

## HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

### Meeting of Council 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014

#### MINUTES

**PRESENT :** The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Boulter, Carwardine, Chave, Chappell, Kenyon, Nenadich, Nicholls, North, Preece, Tawn and Toon.

#### **C2014/15.001 APOLOGIES FOR ABESENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Micheal, Vaughan-Powell and Wilcox.

#### **C2014/15.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

#### **C2014/15.003 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **C2014/15.004 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillor Chave asked that her comment about the value of the Flavours of Herefordshire Festival be re-written to make it clear she was asking a rhetorical question. This was agreed. It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Chappell and

**RESOLVED That, subject to the amendment noted above, the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> March are an accurate record and will be signed accordingly by the Chairman.**

#### **C2014/15.005 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

The Mayor gave a brief overview of his recent meeting with Herefordshire Voluntary Organisations Support Service who are continuing to do very important work despite severe financial constraints.

The Mayor reported his correspondence with Mr Stuart Dove, a descendant of Belgian refugees who came to the City at the start of the First World War. Mr Dove's suggestions regarding commemoration and possible restoration of the flag are referred to Finance and Policy Committee.

#### **C2014/15.006 DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of Planning Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

#### **C2014/15.007 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

**a) Municipal Charities**

Councillor Oliver reported that no meeting has been held since the last meeting of Council.

**b) Herefordshire Market Towns Forum**

Councillor Nicholls reported an interesting meeting about different aspects of how market towns were dealing with transfer of services. The meeting also discussed further service cuts by Herefordshire Council including grass cutting, and the development of locality stewards for Balfour Beatty to respond to local concerns.

**c) HALC Executive Committee**

Councillor Toon reported asked if everyone received the HALC update "Information Corner" and those that wished to indicated that they did. Discussion was mainly about national matters which appears elsewhere on the agenda.

**d) Southern Area Meeting of HALC**

As above.

**e) The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group**

Councillor Tawn reported that he had circulated the minutes of the last meeting which were available to members.

**f) Three Choirs Festival**

Councillor Chave reported that a number of grant applications have been made. The group to co-ordinate Three Choirs Plus (which she is part of) is forming and starting work. There are lots of ideas already for that element and Councillor have would welcome any further suggestions from members.

**g) Hereford Twinning Association**

The Mayor reported no meeting since the last meeting of Council.

**h) Hereford City Tourism Group**

Councillor Tawn reported frustration among members of the group that the Chairman had cancelled the last meeting and nothing appears to have been followed up from the recent Open Day. He had invited members to a meeting to discuss the future of the group.

**i) Hereford in Bloom**

Councillor Kenyon reported that a meeting had been held to discuss priority areas for grass cutting, a service which is subject to severe reduction by Herefordshire Council. He urged ward members to meet with the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward sooner rather than later to establish their priority areas. Micheal Gill of Balfour Beatty should be contacted by anyone wishing to volunteer to organise community grass cutting projects and public liability insurance must be in place before people work on council sites.

**j) NALC Larger Council Committee**

In Councillor Wilcox's absence the Town Clerk covered these issues in his correspondence.

**C2014/15.008 TOWN CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that the Relief Mayor's Officer was unable to continue his duties due to poor health and had sent a letter confirming his resignation. The Council thanked the Officer for his work over many years supporting the City at civic events and standing in for the Mayor's Officer when required.

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor Wilcox had sent notes of the last Larger Council's Meeting which had confirmed other information, that NALC is vigorously pursuing the issue of the Council Tax Support Grant and those principal authorities that have withheld the funds intended to be passed to parishes. One parish in Kent is mounting a legal challenge and seeking a judicial review as to whether their district council's actions in this matter are lawful. Meetings are being held with ministers at DCLG urging that the regulations be altered to require automatic transfer of the allocated funds.

NALC are beginning a process of reviewing their services and their subscription structure, and it seems that the recent withdrawals of membership from some larger councils had been noted and were now being addressed. A new Chief Executive has been appointed and has started with a promise to make the organisation better able to serve and support its members, which the review and membership survey are part of.

The Clerk reported that in accordance with previous decisions of Council the sound system has been ordered and the kit has arrived. However there had been considerable difficulty in getting a block of days from the Council Chamber to be available and installation was therefore delayed.

A meeting would taking place with Property Services on 9<sup>th</sup> May regarding a long overdue office move which was still planned for July this year.

In answer to a point raised earlier about commemoration of the First World War centenary, the Clerk reported that he routinely attends meetings of the working group co-ordinating this under the Chairmanship of the Vice Lord Lieutenant. The

Armistice Day observance this year would include a representative of the Belgian Embassy and a descendant of the City Treasurer of 1914 who had been instrumental in securing accommodation for the refugees.

**C2014/15.009 EXCLUION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Tawn and

**RESOLVED That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item, Award of a Mayor's Commendation, as the discussion would involve the disclosure of personal information about an individual.**

**C2014/15.010 This minute is separately filed as confidential.**

**C2014/15.011 READMISSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The confidential business having been concluded, the press and public were readmitted.

**C2014/15012 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

24<sup>th</sup> June 2014

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.35 pm

Signed .....

Dated .....