



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2015** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr F Kaler (Town Mayor)
Vice Chairman: Cllr A P Booth (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr Mrs S Amor, Cllr A Barlow, Cllr K Barclay, Cllr R Bowers,
Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge, Cllr Miss E Haynes, Cllr C D Homer,
Cllr Mrs L S Jakeman, Cllr R S W Jones, Cllr Mrs J Johnson,
Cllr Mrs D R Raphael, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs J E Sandalls,
Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr J H Smith OBE, Cllr C Tether, Cllr N Tucker
Cllr Mrs R J Whiting

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

Also present were 5 members of the public and 3 representatives from West Mercia Police.

58. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Bulman and Mrs M Sale.

59. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests (if any)

Cllr C Tether declared a pecuniary interest in the recommendations for the Planning and Estates Committee meeting 2 November 2015, as he was a member of the Civic Society who proposed the scheme regarding the water fountain, and he had an allotment.

60. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor thanked Members who had assisted at the Annual Bonfire event on the 5 November 2015. He also thanked all those who had attended the Remembrance Day service and parade on 8 November.

The Town Mayor reminded members of the forthcoming Anti Litter Strategy Launch which was part of the town plan and was taking place at Raphael's Restaurant on 20 November.

The Town mayor confirmed that an item regarding the Town Council's committees and meetings would be included on the January full Council agenda.

The Town Mayor permitted Mr Gent to ask a question regarding the South Worcestershire Development Plan, which had been submitted in advance by email and circulated to members. Mr Gent wanted to know why District Councillors had voted in favour of the SWDP at District level, when the Town Council were opposed to the modifications. The Town Mayor advised that this question was not for the Town Council, but should either be addressed to the District Councillors individually or to Wychavon District Council.

Mr C Merriman had submitted a question via email which related to a replacement noticeboard for the town hall and the detail of the planning responses submitted by the Town Council. It was explained that these would be addressed by the Planning and Estates Committee.

61. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 September 2015, copies of which had been circulated to all Members with the agenda were considered. It was noted that Cllr K Barclay had tendered his apologies for this meeting but that it had not been recorded in the minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to the aforementioned amendment, the minutes be adopted as a true record.

62. Committee Reports

The following report had been circulated to all Members with the agenda for adoption as a true record and authorisation for execution where necessary:-

- a) Planning and Estates Committee – 21 September 2015
No recommendations to Council

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record.

- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 21 September 2015
No recommendations to Council

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record.

- c) Planning and Estates Committee – 12 October 2015
Recommended to Council – Minute 62
Following debate it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the proposal to adopt the new bus shelters (*at Badsey Road*)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record and that the recommendation to Council be adopted.

- d) Personnel Committee – 19 October 2015
Recommended to Council – Minute 11

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Council continues to investigate the recruitment of an apprentice and that the Town Clerk is asked to carry out further work with regards to the costs and the type of apprenticeship that would be offered.

Recommended to Council – Minute 12

In confidential session it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the Finance Officer's pay scale be increased to spinal points 32- 35, commencing on 32.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record and that the recommendations to Council be adopted.

- e) Finance and General Purposes – 19 October 2015

No recommendations to Council but members were asked to note the initial budget estimates.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record.

- f) Planning and Estates Committee – 19 October 2015
Recommended to Council – Minute 70

Following debate, it was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Evesham Town Council adopt the water fountain at the junction of Broadway Road and that the proposed landscaping and further enhancements are further investigated for cost and feasibility.

Recommended to Council – Minute 71

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the allotment rents for January to December 2017 be £58 with water tap & £46 without water tap (*no increase*)

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record and that the recommendations to Council be adopted.

- g) Town Plan Committee – 2 November 2015
No recommendations to Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record and correct record.

63. West Mercia Police Update – verbal report from West Mercia Police (WMP) officers

Sgt P Stayte, PC P Buffrey and PCSO K Kempton informed members of the latest updates from WMP. PC Buffrey was introduced to members as the new beat officer for the town.

Sgt Stayte informed members that there were now more police officers based out of Evesham Police Station than there had been in some time. They were focusing on a number of projects and operations at the present time, Operation Leviathan was being conducted in coordination with the Angling Trust and focused on illegal fishing. The operation hoped to inform and educate anglers who perhaps were not aware of the laws surrounding angling. This operation would distribute literature in multiple languages through angling shops and also place signs in prominent locations.

Secondly, WMP were undertaking lighting up campaign, encouraging cyclists to put lights on their bicycles. It would target those without lights and reflective clothing in an effort to educate them; they would also be distributing free lights to children. Regarding a question on the issue of cycling on the pavement, Sgt Stayte said that this was a perennial issue and the perpetrators were people of all ages. To counter it required perpetrators to be educated and when officers saw it happening, they would do so.

PC Buffrey informed Members that a Pub Watch scheme was about to be launched in Evesham, whereby known troublemakers would be recorded on a database which would be administered by publicans with the assistance of the police, the idea being that if you were barred from one establishment you were barred from them all. In response to a question it was confirmed that off licenses and clubs would be encouraged to sign up to the scheme.

Sgt Stayte advised that officers would be conducting plain clothes operations in shops in Evesham in the lead up to Christmas to try and counter shoplifting. He also advised that following a number of reports of anti social driving in the Fairfield area, WMP would be running an operation to target this.

PCSO K Kempton informed members of the Safer Schools Partnership that she was leading. This project aimed to increase confidence in the police from young people, and promote a positive relationship. Representatives would also attend multi agency meetings, and help identify potential issues with young people or their family before they actually materialise.

In response to a question about drinking in Workman Gardens, Sgt Stayte explained that it had reduced, however some of it had been displaced and people were now drinking elsewhere. He went on to say that he had a meeting with officers at Wychavon District Council (WDC) in the coming week to discuss the drinking order and that it would be reviewed soon after.

The officers from WMP were thanked for attending the meeting and giving an update.

64. Update from Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council members

Cllr G O'Donnell WDC member for Little Hampton in Evesham updated Members on matters from WDC. He informed members that WDC's customer service had recently been given an excellent rating, partly aided by the ability to now webcast meetings from home. Members and officers were now working on a 5 year strategy for WDC. Cllr O'Donnell informed members that WDC's Intelligently Green Award would be opening in February, and that their annual report was now available to read.

Relating to Vale Park, which was owned by WDC, Cllr O'Donnell informed members that a new £500,000 cycle path was to be built linking it to the town. DEFRA had chosen Vale Park as a Food Enterprise Zone which simplified the planning process for companies who wished to relocate to the park if they met certain criteria.

Regarding Waitrose, members were informed that construction of the new store was planned to begin in June 2017.

Finally, WDC had entered into negotiations with ROTEC over the former Leisure Centre in Davies Road.

Cllr O'Donnell was thanked for his update.

No member of WCC was able to give an update.

65. Finance

Evesham Town Council's payments and receipts for the months of September and October 2015 were circulated to Members with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of September, as attached at appendix A, amounting to £51,096.29 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of October, as attached at appendix B, amounting to £62,020.61 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

66. New Homes Bonus (NHB)

This item was placed on the agenda for consideration as to how the Town Council could spend its current NHB allocation of £131,984, and how it could seek ideas for projects. It was highlighted that there were a number of potential projects in the Town Plan document.

It was **RESOLVED** to refer this to the NHB Working Group.

67. Battle of Evesham Festival – Organiser’s Report

A comprehensive report on the Battle of Evesham Festival compiled by the festival organiser was attached to the agenda and circulated to Members for information.

Members reaffirmed what a fantastic event it was and how the Town Council was proud to have given its support to it. It was agreed that a letter from the mayor to the Simon De Montfort Society and to the organiser be drafted, thanking them for their hard work and conveying the Council’s delight at the event.

The report is attached at appendix C to the minutes.

NOTED

68. WDC Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award 2015/16 – Request for nominations

Circulated with the agenda was a letter form the Chairman of WDC, Cllr Val Wood, who was seeking nominations from Town and Parish Councils for the WDC Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award.

Nominations of individuals or groups who have voluntarily given exceptional service to the community were requested. Members had until early January to respond.

It was agreed that any nominations be submitted to the Town Clerk for the Mayor to consider closer to the deadline on 8 January.

NOTED

69. Reports from Council’s Representatives

There were no reports made under this agenda item.

70. Matters of urgency raised for information only at the discretion of the Town Mayor

There were no matters brought up under this item.

NOTED

COUNCILLOR F KALER
TOWN MAYOR