

## EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr M S Goodge (Town Mayor)

Vice Chairman: Cllr C D Homer (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: Cllr A P Booth, Cllr P R Boyd, Cllr A L Dyke, Cllr Mrs W D Dyke, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr Mrs B A Gurden, Cllr M Hammon, Cllr R A Jakeman, Cllr Mrs L Jakeman, Cllr F Kaler, 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)  
Mrs C Chambers (Finance Officer)

Also present were 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Bulman and I J Stewart.

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

Councillors R A Jakeman and Mrs J E Sandalls declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, Planning Applications, as they are members of Wychavon District Council's planning committee.

Councillor J H Smith OBE declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.4 since it was in his district ward.

Councillor A P Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.2 and 8.2(b) since the applicant was known to him.

Councillor N S Tucker declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.8 since the applicant was known to him.

### 3. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor informed members that he was to hold a St Georges Day dinner at the Town Hall in aid of his charities. Tickets were available through the Town Council office.

### 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13 January 2014, a copy 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.

Referring to Minute 12, Cllr A L Dyke confirmed that the full and final settlement would be donated to two charities of his choice, by the Town Council on his behalf.

## 5. Committee Reports

The following reports were circulated with the agenda and were considered for adoption as a true record and authorisation for execution where action has not already been carried out under delegated authority:

- a) Planning and General Purposes Committee – 27 January 2014  
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.
- b) Property Committee – 3 February 2014  
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be adopted as a true record.

## 6. Questions from Members of the Public

The following question was submitted under this item:

*I would like to ask the Council to discuss the condition of the adjoining paths and make urgent representations to the appropriate department to improve this unacceptable situation for the people of Evesham.*

*Townspeople are having to struggle into, and from, town through water and mud, ruining shoes and clothing. On Thursday, there was a huge pool over the path near the foot of the bridge on the meadow side. There are hundreds of footprints through the mud adjoining where people have tried to avoid the water. Mothers with toddlers and the old are especially inconvenienced. The main path past the building site has been problematic for weeks, as many councillors will have noticed. We are not talking about when the Avon floods, overtopping the bank; it is the lingering ground water problem that needs addressing.*

*Is it Wychavon's, Hochtief's or Worcestershire's (County Council) responsibility?*

In response, it was confirmed that ultimately this was the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council (WCC) and the contractor Hochtief.

It was commented that the description of the conditions as described in the question were correct and that the meadow was often impassable. One suggestion made was the provision of duckboards to raise the path above the floodwater.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to WCC and Hochtief, highlighting the issue and asking whether anything could be done about it.

## 7. Finance

Evesham Town Council's payments and receipts for the month January 2014 were circulated to Members with the agenda along with those of the Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of December totalling £33,691.28 (NET), be approved and that the receipts be **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust payments for the month of January be approved.

## 8. Planning Applications

- 8.1 14/00052/CU & 14/00073/LB & 14/00033/AA – Uphampton Ales – 6 Market Place  
Change of use from A1 (retail A1 (retail) use to class A4 (drinking establishment) use and alterations) & painted lettering and fascia sign  
<http://bit.ly/1kKbKAa> & <http://bit.ly/1kTrpk1>

It was **RECOMMENDED** that these applications be approved.

- 8.2 14/00027/CU– Mr S Grove – 16 Vine Street  
Change of use from bar with 2 flats above to 3 flats and part of ground floor to office.  
<http://bit.ly/1gIPdpb>

- 8.2 (b) 14/00122/LB works to building to allow change of use from bar with 2 flats to 3 flats and part of ground floor to office as per 14/00027/CU (List building consent application)  
<http://bit.ly/1mCrVUB>

Both the applications at 8.2 and 8.2 (b) were considered together. It was **RECOMMENDED** that these applications be approved, subject to the approval of the listed building consent.

- 8.3 14/00053/PN & 14/00054/LB (Avon)  
Rooftop Housing Group – Yates Court – High Street  
Proposed internal alterations/refurbishment to the existing Yates Court Extra Care building including also some external amendments to the main entrance/car park off Albert Road and small extension to inner courtyard dining area.  
<http://bit.ly/1bm8B3w>

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this application be approved.

- 8.4 14/00011/PP – 33 Martin Avenue  
Side and rear ground and first floor extension to include internal refurbishment.  
<http://bit.ly/LKIvkD>

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this application be approved, subject to usual planning conditions.

- 8.5 14/00005/AA – Evesham PCC – Church of All Saints and St Lawrence  
Market Place  
Four canvas banners  
<http://bit.ly/1doBCeL>

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this application be approved, on the proviso that the banners be replaced or removed once they become weather worn or tatty.

- 8.6 14/00094/AA – The Co-operative Group – 13-15 High Street  
One externally illuminated fascia sign and one internally illuminated project sign  
<http://bit.ly/Luniuo>

It was **RECOMMENDED** that this application be approved.

- 8.7. 14/00142/PN – Evesham Trade Centre – St Richards Road  
Construction of 8 no. small B1C/B8 units with ancillary servicing and car parking as approved under permission ref no. W/13/01345/PN but without compliance with condition 15 (hours of work)

<http://bit.ly/1gvQL0R>

It was explained that condition 15 was that the premises, as part of the original approval 'shall only be used during the hours 0800 hours to 1800 hours Monday to Friday and 0800 hours to 1300 hours on a Saturday and not at all on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Reason - to preserve the amenities of the locality'.

It was commented that whilst the Council supports this business, the original condition was put in place to preserve the amenities, as these units back onto residential areas.

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** that this application be refused in order to preserve local amenities, as was the original condition.

## **9. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

Circulated with the agenda was a report detailing a proposal to review the Town Council's Standing Orders (SO) and Financial Regulations (FR). It was explained that SO were the defining policy, detailing the procedure for meetings and setting down the structure of the decision making process of the Town Council. Similarly, the FR, defined how the Council went about its spending when it came to procurement and awarding contracts. It was also highlighted that it was good practise to review these policies every few years.

It was **RESOLVED** that a working group be set up to review SO and FR, and that on that working group be Cllr Mrs F S Smith, Cllr Mrs D R Raphael, Cllr R W Raphael and Cllr F Kaler. Cllr P R Boyd was also nominated in his absence, though it was stated that he would not have to sit on the working group if he did not want to.

## **10. Town Council Representative on the Great and Little Hampton Educational Charity**

A report was circulated detailing a request from the Great and Little Hampton Educational Charity to appoint a Council representative. The current representative, Cllr J H Smith OBE, had served for 4 years, and had indicated that he was willing to be reappointed.

In response to a question, it was explained by Cllr J H Smith OBE that the charity had funds generated from the sale of an old school house and that it distributed money to students in Hampton.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr J H Smith OBE be reappointed as the Town Council representative on the Great and Little Hampton Education Charity.

## **11. Notice of Motion – Abbey Bridge**

Cllr M Hammon had submitted the following Motion to be considered.

*THE BRIDGE.*

*Unless I missed the meeting, I can see no record of any comments/letters written/questions asked, by the Town Council acting as a body.*

*Now this may be down to ennui, apathy, respect for the County Councillor, or any other number of reasons, but I think that, even at this late stage (and I hope that it is at a late stage) we should make our feelings known to a) our County Councillors, b) the relevant department/s at County Hall and c) the main contractor.*

*After all we do represent the people of Evesham, and the traders and other businesses.*

*If the Council are minded, I would like to see letters to be sent to the above, with a copy of the letter being put on the Towns website, and social media. The letter should express our “disappointment” (at the very least), by the lack of direction by the three above groups to move the whole project forward at a pace which kept rate with the initial schedule.*

*I feel that the town has been let down by the Contractor and the paid staff at County Hall.*

*Cllr Martin Hammon*

Speaking in support of his motion, Cllr M Hammon stated that the town had been let down by WCC and Hochtief due to inefficiency and a lack of transparency and communication. He went on to explain that this was the most important project in the last 35 years that he had lived in the town, and that the Council should write and express its concerns and disappointment at the failings surrounding this project.

In seconding the motion and the proposal to write the letter Cllr F Kaler explained that people in the town were blaming the Town Council for this project, and that the Council needed to let people know where it stood and represent the concerns of the people and businesses in Evesham. Cllr Kaler went on to explain that WCC were of the opinion that the Town Council did not care about this project and that this needed to be challenged.

It was further commented that there were many negative comments on social media regarding the Town Council and its lack of position on the Abbey Bridge Project. This needed to be addressed by the Town Council stating its concerns and disappointment in a letter.

Cllr J E Smith OBE stated that he thought it was sad that this motion had been brought to the Council, and that no member had come to him in his role as Cabinet Member of Highways at Worcestershire County Council, to ask for an update about the bridge. All Members got an update via email but nobody had ever come and asked him for an official update.

Following further debate, it was **RESOLVED** to send an open letter to WCC advising of the Town Council’s disappointment and concerns relating to the Abbey Bridge project.

It was further **RESOLVED** to publish this letter on the Town Council’s website.

## **12. Reports from Council’s Representatives**

There were no reports presented under this agenda item.

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

Cllr O’Donnell stated that Members would have become aware of a few community groups that had been set up in Evesham recently. He was of the opinion that these groups, whilst being broadly complimentary and well meaning, should be careful not to reinvent the wheel. There were many existing projects working towards similar goals, such as the Town Plan, and VECTA, and these groups should look carefully at what is already going on. He explained that there was a need for all these groups, including the Town Council, to engage in a more productive way and work together where possible.

**NOTED**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.15 pm

COUNCILLOR MR M S GOODGE  
CHAIRMAN