



## EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM**

- PRESENT:** Councillor: Mrs S. Schaathun (Deputy Mayor, Acting Chair)
- Councillors: Mrs S. Amor, P. Boyd, S. Brotherton, J. Campbell-Muir, J. Clatworthy, A. Dyke, M. Goodge, Mrs M. Griffiths, Mrs J. Haines, T. Haines, B. Kimberley, Mrs C. Kimberley, Ms A. Lyon, R. Raphael, P. Scurfield and Mrs J. Tucker
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk
- ALSO PRESENT:** The Mayor's Chaplain Revd C. Green; 5 members of the public

A minute's silence was held before the meeting in memory of Cllr Peter Griffiths who had passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Prayers were led by the Mayor's Chaplain.

- 90. Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A. Booth, A. Dyke, Mrs E. Nishigaki and Mrs C. Smith.
- 91. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest**  
Cllrs C. and B. Kimberley each declared an interest in item 13 as stallholders at the annual bonfire and fireworks event.
- 92. Announcements by the Town Mayor**  
The Mayor had sent apologies.
- 93. Updates from District and County Councillor**  
Cllr Tucker reported from Wychavon District Council.
- The District Council was currently consulting on its new Design Code for rural and urban design.
  - The council was working on its pledges for the next four years.
  - The budget review would be discussed at the Executive Committee in February.
- 94. Clerks Report**
- Social media training was planned for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm.
  - An electrical inspection had been carried out at the cemetery buildings.

- A health and safety audit was planned for the Almonry.
- The Almonry Manager had successfully applied for funding from Historic England to assist in detailed roof inspections and paint analysis. This was in addition to the funding from the UKSPF fund and would greatly assist investigations into work required to save the structure of the Almonry building.
- Sunset Way allotments: a response had been received from Taylor Wimpey's solicitor confirming that they would fund groundworks to the site to get it into a suitable condition for use as allotments.
- Avon pedestrian bridge: WCC wished to purchase part of the riverbed from the Town Council.
- A letter had been sent to the leaseholder of the Town Hall detailing works that were required to the exterior including further roof works and restoration of the windows. No reply had yet been received. During the recent wet weather more leaks had been found, at three of the four corners of the clocktower. A further letter would be sent to the leaseholder regarding this.

**95. Reports from Outside Bodies**

There were none.

**96. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 had been circulated and were agreed and adopted as a true record.

**97. Committee Minutes**

- Town Plan – 20 November 2023
- Planning & Estates – 27 November 2023
- Finance & General Purposes – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Planning & Estates – 18 December 2023
- Personnel – 18 December 2023

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

**98. Finance**

- Payments and Receipts November 2023  
The item was deferred.

- To set the budget and precept for 2024/25

The council discussed the draft budget, its impact on the precept, and the recommendations put forward by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> December. In the meantime the taxbase had been notified.

Two alternative recommendations had been made by the committee, one which included additional funding for Wallace House and the other which did not, leaving the decision on this to Full Council. For the current year, a grant was paid to Wallace House of £20,000 plus an additional grant of £20,000, budgeted from reserves. The

trustees had requested financial support of £30,000 for 2024/25, aside from the £20,000 grant.

Some of the budget figures had been amended based on last year's actual spend or indications from the current years spend. There were many costs that were repeatable and fixed, such as the costs of rent and contracts. Other budget headings had been altered because there was a need or desire to carry out certain projects during the financial year.

These included:

- Events: Increased by £3,600 to pay for Bands in the Park. £3,600 for 12 performances.
- Staff Costs: The draft 2024/25 budget reflected the recent pay rise +3%.
- Maintenance, Town Hall: Set to include funds for some internal works.
- Elections: Elections had been called for the last three casual vacancies. A budget of £24,000 was proposed.
- Trees: £5,000 proposed for 2024/25.
- Buildings Maintenance, Cemetery: Repairs needed to cemetery outbuildings.
- Grounds Maintenance: The council had started a programme of maintenance on its tarmac paths. The budget would allow continuation of this work over the next 5 - 10 years to get the paths up to standard.
- Increase to fund repairs to the War Memorial.

It was resolved to go forward with the Finance Committee's recommendation including the additional support for Wallace House. Duly, the following was agreed:

That the budget be set requiring a precept of £879,208. This would be made up of £42,718 from the Council Tax Support Grant and £836,490 from taxation resulting in an annual charge to a Band D property of £88.77, a monthly increase of £1.10 per month or approximately 25p per week.

**99. Request from the Almonry Advisory Panel**

The panel had requested an increase in numbers. It was agreed to increase membership of the Almonry Advisory Panel to 7, effective from the council meeting in May.

**100. Busking Policy**

The Town Council had been asked to consider the introduction of a busking policy. The Town Council itself was unable to regulate buskers so this would need to be requested of the District Council. It was noted that there were relatively few buskers in Evesham and in general they had not caused any problems.

Two district councils in the county had considered similar schemes; one of these, Worcester City Council had subsequently introduced a voluntary scheme rather than requiring full regulation from street performers. It was noted that young performers may be put off if they had to apply for a licence to perform.

Cllr Kimberley proposed that Wychavon District Council be asked to introduce a regulated scheme for buskers. Cllr Campbell-Muir proposed an amendment that Wychavon District Council be asked to provide a scheme for buskers but that it should be voluntary. This was seconded by Cllr Goodge and Cllr Campbell Muir's amended proposal was duly agreed. A request would therefore be made to the District Council for the introduction of a voluntary scheme for buskers.

**101. Benches in High Street**

Cllr Campbell-Muir had suggested that one of the benches in the High Street be dedicated to councillors that had passed away in office, and plaques added in their memory. The proposal was agreed, subject to support from the families.

**102. Date for Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display 2024**

Cllrs C. and W. Kimberley left the room. It was resolved to hold the Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display on the 5<sup>th</sup> November each year going forward. Cllr Tucker asked if an enquiry could be made into quiet fireworks.

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

**Public Questions**

A resident noted the inadequacy of a traffic survey found in a campaign leaflet which a candidate appeared to rely upon to indicate their suitability for office in the local elections.

Cllr Alan Booth  
Mayor