



EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2023
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:45PM

- PRESENT:** Councillor: Alan Booth (Mayor)
- Councillors: Mrs S. Amor, S. Brotherton, J. Campbell-Muir, J. Clatworthy, A. Dyke, M. Goodge, Mrs M. Griffiths, P. Griffiths, Mrs J. Haines, T. Haines, B. Kimberley, Mrs C. Kimberley, Ms A. Lyon, R. Raphael, Mrs S. Schaathun, P. Scurfield, Mrs C. Smith and Mrs J. Tucker
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk; Ms A. Jayes, Almonry Manager
- ALSO PRESENT:** The Mayor's Chaplain Revd C. Green; District and County Cllr Mrs E. Stokes; Insp. D. Wise, West Mercia Police; Mr S. Knight, Place Projects Officer at Wychavon District Council; 5 members of the public

Prayers were led by the Mayor's Chaplain.

79. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Emma Nishigaki.

80. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

There were none.

81. Announcements by the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that there had been a good turnout for the Remembrance Commemorations and thanked people for attending. The Bengeworth parade would take place on Sunday.

82. Updates from District and County Councillor

Cllr Stokes reported. She had been representing Bengeworth as a district councillor for 20 years, and had joined Worcestershire County Council in 2021. For WCC she had investigated solutions to pavement parking in Port Street and had initiated speed surveys and placement of yellow lines.

Her remit at Wychavon was wide-ranging and included, among other things, open spaces and parks, contact centres, car parks and waste. She was working to try and reduce food waste levels in the district.

She was currently representing the interests of Evesham residents in the current boundary commission consultation, and opposed the plan that would see the centre of Evesham come under the control of the Redditch parliamentary division.

83. Joint Projects – Evesham Town Council and Wychavon District Council

Mr Knight presented his report, which outlined Wychavon's Joint Projects for 2024/25 in Evesham. It was resolved that the Town Council would contribute £15,000.

84. To Approve The Almonry Forward Plan

The Almonry Manager reported that a meeting had been held with Historic England (HE). The Almonry was on the Heritage At Risk register and an application had been made for funding from HE to make additional investigations into its condition. This would include a more detailed investigation into the roof, paint analysis and further dendro dating, which would give further information on the age of the building.

She presented the draft forward plan, which was in essence a working document subject to change. There were two versions and the Almonry Panel had analysed both plans and made a recommendation that Version 6 be adopted.

Cllr Dyke noted that the plans had limited recommendations on what would happen during the closure whilst works were being undertaken. The Almonry Manager noted that this could have been increased in scope but that due to the deadline of the MEND application, the plan had put forward as a decant of the collection to specialist storage. Other options could usefully be explored as it was desirable to keep the TIC provision open and some of the collection available.

Following questions, it was resolved that the recommended version of the Forward Plan be adopted.

There was a desire to increase the number of councillors on the Panel; this would be discussed at the next council meeting.

85. Reports from Outside Bodies

Inspector Wise reported from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT):

- The SNT was responsible for crime prevention and local confidence. They worked alongside the patrol team.
- 6 PCs covered Evesham and surrounding parishes as well as 3 PCSOs. By comparison there were 2 PCs each in Pershore and Droitwich. This was an increase of one PC compared to last year and the extra PC would be looking into retail crime.
- 22 shoplifting crimes were reported each month. Cllr Campbell Muir noted that the reported number of crimes didn't represent the true picture. Inspector Wise acknowledged this and said that this was part of the reason that the additional PC had been taken on.
- Figures showed that the number of key crimes had remained steady but again, the police could only act and report on crimes that were reported to them.
- A meeting was planned with operators in the night-time economy.

Cllr Godge reported from the Wallace House trustee meeting:

- The charity would be applying for grants for funding and was working on its end of year accounts.
- A contractor would be clearing the vacant and run-down 40 High Street building and would quote for further work.
- A new deputy manager had been appointed.
- You Turn, who had operated out of Wallace House for many years, had relocated to a different building.
- The charity was one of the charities being supported by the Morrisons' Giving Tree.

86. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the 11th September 2023 and the Extraordinary meeting of the 2nd October 2023 had been circulated and were agreed and adopted as true records.

Minutes of the meeting of the 9th October had been circulated and were agreed and adopted as a true record subject to the addition in Public Questions of the request from a resident that the council endorse the Plant Based Treaty.

87. Committee Minutes

- Planning & Estates – 18 September 2023
- Town Plan – 25 September 2023
- Personnel – 2 October 2023
- Planning & Estates – 16 October 2023
- Planning & Estates – 6 November 2023

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

88. Finance

- Payments and Receipts October 2023
The reports were noted and it was resolved that the payments for October 2023 be approved.
- Request for Funding for Defibrillators: A request for funding for defibrillators had been received. It was agreed that the council would welcome an application through its Small Grants Scheme but would not be able to fund an ad hoc request.
- Payment for the path repairs at Waterside Cemetery and All Saints Churchyard: The repairs to the paths as recommended by the Planning and Estates Committee were agreed.

89. To appoint a Member to each committee/outside bodies:

- Personnel – Cllr Peter Griffiths
- Planning and Estates – Cllr Lyon
- Town Plan – Cllr Brotherton
- Almonry Advisory Panel – Cllr Dyke
- Great and Little Hampton Educational Charity – Cllr Scurfield

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

Public Questions

There were none.

Clr Alan Booth
Mayor