

Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the Extra ordinary meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber, St. Richard's House, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa on Monday 29 July 2019 at 7.25 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor WT Moy (Mayor)
Councillor R G Beale
Councillor G R Brookes
Councillor Mrs C Bowden
Councillor E Bowden
Councillor Mrs J Chaudry
Councillor GA Duffy
Councillor Mrs K Fellows
Councillor J Grady
Councillor RP Hopkins
Councillor A Humphries
Councillor DJ Morris
Councillor RJ Morris
Councillor CM Murray
Councillor A M Sinton

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor DM Craigie.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

No questions were submitted for consideration.

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102 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

103 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 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.

104 THE NEW HOMES BONUS FUND ALLOCATION FOR THE DROITWICH SPA, ST PETERS FIELD SPORTS ASSOCIATION, PAVILION PROJECT.

Pursuant to minute reference number 36 of the Resources Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2016 an initial award of £15,000.00 was allocated in principle to the project with the condition that deliverability should be ascertained. Following a subsequent request from Wychavon District Council for an update on progress of this project dated 10 July 2019 an approach has been made to Mr Peter Field to provide further information from the Trustees. Wychavon have asked that the project position is clarified and that if current proposals have significantly changed the eligibility of the original funding may now be subject to a resubmitted application. To consider the options available.

The Town Clerk explained that following the approach from Wychavon District Council last month for an update on the original project a meeting took with Mr Peter Field representing the Trustee Group on 17 July 2019. Thereafter Mr Field reported back to the Sports Association Trustees and in turn provided an email dated 24 July which confirms the current position and preferred options forward for the project. This information was relayed to Members as follows,

“I promised to let you know what happened when the matters discussed at that meeting were raised at a meeting of representatives of the Cricket and Football clubs last evening (23rd July). The following is a summary of the meeting:

- 1. Extreme disappointment was felt that the new-build project was no longer viable, at least in the short term, because there was no longer any Councillor championing a community facility on the site and because Wychavon had put its money into King George's.*
- 2. The need to start work was now critical as members were starting to leave the clubs because of problems with the building. For example, the Cricket Club has about 50 female members, but only one female toilet! (The Football Club do not use the for girls' matches because of this lack of facility). There is also an urgent need for more changing room space, more storage space and improvement to the shower area.*
- 3. In order to address these priorities we need to gain more space and not just improve what exists.*
- 4. We therefore propose to return to the extension project for which we have gained planning permission, but to build on a modular basis over time, with the most urgent requirements being added first.*
- 5. We propose to fund at least the first phase by:*

Urgently re-applying for New Homes Bonus money before this source is terminated. Moving some funds where possible from the clubs' accounts and/or through fund-raising. Speaking to the ECB and FA about what help they might provide. (Although the ECB have declared that they are not in favour of a re-furbishment, we need to ask them what solution they do propose now that a new-build is not viable). Putting more pressure on Wychavon to grant an extension for the lease, which is required in order to attract external funding”.

In general discussion members stated their continued support in principle to the St Peters Field, Sports Pavilion project, subject to according with the updated parameters for the Wychavon District Council, New Homes Bonus funding scheme. The Town Clerk confirmed that there was currently £38,084.00 unallocated New Homes Bonus for Droitwich Spa plus the additional £15,000.00 originally committed to the St Peters Field project in 2016, subject to deliverability. With the relaxing of the £15,000.00 the revised unallocated total for New Homes Bonus will total £53,084.00. Councillor RJ Morris abstained from taking part in the vote.

RESOLVED - That the St Peters Field New Homers Bonus award from July 2016 for £15,000.00 be uncommitted due to non-delivery of the project to date. Due to changes in dynamics for the project and vision, a new funding application will now need to be produced and considered for Town Council support and onward referral for evaluation by Wychavon District Council in due course. It was noted that the unallocated fund for New Homes Bonus is now £53,084.00 following the revision. The Town Clerk to take forward with the Group Trustees.

105 ST RICHARDS HOUSE MUSEUM PROJECT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS AND ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME SCHEDULING

Pursuant to Minute Reference number 79 of the Community & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 to agree in principle to fund the museum project proposals from restricted capital reserves as detailed in the accompanying reports from that meeting. It was also resolved to consider a schedule of essential maintenance work for St Richards House simultaneously during the preparations, namely a replacement fire alarm and smoke detection system together with any necessary rewiring provision, subject to provision of estimates.

To consider further options suggested by Wychavon District Council which involve some collaborative working possibilities and a tentative three tier Local Government approach with Worcestershire County Council for the existing Victoria Square Public Library building.

Councillor AM Sinton explained that Wychavon District Council had updated on 17 July 2019 at a meeting in Pershore that there may be some possible collaborative working arrangements to consider for the existing library building on Victoria Square. This may present opportunity for County, District and Town Councils to work together and utilise the building in different ways including consideration to relocate the Museum and Heritage Centre. Further details are expected to emerge over the next 12 months including pecuniary arrangements, ownership, liabilities and available space options. A more informed consideration will be available as further information is received. In general discussion the consensus reached was that it would be a sensible way forward to consider all options including the library building suggestions. The Town Clerk explained that various component preparations were in progress for the St Richards House Museum proposals including work towards external Arts Council funding and additional structural plans and estimates for full consideration.

The Town Clerk reiterated the obligations and necessity to undertake the essential recommended renewal work for the St Richards House fire detection and alarm systems following the professional advice of Bryland Fire Systems and the report made to the Community & Amenities Committee on 1 July 2019. It was further explained that matters were in course for Bryland to provide an estimate for this work, including any replacement

wiring provision, which would then in turn be presented to the Resources Committee together with two further estimates – prior to the work being instructed. The importance of this maintenance work was emphasised given the public building status, large volunteer & staff compliment and tenanted office space.

RESOLVED That the Minute Reference 79 of the Community & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2019 be amended to enable further consideration of any relevant options for shared use of the WCC Library Building. In the meantime preparatory work for the original St Richards House Museum refurbishment project proposals will continue, including external funding opportunities and alternative architects plans and structural work estimates. The essential fire alarm & detection system work is to progress as originally resolved, subject to estimates provision and final sanction.

Councillor RJ Morris asked whether an additional resolution could be considered for delegated powers to transfer the Community Legacy application opportunity (minute reference 57 of the Full Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2019) from the Norbury Theatre to the Library building, towards the Museum project. In addition Councillor RJ Morris suggested transferring restricted capital reserve funding as match funded provision. The Town Clerk explained that this was not appropriate or possible for the following reasons.

- The resolution reached at Council on 17 June 2019 (minute reference 57) allocated support for the two Community Legacy Scheme opportunities to the Norbury Theatre and the High School (Cabin) projects.
- Irrespective that the deadline for submission of the application was fast approaching (23rd August 2019), contact foremost should be with the Norbury Theatre in order to gauge progress and the intentions for their project. Councillor A Humphries offered to ascertain the position with the Norbury Theatre and then report back.
- A Community Legacy application would not be possible for the Library Building “in concept” without specific detail and further information. The anticipation was noted that further details may emerge during the next 12 months. A tangible application cannot be prepared or submitted without the aforementioned supporting information in the Community Legacy edition 2 timeframe which closes on 23 August 2019.
- Restricted Town Council capital reserves cannot be transferred for a project towards an asset not in Town Council ownership. Similarly the Town Council insurance and liabilities does not extend to premises not owned by this Authority.
- The Agenda for the Extra Ordinary Meeting (29 July 2019) does not include an agenda item to consider Community Legacy funding. Furthermore both edition 2 Community Legacy Funding applications were resolved in principle at the Full Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2019 (Minute reference 57).

RESOLVED That Councillor A Humphries ascertain progress and intentions with the Norbury Theatre with regard to their Community Legacy project and funding application. This is in the context of the imminent submission deadline of 23 August 2019 and the requirement to report back to Council for clarification purposes.

The meeting ended at 8.12 pm.

Chairman of Council -----
23 September 2019

