

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013

**PRESENT :** The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Chappell, Chave, Davies, Edwards, Kay, Kenyon, Michael, Nenadich, Nicholls, Oliver, and Tawn

**IN ATTENDANCE :** Steve Kerry, Town Clerk; Lesley Bruton, Finance Officer; Tracy Morriss Civic and Community Development Officer

### **C2013/14.1 APOLOGIES :**

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillors Andrews, Boulter, Hempton-Smith, Vaughan-Powell, Preece and Toon.

### **C2013/14.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **C2013/14.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **C2013/14.4 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Michael and

**RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.**

### **C2013/14.5 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

The Mayor reported a very successful and pleasant trip to our twin town of Dillenburg where he had been very well treated by the hosts. He noted that representatives of the Dillenburg Council were very keen to improve the connections between schools and youth groups in the two communities. 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 would be the twenty-fifth anniversary of the twinning with Dillenburg.

### **C2013/14.6 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER**

The Town Clerk presented a report which had been agreed by Governance and Procedures Committee and recommended to full Council. Under the Standing Orders a proposal to amend SO's must be moved and seconded and

the all further discussion adjourned until the next meeting. This process had been followed and the matter is now before Council for a decision. The abolition of the posts would bring the Council's standing orders into line with the model suggested by the National Association of Local Councils, but would mean more responsibility for Chairmen of Committees.

After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Tawn, seconded by Councillor Chappell and

**RESOLVED That Council agrees to amend Standing Order 11 to delete reference to the Leader and Deputy Leader.**

**That Council instructs the Town Clerk to make the necessary amendments to staffing procedures to re-distribute the relevant functions recently undertaken by the Leader to named Committee Chairmen referred to in the report.**

#### **C2013/14.7 AFFILIATIONS TO EXTRENAL BODIES**

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had been offered a place on the Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group as the development of the zone near to the City would have significant implications for it. At the same time, the Council might wish to consider whether it was appropriate to maintain the affiliation to the Association of Charter Trustee Towns and Charter Councils. Details of the current and proposed affiliations were set out in the attached rept.

After some discussion it was proposed by Councillor Tawn, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and

**RESOLVED That the Council accepts the invitation to join the Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group and to discontinue the affiliation to the Association of Charter Trustee Towns and Charter Town Coucnls.**

In the light of the above resolution, it was then proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Michael and

**RESOLVED That pending the Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June electing a permanent representative that Councillor Tawn act as the Council's representative on the Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group.**

It was then clarified that the Stakeholder Group is a consultative forum for sharing information and members were asked to advise Councillor Tawn of any specific issues they would like him to seek more information on.

**C2013/14.8 HEREFORD LAD'S CLUB – LARGE GRANT RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Tawn introduced the recommendations of the Finance and Policy Committee and gave a brief overview of the details of the application. Councillor Kenyon reported that as a result of the Committee's recommendation the Club had been able to leverage a substantial grant from Veolia to support their project.

In response to a question the Town Clerk clarified the arrangements for reporting on the use of the grant, and that in future such reports would go to Community Development Committee given the transfer of responsibility for larger grants between committees.

It was proposed by Councillor Tawn, seconded by Councillor Oliver and

**RESOLVED That the Committee's recommendations be accepted and that a grant of £9,000 be awarded.**

**C2013/14.9 POSITION STATEMENT ON TAXI MARSHALLING – RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Kenyon presented the recommendations of the Community Development Committee and invited questions.

It was then proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Tawn and

**RESOLVED That the City Council awards £7,500 towards the funding of the Taxi Marshalling Scheme for the financial year 2013/14.**

**C2013/14.10 CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – RECOMENDATIONS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Town Clerk reported that the recommendations proposed to Committee had not been agreed, instead the Committee had resolved to support community action to reduce littering and to sponsor community litter picking activity.

In the debate that followed it was noted that involving the community brought considerable benefits in terms of cost and sustainability, that enforcement was divided between different authorities, ie Police, Parking Wardens, Community Enforcement and that better co-ordination was necessary and that the development of a showpiece new shopping area adjacent to High Town meant that environmental standard in the old City centre would be a priority if its viability as a shopping area was to be maintained.

It was the proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Kenyon and

**RESOLVED That the Council supports local litter picking initiatives and acquires suitable equipment to enable these to take place.**

**That the Council continues to pursue more effective and better co-ordinated enforcement activity from the various responsible agencies involved to maintain the environment, especially the City centre.**

**C2013/14.11 STATEMENT FROM THE STANDARDS PANEL IN RELATION TO COUNCILLOR GLENDA VAUGHAN-POWELL**

The Town Clerk introduced the report and explained the relationship between the Standards Panel for Herefordshire and the City Council, noting that the City Council had approved a Code of Conduct which recognised the Panel as the appropriate body for enforcing standards in public life. Council needed to record some response to the Panel report.

Councillor Kenyon suggested that as Councillor Vaughan-Powell did not represent the City on any external bodies, and as she had presumably undertaken the training required, the matter was now disposed of. He proposed that no further action be taken, but his proposal was not seconded.

Councillor Tawn reminded the Council that although this is partly a Herefordshire Council matter we are affiliated to the same standards system and the Panel covers parish and county councils and their members.

Councillor Tawn proposed, Councillor Michael seconded and it was

**RESOLVED That the Council accepts the findings of the Standards Panel in relation to this matter.**

A request was then made for a named vote to be taken.

Those voting in favour : Councillors Chave, Nicholls, Michael, Tawn, Oliver and Nenadich (7).

Those abstaining : Councillors Kenyon, Kay, Chappell, Edwards and Davies (6)

The Town Clerk confirmed that this decision would not be debated again for six months under the Council's Standing Orders. After that, Members could decide to appoint Councillor Vaughan-Powell to an external body if they wished to do so.

#### **C2013/14.12 PROPOSED NEW TWINNING**

The Town Clerk introduced the report and associated details of Kamienna Gora.

In discussion members noted that the Kamienna Gora is not very similar to Hereford and does not seem an obvious choice for a twinning arrangement, that the Polish community in Hereford might see a twinning as important confirmation of their value here, that the Twinning Association had no objection to a new link being formed, but that more needed to be done by the Association to make our existing relationships more visible in the City as a whole.

It was then proposed by Councillor Tawn, seconded by Councillor Chappell and

**RESOLVED That the Mayor's office publishes details of the suggestion in the local press stressing that no public funding is involved and invites expressions of interest.**

**That if sufficient expressions of interest are received, the Council facilitates the first meeting and leaves it to the new group to develop the link.**

#### **C2013/14.13 PARKING AT THE TOWN HALL**

The Town Clerk presented his report giving an account of how this issue had come about, and his attempt to resolve it by way of a rent review, which had not been accepted by Herefordshire Council.

Member noted that they did not wish to see staff losing money as a result of change in policy by Herefordshire, but that the proposed solution was not the one they would wish to see put in place.

After considerable debate it was proposed by Councillor Chappell, seconded by Councillor Oliver and

**RESOLVED That a special meeting of Governance and Procedures Committee be called to consider this matter further and to formulate a response to Herefordshire Council.**

Councillor Kay left the meeting at this point.

#### **C2013/14.14 BOUNDARY COMMISSION FINAL REPORT**

The Town Clerk introduced his report explaining that the argument that boundaries should be the same for county and parish wards had been largely

won, some names had been changed to better reflect local traditions and identification but that one major anomaly remained, namely the new Racecourse Ward, which appeared to be less than one tenth the size of the other city wards.

It was noted that the new housing referred to by the Commission would have to be planned for 2018 if it was to be taken into account and no plans for more housing in the area had been published, indeed none would be feasible while the racecourse remained.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Tawn and

**RESOLVED That the Council notes the Boundary Commission's report and seeks to find way to challenge the anomalous creation of the Racecourse Ward at a size fare below that of all the other city wards.**

**That the Council authorises the Town Clerk to use the parliamentary and legal advice services of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Herefordshire/National Association of Local Councils to see how this challenge might be taken up.**

**That the Clerk writes to the Member of Parliament asking that he raises the issue with the Commission and the appropriate ministers.**

#### **C2013/14.15 DRAFT MINUTES**

##### **Governance and Procedures Committee 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Councillor Oliver asked for more details on the current grades and conditions of service for staff which will be provided. The public minutes of the confidential section of the meeting will also be clarified in more detail to Councillor Oliver.

##### **Planning Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Noted

##### **Finance and Policy Committee 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Noted

##### **Community Development Committee 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**

Noted

#### **C2013/14.16 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**Municipal Charities** – No meetings held since the last Council meeting.

**Here for the City** – No one present to report.

**Market Towns Forum** – As members had not been able to attend the Town Clerk reported that he was now acting as Clerk to the Forum, and that the main business of the meeting had been to prepare the agenda to meet the new Chief Executive of Herefordshire on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Three major topics identified, managing the devolution of services, asset transfers and the role and status of the Forum as the voice of the market towns.

**HALC Executive** – Councillor Kenyon reported the meeting had been mainly a discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner which had been well attended and worthwhile.

**Southern Area Meeting** – No report

**Association of Charter Trustee Towns and Charter Town Councils** – No report and noted that in the light of the decision about this affiliation this will be deleted from future agendas.

**Three Choirs Festival** – Councillor Chave reported no meeting since the last Council Meeting, but added that the programme for this year's festival in Gloucester was now published.

**Twinning Association** – No report

**City Tourism Group** – Councillor Kay reported some doubt about the future of this group, which may be resolved at their AGM which is coming soon.

**Hereford in Bloom** – Councillor Kenyon reported this is moving forward with much more emphasis on community involvement which should yield good results this year.

## **C2013/14.17 TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**Public Toilets** – The Clerk had responded to the abrupt closure of public toilets in the City by reminding Herefordshire Council that the City's position had always been that community toilet schemes involving local shops, pubs and restaurants were a supplement to, but could never be a substitute for, adequate public toilets.

**Drybridge Allotment** – After some two year of process with Property Services the public notices about the transfer of land were now published and the matter should be closed in a few weeks with the Allotments Society able to enter onto the land and begin to prepare it for cultivation.

**Polling Stations** – Herefordshire Council are conducting a periodic review of polling stations in each ward. Any issue should be raised by ward members directly with Electoral Services, no response will be made by the Council as a whole.

**Committee Preferences** - member with any views on which committees or outside bodies they would like to serve on in the new year are asked to contact the Clerk who will attempt to draw up a mutually agreeable proposal for the next general council meeting.

**C2013/14.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Before announcing the date of the next meeting the Mayor reminded members of the Opening of the May Fair and invited them to join the ceremony, and extended best wishes to Councillor Nenadich as he will be away from his council duties for some time after surgery.

Next meeting of the Council 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making, next general meeting 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed .....

Date .....