

# **Droitwich Spa Town Council**

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held at the Community Hall on **Monday 21 June 2021** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor WT Moy (Mayor)  
Councillor G Beale  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor E Bowden  
Councillor GR Brookes  
Councillor Mrs JM Chaudry  
Councillor DM Craigie  
Councillor G Duffy  
Councillor Mrs K Fellows  
Councillor J Grady  
Councillor NR Griffiths  
Councillor RP Hopkins  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor AH Laird  
Councillor RJ Morris  
Councillor CM Murray  
Councillor AM Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor DJ Morris. Also Grace and Joe the Head Girl & Head Boy from Droitwich Spa High School and Councillor Marc Bayliss – WCC Elected Member for Bowbrook Ward.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

2 Members of the Public joined the Meeting for the duration of open session

Mr Peter Hawkins asked the following question.

“I wish to ask for confirmation that the Neighbourhood Plan (item 13) will be debated by Councillors openly at this meeting”.

The Mayor responded as follows.

“Item 13 on the Full Council agenda is in open session (not closed session which would be for confidential or commercially sensitive matters). To receive the attached report and an update from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the Town Council nominated representative for communication and liaison with the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Group [for information]”.

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## 34. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none. The Chairman asked whether any Councillors wished to declare an interest for Agenda Item 13 – Neighbourhood Plan Options. Councillors RP Hopkins and A Humphries responded that they had both resigned from the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Group.

### 35. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19 APRIL 2021

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that he did not agree with the following minute extract from reference number 299 – “The protocol for Locality Funding has been explained several times including most recently to Councillors Hopkins & Humphries by Zoom on 22 Feb 21 (recording held on file).” The Chairman acknowledged the comment for noting.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19 April 2021 by Zoom Facility, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. 13 voted in favour , 4 against & no abstentions.

### 36. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor WT Moy did not have any pressing announcements for this meeting. A special acknowledgement was made towards Councillor RG Beale following his recent illness and time in hospital. Councillor Moy welcomed Councillor Beale back to Full Council and wished him good health and a continued speedy recovery.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

### 37. POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

Sergeant Sarah Kent reported on the following matters.

#### Police Report

Sergeant Kent acknowledged that it was nice to resume attending a Full Council meeting in person following so many months off lock down restrictions.

In general reported crime had reduced during the lock down periods with many people spending more time at home. Reports of Covid 19 breaches and neighbours disputes did escalate in the period and at times reached overwhelming levels. Drug dealing activity had been easier to target during lockdown due to the reduction of traffic. This made offences easier to spot and enabled many suspects to be apprehended. The period had provided an opportunity to be proactive against drug related activity with tangible successes achieved.

There has been 4 incidents of the theft of high performance and value cars in the Town recently. These are believed to be linked and connected to other incidents in a wider area including Bromsgrove and North Worcestershire .A specialist team of officers are currently dedicated to the case. In 2 of the thefts for Droitwich Spa the vehicles targeted had keyless entry (not keyless ignition). Software fishing devices are believed to be used by the criminals which can retrieve the vehicle starting code data from keys held in the house remotely as there were no signs of break in to premises, The owners of these more sophisticated vehicles are being advised to store their vehicle ignition keys away from the front door of their house and inside a tin or faraday bag (widely available at approximately £5). These are preventive measures against the risk of the car ignition code being remotely downloaded. The Police are also liaising with the vehicle manufacturers to consider improved security features for vehicles with key less entry, rather than reliance on retrospective security upgrades and additional measures. The other 2 vehicle thefts locally did involve house break in’s where the actual car ignition keys were stolen to gain access to the vehicles. One of these incidents appears to have been targeted when the home owner was away on holiday and considerable damage was caused to the property, as well as the vehicle being stolen. Sergeant Kent reaffirmed the advice that precautions should be made when leaving a house unoccupied,

especially in the holiday season. Simple steps to make the house appear occupied should be considered to help deter these targeted incidents.

An incident which is always disturbing are distraction burglaries. These present emotional stress and invade people's personal safety whilst at home. Often the circumstances are door to door sales people targeting elderly and vulnerable residents. The approach can be aggressive sales tactics, transactional disputes about money and inflated pricing for general household items, including cleaning materials and dusters etc. One incident of this description has unfortunately taken place in Droitwich Spa very recently.

The sellers may approach householders by saying that they represent a scheme for ex-offenders, for which there is no such arrangement. Some of these groups are organised and originate elsewhere in the country recruiting people from bale hostels and similar institutions. One company that presents these concerns is called "Helping Hands" and they have targeted Malvern, Worcester and parts of North Worcestershire in the past. The Company have been served with a community protection order which prohibits them from operating in this area. Sergeant Kent urged Councillors and constituents to report any concerns of aggressive door step selling or distraction tactics and especially any references to the Helping Hands Company.

Road racing on the Kidderminster Road between the Big Bear and Lister's roundabouts has been a reoccurring problem which absorbs a lot of Police time and resources to deal with. The incident involve a lot of vehicles congregating and loud noise nuisance in the community as well as the obvious road safety concerns. This issue has migrated from West Mercia to some extent in to the wider area including Droitwich Spa because of an injunction in force to counter the problem nearer Birmingham. The latest incident in Droitwich Spa extended to the Honeyman's Gardens roundabout and the congregation place is understood to have been the former British Legion site on Salwarpe Road. These incidents are sporadic, difficult to predict locations, track or target for dispersal. The usual format is arrangement by social media groups involving multiple participants and vehicles that quickly disperse when the Police arrive. Intelligence gathering attempts follow up measures for proactively targeting of the vehicles and their registered owners. Preventative measures involve Section 34/35 dispersal notices for set periods and vehicle crime proceedings against known offenders.

To help support Community engagement with the re-emergence from Covid 19 restrictions a series of events are being held around the Town using a mobile Police Station. Dates and location information will be provided in due course and it is anticipated to take this forward collaboratively with other Agencies at some locations, including some Housing Associations being represented.

Speeding has been issue during the lockdowns due to quieter roads and continues to present concerns. This is being proactively targeted by the speed enforcement team and the motor cycle section on key arterial routes and other roads where complaints have been received. Concerns about speeding and specific locations can be flagged directly with Sergeant Kent and/or through the Safer Roads Partnership.

Other high profile initiatives proceeding in the Community include combatting County Lines drugs activity and protecting vulnerable persons from involvement, labour exploitation detection & awareness and knife crime prevention.

Sergeant Kent explained that during lock down in 2020 the Police Community Messaging Service was decommissioned. This has been replaced by a national platform called "Neighbourhood Matters" which operates on a localised basis. The system is very straight forward and the community are encouraged to sign up for the service. Features include alert

messages, rapid reporting options and crime prevention advice all centred as specific to Droitwich Spa, rather than a wider area.

Also under crimes in the Community the incident of damage and unauthorised tree felling at Copcut Park and the allotments site in March was referenced. This had been investigated to support the Town Council as the victim of the criminal activity. It was acknowledged that the incident was serious and the damage was described as horrendous. Unfortunately the criminal burden of proof was not reached in order to identify those persons who carried out the felling and damage. The action taken by the Town Council is considered appropriate and is fully supported.

Councillor GR Brookes commended Sergeant Kent and her team for the recent drugs raid successes reported on social media. With regard to the street racing issues, Councillor Brookes & Councillor RJ Morris enquired whether the legislation in place in the wider area of West Mercia can be replicated in Droitwich Spa to help prohibit repeat incidents locally. Sergeant Kent explained that the position is complicated whereby the jurisdiction by area can span several District Areas (for example Wychavon, Wyre Forest, Malvern Hills and Worcester City). This can potentially overwhelm the legal processes of the District Council operations when incidents occur that overlap different area responsibilities. A firmer solution is being investigated to enable public space protection order measures to be in place.

Councillor NR Griffiths asked whether the Police knew about the “Everyone involved list“ initiative locally? Sergeant Kent confirmed this to be the case.

Councillor RP Hopkins thanked Sergeant Kent and her team for successfully dealing with a difficult individual in the West Ward who had caused problems in the Community.

RESOLVED That the information was noted

### 38. HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

The Town Clerk explained that Grace (Head Girl) and Joe (Head Boy) had provided their apologies in advance of this evenings meeting. They were in the middle of the exam season and nearly at the end of their term of Headships. The Town Clerk acknowledged the work and dedication of Grace & Joe during a difficult year and confirmed that a message of appreciation had been conveyed on behalf of the Town Council. The Town Clerk read out the following report provided in advance from Grace & Joe.

#### Droitwich Spa High School and Sixth Form Report

- Since our last meeting, we emerged from the lockdown on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. During this time, students responded well to online learning, with staff well-trained in using Microsoft Teams. Attendance to online lessons was very high, particularly amongst the Sixth Form.
- Lateral flow testing on return, using the Leisure Centre staff and facilities, was a good community effort. Students have since been given tests to take home so that they can continue to test twice per week.
- Charities Week was very successful. As you may have seen, events were pre-filmed, edited, and shared online. They can still be viewed on the school Facebook page. We raised over £2000 for the Droitwich Foodbank from parent/student donations.
- Safety measures continue in school – hand sanitiser/lots of ventilation/wiping down surfaces etc, though students are no longer required to wear masks in the classroom.
- D of E expedition for Year 9 took place at the weekend and others are planned – students are enjoying getting back to some level of normality and taking part in the project.

- Year 11 Prom has had to be postponed, but we are hoping it can take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- Sixth Form Prom has also been postponed, but will hopefully take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.
- Massive effort by school in setting, marking, moderating, and awarding grades for Year 11 and Year 13. Students have really risen to the challenge and will have earned the grades they achieve this summer, after a successful exam season. Grades have now been submitted, and both Year 11 and Year 13 have finished for the summer.
- The new Head Boy/Girl team has been elected. They are as follows:
  - Head Girl: Maddie Rollit
  - Head Boy: Tom Griffiths
  - Deputy Head Girl: Charlotte McCammon
  - Deputy Head Boy: Dan Finch

We are confident that they will make excellent ambassadors to the school. It is unfortunate that Joe and I were unable to attend any of the Droitwich Council Meetings in-person, but we would like to thank you all for the invitations to the Zoom meetings, and for the welcome we received. We wish Maddie and Thomas a successful (and hopefully, more ordinary) term as Head Girl/Boy.

RESOLVED That the information was noted

### 39. YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Town Clerk explained that the Youth Council activities had been reduced due to the third national lock down, the Easter School Holidays and focus currently towards the mock examinations. Councillor RJ Morris and the High School Head Teacher had recently arranged for the Youth Council activities to be resurrected from September 2021. A further update will be provided from the Youth Council when their activities can fully resume in September.

RESOLVED That the information was noted

### 40. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE UNDER MENTIONED MEETINGS

1. Annual Council – 4 May 2021 by Zoom. *[circulated previously]*
2. Planning Committee – 14 June 2021 *[circulated previously]*
3. Community & Amenities Committee -14 June 2021 *[circulated previously]*
4. Resources Committee -14 June 2021 Zoom. *[circulated previously]*

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 41. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AS PART OF THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

To receive and approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee *[Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 refers]* pertinent to the Town Council's Annual Governance

Statement made as part of the Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2021. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted. To approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee [*Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 refers*] pertinent to the Town Council's Annual Governance Statement made as part of the Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2021.

#### 42. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS & ANNUAL RETURN REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

To receive and approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee [*Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 refers*] pertinent to the Town Council's Accounts and Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2021.

RESOLVED That the information was noted. To approve the recommendations of the Resources Committee [*Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 refers*] pertinent to the Town Council's Accounts and Annual Return report for year ended 31 March 2021.

#### 43. WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEGACY FUNDING

To confirm the following project and application updates. [*for information*]

- (a) Edition Two – Droitwich Spa High School, Community Cabin. Following sign off for the completed project on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 further details regarding the formal opening and Management Committee aspects have recently been received from the High School. These have been delayed by the National restrictions for Covid 19. The first Management Committee meeting is arranged for 9 July 2021 and the opening event takes place on 20 July 2021. Further details and invitations for the opening will be provided in due course.
- (b) Edition Three – Stage Two Application (Full application, consultation & business plan) for the Droitwich Spa Augmented Reality Heritage Trail App, was submitted on 2 March 2021. The outcome was updated by WDC in early May as successful. Work has started on delivery of the project with the Heritage Team and Service Provider and is making excellent progress. The anticipated completion and full launch is anticipated in late August in time for the Bank Holiday weekend. Further updates will be provided in due course.
- (c) Edition Three – Stage Two Application (Full application, consultation & business plan) for the Droitwich Spa Community Football Club Pavilion as part of the King George Playing Fields, Ground Fund Project was submitted on 3 March 2021. The outcome was updated by WDC in early May as successful. The project work is currently being aligned with the wider development scheme schedules. It is hoped to commence the programme of works during the summer once the various component aspects are fully coordinated. Further updates will be provided in due course.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 44. WEST PROJECT & BEYOND- PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

To note that a further Project Reference Group Meeting took place on 28 April 2021. The press article attached with the agenda papers was provided by Mr Peter Rose, Director of Tiller Research commissioned by Wychavon District Council. These arrangements include the three underpasses funded by the Town Council. The article will be published in the Wychavon Residents Magazine during late July and will feature illustrations of the existing underpass condition and images showing the improvements made from the similar Redditch public realm project. An associated feature in the publication will be an article about the linked DAFFY mural project *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 45. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPTIONS

To receive the report attached with the agenda papers and an update from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the Town Council nominated representative for communication and liaison with the Droitwich Spa Neighbourhood Plan Group *[for information]*.

Councillor Brookes provided the following verbal update.

I was expecting to give a short verbal update on my communications with the group, but when I came to write it with full details of my correspondence on behalf of Droitwich Spa Town Council, it was rather longer than expected. I realise that we are struggling a little with the acoustics and social distancing today so I will just emphasise a few key points. I will be happy to provide more specific information outside of this meeting. A written copy of what I am now saying can be made available to councillors if requested. Our Town Clerk has been copied in at all times of course.

I started opening an email dialogue immediately after our 4<sup>th</sup> May council meeting. Despite repeatedly asking, I have not been able to obtain a copy of the action plan to complete the Neighbourhood Plan that the group said they had. I have also tried to find out who the management group responsible for the web site and social media output are. The group members I made contact with all have declined to say. It has also been claimed by the group that their group website and their survey form were both signed off by Cllr Alan Humphries. However it appears that this council has had no report from Cllr Humphries to advise this.

Through you Mr Mayor, I would respectfully request that Cllr Humphries clarifies the situation to the Town Clerk as soon as possible after this meeting.

In the absence of a detailed response from the few group members I was able to have any dialogue with, the report and situation analysis as circulated a few days ago was produced by our Town Clerk to inform council. The key point is that there is still a considerable amount of work to be done, and it is pointless to attempt this until the **Revised South Worcestershire Development Plan** and the **Droitwich Town Centre Prospectus** are available. Anything produced before we have these could well be invalidated. (Incidentally this was independently confirmed to me by a planning expert at a County planning meeting I attended last week.)

This externally-enforced timetable is an opportunity to re-set the project into achievable parts and concentrate on producing an initial **Framework Neighbourhood Plan** leading to a legally-adopted Neighbourhood Plan. This established plan can be enhanced and developed at each subsequent annual review. There will be some preparation possible in the pause before that process can start. As an example we probably need a list of historically-significant buildings in Droitwich. I propose to ask the Neighbourhood Plan volunteer group and other

Town groups and societies to see if they can help with specific items like this once I have a steer from our planning experts. The matter can then be brought back to council once the scope and content of the external documents is known. Much of the detail work required for the **Framework Neighbourhood Plan** will already be in those external documents so that with expert help we can identify and cost the remaining items needed to complete it. This council can then make an informed decision regarding the allocation of funds and how it wishes to proceed.

Councillor A Humphries read out the following statement.

Could the record reflect that the report was prepared with no discussion or involvement with anyone from the Neighbourhood Plan Group or the Neighbourhood Plan Management Group. Also, could the record reflect that meetings to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan with the Town Council Representative have been made and, to-date, declined and have not taken place

The report makes mention of meetings and information that the Neighbourhood Plan Group/Management Group did not attend and have not seen.

In September of last year members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group/Management Group and the elected representatives and Officers of the Town Council met with representatives of Wychavon District Council where it was mentioned that the production of a Neighbourhood Plan should cost in the region of £9,000.00 and, if the group had the right skills, could cost nothing.

At the meeting representatives of Wychavon District Council agreed to review work done by the Neighbourhood Plan Group/Management Group and offer advice and guidance on it. This was forwarded to them, and the Neighbourhood Plan Group/Management Group never received a response following that. In light of today's report, the Neighbourhood Plan Group/Management Group are following that offer of advice and guidance up. Thank you.

Councillor RJ Morris made the following statement.

Whilst I thank the Town Clerk & Cllr Brookes for the NP report and update, I do believe the report should show more contrition.

As the person who initiated the Neighbourhood Plan for Droitwich (with members of the community) and first Chairman, I know the history and how difficult it has been to get a plan underway. Whilst I don't feel it right to drag up history, and we are where we are, but the Malvern NP is not the best benchmark and whilst the consultant was good the contract the TC set up allowed him to charge like a solicitor.

The report lacks options to progress and that is where I welcome Cllr Brookes putting the NP framework forward. I agree, with the SWDP review and Town prospectus, there are some very important documents that can support our NP.

Our role is to show leadership and motivate our community, the NP can support some important aspects for the future such as: building design, lists of historic buildings, protection for open spaces. We need to ensure Councillors are trained and set up the joint committee we have previously agreed.

I look forward to seeing the progress working with our community and bringing forward a NP to support our Towns future.

Councillor A Humphries asserted that the report provided by the Town Clerk had been made without referencing the volunteer group. Councillor GR Brookes responded to this quoting numerous emails sent to the Group requesting for a copy of their detailed plan which they claimed to have produced. However this was not received and is still not forthcoming to

date. Councillor Brookes added that he would be pleased for the group to get in touch after the meeting and that his contact details are in the public domain.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 46. TOWN COUNCIL CONSIDERATION FOR A THREE YEAR ROLLING PLAN

The Town Clerk updated that a plan should include strategic priorities, projects and fiscal provision. The NALC Model standing orders adopted in 2020 recommend that a formal rolling plan is agreed and reviewed at regular intervals. Pursuant to minute reference 298 of the meeting of Full Council that took place on 19 April 2021 it is suggested that further consideration is deferred for Full Council in either September or December. This is for the reason of the ongoing restrictions for Covid 19 and associated fiscal impact. Also the Neighbourhood Plan options (see previous item on Agenda and Minute reference 45 as noted) require further informed consideration as outlined in the associated report *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 47. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor RJ Morris updated on the following County Council matters.

##### **County update: Richard Morris 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

##### **1. Election**

I am pleased to be re-elected for Droitwich West in the County Council election as I have unfinished business in my ward to support residents. Thank everyone who voted and will support all residents.

##### **Taken on roles:**

- Vice Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Board and member with the aim of, not just good scrutiny, but also supporting development of policies in line with corporate plan.
- fire authority member

##### **Council's six main areas of focus:**

- Delivering value for money and low council tax
- Caring for the most vulnerable in society
- Improving education & skills
- Cutting congestion & improving infra structure
- Better Roads, pavements, and walkways
- Growing the economy & protecting the environment

##### **2. Covid update**

- Worcs stands at 21 cases per 100k, v 24 in England, Wychavon 6 with no cases in over 60s
- Vaccine now for 18 + book online but capacity at Artrix and 3 counties & St Peters church in Worcester
- Latest detail on Worcestershire dashboard

##### **3. A38/Copcut**

Working with Cllr Marc Bayliss met with John Hobbs and we have now both received this message:

- **Why have we put the current temporary traffic management measures in place?**

The revisions to this junction were completed in September 2020 when it was brought into use. At that point, the performance of the junction was monitored by both Worcestershire County Council & independent safety engineers and observed to be performing as intended. It is anticipated that some accidents may occur when a road layout is changed which why advanced signs warning of new layouts are left in place for some time.

Some 4 months later, a number of Road Traffic Collisions occurred which, understandably, caused some public concerns about the safety of the new layout. Although investigation of the details of these showed that the new road layout was not a contributory factor, the seriousness of the incidents led to immediate action being taken to place cones in order to remove a potential for further collisions.

- **What are the County Council doing about it?**

A team of engineers from Worcestershire County Council, the developers and West Mercia Police have undertaken further work to identify potential risks and ways to mitigate them. One of the possibilities considered by the team was that lower traffic volumes during lockdown caused traffic speeds to increase thereby preventing the “merge-in-turn” convention from working effectively. The risk observed by safety engineers was that a failure to merge at speed could cause a vehicle to “run out of road” over the centre line marking with a risk of a head-on collision with a vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

Having considered how effective merging can be encouraged and more margin for error can be designed in, engineers are now taking altered design proposals through the Road Safety Audit process with the intention that they will be implemented by the end of the summer 2021.

Worcestershire County Council treats safety as of paramount concern and so these processes must be followed rigorously including, where appropriate, the time to seek an independent design review from a third-party highway designer.

- **What are we doing about the mud path, the signing & tidying up the site?**

It is the intention to surface the desire line pathway (mud path) from the roundabout to the crossing, in an appropriate material during the summer period this year. County are liaising with the developer for the junction regarding tidying up the site, removal of temporary roadworks furniture & ensuring that the ‘Welcome to Droitwich’ and other signs as necessary, are put back in place as a part of the works on any alterations to the junction which will take place.

Signs will go up to support communication on this shortly

**4. Footpaths**

Westbury Ave  
Woodman’s Green  
Thatcher’s Piece/Rd

**5. Resurface issues**

Blake Ave  
Burrish St  
Barns Croft/Brecon Close issues

Councillor GR Brookes updated on the following matters.

That traffic engineering options were currently being looked into to help manage speeding issues on Primsland Way. He and Councillor RJ Morris had recently attended a Hereford & Worcester County Fire & Rescue Committee forum at Six Ways Conference Centre. The arrangements had been very similar to this meeting in that restrictions still prevailed for social distancing and prohibition of using shared microphones.

RESOLVED That the information was noted

#### 48. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor AM Sinton updated on the following District Council matters.

##### **Report on District Matters to DSTC 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

Most of the matters relating to Wychavon and the town council have been referred to elsewhere in the meeting and it is really good to see the amount of collaborative working between the two councils. I have a few other points from District to add:

- Tomorrow (22<sup>nd</sup> June) the new town prospectus will be presented to many of the key stakeholders in Droitwich Spa in advance of it being published officially in the near future.
- The new and improved paths in the Lido Park are nearing completion and are very impressive.
- The five-a-side and basketball area at Lido Park has been resurfaced and improved. It is already being well used.
- Members will be aware that there understandably continues to be a lot of local interest and some concern about future plans for both the Raven site and of course more recently at the Chateau Impney. More details will be announced regarding both these iconic buildings during the next few weeks. I can assure everybody that there will be plenty of time for public consultation following this.
- A lot of work is being done on the carbon reduction programme as part of Wychavon's Intelligently Green project.

RESOLVED That the information was noted

#### 49. COMMITTEE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS & ONGOING RESTRICTIONS

The Town Clerk explained that due to the pandemic and some restrictions being maintained consideration is suggested to enable some Committee Meetings to continue to operate using the Zoom facility. This would need to accord with the necessary legislation which in some cases can prohibit the virtual format due to the designation of a physical place for meetings. There are exceptions, notably some working Committees and Groups. The following considerations are put forward,

- Delegation of options for the three Standing Committees to the Mayor & the Leader to make arrangements through the Town Clerk and the Committee Chairman's.
- Full Council and the Annual Meetings would remain unchanged as actual physical meetings.
- Due Diligence and maintaining safety are fulfilled in line with the Government Advice and any further emerging guidance for Covid 19.

- The Community Hall building would be more available to hirers in order to maintain the valuable income stream to best effect. Less additional costs and time would be incurred from having to reconfigure and layout the building rather than for all meetings.

RESOLVED That the information was noted. Delegation of options for the three Standing Committees to the Mayor & the Leader to make arrangements through the Town Clerk and the Committee Chairman's.

Full Council and the Annual Meetings would remain unchanged as actual physical meetings.

## 50. TO CONSIDER EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

To consider the exclusion of the Public and Press by passing the following motion:

*That the press and public be now excluded from the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by virtue of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves financial and legal matters.*

RESOLVED That the press and public be now excluded from the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by virtue of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves financial and legal matters.

## 51. LAND HOLDINGS KIDDERMINSTER ROAD

Pursuant to Minute reference 294 of the meeting of Full Council on 19 April 2021 a purchase non-binding offer has been received on and dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The offer has been received through the Agent acting for the interested Company. *[Offer letter and report attached with Agenda papers as a Private & Confidential Report for consideration].*

In general discussion the following approach was agreed.

1. To progress arrangements with an alternative Commercial Valuer to undertake a new valuation of the land holding at Kidderminster Road in order to enable current market value to be ascertained and any further offers to be suitably gauged.
2. To respond to the Agent who has introduced the current offer and notify **non- acceptance** at this time.
3. To also notify the Agent that the Town Council **would** charge VAT in any transaction for the sale of the land or disposal of assets. It is noted that the Offer introduced & received makes a reference that VAT should not be charged.

RESOLVED That the information was noted. That the Town Clerk proceed as follows,

- To progress arrangements with an alternative Commercial Valuer to undertake a new valuation of the land holding at Kidderminster Road in order to enable current market value to be ascertained and any further offers to be suitably gauged.
- To respond to the Agent who has introduced the current offer and notify **non- acceptance** at this time.
- To also notify the Agent that the Town Council **would** charge VAT in any transaction for the sale of the land or disposal of assets. It is noted that the Offer introduced & received makes a reference that VAT should not be charged

## 52. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council totalling £8,725.08 together with supplementary payments totalling £906.00. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £9,631.08 ( £8,725.08 plus supplementary payments of £906.00) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The meeting ended at 7.18 pm.

Chairman of Council -----  
27 September 2021