

# Droitwich Spa Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of Droitwich Spa Town Council held in the Council Chamber at St Richards House on **Monday 25 September 2023** at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs K Fellows (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs C Bowden  
Councillor E Bowden  
Councillor SJ Brazier  
Councillor M Brook  
Councillor GR Brookes  
Councillor Mrs JM Chaudry  
Councillor DI Davidson  
Councillor RCC Deller  
Councillor GA Duffy  
Councillor N Franks  
Councillor J Grady  
Councillor RP Hopkins  
Councillor VP Humphries  
Councillor AL Key  
Councillor RJ Morris  
Councillor AM Sinton

## NOTES

(1) Webcasting Members of the Council are reminded that meetings of the Council are Webcast on the Internet and will be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website. Members of the public are informed that if they attend this meeting their images and speech may be captured by the recording equipment used for the Webcast and may also be stored electronically and accessible through the Council's Website.

(2) This Meeting will be webcast and live streamed on the Internet. It is anticipated that all Full Council and Committee Meetings will be live streamed from June 2023 onwards.

APOLOGIES for absence: Councillor P Clements

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS SESSION

There were none.

Prior to the Start of the Meeting the Town Clerk relayed apologies for absence on behalf of the Mayoral Chaplain – Reverend Laura Handy for the reason of the Clergy Conference taking place at Hereford. The Town Clerk updated that Councillor RJ Morris wished to read a Tribute in Memory of Andy Roberts – Worcester City and Worcestershire County Councillor, who had sadly passed during August. Councillor Morris proceeded to read aloud the attached Memorial Tribute and Councillor GR Brookes read out the accompanying prayer provided in advance of the meeting by Reverend Handy [*Memorial Statement and prayer attached*].

Mr Bill Moy – Chairman of SOBB'S and Mrs Lee Edwards – Business Manager for SOBB'S attended for Agenda Item 9 – SOBB'S- Save Our Brine Baths Presentation.

## 141. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor RJ Morris declared a non- pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 for the Armed Forces Covenant, having proposed the original motion for adoption at the June 2023 Meeting of Full Council.

#### 142. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

Councillor RJ Morris mentioned the Full Fibre Broadband Apparatus proposal (Minute number 75/2023-2024 refers from the June Meeting). Councillor Morris thanked the Town Clerk and the Town Council for supporting the arrangements for the resultant Full Fibre Public Open Meeting in July. He commented that whilst the Open Meeting was challenging with some strong opinions voiced, the meeting had been necessary to interpret matters and to enable moving forward on many of the issues raised. A lot of progress has been achieved and continues to address connected infrastructure matters working with Full Fibre and Partner Agencies.

Councillor VP Humphries abstained from the acceptance of the draft minutes for the reason that she was not present at the Full Council Meeting on 19th June 2023.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 143. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs K Fellows updated from the attached information.

##### Mayor's Announcements 19.06.2023

Special Mention was given to the following engagements,

21<sup>st</sup> April – Opening of the Weekly Charter Market

13<sup>th</sup> June – Ledbury Coffee Morning

24<sup>th</sup> June – Droitwich Spa Food & Drink Festival in Lido Park

1<sup>st</sup> July - Hanbury Countryside Show for which it was the first time the Droitwich Spa Mayor has attended.

8<sup>th</sup> July- Malvern Three Counties Scouts Shire Jam.

5<sup>th</sup> August – Battle Of Evesham Event

2<sup>nd</sup> September – Droitwich Spa Salt Fest

10th September- Picnic in Lido Park as part of the West Midlands Mayors Community Weekend.

17<sup>th</sup> September- The final Bands in the Park Sunday Concert by the Salvation Army Band.

This was the last of a 20 weekends programme for 2023.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 144. MAYORS COMMUNITY ANNUAL AWARD

Councillor GA Duffy and the Mayor introduced the concept of an Annual Merit & Recognition Award to be conveyed to members of the Community. The details including criteria, nomination protocol, number and categories of award, format of the award/prize and the arrangements for the Civic Presentation Ceremony & timescales were suggested to be all considered through the Community & Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED To establish the principle of an Annual Merit and Recognition Mayoral Award Scheme for the Community with effect from the current Municipal Period (2023/2024). Full criteria & details to be considered through the Community & Amenities Committee in November 2023. The Motion was resolved with unanimous support from Members present.

#### 145. POLICING IN DROITWICH SPA

The Town Clerk explained that Sergeant Catherine Atkinson had notified apologies for the meeting and that her report had been circulated in advance with the Agenda papers. There were no questions arising from Elected Members present.

The Town Clerk updated on the Annual OPCC Survey collated response from Droitwich Spa Town Council [*attached with agenda papers for information*]. This was submitted to the OPCC on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 summarised from 12 responses received from Elected Members. Councillor RP Hopkins requested that the contact details for Sergeant Atkinson be provided for him.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 146. HIGH SCHOOL

The Senior Student Team Representative updated on activities and news from the High School including integration of Years 8 and 12 to start the new academic period . Planned activity includes subject led Questions and Answers and mixed team sports comprising teams made up of players from each year group. The Charities Week is fast approaching and the chosen local Charity is Droitwich Spa Food Bank. Arrangements for the National and International Charities are yet to be confirmed. An exciting Lunch Times programme is planned for the Fund Raising of Charities Week including –Teachers Got Talent, Questions & Answers, Music Videos, Leg Shaving and Lips Sync. The funds raised from the 2022 Charities Week surpassed all previous records reaching £6K. This Year’s target has been set even higher and strives to top £10K.

The Mayor thanked the Senior Student Team Representative for their comprehensive report. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

#### 147. YOUTH COUNCIL

To note that the Youth Council updates will resume in due course. There was no report for 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

148. SOBB’S – Save Droitwich Brine Baths - To receive a power point presentation from SOBB’S outlining their business plan and proposals for a new Brine Baths Facility for Droitwich Spa. The Mayor welcomed Mr Bill Moy – Chairman of SOBB’S and Mrs Lee Edwards – Business Manager for SOBB’S.

The presentation proceeded and was followed by a Questions & Answers Session. The following comments and question were put forward.

- (a) Councillor Mrs J Chaudry suggested publicity to help attract and source Commercial Investors for the proposals. It was noted that SOBB’S were currently engaging with the WDC Place Board to explore opportunities.
- (b) Councillor GA Duffy praised the determination and resilience of SOBB’S in their relentless pursuit to resurrect the Brine Baths facilities for the Droitwich Spa Community.
- (c) Councillor AM Sinton asked about the suggested pricing structure, the pool size and the duration of pool time for the Spa Brine Bathing Treatments. It was confirmed that the Pool was anticipated to hold 20 bathers for full capacity, recommended bathing duration is 20 minutes due to the effect of the brine which lowers blood pressure of the

body. Bathing entry is forecast costed to be £10 per session, per head and refreshments priced at £7.50 (Tea/Coffee with and cake).

- (d) Councillor D Davidson asked whether alternative site options were being looked at from the former Raven Hotel building and if the proposals and business plan were fully transferable by location. It was confirmed that the business plan was for the main part transferrable to other locations and other sites were being looked at – including discussions with the WDC Place Board about the Lido. It was noted that the Planning Permission decision for the Raven Site had reached its 1 year anniversary in July 2023 with no progress made on the actual redevelopment of the site.
- (e) Councillor RJ Morris endorsed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Duffy regarding the determination and endeavours of the SOBB'S Group, working with the Community & leading on the Brine Facility resurrection plans and vision.
- (f) Councillor R Deller also raised the question whether the business plan and costing proposals were transferable to different locations from the former Raven Site? It was reaffirmed that SOBB'S understood the financial projections to be accurate for any location with minimal change impact to the principle information presented. Councillor GR Brookes added that SOBB'S had been fortunate to acquire the professional input of a leading expert Brine Engineer which is integral to the fundamentals of the business case presented.
- (g) Councillors RJ Morris & GA Duffy commented on the leading Tourism and Heritage aspects of the Brine for Droitwich Spa,

The Mayor thanked Mr Bill Moy and Mrs Lee Edwards on behalf of the Town Council for their time and professional presentation this evening. The consensus from Elected Members present was to wish SOBB'S every success for their commendable endeavours and campaign to resurrect the Towns Brine Facilities.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

149. ARMED FORCES COVENANT- Pursuant to minute reference 76/2023-2024 of the Meeting of Full Council on 19 June 2023, the draft Armed Forces Covenant for Droitwich Spa has been prepared by the Town Clerk and Worcestershire & Herefordshire's Armed Force Covenant Partnership Officer, and was presented for consideration of acceptance [*document attached with Agenda*]

To Note that,

- The Document template is prepared for dual signature by the Mayor and the original proposer Councillor RJ Morris.
- A request has been made that all Elected Members of Droitwich Spa Town Council consider individual signature as a unanimous pledge of support. An accompanying signature document is prepared on the easel as part of this meeting.
- The Ministry of Defence have been approached to kindly attend with a Senior Representative at the January 2024 Meeting of Full Council Meeting (22 January 2024) to enable a countersignature ceremony by way of affirming full acceptance.
- Droitwich Spa are one of the first Town & Parish Councils to adopt the Armed Forces Covenant regionally and nationally.

The Mayor and Councillor RJ Morris signed the draft document in confirmation of acceptance for adoption by the Town Council. All Elected Members present then individually signed the supporting pledge document prepared and presented on the easel.

RESOLVED To unanimously adopt the Armed Forces Covenant for Droitwich Spa.

150. Annual Health and Safety Review – To receive the report of the Annual Review of Health & Safety which was undertaken by Mr Joseph Ellis of John Ellis Associates Limited on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023. To note service delivery matters attributed with Service Provider for Fire Systems in June 2023 which have been escalated and referred to the Health & Safety Consultant by the Town Clerk for interventions to enable efficient interpretation and resolution. These matters are now being addressed by the Fire Systems Service Provider following a site meeting requested by the Town Clerk and attended on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 [*report attached with Agenda for information*].

Councillor RP Hopkins asked whether the issues with the Service Provider had been progressed. The Town Clerk confirmed from the Agenda that all matters were in course following the site meeting requested with the Service Provider on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

151. Annual Review of Risk – To receive the Annual Risk Assessment of all Town Council business and operations [*Full report attached with Agenda for information*]. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

152. Annual Review of NALC recommended Financial Regulations and Standing Orders -. Pursuant to minute reference 150 of the Resources Committee meeting held on 11 October 2021 the Town Council has adopted and reviewed the following version - . NALC recommended Model Standing Orders for England 2018 (revised 2020) & Financial Regulations (2019). This is now subject to the annual review [*Standing Orders and Financial Regulations attached*].

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

153. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) PROJECT REPORT – To receive an update report from Councillor GR Brookes in his capacity as the designated Town Council Member with responsibility for the project, including Communications & Liaison and the Steering Group. The previous report was included as part of Full Council on 19 June 2023 - Minute Number 72/2023-24 refers. Progress remains strong and there have been three Steering Group Meetings held through the Summer on 14th June, 27th July and 24th August [*minutes for each are attached*]. Key points at present include,

- The successful application and award of Locality Grant funding for the 2023/2024 period during August 2023.
- The review and updating of the Neighbourhood Area Map originating from 2012 with Wychavon District Council Planning Department.
- Preparation of draft questionnaires for the Residents Survey and Business & Commerce Consultation both scheduled for the duration of October.
- Site Assessment Work for possible additional housing allocations. Initial discussions with Wychavon are proceeding later this month.
- Updating of information on the Town Council website

There were no questions arising.

Councillor RP Hopkins commented that he would like to see a costing for the Neighbourhood Plan project for all aspects including projected expenditure. Councillor GR Brookes responded that for the main part all financial information for the project including expenditure and grant funding were outlined in the various minutes of the Steering Group Meetings that were regularly presented and are also attached on the Town Council website. The Town Clerk added that the Locality Grant Funding secured and eligible scope for the project would cover the Professional Consultant fees proposal which had been covered and resolved at the EGM in July 2022, as part of the decision to resurrect the project. Some additional Locality funding had been secured towards the Public Consultation exercise costs (Printing and Distribution of Residential Flyers to 15K households) taking place through October 2023. A Full interim review of Town Council 2023/2024 budgets, income & expenditure is scheduled as part of the Resources Committee Agenda on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

154. To receive and consider the Minutes of the under-mentioned Committee Meetings:-

1. Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 [*previously provided*]
2. Community & Amenities Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 [*previously provided*]
3. Planning Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 [*previously provided*]
4. Resources Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 [*previously provided*]
5. Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 [*previously provided*]
6. Community & Amenities Committee -11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 [*previously provided*]

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of all of the listed Committee meetings be accepted on block.

155. High School Cabin- To receive an update from the Town Clerk regarding the Cabin and Community use. This is with regard to the Statutory Requirement from the Community Legacy Funding criteria awarded for the project in 2019 and the conditional public consultation exercise undertaken to support the project at that time – which both stipulate regular Community and High School usage of the facilities. A meeting was arranged by the Town Clerk with High School Management and Wychavon District Council representatives for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Unfortunately this meeting did not proceed although the High School have since provided the attached details of the Cabin facility letting arrangements [*details attached with Agenda for information*].

Councillor RJ Morris commented that the High School web page did include some booking information for School campus assets and facilities – including the athletics track and the Cabin. There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted

156. Droitwich Spa Railway Station – To receive and consider a proposal from Councillor Val Humphries regarding the closure of the Ticket Office at Droitwich Spa Railway Station. The

following Motion had been circulated by the Town Clerk to all Members - as presented, on receipt and as requested by Councillor Val Humphries earlier in the day.

Initial Suggested Motion for Council Meeting - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

“This Council opposes the current plans to close Droitwich Spa railway station ticket office. We support the motions already passed by both Wychavon District and Worcestershire County Councils.

The staff at our ticket office do far more than just sell tickets, and the closer of the office will have a significant impact of many residents of Droitwich Spa. Elderly and disabled travellers rely on the station staff for help on and off the train, and to inform the destination station of the passenger’s location on the train. Without that support the assistant would not be there to meet the passenger. Staff also inform passengers of any train delays or alterations, offer advice on tickets and help to keep passengers safe.

The closer of the ticket office would also mean the closer of the waiting area and no access to the toilets on the station. This would leave us with no facilities and no fully covered safe seating area. There would be no one to make sure the station was safe during adverse weather and help to maintain the safety of the travelling public.

We note that the initial consultation period was extremely short, and even when extended, ran over the summer period and therefore outside of the Town Council meeting calendar. We believe the consultation should be reopened to allow for a full and adequate consultation process. We also request that an equality impact assessment be carried out and information on plans for other station facilities be made available”.

Proposed by Cllr Val Humphries (Labour)

Councillor Humphries expressed the opinion that the closure of the Station Ticket Office would have a further reaching impact including closure of local cafés and businesses, restricted access to the station toilets, lack of shelter, reduced security, public safety issues and an overall diminished level of service for rail passengers – including many users with disabilities. Councillor RP Hopkins added that the Ticket Office staff provided far more than ticket sales including professional; advice, route planning and guidance on best fare and tariff economies for passenger’s .Councillor Humphries confirmed that she was now in agreement for Councillor AM Sinton to propose an alternative amended version of the motion – outlined as follows.

Amendment to motion for Council Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

“The Council is dismayed by the current plans by West Midlands Railway and Great Western Railway to close all but one of the station ticket offices in Worcestershire including the one at Droitwich Spa. We support the representations made by both Wychavon District and Worcestershire County Councils to both companies with regard to assuaging the effect of the changes on rail users.

The staff at our ticket office do far more than just sell tickets which means that the closure of the office will have a significant impact on many residents of Droitwich Spa. Elderly and disabled travellers rely on the station staff for help on and off the train, and to inform the destination station of the passenger’s location on the train. Without that support the assistant would not be there to meet the passenger. Staff also inform passengers of any train delays or alterations, offer advice on tickets and help to keep passengers safe.

The closure of the ticket office would also mean the closure of the waiting area and no access to the toilets on the station. This could leave passengers with no facilities and no fully covered safe seating area. There would be no one to make sure the station was safe during adverse weather and help to maintain the safety of the travelling public.

We note that the initial consultation period was extremely short, and even when extended, ran over the summer period and therefore outside of the Town Council meeting calendar. We request the consultation should be reopened to allow for a full and adequate consultation process. We also request that an equality impact assessment be carried out and information on plans for other station facilities be made available.

We ask the Town Clerk to write to West Midland Railways and Great Western Railways to urge the companies to take the above factors into account when considering the future use of current ticket office premises in Worcestershire in general and Droitwich Spa in particular.”

The Town Clerk confirmed that the written approaches to confirm the Town Council resolved position should include West Midlands Trains, Great Western Railways – and the Rail Delivery Group, in order to conform to the original public consultation arrangements.

**RESOLVED** - To unanimously accept the alternative proposal as presented by Councillor AM Sinton for the Town Railway Station Ticket Office Closure consultation response- as follows.

“The Council is dismayed by the current plans by West Midlands Railway and Great Western Railway to close all but one of the station ticket offices in Worcestershire including the one at Droitwich Spa. We support the representations made by both Wychavon District and Worcestershire County Councils to both companies with regard to assuaging the effect of the changes on rail users.

The staff at our ticket office do far more than just sell tickets which means that the closure of the office will have a significant impact on many residents of Droitwich Spa. Elderly and disabled travellers rely on the station staff for help on and off the train, and to inform the destination station of the passenger’s location on the train. Without that support the assistant would not be there to meet the passenger. Staff also inform passengers of any train delays or alterations, offer advice on tickets and help to keep passengers safe.

The closure of the ticket office would also mean the closure of the waiting area and no access to the toilets on the station. This could leave passengers with no facilities and no fully covered safe seating area. There would be no one to make sure the station was safe during adverse weather and help to maintain the safety of the travelling public.

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We ask the Town Clerk to write to West Midland Railways and Great Western Railways to urge the companies to take the above factors into account when considering the future use of current ticket office premises in Worcestershire in general and Droitwich Spa in particular.”

**157. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** - Councillor RJ Morris and Councillor GR Brookes had provided their following reports in advance of the meeting including a request for paper copies to be circulated and provided for Elected Members present through the Clerk.

#### Councillor Brookes

##### **County Council Matters for DSTC meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

(Agenda item 18)

These are some of the items I’ve been dealing with over the last few weeks:

- The Bridleway by Church Lane has been swept.
- I have requested an additional short section of new footpath on the south-side of Primsland Way from Foxhunter Close to Tagwell Road. At present, pedestrians must cross Primsland Way to use the north-side footpath as they have done since the area was developed. This upgrade has been agreed by Highways but is still to be scheduled in when time and finances permit.
- Spectrum Days looks after the physical and mental health of people with profound disabilities. I am presently arranging to give some financial aid to them from my Divisional Fund.
- Following a site meeting with Cllr Morris and Peter Vella to look at restoration work needed to preserve the mosaics, an invitation has been issued for all Town Councillors to visit the Church of the Sacred Heart.
- I am presently supporting applications from a local couple who want to provide a memorial bench in a Droitwich Park in memory of their son.



- I was very pleased to be asked to award the certificates and medals to the children who took part in the Droitwich Library Summer Reading Challenge. This was a very successful event which it is hoped to repeat next year.
- Following a recent traffic accident on Primsland Way when a car crashed through a fence and into the back garden of an elderly resident, I've had a site meeting with the Police and with the County Council Minor Infrastructure Projects Team. As a result, WCC are proposing to install a line of reflective bollards along the verge to heighten awareness at the bend involved. WCC may also install a post to attach a VAS to on occasions. Consideration was given to purchasing a new device but a static all the time installation is not the preferred Police option. I am presently exploring whether one of the existing VAS units can be periodically rotated to this area.
- The footpath 'makeover' resurfacing works at St Peter's Crescent, are now scheduled 14<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The request to resurface St Peter's Crescent came when the footway resurfacing schedule had been set for some months in advance. I spoke with the Footway Team who were able to include St Peter's Crescent during this financial year. I've also asked for a similar makeover for Rose Avenue to follow on as soon as possible.
- I arranged for John Heminge's will to be put into modern English by a local expert on medieval documents. A copy of the will is now on display in the TIC.
- I am looking at ways to support the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Droitwich and have accepted an offer of training with them.

Councillor Morris -County update:

1. Last week was corporate strategy week, there are financial challenges from demand led services such as Children & adult services where over 70% of the County budget goes. I was able to ensure the Westlands Roundabout crossing was included, not just to support pedestrian safety but also access to the industrial estate for jobs. I also raised A38/Copcut and possibility of future improvements.
2. Public Health have awarded over £90k to Westlands to support the well - being hub and their counselling activities but also to other community projects such as mobile health services. There is a multi agency group supporting this. I am at Worcestershire wellbeing board tomorrow to discuss progress.
3. Update on my divisional funds:  
2k Chawson Barns community centre towards a new carpet  
1k Saltfest  
500 Moonstone to support befriending services for mental health.  
500 civic society to support the John Heminge project.

Councillor Morris notified information about the Central Ward Area meeting with Platform Housing for Residents Questions & Answers that has been arranged to be held at St Nicholas Church on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - 6.30pm until 8.00pm. Information was also provided on two new canal bridges scheduled for installation in January 2024- as follows,

The new bridges that will be installed over Droitwich canal from January 2024.

See attached photographs of the bridges that are currently being stored in our contractor's yard in Worcester, ready for installation at the start of next year (note the aluminium parapets are yet to be installed – this will be done on site during the installation).

The bridges are manufactured from Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP), which has been selected for its high durability/ low maintenance characteristics and low self-weight which allows us to re-use the abutments and foundations of the existing timber bridges.

You will see from the photos that there will be an improvement in the gradient of the path over the new structures whilst maintaining the same headroom for canal navigation beneath. Earthworks ramps are then to be constructed on the approach/ departure from the bridges to tie into the existing footpaths either side.



RESOLVED That the County Councillor updates and information be noted.

158. DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS – Councillor GA Duffy updated the following report.

Wychavon District Council update

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

Work on the SWDPR is ongoing with a new and hopefully final timeline for its delivery to be voted on at the next full council meeting, this vote will include taking it to the independent examiner with all results from the public consultation which involved Wychavon officers replying to all resident responses.

Raven Hotel

A meeting of Wychavon Cllrs and officers met with the developer of the Raven Hotel site in which they reaffirmed their dedication to delivering the plans for the site, promising further

securities to the site such as increased surveillance and improved fencing as well as assurances that activity would start on site soon and a public statement to reassure residents.

#### Business front improvement scheme launched

Grants of up to £10,000 are on offer to help improve the appearance of businesses in Droitwich Spa and Evesham.

Community organisations and commercial landlords can also apply for the funding. Support on offer ranges from £500 to £10,000. Businesses will be expected to fund at least 50 per cent of a project from their own money.

The money can be used to pay for work including business front repairs visible from the street, repainting in heritage colours, new signage in keeping with the character of the area, lighting and fabric roller blind awnings and canopies.

The grant cannot be used for things such as day-to-day running costs, advertising, work carried out before a grant offer has been made, equipment and furniture.

Applications will be assessed on criteria including how much a project will help boost footfall, encourage occupancy of empty units, fit with Wychavon's Shop Front Design Guide and help improve the perception of the town centre. The location of the business, value for money, quality of the work and overall visual impact of the work will also be considered.

The grant scheme is being overseen by the Evesham and Droitwich Spa Place Boards, set up as part of Wychavon commissioned town centre investment prospectuses. The scheme is funded from Wychavon's share of the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

#### Corporate parenting in Worcestershire

Although Worcestershire County Council is directly responsible for looked after children, Wychavon are an active part of the Worcestershire Corporate Parenting Board.

Corporate parenting is the term used when a council takes on the role of the parent for children who need to be taken into care.

The board acts as a voice for children in care or leaving care and works to make sure the right decisions are made to achieve the best outcomes for them.

Wychavon is committed to supporting children in care and leaving care so are signed up to the corporate parenting principles, which are:

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of children and young people.
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people.
6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Cllr Rob Adams represents Wychavon on the Worcestershire Corporate Parenting Board.

#### New and extended youth provision in Wychavon

Wychavon District Council is supporting a range of youth organisations through funding from Worcestershire County Council Public Health. The funding which runs for five years has been allocated to local youth providers working in towns and rural areas of the district.

The successful providers to the health funds are Outside Evesham, YouTurn, Pershore Riverside Centre, Action for Future Youth (DAFFY), Bromsgrove Youth Hub and YMCA Worcestershire.

The funding will provide a range of both centre based, detached, targeted, 1-2-1 and rural provisions to support the social and emotional wellbeing of young people.

For more information about the youth support available please contact [robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:robin.mace@wychavon.gov.uk)

Councillor RJ Morris updated that under Corporate Parenting, The overall County and Droitwich Spa areas were currently very short of Foster parents who are essential for supporting children's development and providing opportunities in a safe family environment. There were no questions arising.

Councillor AM Sinton updated on the work of the WDC –Droitwich Spa Place Board which had been set up since the launch of the Town Centre Prospectus in May 2022 to take various public realm improvements and projects forward.

It was reported that the next meeting is on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and items to be discussed will include options for the Lido redevelopment and the Business Frontage Improvement Grants.

There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the information be noted.

#### 159. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Creditor Payments were presented to the Council totalling £25,040.97 and supplementary payments listed of £2,178.00.

(Total expenditure = £25,040.97 + £2,178.00= £27,218.97). There were no questions arising.

RESOLVED That the statement of accounts for payment be received and the expenditure of £25,040.97 + supplementary payments of £2,178.00 ,totalling £ 27,218.97 be approved and duly passed for payment. (Total expenditure = £27,218.97).

The Meeting Closed at 7.42pm

Chairman of Council -----  
18 December 2023