

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014

At the opening of the meeting The Mayor informed Members of the passing of past Cllr Bill Walling and spoke his work and the many years he had served on the Council.

Council stood for a minutes silence in memory of past Councillor Mr Bill Walling who sadly past away last week.

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Phil Edwards and Cllrs Andrews, Boulter, Carwardine, Chappell, Chave, Kenyon, Michael, Nicholls, Preece, Tawn, Oliver, Toon and Tawn.

Cllr Kay was not present.

**C2013/2014.116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Nenadich, Vaughan-Powell and Wilcox.

**C2013/2014.117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest made by Members under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda were received.

**C2013/2014.118 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present

**C2013/2014.119 MINUTES**

Members approved and agreed the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 04 February 2014.

Cllr Andrews proposed the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Tawn and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members approved the Minutes of the meeting of Council on the 4 February 2014 as a true and accurate account of the meeting.**

**C2013/2014.120 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from The Right Worshipful the Mayor as follows:

Cllr Walling funeral details. The Mayor also reflected on the long service and work of Bill Walling as a councillor on Hereford City Council.

**C2013/2014.121 VISIT HEREFORDSHIRE – LARGE GRANT APPLICATION**

Members received and considered recommendations from the Community Development Committee meeting 03 March 2014 following a submitted application requesting £20,000 grant funding for the 2014 Flavours of Herefordshire Festival.

Cllr Tawn proposed an amendment to the recommendations from the Community Development Committee that no award is given. Cllr Tawn informed Members of his concerns and the many reasons why he felt it was not appropriate to give an award to the event for this year. This was seconded by Cllr Nicholls.

Cllr Kenyon informed Members that this item had been debated at some considerable length at the Community Development meeting and his view that if the City Council does not support this event in the City in some way it gives the wrong signal. Cllr Kenyon proposed the proposed recommendation from the Community Development Committee as laid before Members to support the Flavours of Herefordshire Festival with a grant of £5,000. This was seconded by Cllr Oliver.

Cllr Chappell informed Members he supports Cllr Kenyon's proposal and covered some of the many concerns he has about this year's event including issues such as such as the event being taken outside of the City Centre, the lack of publicity for the City Council's funding support in previous years, the car parking on King Georges Playing fields and the traffic issues which would arise from this and the fact that it is possible to erect marquees up in High Town and the connecting streets.

Cllr Chappell proposed the City Council has a Service Level Agreement with Visit Herefordshire for a three year period awarding £10,000 towards the festival each year and clearly states what the City Council expect to be delivered by Visit Herefordshire in relation to the delivery of the festival, including issues as raised above, where it takes place and that the City Council are involved with the planning of the event in future years if they are to receive this funding. Cllr Chappell suggested Cllr Kenyon could sit on that planning group.

Cllr Chappell also raised his concerns that as to date there was no main sponsor for this event that no money should be released until a main sponsor is found.

Proposed £10,000 attached to the following conditions:

- Increase of awareness of what retailers of the City want.
- The event takes place within the City Centre.
- The City Councils support is more highly publicised
- The City Council is more aware of what is being planned for the event and are involved in the planning of the event.
- No money is released until there is a main sponsor for the event.

Cllr Chave explained to Members she was a volunteer steward last year and asked the rhetorical question about the festival being delivered over the August bank holiday weekend and if it will work with many people being away on holiday during this period and if the festival was valued by the citizens of Hereford City. Cllr Chave also asked if it was possible to assign conditions to a grant award. Cllr Chave was informed it was possible to assign conditions to a grant award.

Cllr Chave seconded Cllr Chappell's proposal.

Cllr Kenyon explained to Members that he had tried to liaise with Visit Herefordshire last year over the festival and they are very difficult to work with.

The debate continued at some length.

Cllr Chappell's proposal was put to the vote. 2 Members in favour. 11 against

Cllr Kenyon's proposal was put to the vote. 8 Members in favour. 4 against.

**RESOLVED:**

**To award £5,000 grant funding towards the cost of the Flavours of Herefordshire Festival.**

**C2013/2014.122      TEMPORARY COVER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CITY EVENTS MANAGER**

Members received and considered a report and recommendations from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his report and the current situation and requested Councils approval for his recommendations as laid out in his report.

The Mayor thanked Officers for all their input and hard work in the delivery of the Wedding Fayre and Members contributions to support the setting up and closing down of the Wedding Fayre event.

Cllr Kenyon asked what the temporary post would cost the Council. The Town Clerk informed Members that he didn't know but the cost would be contained within the current reserves.

Cllr Kenyon suggested he would be prepared to give up his time, and hopefully fellow Councillors would do the same, to organise and deliver the Historical Hereford Day event to save money on employing another temporary member of staff to deliver the event.

Cllr Toon requested that 3.1 in the report clarify 'to run until the day after delivery of Historical Hereford Day'. She also thanked Cllr Kenyon for his very generous offer but the City Council need someone specifically to deliver this event.

The question was raised about employing someone from Herefordshire Council or possible secondment from the said Council. The Town Clerk explained the issues over employing someone who had recently been made redundant from Herefordshire Council and his uncertainty that secondment would be an option but he would look into the possibility.

It was proposed that Town Clerk looks into the possibility of secondment first.

Cllr Chappell proposed the temporary post is extended to a week after the delivery of the event. Cllr Toon seconded that change.

Members proposed the Town Clerk's recommendations with the addition of the above two amendments.

Cllr Oliver asked questions about the event, the visitors it attracted and the benefit to the City.

The Town Clerk explained there would be a strategic review of events in the autumn by Community Development Committee of the events the City Council deliver. Historical Hereford Day has always received good comments and the event has grown. An increasing number of People want to get involved. It is important event which the City Council delivers on its own. The event costs around £9 thousand on average.

Cllr Kenyon gave a word of caution to ensure the City Council get the right grade of officer.

The proposal was put to vote and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Clerk looks into the possibility of the secondment of an Officer from Herefordshire Council first.**

**That Council endorses the decision of the Governance and Procedures Committee and adds that a full time appointment on the same terms can be made with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April in order to provide the necessary resource to deliver Historical Hereford Day with the conclusion of the post a week after the delivery of the event.**

**C2013/2014.123 DRAFT MINUTES**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 26 February 2014.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 25 February 2014.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of the Community Development Committee held on the:

3 March 2014 (Community Grants Meeting)

&

4 March 2014 (Routine Meeting).

**C2013/2014.124      REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received reports from fellow Members who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies.

- a)      **Municipal Charities (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Aubrey Oliver and Anna Toon)**  
No meeting
- b)      **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Charles Nicholls & Brian Wilcox)**  
No meeting
- c)      **HALC Executive Committee (Cllrs Jim Kenyon & Anna Toon)**  
Minutes were circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting. Cllr Toon covered items in the minutes; filming of meetings and electronic payments. Asset transfers - Ross on Wye. Different treatments between city and market towns.
- d)      **SAM (Cllr Anna Toon)**  
As above.
- e)      **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (Cllr Tawn)**  
Cllr Tawn explained the next meeting was due to take place on the 19 March, that he had sent his apologies for this meeting due to other commitments but would circulate a copy of the minutes of this meeting to Members in time for the next meeting of Council.
- f)      **Three Choirs Festival (Cllrs Liz Chave & Jason Kay)**  
Brief overview of the planning for 2015. Meeting in April meeting next week for three choirs plus.
- g)      **Hereford Twinning Association (The Mayor)**  
Attended AGM recently. 40 members present at AGM
- h)      **Hereford City Tourism Group (Cllr Chave with Cllr Tawn as reserve)**  
No meeting
- i)      **Hereford in Bloom (Cllr Kenyon)**  
No meeting. Hereford in Bloom offering trees for free at Saxon Hall on Saturday 29 March. The group are speaking to business about hanging baskets and conducting a survey about planting more trees in City Centre.
- j)      **NALC Larger Councils Committee (Cllr Wilcox)**  
Cllr Toon read out an email sent to the Town Clerk from Cllr Wilcox. Cllr Toon read out the email to Members for their information. The email covered three resolutions from the NALC Larger Councils Committee covering:

- Right of appeal for Parish Councils against a unitary authorities decision not to list an asset of community value under the community Right to Bid.
- Workshop themes for the Larger Councils Conference.
- The plenary sessions of this conference are merged in to one to accommodate a debate between front bench representatives from the main three political parties to discuss what each will be offering local councils after the 2015 General Election.

**C2013/2014.125 SERVICE DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFERS**

Members received the information report from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his information report.

Cllr Chave asked why Ross have been offered a mixed package of asset transfers when the City Council has not?

Cllr Edwards informed Members that the car parks offered to Ross have been under a considerable amount of water recently and suffered considerable damage.

It was explained that revenue assets in the City such as car parks are worth a considerable amount of money/income to Herefordshire Council than car parks in the market towns.

Some debate took place over the use of the word refused in a public meeting in relation to The Buttermarket and Herefordshire Council saying that the City Council had refused to take on this asset.

It was proposed and agreed that the Town Clerk writes to Herefordshire Council for clarification as to whether this was the case or not and if the word refused was used how this could be stated when this was clearly not the case.

**C2013/2014.126 TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communication from the Town Clerk as follows:

- Cllr Vaughan-Powell is about to go in to hospital for significant operation which will render her out of action for a period of three to four months. The Town Clerk suggested Members may wish to put forward for consideration and agreement 'leave of absence' should it look like Cllr Vaughan-Powell will be unable to attend a meeting of Council within the permitted six month period which could be placed on a later agenda.
- The Town Clerk thanked the Officers of the City Council for the excellent work they did on the delivery of the Wedding Fayre.
- A revised version of the Mayoral Handbook had now been completed and would be handed out to members following the closure of the meeting.

**C2013/2014.127    HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSALS ON PARKING AND REFUSE**

Members considered what response, if any, the City Council wishes to make to proposals to introduce on-street parking charges, extended charging periods to 2200 from 1800 and to introduce a wheelie bin fortnightly collection for non-recycling domestic refuse.

The Town Clerk informed Members the Planning Committee responded to a consultation about parking charges back in November

The Town Clerk informed Members the consultation in relation to the fortnightly bin collections was inadequate and despite continual chasing he had been unable to get a response to questions he has asked about picking up additional bags left out with the bins.

Members covered the following points:

- The night time economy is suffering and these charges will put even more strain on this.
- People will just go elsewhere.
- The Town Clerk should send a letter to say the City Council strongly oppose the extension of parking charges to 22.00hrs.
- Extending parking charges are not sending out the right messages and will discourage the people in and around the City from coming in to the City and enjoying what it has to offer.
- Fortnightly collection service will not work especially in communal areas.
- Rubbish will just build up and cause rodents and other infestation issues.
- Cllr Andrews covered what was discussed and agreed in Planning Committee in relation to parking and in that consultation there was no mention of night time charges.
- What is the cost of parking enforcement.
- Extending parking charges was forcing people out of town.
- Fortnightly collections going to cause massive problems in hygiene issues.
- Issues already exist with parking along roads extending charges will just escalate this.
- Hereford City Council has a responsibility to the residents of the City to say no to these Charges.
- Fortnightly rubbish collections are not a good idea.

It was proposed and agreed the Town Clerk writes a letter to Herefordshire Council strongly opposing Herefordshire Councils proposal in relation to extending parking charges to 22.00 hrs and to fortnightly non-recyclable rubbish collections.

It was proposed and agreed a copy of this letter is sent to the press to be published so residents can see the Hereford City Council’s response and that they do not support the proposals in relation to parking charges and rubbish collections.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Town Clerk writes a letter to Herefordshire Council strongly opposing Herefordshire Councils proposal in relation to extending parking charges to 22.00 hrs and to fortnightly non-recyclable rubbish collections.**

**A copy of this letter is sent to the press to be published so residents can see the Hereford City Council’s response and that they do not support the proposals in relation to parking charges and rubbish collections.**

**C2013/2014.128      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 29 APRIL 2014.

There being no further business the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 7.50 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....