



## **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2014** 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 J Bulman, Cllr A L Dyke, Cllr Mrs W D Dyke, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr M S Goodge, Cllr Mrs B A Gurden, Cllr M Hammon, Cllr Miss E Haynes, Cllr Mrs L Jakeman, Cllr R A 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, Cllr N S Tucker, Cllr Mrs R Whiting

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

Also present was Cllr B Banks from Worcestershire County Council, 2 members of the press and 1 member of the public.

### **74. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence submitted.

### **75. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests (if any)**

Councillors Bulman, Jakeman and Mrs Sandalls declared an interest in minute 85 (Planning Applications) since they were members of Wychavon District Council's planning committee.

### **76. Announcements by the Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor informed Members that this years Evesham Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal would be launched on the evening of the 18 October with live bands playing in the Market Place.

The Town Mayor also reminded Members of the forthcoming bonfire and firework event on 5 November and asked members to volunteer in order to help collect money.

### **77. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held 8 September 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.

### **78. 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) Property Committee – 15 September 2014

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

b) Planning and General Purposes Committee – 29 September 2014

It was noted that Cllr R S W Jones had submitted his apologies for this meeting but that this had not been recorded. It was **RESOLVED** that, with the preceding amendment, the Minutes be adopted as a true and correct record.

c) Promotion Committee – 6 October 2014

It was highlighted that Minute 26 was excluded as this recommendation would go to the meeting which set the budget. It was **RESOLVED** that excluding Minute 26, the Minutes be adopted as a true and correct record.

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

Councillors Bob Banks representing Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Gerry O'Donnell representing Wychavon District Council (WDC) were present to update members.

Cllr O'Donnell WDC member for Evesham South informed members that WDC were presently consulting on the South Worcestershire Development Plan proposed amendments, and that all were welcome to submit responses.

The proposed new railway station at Worcester Parkway was to be considered by WDC's Executive Board shortly. He added that WDC had embarked on a scrutiny of its car parking services and were also consulting all residents and stakeholders with regards to street trading.

The issue of anti social behaviour at Workman Gardens was to be considered at a WDC Executive Board Meeting tomorrow (14 October 2014). This followed many complaints from residents and park users regarding anti social behaviour linked to the consumption of alcohol.

Finally, Cllr O'Donnell highlighted the Grow, Save, Change business plan that WDC has adopted in a bid to try and bridge the gap in funding it faces. It is a plan to make WDC more entrepreneurial.

In response to a question regarding the demise of the Market Town Partnership (MTP), Cllr O'Donnell confirmed that the MTP Manager would continue to do lots of work in Evesham. A small budget remained in place and they would be seeking further funding sources to support the Manager in continuing to strive for economic regeneration in the town.

Cllr Banks, WCC Member for Evesham South updated Members on issues affecting Evesham from a county council perspective.

He informed Members that a consultation on mobile libraries was currently taking place and that anybody interested was urged to give a response using WCC's website. WCC were now using their website for reporting issues, consultations, etc., in a bid to make the council more efficient.

Cllr Banks went onto inform Members about Project Optimise which was a pilot project involving a number of wards in all the different districts in Worcestershire. The aim of the project was to see if there was any duplication of service undertaken by WCC, WDC, the Town Council and the Housing Association. It was also looking at whether those bodies should react to an issue, regardless of whether it was their responsibility or not. Evesham South was one of the pilot wards and an initial meeting attended by all parties, including the Town Clerk, had proved very productive.

Cllr Banks stated that he had developed a very good working relationship with the Town Clerk, specifically in relation to the Lengthsman that the Town Council had. Many issues had been resolved with the use of the Lengthsman, who undertakes minor Highways works on behalf of WCC.

Members were informed that a new crossing island was about to be built on the Offenham Road near the school, and that associated street lighting would go back to Lichfield Avenue. Work had already started on a pelican crossing at the bottom of Elm Road. WCC had been awarded £3.3 million from central government for the repair of highways.

In response to a question Cllr Banks informed Members that anyone who did not have internet access but who wanted to respond to the mobile library consultation should contact him direct. In response to another question regarding the island being built at Offenham Road, Cllr Banks confirmed that the developers were to pay for path resurfacing along this stretch. He added that the speed limit was to be reduced from 60 mph to 30 mph. Finally in response to a question about a rumour that volunteers were to undertake pothole repairs, Cllr Banks stated that this was not true.

The Town Mayor thanked both Councillors for their updates.

## **80. Questions from Members of the Public**

There were two questions submitted under this item.

Will the Town Council lobby the County Council to get the Sunday bus service for the 166 Worcester to Stratford reinstated (it goes via Evesham)?

Cllr J H Smith OBE responded in his capacity as a WCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport stating that this service had received a subsidy of £8,000 per annum and that there were other services. The user numbers had not been significant enough to justify the service continuing to be subsidised.

**NOTED**

Does the Town Council intend to pursue a permanent repair of Abbot Reginald's wall? For years this bit of wall has been an eyesore and the rusty old scaffolding a sharp-edged hazard. The Bell Tower is having thousands spent, so perhaps this Grade 1 listed building can be considered, too.

The Clerk explained that he had pursued this for some length of time now as nobody wanted to take on the ownership of the wall in question. Enquiries with the Rudge Estate and the Diocese had come to nothing. Members suggested that from memory, the scaffolding had been erected at the request of the Rudge Estate. Members also highlighted that there were significant concerns regarding segments of the wall near Hampton Ferry.

Members asked the Clerk to write to WDC to seek their assistance in establishing who is responsible for the wall and highlighting the poor state of it

**NOTED**

## **81. Finance**

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

In response to a question on income from BABA it was explained that this was the 'Book a Bed Ahead' scheme, from which the Almonry takes commission.

Referring to payment 467 Remove Bin from Hampton £31.63, the Clerk stated he would report back as he did not know what this payment was for.

*Clerk's note: This payment was for the removal of contaminated bin that had been left over a number of years on Hampton Playing Field. It contained a number of sharps and therefore WDC were asked to remove it on the Council's behalf.*

Referring to payment 486 £75 to Signs R Us, this was for the production of a roll up advertising banner for the Town Council to use at events so that people are able to identify that it is the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of September, and bank reconciliation, as attached at appendix A, amounting to £65,489.56 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

## **82. Future of the Ground Floor of Evesham Town Hall**

A report was circulated with the agenda regarding the ground floor of the town hall. This was the same report, though slightly amended, as went to the Property Committee at their meeting on 15 September 2014, in which they resolved to refer this matter to the Council for discussion, minute 13 refers.

It was explained that the Chairman of the Property Committee had asked that this matter be put on the agenda in order for the Town Council to discuss whether it should investigate bringing the bottom of the town hall into use.

The report explained that the former PJ's bar that resided at the bottom of the hall had been empty now for many years. It was believed that there was approximately 12 years still remaining on the lease and that an annual rent of £40,000 was still being paid by Enterprise Inns to Axa, despite it being closed.

Members commented that feelings were high in the town regarding the continued vacancy of the bottom of the town hall, and that the Town Council should at least look into the possibility of whether it could bring it back into use. There was no doubt that it would prove costly, but that the Council should investigate this further. It was preferable to investigate and then come to a conclusion, rather than dismiss it without making enquiries.

Members commented that the Town Council office had at least a further 4 years on the lease, but that the ground floor of the town hall could possibly serve as an office and Tourist Information Centre when this lease ran out.

Members sounded a note of caution, stating that WDC were in advanced talks regarding the future of the property in the Riverside Centre and Market Place including the town hall, and that the Town Council should tread very carefully in order to ensure that it did not jeopardise this. Members also stated that the cost was extremely prohibitive and there was no way the Town Council could afford £40,000 per annum.

The Clerk highlighted to Members that any resolution here would be to make further enquiries regarding the ground floor. Members would not be committing to spending any money, or to taking on a lease. If the Council were to proceed, the Clerk would report back before any commitment to spend money would be made.

Members agreed that any enquiries should first be made with WDC. It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the Clerk make further enquiries with WDC with regards to the bottom of the town hall and its potential use.

### **83. Vacancy on the Property Committee**

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

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 Property Committee.

### **84. Filming and Recording of Meetings**

Members were in receipt of a report giving further detail about changes in legislation that now meant that members of the public including the press, and councillors, could film, audio record and blog at public meetings.

It was explained that the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulation 2014 which was signed in August enshrined in law the right of members of the public including the press to film and record meetings regardless. It also permitted the dissemination of information by any means during the meeting (tweeting, blogging etc). However, if a meeting were to go into confidential session, the Council were permitted to prevent anyone from recording that part of the meeting using methods which can be used without the person being present.

The Clerk explained that these regulations override any previous standing orders, and that the standing orders would be amended accordingly.

It was further explained that the regulations stated that anybody recording could be asked to stop if their actions caused a nuisance to the meeting. Essentially, this could be any action or activity which disrupts the conduct of meetings or impedes other members of the public being able to see, hear or film etc the proceedings. Examples cited included:

- moving to areas outside the areas designated for the public without the consent of the Chairman,
- excessive noise in recording or setting up or re-siting equipment during the debate/discussion,
- intrusive lighting and use of flash photography; and
- asking for people to repeat statements for the purposes of recording.

The Clerk also suggested that it would be advisable to ask anybody filming, recording etc to inform the Clerk and/or Chairman before the meeting started as a matter of courtesy, though this was not statutory.

Members commented that the Council should look into recording its own meetings for record and for its own protection.

**NOTED**

## **85. Battle of Evesham – 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The Town Mayor gave a verbal update to Members on the Battle of Evesham event. He informed Members that the organiser was seeking financial support from the Town Council, and that he, the Chairman of the Promotion Committee, and the Town Clerk had had a very constructive meeting regarding this. The organiser was to address Members prior to the Town Council meeting in November.

**NOTED**

## **86. Planning Applications**

- (a) 14/01831/AA – Rooftop Housing Group  
Land on Junction Offenham Road and Badsey Road  
Temporary hoarding for properties  
<http://bit.ly/1uQ7hns>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be refused. The Council objected to this application as the advertisement will distract drivers causing an issue with highway safety

- (b) 14/01997/PN – Hampton Chippy Ltd – Hampton House Takeaway, Peewit Road  
Installation of electronically operated shutters to protect shop front – finished in powder coated white.  
<http://bit.ly/1yH0e2V>

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

- (c) 14/02085/GPDE – 91 Pershore Road  
Prior approval of a proposed larger home extension – extension of single storey outhouse by 2.8 metres.  
<http://bit.ly/1vGIu1T>

It was highlighted that this application was for information only as it had been approved under ‘general permitted development’. This application was **NOTED**.

- (d) 14/01749/PP & LB – Mrs N Jordan – 41 Merstow Green  
Two storey rear extension  
<http://bit.ly/1rd22Xg>

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved, subject to it not encroaching on or having any adverse affect on the neighbouring property.

- (e) 14/02099/AA – The Cider Mill – 135 Pershore Road  
Various signs – illuminated and non-illuminated  
<http://bit.ly/1vIxAK4>

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

- (f) 14/02155/GPDE – Mr D Whitehouse – 8 Berryfield Road  
Prior approval of a proposed larger home extension – single storey, flat roofed, rear extension.  
<http://bit.ly/1s2rQMI>

It was highlighted that this application was for information only as it had been approved under ‘general permitted development’. This application was **NOTED**.

Members agreed that further applications covered by ‘General Permitted Development’ should not be included on the agenda.

- (g) 14/02157/PP – Mr & Mrs Crane – 2 Merry Brook Heights  
Single storey rear orangery (retrospective)  
<http://bit.ly/ZNnf4N>

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

- 87.** It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Orders that the order of the meeting be changed.

**88. Reports from Council’s Representatives**

Councillor Mrs F S Smith gave a detailed report on the recent activities of the Twinning Society. Cllr Smith thanked the Town Council for their recent grant, which would aid them when welcoming guests from twin towns. Cllr Smith emphasised that all members of the twinning association paid for their own travel and refreshments and that accommodation was usually provided by host families.

**NOTED**

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

There were no matters of urgency raised.

**90. Charter Market Contract**

It was **RESOLVED** that given the confidential nature of the item to be discussed that the Council move into private session and that the public and press be excluded.

In private session it was **RESOLVED** to agree the draft contract with JMJ Enterprises to manage the Charter Market, with JMJ Enterprises paying the Council £6,600 per annum until October 2016.

It was further **RESOLVED** that JMJ Enterprises be contracted to undertake the Christmas Market for 2014 for the dates 1 December to 14 December 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

COUNCILLOR C D HOMER  
TOWN MAYOR