

EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr C D Homer (Town Mayor)

Vice Chairman: Cllr F Kaler (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr A P Booth, Cllr P R Boyd, Cllr Mrs W D Dyke, Cllr A L Dyke, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge, Cllr Mrs B A Gurden, Cllr Miss E Haynes, Cllr M Hammon, Cllr Mrs L Jakeman, Cllr R S W Jones, Cllr G O'Donnell, 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 Mrs J M W Taylor, Mrs R Whiting.

Officers: Mrs C Chambers

Those present; Cllr C Holt WCC, 2 members of the press, Mr Taylor (Parishioner) 2 Twinning exchange nurses from France.

135. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bulman and Tucker.

136. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest in accordance with the Town Council's Code of Conduct, including requests for dispensation (if any)

Councillor Mrs J E Sandalls declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 143, Planning Applications, as she is a member of Wychavon District Council's planning committee. Councillor Mrs Jakeman and Councillor Boyd declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 143(d) application 14/02840/PN as the applicant was known to them.

137. Announcements by the Town Mayor

Mayor of Evesham Cllr Homer welcomed 2 nurses from Dreux, they were on a 3 week programme to work at Evesham Community Hospital, as part of the twinning project; he also welcomed Parishioner Mr Taylor. The mayor also reported that he had recently attended a Battle of Evesham directors meeting he was happy with the progress of the plan which was very positive as it was starting to come together, the next meeting would be held in March.

138. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2015. It was noted that in Minute 134 there was an error which named the hotel along Waterside as the Riverside Hotel, when it is actually named Parkview Hotel. It was **RESOLVED** that with the aforementioned amendment that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

139. Committee Reports

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda the Minutes of the Planning and General Purposes Committee held on 26 January 2015. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

140. Questions from Members of the Public

The Chairman invited Mr Taylor to address the Council, Mr Taylor in reference to planning application number W/14/02751/OU asked why after a decision made by the Town Council was overturned by some elected Councillors from Evesham.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council advised Mr Taylor that Evesham Town Council were Consultees on planning applications. The planning authority was Wychavon District Council, the application had yet to be determined and was pending consideration. The Chairman also advised Mr Taylor to contact Senior Officers at Wychavon, he also advised Mr Taylor that ETC had contacted Ian Marshall who had been made aware of his concerns. The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for his attendance.

141. Finance

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda the finance report which advised Members of the Income and expenditure of the Council for January 2015. Also attached was the Council's bank reconciliation report as of 31 January 2015 for information. It was **RESOLVED** that the payments of £32,603.87 be approved and receipts of £9,532.98 for January 2015 and the Bank Reconciliation be **NOTED**.

142. Update from Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council Members

Worcestershire County Council – Cllr Holt

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Holt to the meeting. Cllr Holt reported that Worcestershire unemployment figures for December 2014 had fallen by 141 to 4,746. The total unemployed had fallen by 8,500 which was the lowest since August 2009, and represented 1.3% of the adult population compared to 2.4% in the West Midlands and England at 1.9%. He added that the Budget for WCC from 1 April 2015 was £327million Net which included £26million of savings, which was an increase of 1.94% on last year. Member's allowances were frozen for 7th consecutive year. He added that £4million would be for looked after Children, £2 million for older people and venerable service users, £900,000 on road and footway repairs. The County spend on School funding would be £1million a day on services. The performance tables of Schools in Worcestershire reported that 58.5% students had 5 or more A to C grades including English and Maths which was above the national average of 53.4%. Students in Worcestershire had exceeded 5% above the national average. The new Worcestershire parkway railway station which would connect the Birmingham - Bristol line with the Cotswold line should be completed in 2017, it would be supported by £7.5 million from Central Government and £14 million from various funding streams through WCC. At the request of Cllr Sandalls WCC had created 2 parking spaces outside the Bait Box in Evesham High Street. Cllr Holt announced that his Divisional Fund would be allocated for local projects, he announced he would support Outside Youth Club for an internet cafe, and a sailor who would be part of the Royal Yachting Laser Radial UK, Cllr Holt added that he had the potential to be an Olympic sailor, further funding would go towards The Battle of Evesham Anniversary later in the year. Following a question by Cllr Kaler, Cllr Holt confirmed that the employment figures did not include details of employment contract hours.

Wychavon District Council – Cllr Mrs Sandalls

Cllr Sandalls reported that Mr Hegarty's joint role as MD/Executive Officer for Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC was working well; he was dividing his time between both authorities. WDC reported that £200,000 would be made available by the South Worcestershire Community Partnership to tackle business and rural crime, the new programme would be shared by WDC and MHDC which would be funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Wychavon would invest an additional £30,000 into the programme to target street cleaning and littering hot spots. She added that Mr Hegarty would continue to oversee planning for 6 months or until the SWDP was in place, she added that Dave Hammond was now head of planning. The Government grant for WDC would be £3.335million for 2015/16, which represented a reduction of 53% over 5 years. WDC had developed a business plan called Grow Save the aim would be to grow businesses and housing which would attract more funding. WDC had chosen to allocate up 40% of their year 2 to 5 for investment in local communities, the NHB payments to Parish and Town Councils were on hold until 1st April until the next governments policies on NHB had been clarified, allocations that were currently available to draw down by Parish and Town Councils would not be affected. Cllr Sandalls added that the SWDP proposed modification examination hearing stages would begin in February, dates and venue are. 24th February & 14th April at Worcester Warriors Rugby Club, 6 Ways Worcester and 5th May University Arena, Hylton Road, Worcester. Members of the public could attend.

Cllr Hammon asked Cllr Sandalls to clarify whether Parking tickets could be issued for longer than 3-4 hours, as he had been informed that a van had been parked long term in a disabled parking space and could not be given a ticket. Cllr sandal would report back to him.

143. Planning Applications

- a. 15/00030/AA -Vodafone Limited, 20 Bridge Street - New fascia sign (non-illuminated) and new hanging sign (illuminated). It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.
- b. 15/00070/PN - Vodafone Ltd, Vodafone Site 36256, Wickhamford Lane
The removal of the existing 3 antennas and replacement with 6 antennas new stand off brackets fitted to the head frame, the installation of 1 equipment cabinet and 1 microwave dish. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.
- c. 15/00111/TC - Arquva Ltd, Evesham ATE, Abbey Road - Application for prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code system operators – installation of 3 no. collinear antennas, an equipment cabin and ancillary development. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.
- d. 14/02840/PN - Mr Wheeler, Leelands, Broadway Road - Demolition of existing farm shop and erection of new farm shop and ancillary glasshouse. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

144. Reports from Council's Representatives

No reports were made under this agenda item.

145. Post Office – Proposed moved to New Premises and Branch Modernisation

The Town Clerk had circulated with the agenda a report which advised Members that the Post Office Ltd had written to inform the Council of their intention to move the Hampton Post Office to a new location.

As part of the 6 week public consultation Post Office Ltd had written to the Council for their comments on the proposal, which was underpinned by Government investment. It was proposed to move Hampton Post Office into the Spar Store, 96 Pershore Road, Evesham. The report advised that the change would offer Post Office services from the retail counter, longer opening hours and improved accessibility. The proposed new opening hours and services that would be available were attached to the report for Members information. The public consultation would end on 12 March 2015 and parishioners would have 4 weeks notice before the proposed changes would start in May/June 2015. It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that the proposed move and modernisation of Hampton Post Office be approved.

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

No matters of urgency were raised under this agenda item.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.05 pm

COUNCILLOR MR C D HOMER
CHAIRMAN