

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber at St Richards House on **Monday 12 December 2022** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor GA Duffy (Mayor)  
Councillor RG Beale  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor E Bowden  
Councillor GR Brookes  
Councillor Mrs JM Chaudry  
Councillor J Grady  
Councillor NR Griffiths  
Councillor RP Hopkins  
Councillor A Humphries  
Councillor AH Laird  
Councillor WT Moy

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillors DM Craigie, Mrs K Fellows, DJ Morris, RJ Morris, CM Murray & AM Sinton.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

## 207. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

## 208. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Councillor RP Hopkins expressed disappointment that issues he has with draft minute extract 115 remain outstanding despite a meeting that had taken place with Councillors Brookes, Sinton and Humphries, as well as the Town Clerk on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Councillor A Humphries expressed the same with regard to the minute reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Project (draft minute reference 116). It was suggested by both Councillors that draft minute references 115 & 116 should be deferred until January 2023 for consideration for acceptance. Councillor Hopkins expressed that his email transcript for the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December, provided on 30<sup>th</sup> November should be included in the draft minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> September Council Meeting as well.

Councillor GR Brookes responded that two amendments had been made by the Town Clerk to the presented draft minutes following discussion on 1<sup>st</sup> December and that the meeting was understood to have been amicably concluded by all those present. The Chairman referred to Standing Order 12b and asked Councillor Hopkins to update which specific parts of the Draft Minutes he was referring to and requesting further consideration for amendment. The information was not provided.

Councillor Brookes reaffirmed that the item being considered was the accuracy of the presented draft minutes as a correct record of the proceedings of the Full Council Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September. The Chairman then determined that there were now two proposals put forward which would be considered by the vote in the order received.

Proposal One – To amend the draft minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (specifically within part references 115 and 116), by the way of deferment for further consideration until January 2023. There were 3 votes in favour and 9 against.

Proposal Two - That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 26 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were 9 votes in favour and 3 against.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 26 September 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 209. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor GA Duffy updated the following information.

##### Mayor's announcements 12.12.2022

Fellow Cllrs, Ladies and gentleman,

“Good evening all, I hope everyone has been getting as festive as the colder weather hits just as of our town have been. Since our last Full Council, I have attended 24 events. Many of the invites being received to share in the seasonal spirit at Christmas fayres at the Westlands Centre, Chawson Barn, Droitwich Mews, Westmead, Stourport Three Kings Parade and Worcester Victorian fayre, as well as carolling at the Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet's cocktail party and Pershore Mayor's brass and choir concert. Though none of these were as magical as our own concert and lights turn on in Victoria square, preceded by a much more local carolling at the St Andrews church before I was joined in front of the Raven by the sixth form senior student team and John Adams, a local sports hero and fundraiser for motor neurone syndrome, all made possible by the efforts of our town's volunteers and dedicated officers.

Another excellent gathering of our town was out Royal British Legion's host Remembrance Sunday where we saw over 120 wreaths placed under the unseasonably good weather, this following on from a smaller but touching Armistice Ceremony two days before on the 11th hour of the 11th day. Equally huge in support but far less sombre in nature was the Football Club Salt Men's incredibly successful first season back in Droitwich on the new stadia sports ground and pavilion. Unfortunately I missed their massive victory over Worcester FC but I really appreciated sharing their grand opening with Kevin Keegan.

Expressing another great thanks to the efforts of the officers of this Town Council, my Civic Service ran smoothly at the end of October with the support of the Salvation Army Band and the Reverend Nigel Byard. An excellent member of our community and an excellent Chaplain for half of my year, Nigel has always given great speech and service to our town but has now taken an opportunity to bring this positivity to a new role in a new community - so I'd also like to thank the Reverend Laura Handy who has kindly agreed to lead us in faith as my Chaplain for the remainder of my year.

In much more localised events, I joined our French and German Twinning association's for their AGMs to learn about their works sharing our town with our twinned towns of Voiron and Bad Emms before presiding over their elections to chair. As a guest only, I had made an appearance at our Scout Group's District AGM to find out some of their activities. Finally, an invite to the Rotary Club's annual lunch also gave me an opportunity to learn what they have been up to and update them on some of the works of our own works.”

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 210. POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

Sergeant Sarah Kent updated the following report.

Traditionally at this time of the year residential premises burglary incidents increase. The darker evenings presents criminal with the opportunity and the trend for incidents increases in the timeframe from 4pm to 8pm. The PCSO Team in Droitwich Spa are currently being proactive with identifying properties that are considered to be at risk by being in complete darkness which indicates that the dwelling is unoccupied. Positive intervention measures include looking at lighting options to help with the impression that somebody is at home during the darker periods of the day and evening. Vulnerable locations include properties near to parkland and alleyways which provide close cover and a route for escape for the perpetrator. The Local Police Team policy in the event of a burglary is to attend and visit the location, provide support and issue free smart water deterrent. In addition the approach strives to visit 10 neighbouring households to provide crime prevention advice with the outlook that many burglary offences happen in clusters and in close proximity to each other. Areas where burglary continues to be an issue in Droitwich Spa include Coppice Way, Coppice Close and parts of Primsland.

Shoplifting is another crime that increases at this seasonal time of year. Items targeted for theft include alcohol and foodstuffs. Criminals often visit towns like Droitwich Spa from a wider area taking the advantage of less CCTV coverage than in place for larger settlements such as Worcester City. Distraction thefts targeting vulnerable people for purses, handbags and similar items of value are a feature. These incidents often take place with more than one person involved to distract the victim and can happen very quickly. Recent local successful interventions on this type of crime apprehended two suspects in the autumn and more recently an individual in Waitrose Supermarket. The latter was apprehended following photographic recognition technology linked to the National Crime Agency for the person that is wanted elsewhere for wider offences of a similar nature. This helps determine that criminals are not necessarily from the local town and target a wide area for their activity. One disturbing distraction burglary has taken place in St Nicholas Street, Droitwich Spa whereby two females impersonating as nurses targeted a very vulnerable person for jewellery theft. Thankfully the suspects have been apprehended and are awaiting court appearance.

Community Surgeries are being provided by the CSO Team at the Droitwich Spa Library and the Westlands First School. The latter is a replacement venue to the Westlands Hall because in the past surgeries have not had a high attendance. Dates and times of forthcoming CSO Surgeries are posted on Facebook. The “Anti - Violence Bee” made a successful visit to the Town on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November and attracted good levels of public interest at the venues of the High School and Victoria Square. This has helped to reaffirm the anti- violence message throughout the Community and amongst different age groups. Droitwich AED have provided 5 CPAD’s for the CSO Team in the Town. These are now deployed as emergency response kit in each of the Towns 5 marked Police Vehicles and are in addition to the CPAD already maintained at the Police Station. The equipment is a welcome addition because given the

demands on the emergency and health services overall, the CSO Team are often first on scene for any emergency incident or situation. The CSO Team are all CPAD trained Officers.

In the lead up to Christmas & New Year and during the World Cup Tournament coverage, the CSO Team have increased visual patrols. This helps support the night time economy and safer neighbourhood outlook. Within this “Operation BOW” is features strongly which raises awareness and heightened vigilance towards domestic abuse issues. Domestic abuse problems can seasonally rise around Christmas time and during National Football Tournament coverage. The message is to empower people report any suspected domestic abuse as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Kent for her informative report.

Councillor Mrs J Chaudry expressed appreciation for the “Anti Violence Bee” initiative during November which and been well received and resonated strongly in getting the anti-knife crime message across – particularly as part of School Assemblies.

Councillor GR Brookes updated about the “Nottingham Knockers” or “Helping Hands Organisation” who had been active in Droitwich Spa in the past. It was explained that these Groups called on houses and employed aggressive door step selling techniques, representing that they are supporting reformed criminals. Sergeant Kent acknowledged the concerns from the past and confirmed that legitimate peddlers licences to enable door to door to sales would not be granted for persons with previous or existing criminal convictions. It was also added that the Organisation “Helping Hands” had previously been banned from operating anywhere in Worcestershire over an 18 month period following many complaints, although this had now lapsed. Vigilance and reporting of concerns remains the recommended approach for this matter going forwards.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 211. HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

The following information was updated by the Students.

Harriett and Owen represented and conveyed apologies for Amy and George who were not able to attend the meeting. Amy expressed appreciation for the Teams invitation to accompany the Mayor in turning on the Towns Christmas Lights on 26<sup>th</sup> November which had been a very enjoyable Event. Similarly thanks were given for the opportunity to participate in Remembrance on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, which had been an enjoyable, yet more sombre occasion.

Councillor A Humphries thanked the Mayor for his support in organising the Remembrance arrangements this year. He advised that the Poppy Appeal Collection total was being finalised and believed that it would be in the region of £27K.

Owen updated that the recent Charities Week at the High School had successfully raised approximately £4K. This was to be allocated across three chosen Charities as follows – “Heads Up” Mental Health – for Local, Macmillan Cancer Care - for National and the Kenyan Twinned School – for International.

Going forwards an Arts Manifesto Event is being planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 covering visual and performing arts. Fund raising is beginning for the Summer High School Prom through pub quizzes on Friday Evenings. A sports Cup Competition is planned for March 2023.

For the UCAS process this year and University Selections so far there are currently three Oxbridge applicants. Interviews and progression is expected soon.

The Chairman & Councillor GR Brookes wished the Senior Students Team well and thanked Harriett & Owen for their professional reports and update.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 212. YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

To note that the Youth Council updates will resume in due course. There is no report for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Meeting.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 213. SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW (REGULATION 19) COMMENTS RESPONSE

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Following publication of the draft proposals for the SWDP Review in September 2022 – An open public meeting for the Consultation (Regulation 19) including a questions & answers session took place at the Community Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

The Town Council has an opportunity to consider a corporate opinion response within the allocated period for comments up to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Pursuant to draft minute reference 192 of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to consider the final drafted comments response for submission. [*Final Draft Response circulated to Members on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for consideration and approval*].

The Town Clerk updated the following additional information

- (a) That the Consultation period final deadline had now been extended until 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022.
- (b) A draft response for the Regulation 19 consultation from the Civic Society had been received and forwarded as a confidential document for information only to all DSTC Elected Members by email earlier in the day.
- (c) The following additional comment for the Town Council response which had been relayed by and agreed with Councillor RJ Morris as he was unable to attend this meeting. To be incorporated within the already drafted response for final consideration.

Overall it is encouraging to see the proposed infrastructure to be invested although it is important to secure the Section 106 monies and make the improvements before any new development takes place. This has not always happened in the past and as a matter of principle - if the Section 106 cannot be secured properly going forwards, then the development should not take place.

Councillor A Humphries reaffirmed the comments on Section 106 funding outlined in the update from Councillor RJ Morris.

There were no further points arising.

RESOLVED- To approve the Final Draft Response as presented by the Town Clerk as the comments of the Town Council for the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (Regulation 19) consultation. To include the additional comment received from Councillor RJ Morris (outlined above) prior to submission of the final document on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

#### 214. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Minute References 51/2022 & 52/2022 of the Meeting of Full Council on 20 June 2022 the Governance and Annual Accounts have been submitted to the External Auditors to accord with procedure.

To report that the return statement following examination has been received on 28 September 2022 and duly displayed for the notice of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Except for the challenge correspondence matter previously reported (Minute Reference 115 of the Meeting of Full Council held on 26 September 2022 refers) the External Auditor has confirmed that “on the basis of the review of Sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR, in our opinion the information in sections 1 & 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met“ *[Notice, Report and Certificate for 2021/2022 attached with Agenda Papers for information]*

The Town Clerk updated that he had contacted the External Auditor again last week and confirmed that the final completion certificate and fees invoice were expected soon and would be reported at the next available Full Council meeting. The additional costs element had been clarified from the External Auditor as follows - (“I have charged an hour and a half of my time - £532.50 plus VAT – for the additional work as a result of the challenge correspondence”).

Councillor RP Hopkins stated that the complainant and challenge correspondence originator was a “forceful individual” and gave “a warning“ that the person would be making further allegations if he was not satisfied.

The Chairman responded to Councillor Hopkins that the individual should be advised to contact his local Town Councillors or the Officers in the first instance should he have any remaining questions instead of just approaching the External Auditor.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

215. NOTIFICATION OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT FOR THE 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR, FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL 2026/2027.

To note and confirm correspondence received by email on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 which notifies through the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) that the appointed external auditor will remain as PKF Littlejohn LLP for the next five year period. This appointment follows the wider procurement exercise carried out from April 2022 to appoint auditors to each contract (County) area. Contact information, scales & audit fee details are outlined in the papers circulated with the Agenda.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

216. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECT

To receive an update from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the designated Town Council Member with responsibility for the project options, including Communications & Liaison. Councillor Brookes updated the report and attachments provided with the Agenda. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

217. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE UNDER MENTIONED MEETINGS

1. Planning Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 *[previously circulated]*

2. Resources Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 [*previously circulated*]
3. Planning Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 [*previously circulated*]
4. Community & Amenities Committee- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 [*previously circulated*]
5. Planning Committee -5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 [*previously circulated*]
6. Resources Committee- 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 [*previously circulated*]

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

#### 218. TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE UPGRADE PROPOSALS

Pursuant to draft minute reference 205 of the Resources Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to consider the attached options outlined by the Website Host Manager. The recommendation is to consider the wider option two in order cover all of the anticipated needs for the website, strategic priorities and functional conformity going forwards. Details for website upgrade options, hosting support and training attached with Agenda papers.

The Town Clerk referred to the Website Upgrade Options document and explained that the second option was recommended in order to fulfil all of the emerging business and operational requirements of the Town Council.

RESOLVED – To proceed with the Option 2 as outlined in the Website Upgrade Options Proposal Document received from Activ Digital Marketing. Outlined Cost is £1995 (split as £300 for website design template, £1495 for redesign of all layout including additional Neighbourhood Development Plan pages and £200 for accessibility, testing and updating the existing statement).

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

The Town Clerk confirmed the following project updates as presented on the agenda.

- (a) Edition Two – Droitwich Spa High School, Community Cabin. Pursuant to minute reference 118 of Full Council held on 26 September 2022, to confirm that Councillor DM Craigie attended the High School Cabin Management Committee Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It is reported that Community engagement and usage of the cabin facility was discussed and updated. Wider Community use of the facilities is a conditional aspect of the asset and levels have recently increased. Hire arrangements now includes a variety of users and purposes, alongside the general School use. Wychavon District Council have taken forward several of their own community initiatives using the Cabin venue, including – domestic support services, welcome & support networks for the Ukrainian Relief Programme and general Adult Education courses. The user levels will continue to be monitored and updated by the Committee. The next Cabin Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.
- (b) Edition Three – Droitwich Spa Augmented Reality Heritage Trail App. Pursuant to draft minute 183 of the Community & Amenities Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, to confirm that the Heritage Trail App has been successfully rolled out as a component feature of the Christmas Lights Switch- on Event on 26<sup>th</sup> November. The App is now available in the I phone and Android App Stores and this completes the Community Legacy funding stage for this project within the grant secured through WDC. The user take up, wider interest and feedback for the App will continue to be closely monitored with the further

consideration of options for a Heritage budgeted second phase, continuing with some development and enhancements in 2023/2024.

- (c) Edition Three –Droitwich Spa Community Football Club Pavilion as part of the King George Playing Fields, Ground Fund Project. To confirm that the official public opening event for the new facilities took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The Showcase Open Evening was well attended and received by the public and included a special guest appearance by former player and England Football Manager - Kevin Keegan. Dialogue and cooperation continues with the Droitwich Spa Football Club Directors and Wychavon District Council working to resolve some specific defects and outstanding finishing works associated with the cloakrooms and toilets. Apart from this aspect the Community Legacy element of the project is now complete

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

## 220. WEST PROJECT & BEYOND – PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENTS

The Town Clerk updated from the Agenda as presented.

There have been no further Project Reference Group Meetings since 14 September 2022, although stakeholders have continued to liaise and make progress. The current position for the remaining phases of the project was last updated through the Consultant on 14 November as follows. All timescales are subject to changes due to any unforeseen issues arising.

- (a) Railway Station Underpass – Work for the mural started from the Artist during mid-October. Unfortunately problems have been encountered with paint adhesion associated with several previous layers of coating and anti- graffiti protection applied over many years. The solution requires removal of the layering back to base levels and for the Artist to start the mural again. The additional preparation work determines that the Artist will recommence in February 2023.
- (b) A38/ King Georges Playing Fields Underpass – The Artist started the mural installation around the 15<sup>th</sup> November. This followed some patch testing of the existing paint layering and some rendering repairs carried out early in the month. The layering issue associated with the Railway Station wall coverings is not considered to be a significant problem at the A38 underpass, following the tests carried out. This underpass is considerably larger by surface area and will require more time and resources to complete all of the phases of work. As at 6 December 2022 it is understood that most of the installation and finishing works have been completed to good effect.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

## 221. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor RJ Morris had provided the following report in advance of the meeting which had been circulated to all Elected Members earlier in the day through the Town Clerk.

**County Councillor update 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022**  
**Cllr Richard Morris**



### **1. Bollards and railings around St Joseph & Westacre to support child safety**

Met Highways, safer Roads and residents around areas of concern around the schools. Paths will be swept to clear leaves and place bollards and railings in certain places to improve safety

### **2. Bridges Ledwych and New Chawson over Canal**

After reporting safety issues on the canal crossings, two new bridges are to be placed early in the New Year. I am chasing up drawings/images of the bridges.

### **3. Willow Court**

Important work has started; however, residents do not feel they have been listened to and engaged. There are big issues with the access and disturbance of already inadequate parking. I have called for a public meeting with the developers here to try and overcome these concerns

### **4. Chawson Parking**

Wychavon & Platform have worked up ideas to improve parking and are in discussion with highways to see what can be done

### **5. A38 Copcut Road Safety analysis**

Cones were placed due to the Police saying there had to be a road safety audit following a serious accident. The cones were removed Thursday 1st Dec so the audit could be carried out. The cones are back in place until results of the audit and required action are known. I was going to publicise what was happening, but highways advised that may affect driver behaviour and the audit.

Agree it is poor and originates from developer led highways work when lost at appeal. The site is not in my area or Droitwich but I do shout about it to get action.

The S278 scrutiny task group will report back soon.

### **6. Westlands crossing**

I met with Cllr Rouse & Nigel Huddleston MP on the roundabout and discussed the petition I've started and talked with residents over the issues crossing the roundabout. Both agreed to do all they can to support a solution and I await further details

### **7. Solar VAS Celvestune Way**

I thank our Town Clerk for all his work in achieving a VAS in this dangerous location – Celvestune Way/Bower Hill. I also thank the Town Council & PCC for funding the VAS

### **8. Environment Act 2021**

The **Environment Act 2021** of the [Parliament of the United Kingdom](#) aims to improve [air](#) and [water quality](#), [protect wildlife](#), increase [recycling](#) and reduce [plastic waste](#).

- Extend producer responsibility to make producers pay for 100% of cost of disposal of products, starting with plastic packaging
- A deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers
- Greater consistency in recycling collections in England – including weekly food collection

- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network

As WCC Cabinet member for Environment then this is a major focus for me.

Councillor A Humphries referred to point 5 in the report received from Councillor RJ Morris with regard to the A38 Copcut – Highways Safety Audit. Councillor Humphries explained that he accepted the confidentiality concerns of the ongoing road safety analysis work but he had been contacted by a resident to ask when the traffic management measures were anticipated to be removed. The enquiry had been presented in the context that the traffic management and restricted flow had been in place for a long time and was causing a lot of congestion at peak times which affected residents, commuters and through traffic.

Councillor GR Brookes updated within County Council matters that the LED upgrade programme of works was nearing completion for street lighting. Also that there was currently still available scope within the rolling programme for Highways and Pavement resurfacing – any suggested works should be referred accordingly.

There were no further questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 222. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor AM Sinton had updated the Town Clerk that he would provide a District Matters report at the next Full Council Meeting scheduled on 23 January 2022.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information was noted.

#### 223. COVID 19 PANDEMIC MEMORIAL

Councillor A Humphries presented and proposed the following rationale and motion which had been forwarded to the Town Clerk on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

##### Motion

“It is proposed that the Town Council investigates the siting of an appropriate memorial to the victims of the Covid-19 pandemic.

##### Rationale

At the start of 2020 few of us could have realised the devastation and horror that was about to be released on the world. We knew it was going to be bad but nowhere near as bad as it turned out to be.

Communities and families all over the globe were left in tatters, who can forget the harrowing video images in Spain and Italy in March/April 2020 or the scenes in our own hospitals as people died and others fought to save them often at the cost of their own lives and driven to the point of exhaustion.

All of us have been touched in some way by this horrible disease if not by losing a family member or a friend or knowing someone who got it most probably by getting it ourselves.

The people we lost, the sacrifices others made should never be forgotten and a fitting memorial in our wonderful town will serve to remind future generations of that and to be an appropriate legacy for that loss and sacrifice”.

**Councillor Alan Humphries**

The Chairman and Councillor GR Brookes both thanked Councillor Humphries for his proposal and update. In general Discussion suggestions were put forward for a suitable memorial including an agreement reached for a public bench with a befitting inscription. Locations suggested included Vines Park, Spring Meadow - Public Open Space, Copcut Park and the frontage garden of St Richards House. Councillor RP Hopkins expressed that it was important for residents to decide where they would like the memorial bench to be located and he suggested a press competition to take this forward.

The Town Clerk explained that public realm land owned and maintained by either the Town Council, Wychavon District Council or Worcestershire County Council were the most practical options for a location. This is due to the statutory requirements for insurance liability, asset ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

The consensus reached was for Officers to arrange a press article in the New Year requesting feedback and preferred opinions towards the location of Spring Meadow – Public Open Space, Copcut Park or the frontage garden of St Richards House. A further update would be arranged as part of The Agenda for the next scheduled Full Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 including indicative options for suitable bench styles and costs.

**RESOLVED** For Officers to arrange a press article in the New Year requesting feedback and preferred opinions towards the location of Spring Meadow – Public Open Space, Copcut Park or the frontage garden of St Richards House. A further update would be arranged as part of The Agenda for the next scheduled Full Council Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 including indicative options for suitable bench styles and costs.

#### 224. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council totalling £18,027.29 (Total expenditure = £18,027.29).

There were no questions arising.

**RESOLVED** That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure totalling £18,027.29 be approved and duly passed for payment. (Total expenditure = £18,027.29).

The meeting ended at 19.02. PM.

Chairman of Council -----  
23 January 2023