



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2014** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr C D Homer (Town Mayor)

Vice-Chairman: Cllr F Kaler (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr A P Booth, Cllr P R Boyd, 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 Miss E Haynes, 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 N S Tucker, Cllr Mrs R Whiting

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

Also present was one member of the press.

106. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs L Jakeman and Mrs J M W Taylor.

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

Councillors Mrs Sandalls and Bulman declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 114 (Planning Applications) since they were members of Wychavon District Council's planning committee.

Councillor A P Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute 114(c), planning application, since the applicant was known to him.

108. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor informed Members that he had attended a road naming ceremony recently. The road had been named Jupiter Road following a suggestion from the Town Council. At the ceremony, the Mayor had been presented with a framed certificate and picture of HMS Jupiter by its association to mark the town's link with the ship.

In response to a question, the Clerk stated that he would investigate the process of adopting a ship but that he was of the understanding that there was a considerable waiting list.

The Mayor also informed Members that the Council had received a letter from the Library of former US President Abraham Lincoln. This letter had been sent as Evesham Borough Council had written to express its sympathy with the people of the US following President Lincoln's assassination in 1865. 2015 would mark the 150th Anniversary of his assassination.

109. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting held 10 November 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.

110. 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 – 24 November 2014

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

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

Councillors J H Smith OBE representing Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and Mrs F S Smith representing Wychavon District Council (WDC) were present to update members.

Cllr Mrs F S Smith updated Members on the role of WDC's Chief Executive, Mr Jack Hegarty, who had recently taken on the same role at Malvern District Council. Cllr Smith stated that Mr Hegarty would be based half the week at each council and could be contacted in the same ways. He would also continue his usual liaison meetings with the Clerk and the Mayor. This new arrangement will save each council around £60,000 per annum.

Cllr Mrs Smith also informed Members of a new 'Partners Together' that WDC had hosted. The event gave the opportunity to share information and challenges following the disbanding of the LSPs. Cllr Smith concluded by updating Members on the Town Council's New Homes Bonus projects.

Cllr J H Smith OBE briefly updated Members on the Market Place, where some repair work had been delayed pending gas mains work.

The Town Mayor thanked both Councillors for their updates.

112. Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

NOTED

113. Finance Report

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

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of November, and bank reconciliation, as attached at appendix A, amounting to £40,655.14 (NET) be approved and the receipts be **NOTED**.

114. Planning Applications

- (a) 14/02196/PP – Mr N Cockerton – 7 Thorn Lea
Proposed porch and rear single storey extension
<http://bit.ly/1FJ4DCu>

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

- (b) 14/02466/PP – Mr & Mrs R Jones – 56 Broadway
Proposed single storey rear extension and re-roofing
<http://bit.ly/1yv66Jp>

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

- (c) 14/02619/PP – Mr Simms – 49 Lichfield Ave
Proposed first floor side extension and two storey rear extension – as approved under permission ref. no. W/13/01351, but without compliance of condition 5 – to allow re-positioning of window.
<http://bit.ly/1Cymm1m>

For information, details of condition 5 and the reasons for it were explained to Members and are detailed as follows:

5. Before the first occupation of the building/extension hereby permitted the new window at the first floor East elevation shall be fitted with obscured glazing and only openable not less than 1.7m above the floor level of the room it serves and shall be permanently retained in that condition thereafter.

Reason - To protect the amenities of adjoining/nearby properties from unacceptable overlooking/loss of privacy in accordance with policy GD2 of the Wychavon District Local Plan (June 2006)

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved subject to it not overlooking and it meeting WDC's conditions.

- (d) 14/02339/PP – Mr P Lawson – 19 Mansion Gardens
Proposed rear and side extensions
<http://bit.ly/1FHE52x>

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

- (e) 14/02615/AA – Mr D Cleaver – Wellpack UK Ltd
Millennium Way
Flexface backlit tray signs 5000mm wide by 2440mm high to be fixed to cladding
<http://bit.ly/1A7M1c6>

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

- (f) W/14/02665/AA – Pets at Home – Four Pools Lane
3 No. fascia signs and digital prints to windows

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that this application be approved on the condition that the signs are not illuminated at night.

115. Investment Strategy

It was agreed to defer this item as the Members who were formulating the strategy had been unable to meet. It was hoped that a strategy would be presented to the January meeting.

NOTED

116. Appointment of Town Council representative to the Battle of Evesham Company

Members were in receipt of a report explaining that one of the conditions set out in resolution to give funding of £20,000 to the Battle of Evesham event was that one Member of the Council be appointed to the board of the company overseeing it. Nominations were therefore requested.

There were two nominations who were both seconded, Cllrs Mrs B A Gurden and C D Homer. Upon being put to the vote it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr C D Homer be appointed.

117. Grant Application for the Scouts

Attached to the agenda was an application for a grant for the Evesham District Scout Group to assist them in arranging the 2015 St George's Day parade. It was explained that the application had been submitted via email in time for the Grants Committee meeting in August but that it had not been received. The Mayor and Chairman of the Grants Committee had agreed that the application be considered by the Council.

It was highlighted that the Scouts had considerable amounts in the bank. Countering this, it was stated that it was common for organisations to have reserves which are allocated for certain projects or capital projects and that this should not impede the application.

There was £320 remaining in the grants budget and the application was seeking £440.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Scouts be awarded a grant of £320 for the 2015 St Georges Day Parade, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s137, the power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised, which in the view has benefit to the residents commensurate with the expenditure.

118. Interim Audit Report

Circulated with the agenda was the Internal Auditor's interim report, which is attached at appendix B for information. It was explained that the auditor had been newly appointed and had highlighted a number of points that needed addressing, many of which had already been or were in the process of being addressed.

Regarding the Mayoral payment, it was commented that the Council should consider whether the allowance should be increased to compensate for any loss.

The report was **NOTED**.

119. Reports from Council's Representative

There were no reports under this item.

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

Cllr M Hammon highlighted the problem with flyposting in the town and whether these could be removed by Council staff. He also highlighted the issue of vacant premises looking untidy and whether the Council could write to landlords asking them to tidy them up.

The Clerk explained that there maybe issues with the staff removing posters on private property, however this would be further investigated.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

COUNCILLOR C D HOMER
TOWN MAYOR