



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM

- PRESENT:** Councillor: A. Booth, Mayor
- Councillors: Mrs S. Schaathun (Deputy Mayor), Mrs S. Amor, P. Boyd, J. Campbell-Muir, J. Clatworthy, A. Dyke, M. Goodge, Mrs M. Griffiths, Mrs J. Haines, T. Haines, R. Hale, Mrs C. Kimberley, Ms A. Lyon, Mrs E. Nishigaki, R. Raphael, P. Scurfield, Mrs E. Stokes and Mrs J. Tucker
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk
- ALSO PRESENT:** The Mayor's Chaplain Revd C. Green; District Cllr Mrs. M. Tasker; Mr I. Harper representing Evesham Adventure Playground; 4 members of the public

A minute's silence was held before the meeting in memory of Mr John Darby.

Prayers were led by the Mayor's Chaplain.

103. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Mrs T. Gailey, S. Brotherton, W. Kimberley and Mrs C. Smith.

104. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

Cllr Mrs Stokes declared an interest in item 11 as she sat on the Executive Board at Wychavon District Council. Cllr Hale declared an interest in item 9(a).

105. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that his Civic service would take place in April.

106. Updates from District and County Councillor

Cllr Tasker reported from Wychavon District Council.

- The Red Lion in Evesham was up for sale and a proposal had been put forward that it could be owned by the community and run as a community enterprise. Grant funds were being investigated.
- Wychavon had been awarded Diamond status on their public toilets at Evesham's Abbey Park and in Pershore High Street.
- Wychavon was celebrating the impact their trainees and apprenticeships had made, to mark National Apprenticeship Week from 5th to 11th February.

- Wychavon was working with Rooftop Housing Group to build a £4.5 million development comprising private market rent, social rent and First Homes on land at Offenham. The proposal would go to the Wychavon planning committee in March.

Cllr Stokes reported from Worcestershire County Council. Two DRT transport schemes were being trialled, one in Malvern and one in Bromsgrove. If successful, the scheme would be widened to Evesham and Pershore.

107. Clerks Report

- The enabling works for the Almonry were due to start next week. Scaffolding would be going up on Monday 19th February. Investigations into the roof condition and infill panel condition & construction, among other things would take place.
- Mowing had resumed with the green team.
- Sunset Way allotments: the site has been cleared ready for tenants.
- The council had had confirmation that the two old Co-op bank accounts would be closed imminently and Co-op have suspended any further bank fees.
- Training: Staff from the office, almonry and green team had attended First Aid training.
- The High Street Barclays Bank branch would be closing in May.
- The Bands in the Park programme had been finalised and the marketing literature was in progress.
- The notice board outside the hall would be coming down to be restored later in the week, and notices will be displayed at the Almonry until the board was back in place. A temporary notice would be put up explaining this.

108. Reports from Outside Bodies

There were none.

109. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the 8th January 2024 had been circulated and were agreed and adopted as a true record, subject to an amendment removing Cllr Dyke from the list of attendees as he had given apologies.

97. Committee Minutes

- a) Planning & Estates – 15 January 2024
- b) Town Plan – 22 January 2024
- c) Planning & Estates – 5 February 2024

It was resolved to approve the minutes including the committee's recommendations for the above meetings.

98. Finance

a) Payments and Receipts November and December 2023

The reports were noted and it was resolved that the payments for November and December 2023 be approved.

b) Financial report for Quarter 3, 2023/24

The report was noted.

c) To review fees

The fees were reviewed and the following resolved:

- i. That fees, other than exceptions (listed below), be increased from 1st April 2024 by the 12-month CPI and in the same way each year going forward, with 5-yearly reviews or more frequently if required.

Exceptions:

a) Re-opening of an existing grave where:

- At least one full burial has taken place
- The first incumbent was living in the parish when the plot was purchased

A fee of 4x parishioner fees, representing a reduction from previously 5x fees.

b) Additional inscriptions on memorials on existing graves where:

- At least one full burial has taken place
- The first incumbent was living in the parish when the plot was purchased

A fee of 4x parishioner fees, representing a reduction from previously 5x fees.

For plots, memorials and additional inscriptions purchased at prior rates there would be no refunds.

Fees would be rounded to the nearest pound sterling, upwards or downwards as appropriate.

- ii. That the uplift in fees for allotments with water (currently £20 p.a.) be delegated to the Clerk and RFO. This was because the use of water varied between allotment sites and for some sites the uplift charged for water provision was inadequate.

99. Election of Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect

a) To elect the Mayor-Elect for 2024/25

Cllr Dyke nominated Cllr Raphael, with Cllr Goodge seconding. There being no other nominations, it was duly agreed that Cllr Raphael become the Mayor-Elect for 2024/25.

b) To elect the Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2024/25

There were two nominations. Cllr Amor nominated Cllr Clatworthy, with Cllr Dyke seconding. Cllr Lyon nominated Cllr Scurfield, with Cllr Haines seconding. A vote for a paper ballot was defeated. A vote was taken by show of hands and it was duly agreed that Cllr Clatworthy become Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2024/25.

100. Community Legacy Grant

Wychavon's next round of funding for Community Legacy Grants (CLG) had been opened for Expressions of Interest. Grants would be awarded for ambitious and innovative capital

projects that met local needs and would have a significant and long-lasting community impact. Applications could be submitted by town organisations but needed to be supported by and submitted through the Town Council.

Evesham Adventure Playground wished to submit an application for a Community Legacy Grant. Information had been supplied on the project. Cllr Campbell-Muir proposed that the council support the project. Seconded Cllr Tucker and agreed.

101. Boundary Review

The Boundary Review concerned a review of the number of councillors, divisions and division names for Worcestershire County Council. The consultation was being run by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) who would make the final decision on any changes.

Worcestershire County Council's initial response proposed to increase the size of the Harvington ward by moving the town's Abbey ward into it. On the initial consultation in 2023, the Town Council opposed these changes.

The council still opposed the proposal to move Abbey ward from Evesham South into Harvington ward. It was resolved that Cllrs Tucker, Goodge and Stokes would form a draft response based on this sentiment for agreement at the next town council meeting.

102. Flags

It was resolved to purchase a flag for St Patricks Day and to fly the Scouts flag on the 22nd February and the 1st August each year.

103. Policing Priorities

Concerns put forward included the following: anti-social behaviour of younger teens, pavement parking, more visible policing, alcohol drinking in the high street, increased police attendance at burglaries and shop thefts, cyclists on pavements, selling of counterfeit or contraband goods, e-scooters and enforcement of the ban on XL bully dogs.

The list would be circulated to councillors with the top three to be forwarded to West Mercia Police as priorities.

104. To agree the amended Terms of Reference of the Almonry Advisory Panel

The amended Terms of Reference were agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.

Public Questions

There were none.

Cllr Alan Booth
Mayor