

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs Chappell, Chave, Michael, Nicholls, Preece, Tawn, Toon and Wilcox.

G&P2013/14.36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

G&P2013/14.37 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES

There were no appointments of substitutes.

G&P2013/14.38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

G&P2013/14.39 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Edwards proposed the approval of the minutes of the meetings of the Governance and Procedures Committee held on the 1 October 2013, seconded by Cllr Preece and unanimously agreed.

G&P2013/14.40 MAYORAL EXPENSES AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL

Members received and considered the report from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave brief overview of his report and his recommendations and asked Members if they had any questions.

There was a lot of debate about this item and the following points were raised by different individual Members:

- Disappointment that Past Mayors were not consulted before producing the report.
- The budget for the following is much less than for the Mayor of Hereford - budget for Herefordshire Council's Chairman, Mayor's of Gloucester, Worcester and Shrewsbury.
- It would have been useful to have a job description included with the report for the duty/post of Mayor of Hereford City and other comparable Mayor's.
- Comparison of other similar Mayor's budget.
- Spending of tax payers money on charity work and other charity events.

- The recommendations in the report would restrict the Mayoralty completely and would prevent future Mayors from performing the traditional duties performed in the county and outside of the county.
- Need to look at what is relative to Herefordshire as a whole.
- The best policy would be if in doubt ask.
- Each Mayoral year is different and you cannot tie it to tight guidelines.

Cllr Nicholls proposed amending point 7.5 to read:

The Mayor should only accept those engagements outside the City that are necessary to maintain well established civic traditions of working with the market towns, the Three Choirs cities and the Freedom Regiments, or to support events within the county that are representative of residents/groups within the City. This was seconded by Cllr Michael.

Put to the vote: those in favour of the amendment to 7.5 6 in favour. 2 against. 1 abstained.

Cllr Wilcox proposed another amendment to 7.5 to read as follows:

The Mayor should only accept those engagements in the county that are necessary to maintain well established civic traditions or events that are organized by different groups operating within the City.

Much debate continued reflecting very much of the comments as laid out above.

Cllr Edwards informed Members he had difficulty accepting the way this report had been presented.

Cllr Chappell proposed withdrawing the report and bringing it back to debate at a later date when there is more information to support the report. This was seconded by Cllr Preece and put to the vote. 5 Members voted in favour of proposal, 3 against and Cllr Edwards abstained.

RESOLVED:

To withdraw the report and bringing it back to debate at a later meeting of the committee when there is more information to support the report.

G&P2013/14.41

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cllr Edwards proposed passing a resolution pursuant to the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 excluding the press and public from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business proposed to be transacted. This was seconded by Len Tawn and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

The Chairman called the meeting in to closed session.

G&P2013/14.42 ABSENCE OF A MEMBER OF STAFF AND COVER ARRANGEMENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chairman called the meeting back in to open session.

G&P2013/14.43 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mayors expenses and charity stuff etc

Look at delegated powers of committees.

Scrolls

G&P2013/14.44 DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Members noted the date of the next meeting TUESDAY 17 June 2014

There being no further business the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 7.12pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....