

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 24 April 2017**, at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor R E Murphy (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor Mrs J Bolton
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor G A Duffy
Councillor L Evans
Councillor Mrs S Harris
Councillor A Laird
Councillor T J Noyes
Councillor Mrs K Tomalin

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors S Best, Mrs A Hawkins, A Humphries, R J Morris, A Roberts and A M Sinton.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

No questions were submitted for consideration.

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276 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

277 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 30 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

278 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor R E Murphy reported upon the civic events and projects he had attended, it was always illuminating for him to see both the similarities and differences in the various towns. He was continually impressed to see the high level of volunteering that took place.

Future events mentioned were:

- the Well Blessing organised by Probus at the annual St Richard's Festival, the procession taking place at 10am from Victoria Square for the service at 10.30am – 11am at Upwich Pit; and
- the visit to the Town by 32 French Twinners from Voiron 27 April to 1 May, which involved a very full programme of activities including a reception at the Cricket Pavilion, St Peter's Church Lane and a day trip to the Black Country Living Museum, those wishing to join in should note that the coach was due to depart from the Sacred Heart at 10.00 am on 28 April.

279 TO RECEIVE A BRIEF UPDATE ON POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

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

- Criminal Damage
 - o There had been four offences during the previous week and five offences at the weekend involving damage to cars at Vines Lane. At present there was no indication as to motivation or pattern of offending. Patrols had been increased in this area.
- Burglary from dwellings
 - o Two burglaries had taken place, with the normal method of unauthorised entry to the rear of the property. She advised that with the holiday season looming it was advisable to take appropriate steps to improve home safety and various methods such as lights on timer switches should be utilised. Advice was available from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and also via the website.
- Theft of Pedal Cycles
 - o Three bicycles had been stolen in a six-week period. A previous offender had been convicted.
- Theft from Stores
 - o This had decreased, mainly as the prolific offenders were currently in prison. Criminal Behaviour Orders were being utilised to ban offenders from the town centre.
- Motor Vehicle Theft
 - o Such thefts were occurring often, with no visible means of entry to the vehicle. It was likely that cars were left unlocked. There had been two instances of tools being taken from vans and a further two incidents involving the theft of number plates.

Sergeant Kent also reported upon:

- The five newly-appointed officers who formed a 'Tasking Team', this being in addition to the Safer Neighbourhood Team but these officers were more flexible as to duties. They had recently been involved with a case dealing with the supply of drugs taking place from a local public house.

- Although there would be a Police Presence at the forthcoming St Richard's Festival they would not be having a stall as space was limited - the Festival was a smaller event owing to the High Street Enhancement works taking place.
- Neighbourhood Watch was now accessible on 'facebook' and could be viewed by all even if not a facebook member. Although not a regular user it was an invaluable tool for getting information out to a large number of people.

Councillor G R Brookes thanked Sergeant Kent and her Team for their response to his request for assistance with some recent problems. In reply to a question from Councillor T J Noyes Sergeant Kent advised that the use of the additional four car parking spaces at the Police Station approved under Planning Application W/16/01978/PN had only commenced that day and although it was a busy area the traffic situation should improve. The additional use of the Police Station had ensured that it would be retained. She suggested that any concerns or complaints on the subject should be sent to the Chief Superintendent, given that this matter was not within her remit.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her report.

280 HIGH SCHOOL – UPDATE FROM HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY

Ella Comerford, Head Girl and Joe Barley, Deputy Head Boy were welcomed to the meeting. Both gave a short report upon the current recruitment process for the Sixth Form Council and progress to date with the installation of an amphitheatre (relocated from a school in Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire). The 200-seat theatre, complete with roof, was to be used for drama lessons and school productions etc and act as a base for sporting events hosted by the school. Congratulations were in order for Miss Holmes and Mr Jarvis, teachers who had participated in the London marathon which had taken place the previous day. £6,000 had been raised. Congratulations also to Megan Skillern, pupil who had been successful in gaining a bronze medal at the Judo Kan British Schools Championships in Sheffield. Three football teams (two boys' teams and one girls' team) had competed with sides from Holland and all three had been successful. Examinations were now taking prominence.

Councillor Mrs S Harris and the Chairman thanked Ella and Joe for their very interesting report and congratulated the school on their sporting achievements.

281 YOUTH COUNCIL – UPDATE FROM YOUTH COUNCILLORS

The Chairman welcomed Katie Bowen to the meeting.

Katie reported upon the main project in hand, namely the Youth Fest which would take place on Saturday 8 July 2017 in Lido Park. 'Ade' the Creative Director was involved heavily in the staging of the event and also with the provision of bands and artists, Councillor G Duffy had assisted with the website and the event was being marketed actively. Katie was now the Senior Ambassador at the Outreach Hub and was looking forward to meeting new faces and networking.

In response to a question from Councillor T J Noyes Katie confirmed that her subjects at school were German, Geography, History and Computing. Councillor Noyes congratulated her upon her presentation skills which would surely come in useful and the Chairman thanked Katie for her interesting and informative report.

282 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP – UPDATE REPORT

Pursuant to Minute No 263 Resources Committee meeting 6 March 2017 Council noted that Councillor R J Morris had advised the Town Clerk upon the draft Constitution and Declarations of Interests. It was confirmed that a full report from the Neighbourhood Planning Group was to be presented to the next meeting, this to include information upon Business Leaders Forum support.

283 BRINE HERITAGE GROUP – UPDATE REPORT

At present there were several matters being progressed such as the planning application W/16/03043/OU - Outline planning application for a single storey building to be constructed in Droitwich Lido Park adjacent to the existing lido to include a dual purpose brine bath, Jacuzzi and café, marketing proposals for branded foodstuffs and other potential uses, Business Leaders Forum support, etc. A detailed report from the Brine Heritage Group was to be presented to the next meeting.

284 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13 February 2017 be approved and adopted.

285 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 13 February 2017 be approved and adopted.

286 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 March 2017 be approved and adopted.

287 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 6 March 2017 be approved and adopted.

288 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 6 March 2017 be approved and adopted.

289 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 APRIL 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 April 2017 be approved and adopted.

290 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2017

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 10 April 2017 be approved and adopted.

291 COMMUNITY & AMENITIES COMMITTEE – MINUTE NO 254 REFERS: NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR A HUMPHRIES

Pursuant to Minute No 229, the following was referred to the committee:

"Following the success of the new group supporting people and families with dementia in Droitwich Spa and the success of a similar group in Evesham, discussions have taken place about applying for Droitwich Spa to be classified as a Dementia Friendly town. Support in principle (which does not require any financial or resource assistance) has been requested and therefore the Town Council confirms its full support for any application to make Droitwich Spa a Dementia Friendly Town."

This referral was upon a proposal from Councillor R J Morris:

That the principle of assistance for dementia sufferers be supported but that Councillor Mrs S Harris be tasked with speaking to all stakeholder groups such as the Clinical Commissioning Group, Age UK, Churches Together, Older Peoples' Forum etc and reporting on the matter to a future meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee so that an informed decision can be made by the Town Council as to the identification of Droitwich Spa as a Dementia Friendly Town.

The Community & Amenities Committee noted that as Council had supported the principle of assistance for dementia sufferers Councillor Mrs S Harris had confirmed that she did not wish to report any further on the matter.

Councillor T J Noyes advised that he understood that there was no seconder for the motion.

292 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

1. REPORTS ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mrs P E Davey advised that there were no particular issues to report upon, the County Council Elections being imminent.

The Chairman commented that he understood that some 15 of the 57 County Councillors who were standing down, and that although he had thought that this was because of age, he now understood that it was a matter of the level of commitment required.

293 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

1. PRESENTATION FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS L DUFFY – NEW WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL INITIATIVE – THREE YEAR ‘DROITWICH WEST REJUVENATION’ PROJECT

District Councillor Mrs L Duffy circulated the Wychavon Ward Profile Information Sheet for Droitwich West Ward at the meeting and referred to her proposals which had been approved by Wychavon District Council (*Minute No 73, Executive Board of Wychavon District Council meeting held on 8 February 2017 refers*). These related to Wychavon District Council’s New Homes Bonus monies, specifically the investment of £230,000 over the next three years to 31 March 2020 in running a programme in the Droitwich West ward to improve aspirations, health and life chances alongside a remodelled Rural Communities Programme. Although Droitwich was one of the top areas to live, it fared poorly in the area of social mobility. It was realised that not all matters to be addressed would be within the remit of the individual councils however it was hoped that some of the outstanding issues could be resolved. District Councillor Mrs Duffy had initiated discussions with Fortis Living and Droitwich Spa Council for Voluntary Services. Councillor Mrs S Harris advised that it was her intention to put this initiative forward to the Youth Council for identification as a formal project.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Mrs Duffy for her presentation and remarked upon the small areas of social deprivation that existed.

2. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor T J Noyes advised that there was little to report, there being the Local Government and Parliamentary Elections pending. However he advised upon:

DROITWICH WEST REJUVENATION PROJECT

- As reported by District Councillor Mrs L Duffy, Wychavon District Council had identified an initiative to invest an extra £230,000 of New Homes Bonus to run a three year programme in the Droitwich West ward, with the aim of improving aspirations, health and life chances alongside a remodelled Rural Communities Programme. Both Jack Hegarty the Managing Director and District Councillor Linda Robinson, Leader were excited by this initiative. Dave Manning was the Lead Officer and further information would be

forthcoming in due course. Councillor Noyes requested that all councillors get involved and/or bring forward suggestions.

LICENSING

- Licensing Committee had met on 5 April to discuss the results of the consultation on the Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy – age requirements for vehicles being a specific matter addressed – and agreed that the policy should be updated. This was due to be ratified by Council on 26 April.
- Members also had an update on various legislative changes that were in the process of being introduced – including the Immigration Act 2016, the Policing and Crime Act 2017, Section 165-167 of the Equality Act 2010 relating to Taxi and Private Hire Passengers in Wheelchairs and Animal Licensing proposals.
- Items to be discussed at future meetings of the Licensing Committee include Equality Act 2010 – Section 167 – List of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles, Review of the policy on the relevance of convictions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and Taxi Licensing Fees for 2018/19.

STAFFING AT WYCHAVON

- There had been a number of retirements of the last couple of months, namely David Hemming, Community Safety Manager and his partner Diane Wilson, Customer Services Advisor who retired to Spain. Following Dave's departure the Community Safety Team, including the Community Wardens Trevor Clark and Frances Haley and the Youth Bus team, now come under Community Development.
- The Head of Legal and Committee Services and Monitoring Officer, Ian Marshall, and David Hood, Legal Services Officer both retired on 24 March. Mrs Meesha Patel was now the Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer, Heather Peachey was the Deputy Legal Services Manager and Kath Smith was the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

PLANNING

- A number of Neighbourhood Plans had been through the Referendum stage and were to be considered by Wychavon District Council on 26 April for formal adoption, including North Claines Neighbourhood Plan and Drakes Broughton and Wadborough with Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

294 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council. Supplementary creditor payments were submitted as shown attached.

RESOLVED

That the statement of accounts for payment be received with the amendments as now reported above and the expenditure totalling £1,985.33 (£565.00 + £1,420.33) as now appended be approved and duly passed for payment.

295 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

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 involved financial and legal matters.

CLOSED SESSION

296 LAND AT KIDDERMINSTER ROAD

Pursuant to Minute 207 of the Resources Committee meeting held on 16 January 2017 the Town Clerk advised upon the report of the District Valuer and discussions with Mr Nicol of Nicol & Co Estate Agents.

Both had confirmed that their valuations were subject to the special assumption that no abnormal development costs would be incurred. If abnormal development costs were taken into account, this would reduce their reported valuations.

Council reviewed the salient points including the District Valuer's Opinion of Value and Recommendations, including that should the site be sold without planning permission the Council was strongly recommended to take legal advice and ensure that any sale agreement included an overage/claw back provision regarding potential land uses and/or future development to protect its position.

Mr Nicol had identified two options for consideration:

1. That the land is made available to the prospective client for £150,000 unconditionally but with an overage attached to the land; or
2. That the land be made available via an option purchase - requirements of this to be £15,000 non-refundable placed at the beginning granting a two-year option. The Client then (at his cost) seek to obtain planning permission. If successful to complete the purchase of the land at 80% of full market value less his planning costs. In the report prepared the District Valuer this is indicated at £600,000 as a guide. There would on this occasion be no overage attached.

Further information had been received from Mr Nicol as to a potential purchaser. Mr Nicol had included references to some of the development costs relating to utilities - water, gas and electric – plus other costings that would be required for highways, flood prevention etc prior to development.

Councillor Brookes advised upon the various options and commended the use of an option on the land. The Town Clerk commended cognisance of the District Valuer's recommendations. A final decision upon any negotiations would be submitted to the Council for consideration.

RESOLVED

1. That the action taken to date be endorsed and the land at Kidderminster Road be made available via an option purchase - requirements of this to be £15,000 non-refundable placed at the beginning of the granting of a two-year option.
2. The Client then (at his cost) seeks to obtain planning permission and if successful completes the purchase of the land at 80% of full market value less his planning costs. In the report prepared the District Valuer this is indicated at £600,000 as a guide. There would on this occasion be no overage attached.
3. That should any other offers or negotiated terms be identified then the Council be advised accordingly by the Town Clerk for a decision to be made in due course.

297 URGENT ITEM - LAND AT FALSAM PITS

[The Chairman considered that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.]

The Town Clerk advised that Wychavon District Council owned a patch of land on the north-east side of Falsam Pits Garage, Worcester Road WR9 8AX. This equated to a grass verge leading to the Copcut Park Allotments maintained currently as part of the Town Council's landholding. To rationalise the landholding the District Council had offered to transfer ownership of the land for the sum of £1.

RESOLVED

That the transfer of land on the north-east side of Falsam Pits Garage, Worcester Road WR9 8AX from Wychavon District Council for the sum of £1 be approved and the Town Clerk be granted delegated powers to complete all necessary procedures.

The Meeting ended at 6.50pm.

Chairman of Council _____

19 June 2017

COUNCIL MEETING 24 APRIL 2017 – MINUTE NO 294 REFERS**Creditor Payments List**

11014	Ian Fraser CPFA Internal Audit work carried out for year ended 31 March 2017	£475.00
11015	Smart Office Solutions (Cotswold) Limited Staples for Photocopier Machine	£90.00
	TOTAL	<u>£565.00</u>

Supplementary Creditor Payments List

11010	John Ellis Associates Limited 6 Monthly Health & Safety Consultancy Services	£625.00
11011	Association of Independent Museums AIM Membership Renewal - Heritage Centre	£49.00
11012	ADT Fire and Security plc Maintenance of the Fire Alarm System 29.04.17 to 28.04.2018	£406.38
11013	Dudley's Coaches February & March ticket sales less commission - TIC	339.95
	TOTAL	<u>£1,420.33</u>

GRAND TOTAL **£1,985.33**