

## EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of **EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL** held at 6.30 pm on **MONDAY 10 MARCH 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 J Bulman, Cllr Mrs W D Dyke, Cllr M D Elliman, Cllr Mrs B A Gurden, Cllr M Hammon, 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 I J Stewart, Cllr J M W Taylor, Cllr N S Tucker, Cllr Mrs R Whiting

Officers: Mr S D Carter (Town Clerk)

Also present were 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr R S W Jones, Cllr R A Jakeman, Cllr Mrs L Jakeman and Cllr A L Dyke.

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

Councillors J Bulman 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 (WDC) planning committee.

Councillors Mrs F S Smith and C D Homer declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 9, New Homes Bonus (NHB) Working Group recommendations, since they sat on the Localism Panel at WDC, which dealt with NHB applications.

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

The Town Mayor reminded Members of his St George's Day Dinner taking place on the 23 April at the Town Hall in aid of the Mayor's Charities.

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

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 10 February 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.

### **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) Personnel Committee – 17 February 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and the recommendations contained within them be adopted as a true record.

Referring to these Minutes, Cllr G O'Donnell reemphasised the importance of the Tourist Information Centre facility at the Almonry. He stated that the Almonry tended to be termed as 'The Almonry Heritage Centre' and that the Tourist Information Centre service was equally important.

b) Planning and General Purposes Committee – 24 February 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and the recommendations contained within them be adopted as a true record.

c) Promotion Committee – 3 March 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes and the recommendations contained within them be adopted as a true record.

## 6. Questions from Members of the Public

The following question was submitted by parishioner, Mr D Ashley:

*Now that Hallam Land Management, the developers for the area of land off Abbey Road, from the leisure centre to Staites' Nursery, have shown their true intentions and have published plans which were on display in the Town Hall on Monday 24th February, for between 420 and 450 houses, including an extension of the area of land on to the other side of Abbey Road to incorporate the asparagus fields, will the Town Council, following its vote to oppose the significant amendments to the SWDP last year, write to the developers and their agents opposing this proposed development and send a copy of their letter to our MP Mr Peter Luff and prospective parliamentary candidate, Nigel Huddleston, asking them for their support in opposing this proposed development?*

In response, the Mayor read out a previous resolution from the Council made at its meeting on 10 September 2012 in response to the South Worcestershire Development Plan, namely:

*Evesham Town Council wholeheartedly rejects the use of land around the new Leisure Centre at Abbey Road for housing development and requests that this policy be deleted from the document.*

*Development on this important piece of agricultural land would be a blot on the countryside and is wholly inappropriate.*

*The infrastructure in this part of Evesham would not be able to cope with the extra houses, and this development would lead to increased traffic, which would gridlock the town.*

*This land is prone to flooding, which would cause problems both for the new housing but also for other residents and businesses whose property maybe affected by any displaced floodwater.*

*Evesham is a beautiful town and the Town Council wishes to do all it can to ensure that this remains the case. Permitting development on this land will have an adverse effect on the town's character that will not be reversible.*

Members agreed that this policy was clear. However, to comment about a speculative proposal that had not even been informally discussed with planners at WDC would be premature and potentially leave the Council open to charges of pre-determination.

## 7. Finance

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

In response to a question regarding payment 865, Almonry Electricity NPower, a payment for £2,144.94, the Clerk confirmed that he would check what period this covered and report back.

*Clerk's Note: The payment in question covers the period 9 October 2013 – 5 February 2014 and is for the electricity supply at the Almonry Heritage and Tourist Information Centre. It should be noted that the Almonry Heritage and Tourist Information Centre has no gas supply, therefore all heating is electric. The Great Big Almonry Project includes provision for a new more efficient heating system.*

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council payments for the month of February 2014 totalling £38,792.76 (NET) and as attached at appendix A be approved, and that the receipts be **NOTED**.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust payments for the month of February 2014 be approved.

## 8. Planning Applications

- 8.1 14/00309/PN – Allen Fabrications Ltd, Plot 8, Enterprise Way, Vale Park  
Proposed extension to industrial unit  
<http://bit.ly/1cwUYPs>

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

- 8.2 W/13/02615/CU (Amendment) – 60 Port Street  
Convert ground floor of original building into residential use; convert and extend annexe office into residential use.

Amendment: Amendment to hipped roof design of proposed house at rear of number 60 to include full gable ends. Amendments to window and door detail  
<http://bit.ly/LAbCGE>

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

## 9. New Homes Bonus Working Group - Recommendations

A report was circulated updating Members on the NHB scheme and detailing a recommendation to bid for £2,500 in funding on behalf of the Market Town Partnership (MTP). The MTP were seeking funding of £2,500 for a project to aid them in targeting potential retailers for the town centre, as part of their inward investment programme.

The total cost of the project was £7,500, the remainder of which was being met by MTP. The project enabled the MTP to access data regarding retailers and town centres, which in turn would aid them in targeting retailers who have shops in similar town centres to Evesham. It was explained that at present they used a 'scatter gun technique' whereby they target retailers in a less

scientific manner in the hope they will be successful. It was further explained that access to this data would permit them to target retailers in a much more timely and cost effective manner.

In response to a question, it was explained that the MTP brought a lot to the town including business through the proliferation of grants to new start-ups. The MTP was also very instrumental in attracting M&S to the town as well as the proposed Waitrose development. Further to this, the MTP aided a number of events and festivals in the town both financially and with the expertise of its officers.

It was further explained that this project was more than just attracting retailers, but about identifying opportunities, threats and challenges for the town centre. It was confirmed that neither WDC nor the Town Plan group had access to the data that this project would enable the MTP to access.

After debate, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a bid of £2,500 for NHB monies for this project.

#### **10. Photographic/Timeline project to mark the commencement of WWI and 100 years in Evesham and the Vale**

Circulated with the agenda was a covering report from the Town Clerk and a report from Cllr C D Homer seeking support for a photographic project.

Cllr Homer explained that there was currently a very popular group on social network site, facebook, entitled Photos and Memories of Evesham. This group had thousands of members and had resulted in many photos being posted online and shared. Hoping to use thus enthusiasm for sharing old photos, Cllr Homer explained that he proposed to use the windows of the currently vacant PJs Bar on the bottom floor of the town hall, to display images submitted by the public, illustrating the last 100 years in Evesham and the Vale.

Cllr Homer explained that there was a picture of conscripted soldiers lining up in the town square being inspected by the Mayor, and how pictures like this, enlarged and placed in the windows of the Town Hall, would not only improve the look of the building but provide an exhibition on open display. Cllr Homer went on that whilst the focus would be the WWI in the Vale, as you moved around the town hall, the photos would move chronologically in time to bring us to the present day. He also stated that he wanted to involve schools in the project and get them to depict Evesham and the Vale today, and that a large part of the space would be given over to their pictures.

It was confirmed that permission had been obtained by email from the leaseholders of PJs, Enterprise Inns. Confirmation from WDC had also been received that no planning permission would be required to place anything internally onto the windows. Listed building consent would be required to attach something externally to the building. Included in the proposal was the idea of two large photos cut to fit the two doors facing Vine Street.

Some Members stated that they were unsure whether they wish to see the commencement of WWI marked, however, they were pleased that this project proposed to include the past 100 years, and not just WWI. It was commented that anything, which improved the look of the exterior of the town hall, should be supported and that this was an excellent idea.

In response to a question it was confirmed that the Almonry Heritage and Tourist Information Centre were helping to coordinate a number of WWI projects in the town and that they would be providing exhibition space accordingly.

Regarding cost, no firm figure could be placed on the project. Initial estimates were put at

£3,000, but it was highlighted that it could exceed this. The Council had £1,000 in the forthcoming 2014/15 budget for projects related to WWI. Any further expenditure not covered by sponsorship or grants, which would be investigated, would have to come from reserves.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with this project and to allocate it up to £3,000 funding, £2,000 of which would come from reserves if no sponsorship or grants could be obtained.

**11. Reports from Council's Representatives**

There were no reports presented under this agenda item.

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

There were no matters raised.

**13. Town Council sitting as Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust**

It was **RESOLVED** that the press and public be now excluded from the meeting under the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by virtue of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involved personnel, financial and legal matters.

The Trust approved the minutes of the meeting held 19 February 2014.

**14. Town Council sitting as Samuel Wallace Smedley Trust**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Trust's financial statement.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20 pm

COUNCILLOR MR M S GOODGE  
CHAIRMAN