



# EVESHAM

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## TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2024**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 6:30PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Mr R. Hale, (Chair), Mrs J. Tucker, R. Raphael, J. Clatworthy, Mrs S. Amor, M. Goodge, Mrs C. Kimberley, W. Kimberley  
Mrs G. Pawson

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk

**1. Election of Chair**

It was proposed by Cllr Clatworthy, seconded by Cllr Amor that Cllr Tucker be elected as Chair of the Town Plan committee. Cllr Tucker had been Chair for the past two years and the terms of the committee required that the Chair serve a maximum of two years unless a successor could not be found. Duly, Cllr Kimberley proposed Cllr Hale. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Goodge and agreed, and Cllr Hale took the chair.

**2. Election of Vice-Chair**

It was proposed by Cllr Raphael, seconded by Cllr Clatworthy and agreed that Cllr Tucker be elected as Vice-Chair of the Town Plan committee.

**3. Appointment of non-councillor members**

Two non-councillor members were appointed, Mrs G. Pawson and Mr R. Walker (subject to his agreement). Proposed Cllr Goodge, seconded Cllr Amor and agreed.

**4. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr R. Walker and Ms C. Tredwell, Place Project Officer.

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

There were none.

**6. Minutes of the Meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2024 be adopted as a true record.

**7. Riverside Centre**

The Riverside Centre continued to deteriorate, looked derelict and was becoming an embarrassment to the town. The associated car park was also very dirty and untidy. Many residents and visitors assumed that one of the local councils was at fault. The



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town council had received complaints about both the Riverside Centre and the car park, and visitors to the town were genuinely shocked at the state of them, as they assumed when they walked through the doors that they were visiting a bona fide shopping centre.

The Evesham Noticeboard had appealed to the owners, PJK Investments, to clean it up. It had been suggested that the town council attempted to manage the public's expectations on approach to the centre by placing signs at the entrance to note the businesses within, to indicate ownership, and provide contact details for anyone wishing to get in touch with the owners. This was agreed. Letters would also be written to the portfolio holder at the county council and to Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Cllr Goodge would provide contact details.

### 8. Biodiversity

#### a) Update on Natural Networks

Cllr Tucker reported. A grant had been awarded for biodiversity enhancements at various locations around Evesham. Planting would take place from September. Orders had been placed for bat boxes and bird boxes. Areas to be included were: All Saints churchyard, Hampton open space, Bengeworth churchyard, Bengeworth old churchyard and Battleton Brook.

Cllr Tucker would ask WCC if they would provide bat hoods on streetlamps as there was evidence that bats were avoiding well lit areas. Following the last enhancements, there were several new species of wildflowers and damsel and dragon flies seen.

#### b) Biodiversity Policy and Biodiversity Action Plan

The Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan had been circulated. Cllr Tucker reported that the town council now had a legal duty to maintain and improve biodiversity in its area. The Policy and Action plan were agreed.

#### c) Fallow Areas in Cemeteries

The committee was asked to consider if it wished parts of its cemeteries to be left fallow over summer and that grass cutting not be carried out. A single cut would take place in autumn and there were options to plant wildflowers.

This would encourage biodiversity, promoting the council's biodiversity policy and plan. It would also enable the outdoor staff to concentrate on the maintenance of remaining areas of the cemeteries for their summer grass cutting.

Fallow areas were supported by the Church of England, and were present in the churchyard at Fladbury.



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The risks were that the plan was not supported by the public. The areas would need to be carefully chosen to include only the older sections of the cemetery where graves were not regularly tended. Paths would be mown through the area which would make the areas a feature of the cemetery. Signs would be put up informing the public.

It was resolved to go ahead with the fallow areas. War graves would be excepted. The plan would be rolled out from the start of the next season, spring/summer of 2025.

### 9. Water Quality

Testing was ongoing and had been carried out the previous weekend. Cllr Hale asked if the letter to Severn Trent Water asking about when their future plans would include separating the storm drains and sewage pipes in the town could be separated as currently both were carried in the same pipe causing capacity issues. The letter would be re-sent and a copy sent to Nigel Huddleston, as he had noted it as a national issue.

### 10. Reports

#### a) Evesham Place Project Officer Report

None

#### b) Reports from members

- a. Mrs Pawson reported on the Town Plan Review. The document had been slimmed down to remove things that the town council had no powers over. Vale Press had been approached regarding the design. Costs had been quoted as £560 for review and £260 for printing. Electronic copies would also be available. The Review would be a standalone document. It was resolved to go ahead with the design work in the first instance. Copies would be sent to the District and County councils on completion.
- b. Cllr Tucker reported that 35 bug hotels had been distributed to local organisations.
- c. Cllr Hale reported that he had met up with Barry Barnes of WCC to request a new location for a vehicle activated sign on Broadway Road. WCC agreed to place a pole.

### 11. Transport matters:

#### a) Active Travel Update

Mr Walker had given apologies. Cllr Hale noted that the Evesham local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) had been released.

#### b) Public Transport



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There was a new representative from WCC, Mark Baylis. Cllr Tucker had met with representatives from Diamond Buses to discuss better bus links with the station. Timetables were now available at the Almonry and library.

### **12. Young People**

Cllr Tucker had met with students at Prince Henry's High School regarding the Town Plan. She hoped to create similar links with St Egwins and the De Montfort Schools.

#### Public Questions

None.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

Date of next meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024. Cllr Raphael requested an item for the next agenda to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan, and that this be discussed by the committee annually.

Cllr R. Hale  
Chairman