

# 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 22 February 2016**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R G Beale (Mayor)  
Councillor S Best  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor G R Brookes  
Councillor L Evans  
Councillor Mrs S Harris  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor A H Laird  
Councillor Mrs M A Lawley  
Councillor R J Morris  
Councillor R E Murphy  
Councillor T J Noyes  
Councillor Mrs C Powell  
Councillor A Sinton  
Councillor Mrs K L Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors Ms J Bolton, Mrs A Hawkins and A Roberts

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

Mr R Hopkins, 1 Park Way, WR9 9HE - Traffic Calming on Westwood Road

*"I wish to raise my concerns and those of other residents about the speed of traffic using Westwood Road particularly during "rush hour" periods. Traffic calming measures in the Thatcher Green area covering traffic moving in the direction of the local schools seem to have had some effect since your Council arranged to repair the monitor for which we are grateful. Our main area of concern now is the current speed of traffic moving in the opposite direction from Westwood Way/Briar Road to the Hunters Way junction that includes a bus stop and an unofficial crossing used by schoolchildren, mothers with pushchairs, dog walkers and older adults some using electric scooters. I use this crossing myself during the rush hour periods walking my dog and drive along that stretch frequently giving me the opportunity to talk to residents. What is clear is that a high percentage of traffic leaving Briar Road and Westwood Way ignore the 30mph limit and achieve speeds between 40/50 mph on that stretch before braking after Hunters Way due to oncoming traffic in the middle of the road avoiding parked cars. Certainly the crash barriers between the roundabout and Park Way may also exacerbate the problem. In view of this I am asking you to consider installing a speed monitor along that stretch to try to reduce the speeds to a level where the risk or the severity of accidents is reduced."*

Mr M Keld, Assistant Town Clerk suggested that the matter be drawn to the attention of the Safer Roads Partnership and also advised upon the current operation of the Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs), these having been purchased by Local Ward County Councillors using their Councillors Divisional Funds Scheme (each having an allocation of £10,000 per financial year to spend on locally-determined initiatives within their Divisions). Two were rotated between named, assessed sites and one was fixed on Primsland Way.

Mrs V Humphries, 17 West Street, WR9 8HU – New Homes Bonus

*“Can the Council please explain the point of public consultation regarding the New Homes Bonus if so little of the money was given to the projects that applied. Can the Council also confirm when they are planning to announce how the remaining money is being spent.”*

Councillor G R Brookes, Chairman of Resources Committee advised that the public consultation exercise was only one element in the process and that ultimately it was a decision for the Town Council. Matters of viability, deliverability, alternative funding streams, other worthy projects etc were all taken into account. New Homes Bonus allocations presented a one-off opportunity and decisions would be made when appropriate. The expenditure was not limited to the current financial year.

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225 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

226 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2015

Arising from consideration of Minute No 179, Councillor G R Brookes advised that the average number of patients per full-time equivalent GP was 1050 but could be up to 2000 depending upon patients and demographics.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 28 September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

227 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R G Beale advised that invites had gone out for his Civic Dinner which would take place on Friday 6 May 2016, 7pm at the Gaudet Luce Golf Club. Tickets were £20 and the evening included a three-course meal and raffle.

He then invited Councillor G R Brookes to speak upon an item put forward for debate at Wychavon District Council’s meeting on Wednesday 24 February 2016 entitled *“Should Wychavon make use of the rich brine heritage of Droitwich to provide district-wide benefits?”* A copy of the relevant document was circulated at the meeting and was available to view on Wychavon District Council’s website. Councillor Brookes advised that his proposal was for the District Council to employ and underwrite the provision of a dedicated “Heritage Entrepreneur” for one year to properly realise the possibilities for Wychavon. This person would focus solely on this project, and work with individuals, groups, and businesses in Wychavon, to develop the possibilities and seek funding in a co-ordinated way.

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Sarah Kent to the meeting. Sergeant Kent reported and answered questions upon burglary and thefts that had occurred in the period from December 2015, including:

- Burglary from dwellings
  - Two had taken place, one in Wychbold when nothing had been stolen, and another in Tagwell Road between 13 – 20 February. Investigations were ongoing.
- Special Incident
  - This had taken place on 2 February at Sainsbury’s Garage and involved robbery (using a metal bar) from the ATM and shop, damage to cars including a police car. The suspect had been arrested within 100metres of the garage and a court date was awaited.
- Theft of bicycles
  - 4 bicycles had been stolen, 1 from outside the Leisure Centre, 2 from the Library and 1 from Windsor Road. In one instance the cost of the bicycle was over £1,000.
- Purse-dipping
  - There had been a spate of incidents with two distinctive modus operandi – the first involving 2 incidents one at Aldi Supermarket and the other at Morrisons Supermarket which were straight-forward dips and the others at Waitrose Supermarket and in Victoria Square which were ‘distraction’ thefts involving one person asking for directions and thrusting a map at the victim whilst the accomplice takes the purse and within a short time bank cards have been used to access accounts. It was intended to reinstate the ‘Christmas Bells’ initiative whereby officers targeted those whose purse was on show and gave them a bell for attaching to purses and wallets, as a warning method should they be lost or stolen.
- Theft from vehicles
  - These were still taking place from unsecured vehicles and the advice was to lock cars and to remove all valuables.
  - There had been some break-ins involving vans and tools and equipment had been stolen.
  - A catalytic converter had been stolen on 19 February from Westwood Way.
- Phone Fraud
  - Elderly and vulnerable people were being targeted, using the spurious premise of mis-sold insurance to scam their victims out of their savings.
- Public Disorder
  - There had been a recent incident at Westlands Costcutter in which there had been physical injuries and damage. The incident involved 6 people who were currently on bail. None lived in Droitwich.

In response to a question from Councillor T J Noyes Sergeant Kent reported upon the current arrangements for CCTV surveillance cameras in the Town and individual shops.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report.

229 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Don Pickworth, Head Boy was welcomed to the meeting. Apologies were received from Allie (Alice) Wilson Head Girl who was not able to attend due to work commitments. Don advised upon:

- Christmas Concert at the Methodist Church which had showcased the talents of the pupils, with original songs and other musical abilities displayed.
- Applications to universities and corresponding open days
- Examination schedules.
- Fundraising on ‘Wear Your House Colours’ day and other House competitions championed by Mr Delaney a very enthusiastic teacher.
- Trip to New York at half-term by Years 12 and 13.
- Up and coming events including Fairtrade Fortnight, the Spring Concert on 23 March and Music Festival on 30 April which would celebrate the 35 years of Mr Dowson’s teaching

The Chairman thanked Don for his informative report.

230 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Katie Bowen to the meeting. Katie reported upon the recent projects in hand for the Youth Council, including:

- The launch of a new film night on 24 February, at the Norbury Theatre from 5pm until 7.30pm when the film ‘Avengers: Age Of Ultron’ was to be screened for those aged eight to 19 following liaison with Norbury Theatre. 150 tickets were available at £3 each from the High School or from Droitwich Library. Adam Ware was busy with posters, press releases etc.
- Arrangements for the website were well in hand and Celia from Fresh Nous (website developers) was to attend the next Youth Council meeting.
- The process for setting up the bank account was lengthy and Santander were providing a Guidance Session for Declan King.
- Along with Councillors R J Morris and Mrs S Harris, Katie was hoping to expand the Youth Council and develop the involvement of Westacre and Witton Middle Schools.
- The next meeting of the Youth Council would take place on 2 March 2016.

Councillors Mrs Harris, Morris and the Chairman thanked Katie for her most interesting report.

231 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED            That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 January 2016 be approved and adopted.

232 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED            That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 18 January 2016

233 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8 February 2016 be approved and adopted.

234 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2016

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 8 February 2016 be approved and adopted.

235 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised upon the following:

- a. Hanbury Road – ‘double yellow lines’ were awaited but in the meantime the unauthorised parking of vehicles on the pavement was unfortunately not a police priority.
- b. Footpaths - a meeting with the Footpaths Liaison Officer was taking place the following day to prioritise remedial works.
- c. High Street Enhancement Scheme – along with Mrs Janet Yates, Business Partnerships Manager, Wychavon District Council she had met with High Street Traders the previous week. She had been able to reassure them that there was no intention to reverse the traffic flow and advised anyone with a query to email her for information. It was her intention to ensure that the tremendous inconvenience caused by the works would be as smooth as possible.
- d. Budget – the County Council had set an increase of 3.9% on the precept, being 2% permitted by the Government for Adult Care and the remainder for Child Care and Highways. She had been pleased to support this.

In response to questions County Councillor Mrs Davey advised upon the processes and procedures involved in the repair of potholes, the parking arrangements outside the Medical Centre in Ombersley Street. She also suggested that County Councillor Mrs L Duffy be contacted regarding the increase in travelling times to Bromsgrove by bus.

236 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARD

It was noted that pursuant to Minute No 193(1) of Council meeting 14 December 2015 the winner of this year’s award was Viv Oddy nominated by Abbots Moreton Parish Council.

## 2. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

*[circulated at the meeting]*

Councillor Mrs M A Lawley reported:

*“I am on the Licensing Committee with Councillor Ms Jan Bolton, this is chaired by Tony Miller. The last meeting scheduled for 27 January was cancelled, the next will be 23 March. It is expected that the results of the consultation upon the Policy for the Licensing of Sex Establishments will be considered then, and as you know the draft policy is supported by the Town Council.*

*I also attend Council meetings the most recent of which will be on Wednesday this week and three of the several items on the Agenda are:-*

- the Inspector’s Report on the South Worcestershire Development Plan which I understand will be well-received,*
- progress on the Draft Preferred Options consultation in relation to developing the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan Document,*
- and matters pertaining to the budget and the formal Council Tax Resolution.*

*This and all the other items are on Wychavon’s website. You can also watch the webcast of the Wychavon Meetings, or are very welcome to come along in person.*

Councillor Mrs Lawley then handed over to Councillor R J Morris, Member of Wychavon’s Executive Board and portfolio holder for Economic Growth and Housing.

Councillor Morris advised that the Inspectors’ Report on the South Worcestershire Development Plan was good news and would stand up at Appeals. He also reported that the District Council’s Budget was due to be set at its Council meeting on 24 February, which to help protect frontline services proposed an increase in Wychavon’s share of the Council Tax of £4.99 for a band D household, taking the average bill to £119 a year. Despite the rise, Wychavon residents would continue to pay the lowest Council Tax in Worcestershire and one of the lowest in the country. He circulated ‘Jack’s Round Up’ dated 13 February, an information leaflet for Councillors and highlighted specific matters. In response to a question from Councillor A Humphries he confirmed that contractual negotiations between Wychavon District Council and Wychavon Leisure were taking place and confirmed that up to £200,000 from the BMI fund was being utilised to support the new arrangements. In addition Wychavon District Council had recognised the aspirations to attract a brine facility for the Town and that in addition up to £200,000 be made available for investment in any commercially led proposal which was proven to be viable and deliverable. This was also confirmed by Councillor G R Brookes.

### 237 GENERAL MATTERS – COUNCILLOR A HUMPHRIES

Councillor A Humphries advised that he had attended a meeting with London Midland when it was acknowledged by a representative that London Midland was not aware that the population of Droitwich Spa could significantly increase over the next few years and, even without that increase, had confirmed that there was no capacity to increase or improve the rail services through the town. In his opinion, the bus services currently running through Droitwich Spa and its surrounding areas were also not

adequate for the current needs of its residents, let alone the needs an increased population would create, no firm and concrete proposals would appear to have been put in place to show how this was to be dealt with.

Councillor R J Morris reported that he had raised the issue of the lack of infrastructure previously and had little response. Councillor S Best advised upon the coach arrangements with particular reference to the new train station at Coventry Ricoh.

Councillor R G Beale referred to capacity within the medical service, Salters Medical Centre having advised that they had 50% capacity but had then advised him that day that they could not cope with emergencies. Councillor Mrs S Harris disputed this given the amount of missed appointments and further advised that medical teams were looking at more interactive ways of communication including Skype etc with patients. The use of Nurse Prescribers was looking at being extended. Whatever events happened these were dealt with. Councillor Morris said that the Town Council must push for answers and Councillor Brookes stated that the Town Council should not accept 'sticking plaster' resources.

Councillor Humphries proposed that the Town Council passed a resolution (as set out below) and this was seconded by Councillor T J Noyes. Councillor Mrs C Powell suggested that as well as sending this to Nigel Huddleston MP the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership should also receive a copy.

Upon a show of hands it was therefore

RESOLVED That Droitwich Spa Town Council is concerned that Droitwich Spa and the needs of its residents both present and future are at best being forgotten or at worst being ignored by decision makers and it seeks assurances that all the relevant and interested parties are part of the ongoing discussions concerning the future of the town and it seeks further assurances that the Town Council will be provided with meaningful and regular updates concerning matters that affect it.

## 238 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £2,745.04 as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

The Meeting ended at 7.01pm.

Chairman of Council  
25 April 2016

**COUNCIL MEETING 14 DECEMBER 2015 – MINUTE NO 237 REFERS****Cheques signed 22 February 2016**

|       |   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| 10769 | Merlin Office Supplies Limited                                    | £674.67          |
|       | Stationery & Office furniture                                     |                  |
| 10770 | Smart Office Solutions (Cotswold) Limited                         | £142.37          |
|       | Photocopier use 01.01.2016 to 08.02.2016                          |                  |
| 10771 | R G Beale   | £1,500.00        |
|       | Mayoral Allowance - 2nd payment                                   |                  |
|       | <i>Replacement of cheque no 10680 dated 28.9.15 presumed lost</i> |                  |
|       | <i>Stop placed on cheque</i>                                      |                  |
| 10772 | A J Manton, Hillhampton Honey                                     | £225.00          |
|       | TIC Purchases   |                  |
| 10773 | The Association of Independent Museums                            | £47.00           |
|       | AIM Membership Renewal  |                  |
| 10774 | Avidean Limited (Droitwich Print)                                 | £156.00          |
|       | Printing of numbered, duplicate Receipt books for TIC             |                  |
|       |   |                  |
|       | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>£2,745.04</b> |
|       |   |                  |
|       |   |                  |