



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M S Goodge (Town Mayor)

Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs S Amor (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr A P Booth, Cllr G Bearcroft, Cllr P Boyd, Cllr P Clifford, Cllr G Hale, Cllr R Hale, Cllr Mrs J Haines, Cllr Mrs J Johnson, Cllr Mrs E Nishigaki, Cllr R W Raphael, Cllr Mrs S Schaathun, Cllr Mrs J E Sandalls, Cllr Mrs C Smith, Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr Mrs S Smith, Cllr Mrs B Timbrell, Cllr Mrs J Tucker, Cllr N Tucker, Cllr B Turrell

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

Also present: Mr S Riley and Mr S Knight (both from Wychavon District Council) and 1 member of the public.

The Town Mayor informed members that the meeting was being recorded.

77. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Dyke, Miss E Haynes, and Mrs M Sale.

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

Cllr G Hale declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 85, since the report referred to GWR of whom he was an employee.

Cllr R Hale declared a pecuniary interest in the payments, minute 82, as he is a shareholder in BHGS.

79. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor thanked the councillors who had attended yesterday's remembrance parade. The weather had held off and the attendance had been excellent. He thanked all those involved with its organisation.

80. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 14 October 2019 was circulated with the agenda.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

81. Committee Minutes

- (a) Planning and Estates Committee – 28 October 2019. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes including the committee recommendations therein.
- (b) Extraordinary meeting of the Personnel Committee – 4 November 2019. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes including the committee recommendations therein.

82. Finance – Payments and Receipts for October 2019

Evesham Town Council's payments and receipts for the month of October 2019 were sent out with the agenda. Tabled were bank reconciliation for October and a list of pending payments for the current month.

Regarding payments made, specifically the £2,086 to LHR property, it was confirmed that this was the quarterly rent for the office premises.

Clerk's note: This payment also included a contribution to the water bill.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of October as attached at appendix A were approved and the receipts and bank reconciliation be **NOTED**.

It was also **RESOLVED** to approve the pending payments for November.

83. Update from Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Councillors if present

The Town Mayor gave apologies on behalf of Cllr B Banks of Worcestershire County Council (WCC) who due to ill health was unable to attend the meeting to give an update.

Cllr G Bearcroft gave an update on behalf of Wychavon District Council (WDC). He stated that his update would be brief as a lot of its contents was to be covered in Mr Riley's report.

Cllr Bearcroft firstly thanked the Town Council for organising Remembrance Day, stating it was an honour to have processed.

Cllr Bearcroft informed the Council that the new 3G pitch at Evesham United was almost complete and that 3 new electrical charging points were to be installed at the leisure centre car park. WDC had just appointed a new joint director of planning. Referring to the SWDP, the latest version that just over 200 additional homes had been earmarked for Evesham. There was an exhibition at the Town Hall on the 28 November.

In response to a question Cllr Bearcroft stated that he had no update on the enforcement action taken on the property in the High Street.

Cllr Bearcroft was thanked for his update.

Cllr Boyd arrived at the meeting.

84. Adoption of Almonry Collection Care and Conservation Policy, and Collection Care and Conservation Plan

Sent out with the agenda was a policy and a plan regarding collection care and conservation at the Almonry. It was explained to members that these documents were required as part of the

application for reaccreditation. Both the documents were based on best practise in the museum sector. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to approve the policy and plan.

85. Wychavon District Council Inward Investment Manager's Annual Report and request for funding in 2020/21

Circulated with the agenda was Mr S Riley's (WDC Inward Investment Manager) annual report and request for funding for the forthcoming financial year. Mr Riley was requesting £15,000 from the Town Council comprising £3,000 for Inward Investment, £3,000 for Small Business Grants and £9,000 for local distinctiveness/events. It was highlighted that the Council had budgeted for this over many years so if the Council were to support it, it would not have to find additional funding.

Mr Riley introduced his colleague Mr S Knight who did a lot of work in delivering the strategy set out in the report.

Mr Riley informed the Council that their commitment to this initiative opened up further funding and resources that was not matched by the other towns in the district. Evesham had far more events because of this joint initiative. The money provided by Evesham Town Council was match funded and more by WDC to the tune of £10,000 for Inward Investment, £3,000 for small business grants and £16,000 for local distinctiveness and events.

In response to a question Mr Riley explained that retail was going through massive changes and that no one knew where the bottom was. Local authorities needed to be flexible when considering their town centres including applications for change of use. With regards to Evesham there were larger challenges such as the Riverside Centre, however, plans were advancing with this as the Council was aware.

With regards to the small grants for businesses, Mr Riley explained that up to £750 was available to start-ups in the town. Any award came with minimal conditions other than that they had to go on a training course for small businesses.

It was questioned why, when WDC hands over the precept to Evesham Town Council, why it then has to request a portion back for this initiative. The Clerk explained that the Town Council was independent of WDC. WDC had the legal powers to collect the precept on behalf of the Town Council, WMP, WCC and H&WFS, but all these authorities set their own budgets and requested their own precept which was then collected on their behalf by WDC.

In response to a question about the former Argos shop on the High Street Mr Riley explained that the retail arm of the company were still paying a premium rent to the property division of the company. Though both were under the Argos banner they were run as two separate companies. However, the lease was due to end shortly which would mean that there would be much more urgency to find a tenant. Mr Riley stated he would check whether the building was listed as empty listed buildings did not have to pay rates.

Clerk's note: Mr Riley has confirmed that the building is not listed.

With regards to cycle paths and connecting to the Valley, Mr Riley reemphasised the problems they were having in getting landowners to cooperate.

The issue with banners on Waterside on the junction with Abbey Road was highlighted. Mr Knight stated that the permeant display boards had been very successful, so much so that it was hard to accommodate all the requests. When banners were placed down on the railings at

Waterside the organisers were contacted and asked to remove them. Longer term the Council were looking at more aesthetic ways to promote all the events that took place in Evesham.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that £15,000 be budgeted for in the 2020/21 financial year for this joint working initiative with WDC. Two councillors voted against this.

86. Planning Applications

- (a) 19/02094/CU – Mr Alistair Black – Units 1 2 And 3 Corn Mill Road
Conversion of part of a B2 Class (General Industrial) into a commercial cafe (A3)
<https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=100902>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused. It was stated that Cornmill Lane is unsuitable to take an increase in traffic associated with a café and that the access was inappropriate.

There were 6 abstentions including Cllr P Boyd who asked that his be recorded.

- (b) 19/02123/FUL – Tesco Stores Ltd – Worcester Road
Proposal 1 New Jet Washes
<https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=100931>

It was noted that this had the same footprint as the car wash facility that was there now. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- (c) 19/02342/FUL – Nationwide Produce PLC, Unit 6B Enterprise Way, Vale Park
Proposed extension to industrial unit to provide further coldstore facility
<https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=101150>

It was commented that there was concern that this application did not meet conditions set out in the SWDP for buildings of this size that require it to produce 10% of its energy from renewable sources. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to it meeting the requirement set out in the SWDP in renewable energy.

87. Reports from Council representatives

There were no reports brought up under this agenda item.

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

There were no matters brought up under this agenda item.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

COUNCILLOR M S GOODGE
TOWN MAYOR