

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at the Council Chamber, St Richards House on Monday 3 July 2023 at 6.21 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor E Bowden  
Councillor SJ Brazier  
Councillor PD Clements  
Councillor DI Davidson  
Councillor GA Duffy  
Councillor VP Humphries  
Councillor Mrs K Fellows (Ex officio)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT, GR Brookes, Mrs JM Chaudry, J Grady, RP Hopkins & AL Key

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors M Brook, N Franks, RJ Morris & AM Sinton.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none received.

oo0000oo

## 86. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

87. To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2023

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Amenities Committee held on 12 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

88. Droitwich Bereavement Café - Droitwich Bereavement Café - To receive an update from Gina Pilley representing the St Vincent de Paul Society (England and Wales) Charity with regard to the Droitwich Bereavement Café launching on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The update for the new venture is also pursuant to minute reference 32/2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee Meeting from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the award of Community Grant Funding - recommended from 5<sup>th</sup> and approved on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023[*for information*].

The Town Clerk confirmed the schedule as presented with the consideration that the recommended award of £1,000.00 for the Vincent de Paul Society- Bereavement Cafe & Journey Project be subject to a short presentation about the new venture from the Applicant at the next scheduled Committee Meeting (on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023). The recommended award was confirmed as having been ratified by the Committee and the project end date for the expenditure to be qualified can be flexible to accord with the project's anticipated progress for the Launch Year.

The Chairman welcomed Gina Pilley and Lucy Bird from Droitwich CVS for their update.

Gina explained that the Vincent de Paul Society had been established 30 years in the Town and is based at the Sacred Heart Church on Worcester Road. The Charity operate as a team of approximately 15 people offering a wide range of assistance for people in the Community that are in need of support and experiencing times of hardship. The network operates as a working in pair's arrangement and all personnel are fully qualified and accredited for working with the Community and vulnerable people. Referrals to help people are coordinated and received through a number of Local Agencies and Organisations. Specifically the Bereavement Café

project has been derived from an idea originating two years ago which provided support for lonely people in the community. This takes the form of a gathering between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on the second Sunday of each month offering a friendly environment and companionship. The Bereavement Café outlook is to provide a Bereavement Journey for people to move forward in life which encompasses a 7 week course comprising 12 sessions of approximately 2 hours each. The sessions are not faith based apart from the optional final week and are intended to be inclusive for all. The project is well received in the Community and key partners include St Richards Hospice, Platform Housing and Citizens Advice.

The Chairman thanked Gina and Lucy for attending on behalf of the Committee and the Town Council.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

89. Droitwich Ukraine Connections - Details are enclosed for the Celebration of the Friendships and Connections that have been made in Droitwich Spa with the Ukrainian Community during the past year. The Event takes place at the Droitwich Working Men's Club on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July from 6.30pm to 8.30pm [*for information*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

90. Trees Height Reduction Proposal – Copcut Park / Colford Walk - Pursuant to minute reference 37/2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, to confirm that the works have been arranged for week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The schedule is as previously outlined involving two operatives and access platform equipment hired in. It is anticipated to complete the Coleford Walk and the Lahn Drive/ Copcut Park works within the allocated period [*for information*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

91. Reports of Anti- social behaviour Copcut Park - Reports have been received that groups of younger people have been congregating at the picnic tables during the evenings at Copcut Park. Residents have reported anti- social behaviour including drinking, loud music and littering. Sadly there has also been considerable damage to Town Council assets including the breaking off of several newly planted blossom trees, breakages and graffiti on the picnic tables & signage and littering of the parkland & pond. The trees had been planted as part of the Plant It Britain and Countryfile National initiatives and included a special Holm Oak Tree donated by County Councillor Tony Miller for the Late Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022. The damage to the trees is considered to be irreversible and no replacements are being considered for the time being whilst these issues prevail. The Police Crime Reference Report Number from online reporting is - DP-26464-23-2222-01. Any information relating to the circumstances and/or details of those persons responsible should be notified to the Police or Town Council in order to assist with the enquiries [*for information*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted

92. Visit Droitwich Spa – Tourism Website. To update that an additional new page has recently been added featuring information provided by “Uncover Britain”. The link is attached as follows  
<https://www.visitdroitwichspa.com/do/worcestershire-road-trip/>

Pursuant to minute reference 40/2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, this is the second of a series of new editorial articles being collated and published. The articles are being profiled through the Tourism website and connected social media to help promote local and wider tourism opportunities for visitors this summer [*for information*].

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

93. Westwood Lodge Allotments Site. To update that there are currently issues affecting the large Communal Cabin building on the site. This structure is used by the Allotment Association for their storage purposes. There are concerns regarding the use of the building for excessive storage and that the structural integrity is possibly compromised through age, weathering and water ingress. An approach has recently been taken forward to the Allotment Association seeking their cooperation on these matters. Simultaneously a professional opinion is being arranged to ascertain the structural soundness and viable scope of economic repair for the building. Further information will be updated in due course *[for information]*.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

94. D Day 80 Anniversary Guide – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Pursuant to minute reference 48/2023-24 of the Community & Amenities Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 further information is now provided from the Pageant Master. The full guide document is attached for information. Members are asked to consider agreement and delegation for Officers to proceed with the next steps for Registration to accord with the message from the Prime Minister encouraging Communities to participate in Commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day Landings. Relevant pages from the guide are page 3 (Prime Ministers Message), 4 & 5 (Commemoration Event introduction) and 20 (for Charity confirmations). Registration is pages 31 and 32 and follows a similar format to the National Beacon Trail arrangements for the late Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in June 2022 *[full guide document attached]*.

RESOLVED That the information be noted and to register an expression of interest for an Official Local Commemoration Event for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D Day Landings to take place for 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

95. West Midlands Mayors Community Weekend – 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Further to details circulated to Elected Members on 23 May 2023 the National Lottery Community Fund are offering grants of up to £2,000 to Groups to organise events on the weekend. The brief is to offer activities which bring communities together, to strengthen existing connections and provide opportunities for networking. The Town Council qualifies for eligibility as a Statutory Body and applications had to be lodged by 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The Town Clerk has registered an application on 23 May 2023. The grant contribution decision has been favourable which will enable arrangements and publicity to proceed. Pursuant to minute reference 42/2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the suggestion is to host a Community Picnic afternoon in Lido Park on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September with the Bands in the Park performance. This would be similar to the Coronation weekend event organised on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which was well received and attended by the public *[for information]*.

The Town Clerk updated that the next scheduled Committee Meeting was not until the 11<sup>th</sup> September which was the day after the West Midlands Mayors Community Weekend. To this effect the arrangements and publicity for the Droitwich Spa Event will be provided in August as soon as finalised.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

96. Moment of Poignancy & Reflection for Alfie Steele – An approach has been received on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from a Family representative for the Town Council to help guide and support with facilitating a befitting memorial service. The provisional preference from the Family is for a short Community Memorial Service presided on by Reverend Laura Handy at the Lido Park Band Stand at 5pm on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023. This will follow the scheduled Sunday Band Concert. The details are all subject to final confirmation. Once finalised the arrangements will be notified including to Wychavon District Council with regard to the Parks permission *[for information]*.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the arrangements had now been confirmed with the Church and with Wychavon District Council. Publicity preferences and means were currently being discussed with the

Family Representative and are likely to be centred through social media networks. It was noted that Reverend Laura Handy had been very supportive in helping to take the arrangements forward.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

97. John Heminge 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2023- Pursuant to Minute Reference 45//2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, to update on the following points. To report that the following options are currently being taken forward to mark the anniversary and Droitwich Spa connections.

- (a) Scope being investigated and pursued with St Peters Church for consideration to provide and locate a commemorative plaque and inscription, commenced in April 2023. An update has been requested from the Church regarding the progress for the granting of permissions in late June. The process through the Church requires a faculty to be granted by the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee). This is the equivalent of planning permission within Church premises and can take time to complete.
- (b) The Arrangements for a dedicated exhibition and freely accessible display of the First Folio at the Heritage Centre/ Museum. This is considered important to mark the anniversary year and in keeping with the strong local connections, Civic Pride and Legacy. It is hoped to feature advance publicity to align with other national arrangements for the John Heminge 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, similar to those aspects taking place in Stratford upon Avon and London. The tentative date for the Heritage Centre exhibition is 11<sup>th</sup> September to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- (c) A further meeting is being arranged between the Heritage Managers and Mr John Armstrong to help take the initiatives forward. Other suggestions made for consideration include the wider arrangements to enlist a Theatre Company to present a performance of one of the First Folio Plays. Different Venue and collaboration options have been suggested including - the High School, Norbury Theatre or open air at the Salt Fest in September.

*[for information]*

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

98. Public Art Murals – Ombersley Way and Briar Mill Underpasses – Pursuant to minute reference 49/2023-2024 of the Community & Amenities Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 arrangements have now been coordinated for the repair and protection of the murals. The Artist intends to repair the designs damaged and affected by graffiti during May and simultaneously contractors will apply a coating of anti- graf protection. This has taken time to arrange following the testing of a suitable protecting product in June which conforms to the abrasive and ribbed surface wall construction of these two underpasses. The work is scheduled for early July and will take approximately one week to complete. Access through the underpasses will be restricted during this time but remain passable for the public. The work is facilitated by the Town Council making the arrangements with WDC, WCC, the Artist and Contractors *[for information]*.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the work was scheduled to be completed from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> July this week.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm

Chairman of Committee .....  
11 September 2023

Chairman of Council .....  
25 September 2023