



# EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Julie Tucker (Chair), Alan Booth, Nigel Deacon, Julie Haines, Mark Goodge, Sarah Schaathun and Bill Kimberley Gill Pawson; Robin Walker, Robert Hale

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllrs John Campbell-Muir, John Clatworthy, Tim Haines and Heather Kelleher; 2 members of the public

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Jo Adams, Town Clerk

**1. Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr Goodge, seconded by Cllr Booth and agreed that Cllr Tucker be Chair of the Town Plan Committee.

**2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr Goodge, seconded by Cllr Schaathun and agreed that Cllr Deacon be Vice-Chair of the Town Plan Committee.

**3. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Caroline Tredwell, Place Project Officer.

**4. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests**

Cllr Goodge declared a non-pecuniary interest in the items relating to Battleton Brook as his property shared a boundary with part of the area.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be adopted as a true record.

**6. To co-opt two members from the community (without voting rights)**

The committee wished for three members and these were Gill Pawson, Robin Walker and Robert Hale. Agreed.

**7. Financial /Budget Report**

The Financial Report was noted: the budget for 2023/24 was £6,000.

**8. Water Quality**

The council had been asked if it would be prepared to fund testing kits for river quality. Avonvale River Action had been taking samples at locations along the River Avon including Blind Lane and Tesco in Evesham.

The group aimed to increase the length of river monitored. There was a national initiative and results of testing would be entered onto the national database.

The costs totalled £282 per kit. It was resolved that five kits would be funded with a view to carrying out monitoring in Battleton Brook and the River Isbourne as well as the Avon.

## **9. Town Plan Review**

It was agreed that the working group would resume its work on the review.

## **10. Evesham Place Project Officer Report**

Caroline Tredwell had sent apologies but had sent a report as follows:

### **Shop front improvement scheme**

The place board agreed to commit £40,000 to a shop front improvement scheme made up of £15,348 rolled forward from the 22/23 UKSPF allocation and £24,652 from the 23/24 UKSPF allocation. The scheme was planned to launch early August with any business on the High St and Vine St able to apply for £500 - 10k and be evaluated against the criteria.

### **Solar Lighting in Abbey Park**

Currently liaising between ARC surveyors who look after the Rudge Estate and the WDC legal and property team regarding applying for scheduled ancient monument consent to install the solar lights.

### **Accessibility Audit**

Consultation session at Wallace House on the 6 June went well. Report to be completed by Direct Access before the end of July. Taking the reports to Wychavon senior management team meeting early August. Will make report available to place board shortly after and discuss at September meeting.

### **Noticeboards**

Following the VECS report, all the noticeboards have been checked and a schedule of works has been created. Now have three quotes for undertaking the maintenance work which the place board will be considering imminently as to whether to recommend funding.

### **Repair to churchyard gate pillar**

The place board have recommended that a grant of 50% of the total costs for repairing the churchyard gate pillar is given to the town council to enable it to commission the works.

### **Town centre business survey**

The Place Board are considering commissioning a town centre business survey to get a better understanding of the challenges and aspirations of local businesses and to develop a town centre mailing list.

**Mural for 41 – 43 High Street:** Had received positive feedback.

### **Brass Band programme**

The programme was going well. The Place Board had put in £3500 for The programme continued until 27<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Coronation and Baron Flags**

Coronation flags had a strong visual impact in the town and were left up for longer as the baron flags were not able to be installed before the May medieval market. The baron flags have been installed ready for the Battle of Evesham and remain in place until the Christmas flags are installed early November.

### **Press trip**

Links had been forwarded from the recent press trip.

### **Ambassador programme**

Due to be discussed at the next place board meeting mid-September.

The committee were disappointed that Port Street and Bridge Street had not been included in the Shop Front Improvement scheme or the Accessibility Audit. The Place Board would be asked to extend the shop front scheme for the following year.

## **11. Transport matters:**

### a) Active Travel Update

Robin Walker explained that the Active Travel group had been set up to encourage people to leave their cars at home and use alternative ways to get around. The group was made up of county, district and town councillors, representatives of walking and cycling groups and other organisations. So far, the engagement of the county council with the issue had been poor, and opportunities had been missed. The group hoped for more action from the county council following a change of leadership for Highways.

Walkers are Welcome had successfully gained accreditation in Evesham.

### b) Public Transport

Cllr Tucker reported that she had attended a meeting at Evesham Station at which representatives of GWR, Network Rail, Vale Public Transport and others had been present. The discussion concerned ways to improve links between trains and buses. 3 routes had been identified. In each case, the bus routes needed to be extended to reach the station. Contact had been made with WCC on this and a reply was awaited.

Notification had been received that ticket office staff would be moved from working in the ticket office to assist passengers to use the automated ticket machines. A consultation had been launched which ended on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

It was generally thought that the ticket office was needed and that disabled people should receive assistance on all trains where needed.

## **12. Battleton Brook Update**

Cllr Tucker thanked Cllr Deacon for installing the benches along Battleton Brook with the council's outdoor team.

Public Questions

Brian Gregory attended to inform the committee and answer questions about river water quality testing on the Avon.

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

Date of next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> Sept '23

Cllr Julie Tucker  
Chairman