecca for their very interesting report. This was endorsed by Councillor T J Noyes.

191 TOWN TEAM – PRESENTATION BY MRS JANET YATES, DROITWICH SPA
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER, WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs Yates introduced Viv Hudson-Findlay, Managing Director of the Droitwich based Hotelshop UK whom she had invited to accompany her to the meeting in order to give a business perspective on the proposal.

Following the demise of the Area Partnership, Mrs Yates advised upon her new role as Business Partnerships Manager. The Wychavon initiative of the Town Team was being moved forward by discussion with two key groups, the first being a focus group meeting involving local businesses by invitation, and the other being the Town Council. The focus meeting had been held and the presentation to the Town Council took into account issues raised at the businesses meeting. The idea behind the Town Team was to establish a vehicle whereby the public and private sector could work together.

Mrs Yates then gave her presentation (attached) and invited Ms Hudson-Findlay to comment upon the process to date. Ms Hudson-Findlay summarised her business background and expressed her support for the idea of a Town Team. The Town Clerk advised that it was intended to present a report to a future meeting in the New Year as to options upon the ways in which the Town Council could have an overview and also be involved at ground level, there being an opportunity for individual councillor skills to assist. Mrs Yates confirmed that the next stages would be to formulate the ideas into practical details and to then go to public consultation.

Councillor Mrs P E Davey expressed her concerns that Mrs Yates would no longer be events if the emphasis was on the Town Team. Mrs Yates confirmed that she would still be co-ordinating the events as usual and supporting the partnerships she was involved in. Her accountability was to Wychavon District Council.

The Chairman then spoke about the investigations he had undertaken into the running of Town Teams, and referred to documentation from Buxton and from ATCM (Association of Town & City Management). He wanted to know about the legal constitution and operation of the Town Team, and particularly any Articles of Association that were to be proposed. Buxton Town Team (registered as a Community Interest Company) had the ability to pay its members. He advised that he had attended the Business Focus Group meeting despite not being invited and he was not comfortable at all with the proposals – for instance who was agreeing the legal matters. He was not getting answers to his questions and concerns. Mrs Yates advised that the proposal was not at the stage where it was possible for her to advise on such matters and Ms Hudson-Findlay confirmed that the presentation today was to look at the spirit and not get into the nitty-gritty at this stage. Her business had been assisted by the strategic plan that had been put in place following the 2007 floods.

Councillor Mrs P E Davey confirmed that as public funds were to be utilised then the project would be open to scrutiny. Mrs Yates advised that there would be a clear governance and framework for the Town Team in due course. Councillor R G Beale referred to the aspirational statements made by Mrs Yates and that what was required was more information. Councillor T J Noyes thanked Mrs Yates for the presentation and confirmed that he was in support of town development but did not understand how Mrs Yates would be able to engage with all players needed, such as the Shopping

Centre Manager and the main multiples such as Wilkinsons and Morrisons plus address such issues as the amount of charity shops in the town. Councillor R E Murphy referred to the function of the public sector to provide the framework.

Councillor Mrs Noyes queried where the idea of the Town Team had originated from and was reminded by Mrs Yates of the discussions at the Area Partnership meetings and particularly those involving District Councillor Tomlinson.

There was further debate as to the merits or otherwise of the Town Team and upon a proposition by Councillor Mrs P E Davey, seconded by Councillor E Harwood, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor G R Brookes be requested to “keep a watching brief” on the development of the Town Team.

192 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 October 2014 be approved and adopted.

193 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 13 October 2014 be approved and adopted.

194 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 November 2014 be approved and adopted.

195 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 10 November 2014 be approved and adopted, save for Minute No 164 which has been considered at Minute No 198 below.

196 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8 December 2014 be approved and adopted.

197 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 10 November 2014 be approved and adopted, save for Minute No 181 which has been considered at Minute No 198 below.

198 COUNCIL'S ESTIMATES 2013/2014 - TO RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND FROM THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE SETTING OF ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR APRIL 2013 TO MARCH 2014 AND TO SET THE PRECEPTUAL REQUEST

Council considered the recommendations of the Resources Committee (Minute No 181 refers) upon the setting of the Council's Estimates for the forthcoming financial year, and upon the setting of the preceptual request.

It was noted that the Community & Amenities Committee had recommended an increase in charges which was supported by the Resources Committee.

- RESOLVED
1. That the proposed increase in the fees and charges as set out by Community and Amenities Committee and now appended, be approved.
 2. That the estimates now attached at Appendix A to the Minutes be set for financial year 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 and the preceptual request be set at £326,000 being £289,881 with a community grant element of £36,119, as recommended by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 8 December 2014 (Minute 181 refers).

199 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. COUNCILLOR BROOKES – FORMAL REQUEST TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS DAVEY FOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS AT SALTWAY/QUEEN STREET JUNCTION

Councillor Brookes made a formal request to County Councillor Mrs P E Davey for the above, to enable a right-turn to be made southwards towards Worcester Road from Saltway at its junction with Queen Street and Councillor Mrs Davey confirmed that she would be happy to take the matter to Worcestershire County Council for review, albeit it being reliant upon the development of the Land Rover Garage.

2. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Mrs Davey advised that there was no County Council matter to report that specifically impinged upon the Town Council.

200 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

Council considered nominations for the Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award 2014. Councillor R J Morris proposed Flt Lt Paul Wilde RAF VR(T), Officer Commanding 2516 Droitwich Squadron Air Training Corps. In support of the nomination Councillor Morris advised that for a number of years (with a short break when he was promoted) Flt Lt Wilde had led the Cadets to national success. He was always very willing to support the local community at any occasion such as civic events, fetes at nursing homes, etc. This year he was Parade Organiser for the Remembrance Day Parade which was regarded by many as the best for some time. He willingly involved the Cadets in many local activities and provided a professionally run ATC which offered a great learning environment for young people.

There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED That Flt Lt Paul Wilde RAF VR(T), Officer Commanding 2516 Droitwich Squadron Air Training Corps be nominated for the Award.

2. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no reports made.

201 GENERAL MATTERS

1. SCHOOL GOVERNOR – ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RESOLVED That Councillor J F Cook be appointed as to the Board of School Governors of St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School.

202 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council in the sum of £1,197.75. Supplementary payments were also submitted at the meeting in the sum of £2,048.60.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received with the amendments as now reported above and the expenditure totalling £3,246.35 (£1,197.75 + £2,048.60) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.45pm with seasonal greetings from the Mayor and a reminder to everyone present to join him and the Mayoress for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour.

Chairman of Council
23 February 2015

APPENDIX

COUNCIL MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2014 – MINUTE NO 202 REFERS

Cheques signed 15 December 2014

10508	Newsquest Media Group Advertisement - Christmas Switch On Event	£144.00
10509	ADT Fire & Security plc Maintenance Intruder Access Control System 29/12/14 to 28/3/15	£131.75
10510	Top Cut Mowing Services Parks Contract - November 2014	£711.60
10511	Vernon Print & Design Mayoral Christmas Cards	£78.00
10512	Dudley's Coaches Limited TIC November Ticket sales less commission	£32.40
10513	Mainstay Re hire of Community Hall 4 December 2014	£100.00
10514	Mint Electrical Services PAT testing/emergency light testing/data link from main server to overhead projector/faulty light in Radio room	£324.00
10515	AJ Manton, Hillhampton Honey TIC Purchases	£36.00
10516	Paul Jones TIC Purchases	£75.00
10517	St Andrews Town Hotel Volunteers Christmas Lunch (includes £144.00 paid by Staff)	£980.00
10518	St John Ambulance Christmas Lights Switch On Event	£633.60

APPENDIX (MINUTE NO 198 REFERS)

CHARGES w/e from 1 April 2015

<u>ALLOTMENT RENTAL</u>		
<u>Reduction offered to senior citizens or registered disabled who are Allotment Plot tenants is £5 for all sites.</u>		
<u>Chawson Lane</u>	<u>£30</u>	<u>£20 for a half-plot</u>
<u>Copcut Park</u>	<u>£30</u>	<u>£20 for a half-plot</u>
<u>Westwood Lodge</u>	<u>£30</u>	<u>£20 for a half-plot</u>
<u>Vines Lane</u>	<u>£20</u>	<u>£20 for a half-plot</u>
<u>COMMUNITY HALL</u>		
<u>Main Hall</u>	<u>£18 per hour</u>	<u>£150 full day (inc evening)</u>
<u>John Corbett Room</u>	<u>£15 per hour</u>	<u>£90 full day (inc evening)</u>
<u>Small Meeting Room</u>	<u>£10 per hour</u>	<u>£60 full day (inc evening)</u>
<u>ST RICHARD'S HOUSE</u>		
<u>Council Chamber</u>	<u>£25 per hour</u>	<u>£150 full day (inc evening)</u>
<u>Council Chamber - Weddings</u>	<u>£100 flat rate payable in advance</u>	
<p>Hours of hire are from 9 am until 10.30 pm Monday to Saturday. Any time required outside of these hours is at the Town Clerk's discretion and may incur an additional charge. Hourly rate includes use of kitchen and if there should be any Caretaker call-outs additional to the booking these may be chargeable at £10 (flat rate).</p> <p>A reduction of 20% is applied for Registered Charities.</p>		