

EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE** held at 6.30pm on **MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019** at the Council Chamber, Evesham Town Hall, Market Place, Evesham

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Tucker
Vice-Chairman: Cllr G Hale
Cllr Mrs S Amor (Deputy Mayor), Cllr A P Booth, Cllr A Dyke

Non councillor co-opted committee members:
Mr B Taylor, Mr R Walker

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)
Mr S Riley (WDC Inward Investment Manager)

Also present was Mrs Pawson (co-optee applicant) and Mrs C Bostle (previously involved in Evesham Fairtrade Town Status).

24. Apologies for Absence

Cllr G Bearcroft submitted his apologies.

25. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest including requests for dispensation (if any)

There were no declarations of interest.

26. Minutes of the meeting held 23 September 2019

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda the minutes of the previous meeting held 23 September 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2019 be adopted as a true record.

27. Co-option of non Council member onto the Committee

A report was circulated with the agenda regarding the co-option of a non-council member to the committee.

It was explained that when the committee was set up, it detailed in the terms of reference that the committee had delegated authority to appoint 3 non councillor members; these members had no voting rights and they would be co-opted for the term of the Council. The reason for wanting non councillor members on the committee was that many of the main drivers of the Town Plan were not town councillors and it was important for continuity that they had a presence at committee level.

Mr Robin Walker had been co-opted at the meeting on 15 July and Mr Bruce Taylor at the meeting on 23 September, leaving one vacancy. Mrs Gill Pawson had applied to be co-opted but had been unable to attend the previous meeting and therefore a decision on this had been deferred.

Mrs Pawson was on hand to answer any questions. Mrs Pawson explained that she was active in the Civic Society and with the Abbey Gardens Project. She was also a retired planning officer and would be interested in getting involved with a neighbourhood plan if this was to proceed. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mrs Pawson to the committee. Mrs Pawson thanked the committee and explained that she had been unwell and therefore would not be staying for the meeting.

Mrs Pawson left the meeting.

28. Financial statement

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report detailing the expenditure which had been spent or committed. The committee had a budget of £6,000:

- £1,500 – Sustrans – Cycle Feasibility Study
- £231 – Greening Evesham publicity
- £100 – Green Fayre Banner
- £500 – Anti Litter Evesham

NOTED

29. Inward Investment Manager's Report

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report by Mr Shawn Riley Inward Investment Manager (WDC).

It was reported that contact has been made with the owner of the former Argos Building, a meeting has taken place on site about the future use of the building. Mr Riley went on to report that WDC had hosted a visit from Graham Soult of Canny Insights. It was explained that Mr Soult was a retail champion, digital marketing expert, respected media commentator, and Fellow of the Institute of Place Management (IPM). He worked with independent and multiple retailers online and on the high street, as well as with related organisations such as landlords, local authorities, business associations and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). The possibility of establishing a BID in Evesham was being considered by the WDC Executive Board.

With regards to events Mr Riley stated that Evesham's Christmas season was launched with a bang last week and Santa himself had a Christmas treat in the form of a brand new Grotto. This proved to be very popular with both Santa and the never-ending queue of Children and parents excited to meet him. This concluded another events season for Evesham with the number of events supported in Evesham much more than Droitwich and Pershore combined thanks to the cooperation and joint funding by Evesham Town Council and Wychavon.

It was commented that there was felt to have been a lack of advertising with regards to the Christmas light switch on event, and that the free parking on the afternoon of the event was also not well publicised. Mr Riley stated that he would feed this back.

Mr Riley was thanked for his report.

30. Evesham Bat Care

A report was tabled detailing Evesham Bat Care's request for support for the work they are doing much of which dovetailed with the Town Plan. It was commented that they should put together a grant application form should they want funding, with more details as to their plans. The committee could then consider a funding request.

31. Anti Litter Working Group

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report by Mr Bruce Taylor advising of actions undertaken to date by the Anti Litter Working Group. Since the first meeting of the Anti Litter Group they had accomplished the following:

- 1027 large (blue) bags picked
- 3 skips
- c. 300 local supporters
- Incl. c 30 local businesses, schools and organisations.
- 551 people-picks volunteered
- 859 man hours volunteered
- 54 Picks completed
- 23 Grot Spots in focus in town centre

Mr Taylor advised that 2019/20 had been designated as the year of education. Both St Egwins and De Montfort Schools had undertaken litter picks, and the group had made presentations to these schools as well as Evesham college. The presentation was to be given to Swan Lane and St Andrews Schools in the new year.

The group were also working with local businesses with the assistance of VECTA. Businesses in Cowl Street and Port Street had been leafleted in advance of a litter pick and then contacted after the pick to communicate the action taken.

In addition, the group continued its liaison with other organisations such as Rooftop and continued to get great support from WDC and Evesham Town Council.

Mr Taylor stated that they planned to conclude the group in April 2021, but that there needed to be sustainability through education and enforcement.

It was noted that the group were working with McDonalds who had gone beyond their requirement in terms of undertaking litter picks beyond their immediate boundary and were to be commended. In response to a question it was confirmed that it had been broached with McDonalds as to whether they would ask customers to throw their litter in a bin at the point of purchase, but they were not willing to do this. However, Mr Taylor reaffirmed the positive work McDonalds were doing and stated that they wanted to focus on this and keep working with them.

Mr Taylor was thanked for his report.

32. Transport Report

An update on transport as compiled by the Chairman Cllr Mrs Tucker was circulated with the agenda.

The report explained that The Vale Public Transport Group postponed 2 scheduled public meetings due to purdah. They were now planned for January, with the Evesham meeting due to take place on Tuesday 21st January at 7pm in the Town Hall..

It was noted that the official launch of the Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership was attended by the Chair of the Town Plan Committee on Friday 8th November. A speaker for the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACORP) explained that there were four themes to

the group's activities: providing a voice for the community, promoting sustainable travel, especially regarding the last mile, together with better health, bringing communities together (social inclusion) and supporting social and economic development. The spokesman also noted that there has been an overall increase in rail travel over the period 2008/9 to 2017/18 of 35%. However, in areas where a Community Rail Partnership exists the increase is 42%.

Finally, the Chairman verbally confirmed that a meeting was to be held that was tasked with looking at public transport links with the town centre and The Valley, though no further details were known at the time of reporting.

Cllr Mrs Tucker was thanked for her update.

33. Evesham Fairtrade Town Status

A report from the Chairman Cllr J Tucker was circulated with the agenda regarding Evesham and Fairtrade town status.

It was explained that Evesham gained Fairtrade Town status in 2007 after Evesham Town Council passed a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and nominating 2 councillors to join the Fairtrade Town steering group and agreeing to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at meetings. This status had since lapsed as councilors and officers have moved on.

Cllr Tucker explained that there were 2 key elements, the first being that the Town Council committed to buy Fairtrade goods when applicable, i.e. tea and coffee and that there was an active steering group which consisted of at least 2 town councilors.

It was unanimously **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council re adopt fair trade status and agrees to purchase fair trade goods, where applicable, and that 2 members of the Council be asked to serve on the steering group.

34. Evesham Green Fayre

Circulated with the agenda was a brief report from Mr R Walker formally briefing the committee on the Evesham Green Fayre.

Mr Walker informed the committee that Transition Evesham Vale and Evesham Town Council held a successful (but very wet) Green Fayre in Evesham Market Square and Evesham Town Hall on Saturday 26th October 2019.

The Town Hall was full of varied and interesting stalls showcasing how we can take practical action towards a greener Evesham. An estimated 250-300 visitors had the opportunity to talk to enthusiasts about recycling, waste and litter, home insulation, greener transport, food and trees and renewable energy.

Braving the torrential rain outside were transport related stalls from Cycle Evesham Vale, Evesham Adventure Playground (recycled bikes), Vale Cycles and a selection of electric cars including a Golf from Listers VW. Also on display was the Close Pass Mat provided by the Road Safety Partnership illustrating the safe distance for motor vehicles to pass cyclists.

The event was opened by the Mayor of Evesham and engaged visitors included Councillors Bradley Thomas (Leader of Wychavon District Council) and Emma Stokes (WDC board member for Environment, Recycling and Street Scene).

The Greening Evesham organising committee was delighted with the event, and was planning a similar event for next year.

NOTED

35. Matters of urgency raised, for information only, at the discretion of the Chairman

There were no matters raised under this item.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

COUNCILLOR MRS J TUCKER
CHAIRMAN