



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2016** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Vice Chairman: Cllr R S W Jones (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr Mrs S Amor, Cllr A Barlow, Cllr A P Booth, Cllr P Boyd, Cllr J Bulman, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge, Cllr C D Homer, Cllr Mrs L S Jakeman, Cllr Mrs J Johnson, Cllr Mrs D R Raphael, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs M Sale, Cllr Mrs J E Sandalls, Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr J H Smith OBE, Cllr C Tether, Cllr N S Tucker, Cllr Mrs R J Whiting

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

Also present: PC Paul Buffery.

57. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F Kaler (Town Mayor), K Barclay, R Bowers and Miss E Haynes.

58. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest (if any)

Cllr Tether declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (New Homes Bonus NHB) as he has an allotment in Inches Lane.

Cllr Sandalls declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Planning) as she is on the Planning Committee at Wychavon District Council (WDC) and Agenda Item 8 (NHB) as she is a member of the Arts Centre.

Cllr Mrs Smith declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (NHB) as she is Vice Chairman of the Localism Panel who deals with NHB applications at WDC.

Cllr Goodge declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (NHB) as he is a member of the Localism Panel Committee which deals with NHB.

Cllr Homer declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 (NHB) as he is a Trustee of Outside Youth Centre.

59. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Deputy Mayor, who was chairing the meeting, thanked Members who attended the event held at Raphael's last week this raised around £600-£700 for the Mayors Charities.

60. Report from the Local Police

PC Buffery reported that the numbers of police patrolling in the town centre was down due to one PCSO being on maternity leave. Presently one PC and one PCSO were covering the town centre and Bengeworth.

PC Buffery went on to inform members that they were conducting an informal operation targeting anti social behaviour on the Castle Street slipway and the gardens.

In response to a perceived lack of Officers dealing with the town centre PC Buffery stated that they were working to get cover for the town centre so the number may rise by one PCSO. PC Buffery went on to say for the majority of his shift he was out in the town and therefore felt that he and the PCSO was adequate to cover the town centre and Bengeworth. Additional officers were available to attend incidents in the town if required.

In response to a question as to whether the number of Police Officers was likely to rise because of the extra housing being built, PC Buffery stated that 2 years ago the number of police rose by 50% at Evesham so there were already more police serving than previously.

PC Buffery and his colleagues were thanked for dealing with the issues at Bewdley car park in a timely and effective manner.

Finally PC Buffery was thanked for his report.

61. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2016. It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Cllr Elliman and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes be adopted as a true record.

62. Committee Minutes

- a) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 18 July 2016
It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved and the recommendations adopted.
- b) Planning and Estates Committee – 1 August 2016
It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved and the recommendations adopted.
- c) Planning and Estates Committee – 22 August 2016
It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved and the recommendations adopted.
- d) Town Plan Committee – 5 September 2016
It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved and the recommendations adopted.

63. Finance – Payments and Receipts for July and August 2016

Evesham Town Council's payments and receipts for the months of July and August 2016 were circulated to Members with the agenda.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of July, as attached at appendix A, amounting to £85,211.15 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

It was also **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of August, as attached at appendix B, amounting to £44,418.11 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

The bank reconciliations for the months were also **NOTED**.

64. Planning Applications

- (a) 16/01761/CU – Mrs R Munro, 2 Church Street
Change of use from use Class A1/A2 to use Class A5 (hot food takeaways)
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused – concern that it was un-neighbourly. There was also concern associated to smells, anti-social behaviour and that there are many hot food takeaways already in the vicinity.
- (b) 16/01942/AA – Mr J Bowman, Bridge Motors, 1 Greenhill
1 no. totem sign, 1 no. entrance statement, 1 no. entrance panel, 5 sets of illuminated text, 1 stand alone illuminated logo, 6 no. non illuminated wall mounted signs.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.
- (c) 16/01801/PP – Mr & Mrs P Baker, 27D Merrybrook
Conservatory to rear elevation
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the proposal not adversely affecting neighbouring properties.
- (d) 16/01889/PP – Miss F Bolton, 30 Pershore Road
Take down existing extension and conservatory at back of house. Replace with double storey and loft conversion.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the proposal not adversely affecting neighbouring properties.
- (e) 16/01926/PP – Mr N Radley, The Tors, 2 Croft Road
Conversion of existing garage to living accommodation to link with existing first floor accommodation.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.
- (f) 16/01944/PP – Mr & Mrs McLennan, 60 Evendene Road.
Proposed single storey rear extension.
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the proposal not adversely affecting neighbouring properties.
- (g) 16/02032/PP – Mrs T Scarpellini, 19 Spinney Grove
Erection of conservatory
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the proposal not adversely affecting neighbouring properties.

65. New Homes Bonus proposals

A report was circulated with the agenda detailing the NHB proposals and suggestions that had been submitted to the Council for consideration. It was reported that a working group consisting of Cllrs Kaler, Bulman, Jones and Booth had already reviewed the applications and had given their initial views on them. The Clerk had also met with officers from WDC and their comments

regarding the criteria and what they believed would be supported were detailed in the report. The Clerk was keen to advise that whatever the initial comments made by the working group or WDC did not preclude any application going forward. WDC would consider any application put forward by the Town Council and therefore in essence Members could have their own opinion regardless, although WDC's comments should be considered.

The Clerk had circulated with the agenda a list of New Homes Bonus (NHB) applications (Appendix B) which were dealt with on a case by case basis:

- a. *Provision of gym equipment in Abbey Park or Crown Meadow.* Members expressed concerns that these have not been used much in the past and also the equipment would have to be put on Wychavon District Council's land. Officers at WDC have mixed feelings about the value of this proposal but they commented that this sort of project had been supported in the past but with low usage. It was commented that this application should not necessarily be dismissed completely and should be put to public opinion. It was agreed to carry this project forward for public consultation.
- b. *Provision of new allotments in Evesham.* Members felt that there would be limited community benefit and the cost could not be justified. It was felt that an advantage was the public would have more allotments available to them and food was being grown locally. However it was felt that it wasn't a NHB project and that only 15-20 people would benefit which is minimal and therefore it was agreed not to pursue this application.
- c. *Provision of a Market Cross on High street.* Members widely agreed that, although the proposal was attractive, there would be minimal benefit to people in the town. WDC had also advised that it would be unlikely to support the proposal. It was therefore agreed not to put this project forward for public consultation.
- d. *Provision of Water at Inches Lane Allotments.* Members considered that there was limited benefit to the wider community. It was therefore agreed not to take this project further.
- e. *To refurbish & re-equip the interior of Evesham Public Hall and to bring back as a modern multi-purpose venue: a cultural & entertainment hub for the whole community.* WDC had already indicated that they would support this proposal, however, along with the working groups agreement, full costing's, a business plan and a lot more detail would have to be put forward before any money would be considered to be passed over. The recommendation was therefore that Members support this application in principle and that it goes to the next consultation stage, and the funding could be ring-fenced for a period of time until it was known that the project was to happen and that the full funding was available.
- f. *Round Evesham Walk, make an attractive area for walking taking into account the proximity of the river, the history associated with the town and its garden market heritage.* Members and WDC both agreed that this is of good community benefit to residents and visitors. Slight concern was expressed that Members would want it to be accessible to all and over who would be responsible for future maintenance. However, it was agreed to put this project forward for public consultation.
- g. *Bursary fund for students to apply for help with fees and transport costs.* Members felt that this did not fit the criteria and was unlikely to be supported by WDC as there was perceived to be no long lasting benefit. It was therefore agreed not to progress with this project.

- h. Art Summer School – 2 one week summer schools one on arts of filmmaking and the other on musical theatre.* Members felt that this did not fit the criteria and was unlikely to be supported by WDC as there is no long lasting benefit so it was agreed not to carry this project forward.
- i. To provide cycle tracks into Evesham from surrounding major roads beginning with the Offenham Road and Badsey Road.* This was being monitored by Worcestershire County Council and there was no cost or detail it was therefore agreed not to further progress this project.
- j. Small mini projects with the main overall aim of developing the centre and young people who attended to get their voices heard, develop their skills and reducing the centres carbon footprint.* Members felt that, although Our Side was a brilliant youth centre, this application did not fit the criteria and unlikely to be supported by WDC as the scheme does not support running costs which this application seemed to centre around. Therefore members agreed not to take this project forward.
- k. Improved Market Stalls.* Whilst it was agreed that there was benefit to the wider community it was felt that this application was not appropriate for NHB funding. It was also commented that some of the market stalls had been improved recently and that the new market operator may provide them. Therefore members agreed not to put this project forward.
- l. Installation of a bus shelter along the High Street adjacent to the car wash facility before the railway.* Initial comments were that the shelter should be funded by Highways, however, WDC had indicated that they funded similar requests through NHB. Cllr Tether advised that this was a very well used bus stop and that he had spoken to Highways who said that they had insufficient funds for the project. Cllr J H Smith OBE advised that alternative funding may be available. Cllr Tether recommended that there would be no harm in putting forward this request anyway in the meantime. Therefore members agreed to put this project forward for public consultation.
- m. Outdoor Challenge play area and sensory woodland.* Members commented that this was a really good project, however it was unclear whether this would meet the criteria as this was a school project and it was hard to determine the wider community benefit. WDC also stated that clarification would be required as to whether this would be open to everyone or just the school. It was commented that NHB money did not normally fund projects related to schools, however it was also commented that the school did a fantastic job and that if it is a separate entity then it could be supported. It was therefore decided to put the proposal forward and to seek clarification as to whether the play area would be open to all.
- n. HQ refurbishment project including kitchen and new block paving for Hampton Guide and Scout Assn.* It was commented that this centre was one of the best used community centres in the town. Both the working group and WDC supported this application and therefore it was agreed to put this project forward for public consultation.
- o. To accept the gift of a site bounded by post dissolution walls adjacent to St Lawrence Church and Abbey mark which contained archaeological items of interest.* It was commented by the working group that they would like to see confirmation that the project is going ahead and that lottery funding was secure before any money would be given. WDC commented that they thought it was a good project and likely to be supported, although they also commented that it would depend on a successful bid from HLF and no money would be handed over until the project was ready to go. It was commented that

£75,000 could be spent more wisely and that some did not support the proposal. However, other members supported the chance to give the public the chance to put their feelings forward and therefore members agreed to put this project forward for public consultation.

- p. *Abbey Park Footbridge somewhere near the rowing club to Waterside.* It was commented that there were two bridges in proximity and therefore the need was questionable. In addition the estimated cost would be far in excess of what NHB funding there was available and therefore members agreed not to progress with this project.
- q. *Improvements to Town Hall including: new hand rail, new flooring, new smoke/intruder alarm, new screen and projector.* It was commented the hall was a well used community building and the Clerk supported the idea of better presentation in the hall to enhance the user groups' experience. Members would be involved in each process and costs were being obtained Both the working group and WDC supported this application and therefore it was agreed to put this project forward for public consultation.
- r. *4 defibrillators in and around the town.* Members supported this proposal though it was commented that clarification would be sought to confirm just how effective they are at saving lives and how they would be accessed. It was agreed to progress this project further to public consultation and to also see if there were statistics which supported the installation of defibrillators in towns and cities.
- s. *Provision of allotments down Sawmills Lane for those displaced by the Abbey Cloisters Project.* Members considered that there was limited benefit to the wider community. It was therefore agreed not to take this project further.

It was resolved to change the order of business in accordance with Standing Order no. 10(a)vi.

66. Reports from Council's Representatives

There were no reports made under this agenda item.

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

There were no reports made under this agenda item.

- 68.** In accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, it was **RESOLVED** that the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

69. Christmas Lights Contract

In confidential session members considered 3 different schemes from 3 different lighting contractors. It was **RESOLVED** to give the contract to Lite on a 3 year basis at the costs of £20,000 per annum including installation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.30 pm

COUNCILLOR R S W JONES
DEPUTY MAYOR