

EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the **TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE** held at 6.30pm on **MONDAY 19 JULY 2021** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Evesham.

Those present:

Chairman: Cllr J Tucker
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M S Goodge
Cllr Mrs S Amor (Town Mayor), Cllr A P Booth,
Cllr R Hale

Non councillor co-opted committee members:
Mr R Walker

Officers: Mrs L Steele (Locum Town Clerk)
Mr S Riley (WDC Head of Economic Development)

1. Election of Chairman

Upon the proposal of Cllr Amor, seconded by Cllr Booth, Cllr J Tucker was elected Chairman of the Committee.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Upon the proposal of Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Amor, Cllr Goodge was elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr P Clifford and Cllr A Dyke.

A question was raised about whether the agenda had been distributed to the co-opted members of the Committee and it seemed likely that they had been excluded from distribution and the Local Town Clerk apologised for the omission.

4. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest including requests for dispensation (if any)

Cllr Goodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 (Minute 8) on the grounds that he is an adjoining landowner.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting held 1 March 2021 including questions as to the progress of any items

The minutes noted that £1,500 for Battleton Brook should be set aside in reserves at the year end and that £700 should have been given to Active Evesham. It was asked if these actions had been completed – they had not. The Locum Clerk pointed out that these sums being underspends against budget in 2020/21 would have formed part of the general reserve at the financial year end (there being no earmarked reserves) however, the 1 March 2021 minute was sufficient authority for the sums to be made available from reserves, in addition to the agreed budget for 2021/22, in the current financial year.

6. Inward Investment Manager's Report

Circulated separately from the agenda (and attached to the record minutes) was a report from Shawn Riley of Wychavon District Council. Mr Riley was at the meeting to present his report. Mr Riley informed the meeting that he had been appointed as Head of Economic Development at

Wychavon District Council and that the council was pausing before filling his previous post of Inward Investment Manager. The meeting congratulated Mr Riley on his promotion.

Cllr Booth asked a question about the effectiveness of bollards in the Town Square that were not successfully limiting vehicle access to the Town Square.

Mr Riley was thanked for his report.

7. Street Entertainers

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

8. Battleton Brook Update

The Committee considered the latest position in respect of the Battleton Brook project noting that two tenders had been received as part of a comprehensive tendering exercise and that, following appraisal by a colleague at the Environment Agency, the company submitting the lower of the two, Birch Brothers at a price of £23,350, would be awarded the contract.

The Locum Town Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a pre-application enquiry to Wychavon District Council in the hope of confirming that the works would be permitted development. The answer to this question was required before a FRAP (flood risk activity permit) could be submitted to the Environment Agency. Further the Locum Town Clerk reported that Natural Networks had been in touch to progress the application for their funding and that the items upon which clarification was sought included whether interpretation boards were to be included in the application.

In response to the question whether there should be one or two interpretation boards it was pointed out that there were four entrances to the site. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to Mick Hurst about the Battle of Evesham interpretation boards and seek his support and/or input.

9. Transport Update

The Committee considered the latest position in respect of the following:

Active Evesham – Mr R Walker gave an oral report – Active Evesham will be taking a stand at the Battle of Evesham to promote the Vale. There will be an August event at Evesham station – Bikeability for families. Cllr J Tucker represents the Town Council on Active Evesham

Cycleways project - Cllr Hale gave an oral report - £100,000 has been allocated to tackle land ownership issues. A walk is being organised on Saturday 24 July from Salford Priors along the route.

Public transport – Cllr Tucker reported that there was not much going on currently. There is a long-term plan to open up between Stratford and Honeybourne. Studies are being organised.

10. Anti-Litter update

Cllr J Tucker gave an oral update. The anti-litter group has a new co-ordinator – Laura Van Toller. Two litter picks have been held recently in Bengeworth. £500 has been awarded to the group from the Tesco Bags for Life fund. Cllr Hale commented on what a good job Ms Van Toller is doing promoting the group on social media. Cllr Hale further raised the question of whether the lay-bys on the A46 required larger litter bins and agreed to send details to Cllr Tucker.

11. Intelligently Green Framework

Mr R Walker spoke to this item noting that the framework has been renamed the Greening Evesham Framework. Mr Walker raised the question of whether now was the right time to review the document and if so how should that be done? What can Evesham do as a town to reduce carbon emissions?

The meeting indicated that now was a good time and Cllr Goodge asked for clarification of how the original Framework had been produced. The answer came that it was content from the Town Plan that related to the environment and the outcome of public consultation – it was still a living document.

It was agreed that a working party of this Committee would undertake the review with wider consultation as necessary. Mr Walker indicated that Transition Evesham Vale would like to have an input. Membership of the working party was agreed as Cllrs Tucker, Hale, and Amor and Mr Walker.

12. Evesham COP26 Plans

Cllr Tucker explained that COP26 was a large international meeting to be held in Glasgow in the first week of November 2021 where heads of government will tackle climate change. A group including Transition Evesham Vale thought it an opportunity to do something locally and to involve local people in a week's Festival for the Environment, Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st October. Cllr Tucker circulated a flyer for the week's events

13. Matters of urgency raised, for information only, at the discretion of the Chairman notice of which is to be given prior to the commencement of the meeting.

There was nothing brought up under this item.

COUNCILLOR MRS J TUCKER
CHAIRMAN