



# EVESHAM

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## TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT THE TOWN HALL, EVESHAM AT 6:30PM**

- PRESENT:** Councillor: R. Raphael (Mayor)
- Councillors: J. Clatworthy, M. Goodge, R. Hale, P. Scurfield, Mrs S. Amor, M. Arens, S. Brotherton, J. Campbell-Muir, Mrs M. Griffiths, Mrs J. Haines, T. Haines, Miss S. Hemming, B. Kimberley, Mrs C. Kimberley, Ms A. Lyon, Mrs C. Smith, Mrs E. Stokes and Mrs J. Tucker
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mrs J. Adams, Town Clerk; Miss M. Radley, Administrative Assistant
- ALSO PRESENT:** District Cllr M. Tasker; Revd C. Green; PC A. Johns; Representative of the Evesham Journal; 5 members of the public

**66. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs A. Booth and A. Dyke.

**67. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest**

Cllr Hale, item 9 (minute 74) Finance, as a director of LBG, which owned BHGS.

**68. Announcements by the Town Mayor**

The Mayor reported on recent town events and noted his thanks to the following:

- All members and officers who supported the RAF Association's Battle of Britain Service at Waterside Cemetery on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, which had been supported by school children from Bengeworth and Swan Lane Schools.
- Everyone who supported the Mayors Ball in September, which had sold out in record time, the fundraising quiz at Bengeworth Club and the Mop Fair in October.

The following events were forthcoming:

- A Christmas Fete in aid of Mayor's Charities: 23rd November, at Outside Youth Centre, organised by the young people at Outside. Noon-2pm
- Evesham Christmas Tree Festival: All Saints Church, 7th - 28th December. Carol Concert, Saturday 7th December 6.30pm

**69. Updates from District and County Councillors**

Cllr Stokes reported from Worcestershire County Council.

- i. The Adult Social Care Local Account 2023/24 identified the good work being done in an ever-growing area of care. There was concern on the disproportionate impact of



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the removal of Winter Fuel Allowance would have on the County – would this increase demand in the socially funded requirement and limit social interaction? Unpaid family carers were acknowledged in the important role they played in maintaining independent living for their relatives.

- ii. There had been a strong performance of Worcestershire Children’s Public Health services in comparison with national standards, this work provided good preventative services around the cessation of smoking in pregnant women and in occurrences of domestic abuse. As of 26<sup>th</sup> September, County was still waiting to hear if the national funding was set to continue in this area.
- iii. The Hampton Bridge construction was being discussed the Cabinet meeting the following week; Cllr Goodge would attend to ensure the build suited the needs of the town.

Cllr Tucker reported from Wychavon District Council.

- i. The Cut It Out initiative had been launched by the South Worcestershire Safety Partnership to tackle domestic abuse. This provided training to assist people to provide effective ways to get help for victims of domestic abuse. It had been prompted by the case of a domestic abuse victim who confided in her hairdresser and was subsequently murdered by her partner. The training hoped to teach people how to help victims.
- ii. Government would be offering heating grants for eligible households.
- iii. Wychavon’s corporate review had taken place which had been positive with recommendations.
- iv. The Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 would come into force in October. This made it a duty for authorities to take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment of employees.
- v. Cllr Tucker had attended the Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting at which potential carbon reductions at Evesham Leisure Centre were discussed.
- vi. A tree-planting initiative was providing free trees for communities.

### **70. Clerks Report**

- i. The damaged gate pier at All Saints church had been completed with the finials were back in place.
- ii. The Christmas Lights switch would take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and volunteers were needed on the night.
- iii. The balustrades in the town hall windows were in place.
- iv. The Mayoress’ Literacy Project had provided funding for 8 schools to date.
- v. The external auditor had completed his audit for 2023/24. The internal auditor would be carrying out an interim review next month.



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Green team: The team were continuing to prepare spaces in the cemetery for wildflower planting along with the winter planting in town. Hedge cutting had started at all cemeteries coupled with continuous mowing and strimming plus preparation for the bonfire.

Almonry:

- i. Despite the temporary tin roof the Almonry had suffered a couple of new leaks. The source of the leaks had been found and repaired by the roofing specialists.
- ii. A condition survey had been carried out on 1 – 3 Merstow Green, the team was waiting for confirmation and for the lease to be agreed and signed.
- iii. The Almonry Manager had a meeting with National Heritage Lottery Fund earlier this month to discuss Phase 2. She was now drawing up a bid for Development Phase funding with a view to submitting this in February 2025. She was talking to colleagues across the sector for research purposes.
- iv. Free Entry had continued to be a success. The first 2 months had seen visitor numbers increase by 75% based on the same period last year, donations were 7 times higher than they were for the same period last year. Shop sales had also increased by 20%.
- v. The team had been working together to create a pop-up exhibition based on Florence Nightingale and the hospital at Scutari for half term. Activities included a children's trail and craft activity and a visit from the 'Barber Surgeon' on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

### **71. Reports from Outside Bodies**

PC Johns reported from West Mercia Police as a member of the town centre team who patrol area included High Street, Bridge Street and Port Street. He outlined recent arrests in the town. The police had been working with businesses to reduce retail crime in the town. They had also been working with Cranston's and drug users to find ways to reduce crime from drug users. Anti-social crime hotspots had been identified, with one in High Street and one in Bridge Street. The drinkers in the High Street still presented a problem. PC Johns acknowledged the reports of assaults in Port Street (minuted at Public Questions) and would work towards solutions with relevant agencies.

### **72. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of the 9th September 2024 as a true record.

### **73. Committee Minutes**

- Planning and Estates – 16 September 2024
- Town Plan – 23 September 2024
- Personnel – 7 October 2024



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

**74. Finance**

It was resolved to accept the Payments and Receipts for August and September 2024.

**75. Town Council Police Priorities**

The priorities for police attention were identified as:

- Assaults on young women in Port Street
- Anti-social use of e-scooters in Port Street
- Vehicles moving at speed in daytimes in the Market Square, endangering pedestrians

**76. Almonry Contracts**

The Almonry Project would be overseen by two consultants, a Project Manager and a Lead Consultant. A tender process has been carried out and two successful companies selected from the submissions. Contracts had been drawn up for the roles and the council was asked for approval for these. It was resolved to approve the appointments. Proposed Cllr Stokes, seconded Cllr Tucker and agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.

Public Questions

A resident reported that assaults on women and girls had taken place in Port Street, one very recently. There took place in the night between 12pm – 1am, 3am - 6am and also after school. One alleyway in Port Street had been the site of assaults multiple times. There was no CCTV coverage at that point.

Cllr R. Raphael  
Mayor