



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Cllrs John Campbell-Muir, John Clatworthy; 1 member of the public

OFFICERS PRESENT: Jo Adams, Town Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Nigel Deacon.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Meeting of the 24th July 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2023 be adopted as a true record.

4. Financial Report

The Financial Report was noted: £4,500 remained in the budget for 2023/24.

5. Water Quality

Cllr Tucker reported that she had attended the World Rivers' Day event the previous day where testing had been carried out at several locations between Evesham and Pershore. The results showed high levels of phosphorus and solid matter, which was likely to be sewage. There would be training for new volunteers early in October. Cllr Campbell-Muir noted that chicken manure had been leaching into the River Isbourne and the Environment Agenda had attended. The location would be noted as a potential testing site, Cllr Campbell-Muir would provide details. In addition, in Hampton one field edge earmarked for development was contaminated with asbestos and this should be noted in the council's response at some point.

6. Town Plan Review

Feedback had shown that some residents had reported issues in the town that were the remit of other organisations but thought that the council had the powers to solve them. For these items, the committee would reach out to the organisations responsible to let them know, and to ask them to work with them on these matters. There would be responses made to the public on all items, to show what could be done and what couldn't.

7. Evesham Place Project Officer Report

Caroline Tredwell reported:

Shop front improvement scheme: The scheme was now open for applications from shops in High Street, Vine Street and its offshoots, and Merstow Green. It was explained that the areas chosen, which excluded other retail areas in the town, were determined by the coverage of the Town Centre Prospectus. The scheme would be evaluated on completion and if successful it could potentially be extended to other areas. However, this would depend on information being gathered from those areas to demonstrate that shopkeepers would engage with it and be able to meet the matchfund requirement.

Solar Lighting in Abbey Park: An application for scheduled ancient monument consent had been submitted.

Survey to businesses: A survey had gone out to 400 town centre businesses asking for feedback on their challenges and aspirations. The results would link to the prospectus.

Accessibility Audit: The report was in, comprising some 150 pages and 355 recommendations. A summary and action plan would be produced to share with the public.

Noticeboards: Consideration was being given for funding to improve the town's noticeboards.

Brass Band programme: The programme had been successful. Feedback was requested.

8. Transport matters:

a) Active Travel Update

Robin Walker reported. Active Evesham had been invited to put forward suggestions for active travel measures that would go some way to alleviating traffic pressures in town. Two meetings had taken place and recommendations had been drawn up which would be put to the active travel stakeholder group at the next meeting. These included the introduction of the 20mph speed limit, which had already been introduced in Wales, also to encourage journeys of less than 2 miles to be done by bike.

Robert Hale noted that if children travelled to school on foot this would make a huge difference in traffic levels, and measures such as walking buses should be championed.

b) Public Transport

Cllr Tucker had attended a meeting with Great Western Railway regarding refurbishing bus stops and getting the timetables updated, together with better advertisement of train links from the stop near the station. There would need to be greater advertisement of the 28 service to Stratford. It was hoped to persuade other bus companies to run services to and from the station, including the 247 service to Redditch.

Investigations were being made in Droitwich and Pershore regarding bike hire, and there were hopes that this would also work in Evesham. Focus had been on the smaller towns as their train stations were further from the town centre than Evesham's.

9. Battleton Brook Update

Cllr Tucker reported that the wildflowers at Battleton Brook had not flowered as hoped. The seed mix had contained yellow rattle and it was possibly not suitable for early planting. She was awaiting advice on replanting in autumn. It was agreed to set a budget for wildflower seed of £140 and scarifying of £300. Cllr Campbell-Muir would be able to supply hay.

Public Questions

There were none.

Date of next meeting: 20th November '23

Cllr Julie Tucker
Chairman