



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2014** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr C D Homer (Town Mayor)

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

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)
Mrs C Chambers (Finance Officer)

Also present was Cllr C Holt from Worcestershire County Council, Cllr Mrs E Stokes from Wychavon District Council, 2 members of the press and 2 members of the public.

91. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J H Smith OBE, Mrs F S Smith, J Bulman, A P booth, Miss E Haynes, M Hammon, F Kaler (Deputy Mayor), N S Tucker, R W Raphael, and Mrs D R Raphael.

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

Councillors Jakeman and Mrs Sandalls declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 100 (Planning Applications) since they were members of Wychavon District Council's planning committee.

Councillors Mrs Sandalls and Elliman declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 98, the Battle of Evesham, since they were members of the Simon De Montfort Society.

93. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor thanked all those who had attended the annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial and All Saints Church yesterday.

The Town Mayor also thanked those Members who had assisted in collecting money and marshalling the Evesham bonfire, which had been a great success.

94. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting held 13 October 2014, copies of which had been circulated to all Members with the agenda were considered. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

95. Committee Reports

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

a) Planning and General Purposes Committee – 29 September 2014

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

96. Update from Wychavon District Council (WDC) and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) members

Councillors Clive Holt representing Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Emma Stokes representing Wychavon District Council (WDC) were present to update members.

Cllr Holt, WCC member for Harvington, which incorporated the northern area of Evesham from Greenhill down to Swan Lane and who had been a County Councillor for 30 years, spoke first.

Cllr Holt informed Members that unemployment in the ward was on a downward trend, being the lowest it had been since June 2008. Unemployment was 1.5% compared to a national average of 2.1%. Continuing, Cllr Holt reminded Members that the consultation on the Worcester Parkway railway station was currently open.

Regarding finance, Cllr Holt informed Members that WCC needed to find savings of £27 million next year. So far savings of £22 million had been identified and WCC were now looking at a commissioning model whereby other organisations provide some services, which would lead to further savings.

Regarding Evesham, Cllr Holt stated that he had managed to secure residents parking for residents in Swan Lane and Worcester Road; he was also involved in negotiations between Prince Henry's School and local residents regarding coach parking. New parking spaces had been created outside the 'Bait Box', and the speed activation sign had been working well in its location on Greenhill.

Cllr Holt stated that County Councillors received £10,000 per annum to spend in their ward and that he had recently given £1,000 to the Outside Youth Centre from this fund. It was explained that this money was for capital expenditure and could not be used for running expenses.

In response to a question regarding Prince Henry's School and whether they could make better use of the Arts Centre Car Park, Cllr Holt stated that the school did use it.

Cllr Emma Stokes, representing Wychavon District Council (WDC) for Bengeworth addressed the Council next. Cllr Stokes stated that she loved representing Evesham and in particular Bengeworth at WDC. Planning and enforcement was of particular interest to Cllr Stokes, and she was in constant liaison with the relevant departments at WDC regarding this.

Cllr Stokes proceeded to touch on a number of initiatives and issues that were being undertaken by WDC, including the car parking review, the disbanded LSP, Workman Gardens and the recent visit of the Tour of Britain. It was explained that WDC were always looking to attract inward investment.

In response to a question about a possible joint contract for waste management between WDC and Malvern Hills District Council, Cllr Stokes confirmed that residents would see no change in service.

The Town Mayor thanked both Councillors for their updates.

97. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

NOTED

98. Battle of Evesham – 750th Anniversary

Circulated with the report was a business plan and budget compiled by Ms Antonia Coles of JTT Events who were organising and managing the Battle of Evesham Festival. It explained that the Battle of Evesham Festival was a planned two day medieval festival for the whole family which would take place over the weekend of the 8th and 9th August 2015 on Crown and Corporation Meadows in Evesham. The event was to be the biggest event held in the area for a long time and would be a boost to the town's economy.

It was explained that JTT Events had won the contract to organise this event from the Simon De Montfort Society, and they were seeking funding and sponsorship from local businesses and local authorities, including the Town Council, to help fund this event. Today, Members were being asked to consider funding the event.

It was proposed and seconded that this item be differed as many councillors were not present, and that this item was of vital importance. Countering this proposal, it was highlighted that Members had been aware since the last Council meeting that the item was to be discussed and had received an agenda and reports like everybody else. It was also pointed out that there was a quorum, and that a delay may jeopardise the event as the organiser was to meet with local businesses shortly, and the indication of support by the Council may aid this. The motion to defer the item was put to the vote and was defeated.

In the Clerk's covering report it was explained that if the Council were to provide funding for the event then it would be advisable to take it from reserves. The Town Council were facing budget pressures for the next financial year and there was a possibility that a precept increase could be capped by central government.

Concerns were raised that the event may not even go ahead. Assurances had been sought that something would take place regardless. It was also highlighted that somebody had to back the event, and that with the Town Council's backing further funding would follow. It was also noted that Wychavon District Council were planning to match fund what the Town Council contributed.

Speaking against supporting the event, it was commented that some members of the public would not want to see this event funded and that it was not clear what we were celebrating.

In response it was stated that history was being marked, and that history could be interpreted in many different ways. Regardless, the Battle of Evesham had been an important event in the history of this country and to not mark it in some way would be wrong.

It was also highlighted that the Town Plan findings showed support for the Battle of Evesham Festival and that it was about time that the Council did something with its money. Further to this, it was stated that it would be an embarrassment for the Town Council if the event was to take place and that the Council were not involved and had not supported it.

Further to this it was stated that the town did not make enough of its connection with Simon De Montfort, and that this event could be a real draw. It was also stated that the Council should not stipulate to the organisers on how the money was spent.

It was proposed and seconded that the Town Council contribute £20,000 from reserves.

Whilst the proposal was supported, Members asked for assurances that the event would go ahead and that if it did not that the Council would receive its funding back.

To give the Town Council an element of control, it was proposed and seconded that the Council appoint a representative to the board of the company set up to oversee the festival.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Council give a grant of £20,000 to the Battle of Evesham Festival 2015, to come from reserves in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s145 the provision of entertainment and the arts. This grant would be paid with the conditions as set out by the Clerk and with reference to those set out by WDC. It was further **RESOLVED** that a member of Evesham Town Council be appointed to the board of the company set up

99. Finance Report

Evesham Town Council's payments and receipts for the month of October 2014 were circulated to Members with the agenda.

Also circulated were the bank reconciliation and a budget to date.

The budget to date illustrated the Council's spending when compared to the budget up to the current date. Members could see where there was likely to be an underspend and an overspend.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of October, and bank reconciliation, as attached at appendix A, amounting to £34,406.86 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**. The budget to date was also **NOTED**.

100. Planning Applications

- a) 14/02212/PP – Mr M Bell – 15 Allardene
Demolish existing store/office and re-build utility area.
<http://bit.ly/1phxLgq>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the usual conditions.

- b) 14/02261/PP – Mr R Watton – 36 School Road
Two storey side extension, new front porch, veranda to rear, double garage and extension to domestic curtilage, all as approved under permission reference no. W/13/01755/PP but without compliance with condition 4 to allow insertion of roof lights on approved plans.
<http://bit.ly/1DZf6qN>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved

- c) 14/02360/PP – Mrs R Baker – 91 Pershore Road
Single storey rear extension with single pitched roof
<http://bit.ly/1qn8TyH>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to the usual conditions.

- d) 14/02389/PN – Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – The Cottage, and Abbey Road Depot, Abbey Road
Erection of fire station and separate fire training facility with associated parking, yard areas and soft landscaping.
<http://bit.ly/10QQjco>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- e) 14/02407/PN – Wychavon District Council/Waitrose – Fire Station, Merstow Green
Demolition of existing buildings and structures and redevelopment to provide a new food store (Use Class A1) with associated surface car parking, servicing and pedestrian and vehicular access.
<http://bit.ly/1rXdx67>

In response to a question it was confirmed that the car park will be for Waitrose customers.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

- f) 14/01943/PP – Mr P Miles – 8 Church Road
Proposed single storey rear extension
<http://bit.ly/1uooO64>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved.

101. Vacancy on the Wallace House Management Committee

A report was circulated informing Members that following the sad death of Cllr Ivor Stewart, there was a vacancy on the Wallace House Management Committee.

Though not present Cllr Miss E Haynes had informed the Clerk that she would like to be considered. It was proposed and seconded that Cllr Miss E Haynes be appointed to this committee. There being no further nominations it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Miss E Haynes be appointed to the Wallace House Management Committee.

102. Amendment to the Financial Regulations

Members were in receipt of a report explaining that currently the Town Council's Financial Regulations stipulated that it had to go to tender for contracts over £3,000. It was further explained that tendering was expensive and time consuming and that £3,000 was too low a threshold. The National Association of Local Councils recommends tendering for contracts over £36,000 in their model Standing Orders.

It was explained that it is still good practise to get a number of quotes regardless and that this would continue.

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the Financial Regulations so that tendering was required for contracts worth over £36,000.

103. Town Council Reserves

A report was circulated with the agenda detailing advice from the Town Council's new auditor with regards to the Council's reserves and its proposed investment with the CCLA. The report is annexed at appendix B for information and reference. To summarise, the Auditor stated that in his opinion the CCLA investments would be treated as long term investments, despite them being accessible on a daily and monthly basis. Long term investments were treated as expenditure and this would be shown on the Council's Annual Return. The auditor also highlighted that it was good practise for Councils with reserves of over £100,000 to have an investment policy/strategy and that this should be drafted and adopted before investing.

Members agreed that an Investment Policy/Strategy should be drawn up before proceeding any further and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the committees prepares this policy and report back to the Council.

104. Reports from Council's Representative

There were no reports under this item.

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

There were no matters of urgency raised.

COUNCILLOR C D HOMER
TOWN MAYOR