

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford and Cllrs Andrews, Chapell, Chave, Kay, Kenyon, Nicholls, Oliver, Tawn, Toon and Wilcox.

Also Present: The Town Clerk, Finance Officer, the Civic and Community Development Officer and Mrs Gill Marsh who will be covering the Mayor's Secretary post during the period of maternity leave.

C2013/2014.64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence submitted by Members of the City Council were received from Cllrs Boulter, Michael, Nenadich and Preece.

C2013/2014.65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C2013/2014.66 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

C2013/2014.67 MINUTES

Cllr Kenyon proposed to approve and sign the draft minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 17 September 2013, seconded by Cllr Nicholls and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 17 September 2013 and they were duly signed, initialed and dated by the Chairman.

C2013/2014.68 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Communications from The Right Worshipful the Mayor laid before Members at the meeting were as follows:

The Mayor brought Members attention to Herefordshire Council budget pressures consultation on how they can deliver cuts to reduce their spending by 3 million over the next financial year. Mayor encouraged all Members to response to the consultation individually.

Junior Mayor Making on the 8 November 2013

Future of the Buttermarket. The Mayor proposed a meeting as soon as possible for those Members interested in being part of a working party considering taking over of the Buttermarket.

The Mayor informed Members he had questioned Cllr Phillips over the decision about reducing Newmarket Street down to two lanes prior to the new relief road being in place. The response he received was as follows:

Planned improvements to Newmarket Street are designed to accommodate the existing pedestrian and vehicle parameters. The design will control speed and support the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit with raised tables and improved pedestrian crossing facilities. The improved Newmarket Street will retain two lanes serving east and two serving westbound traffic.

Substantial improvements to Newmarket Street and Widemarsh Gate are being funded by Stanhope as part of the new retail and leisure development of the Old Market site. The scheme has been developed to create an environment which will integrate with the historic core of Hereford City. The scheme will include the creation of a wider central reservation and incorporate new tree planting.

Herefordshire Council will continue work closely with all partners to ensure that disruption to road users is kept to a minimum.

C2013/2014.69

HEREFORD IN BLOOM

Trevor Swindells was due to present at the meeting but was unable to be present due to illness.

Town Clerk read out 2 emails received from Trevor Swindells earlier in the day.

The Mayor suggested he would try to arrange a meeting on the 15 November prior to the Hereford in Bloom AGM.

Cllr Kenyon urged Members that as Councillors they need to engage with the schools and their community groups to encourage them to take part and be involved in Hereford in Bloom. The community element had enhanced the work already being delivered by Hereford in Bloom resulting in the City winning a gold award this year.

C2013/2014.70

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR HEREFORD

Members considered the Council's position on the above item.

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of his report and requested approval of his proposal.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the City Council adopt the proposal.

Members enquired as to who brought this forward to Council as there is no named person on the report. Cllr Toon informed she supports the initiative but this is for local business' and she would rather have officer time spent to assist her with community groups in her area.

Some discussion took place covering the following points:

- Welcome the initiative but concerns about what it is likely to achieve.
- The possibility of raising £200,000 per year.
- Support for the business involved in this initiative.
- Examples where other places have achieved this.
- Concerns over Officer time being under great strain and working flat out at the moment and City Council cannot put any more strain on those Officers at this time.
- Mayor informed Members there is very little opportunity for community development or Officer time spent in the Central ward area and he urged the Council to support an area that has received very little support in the past.
- Officer time will be very little and limited.

Cllr Toon told the Mayor she disagrees with his comments in relation to the Central ward area as in her view this ward has a lot of money put in to it because it is the City Centre.

Cllr Toon proposed an amendment to the proposal to a limit of officer time spent on this initiative to 15 hours year.

The original proposal including the addition of a restriction of Officer time to 15 hrs per year was put to the vote. 4 Members voted against and 7 Members agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the City Council endorses in principle the formation of a Business Improvement District to include the historic commercial core of the City and such other areas as research indicates should be included.

That the City Council authorises the Town Clerk to provide support for the BID subject to other calls on staff time as and when this would be appropriate.

That no more than 15 hours per year is spent in Officer time to support this initiative.

C2013/2014.71 DRAFT MINUTES

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 25 September and 16 October 2013. Cllr Andrews gave a brief overview of the minutes.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Governance and Procedures Committee held on the 1 October 2013.

Cllr Chappell raised 2 items in relation to the above minutes and was informed that these items were not for discussion by Council and should not be minuted.

The Chairman asked if any Members had any questions in relation to the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 15 October 2013.

Cllr Wilcox raised the issue in relation to an invoice he had received as referred to in the above minutes.

Cllr Chappell called a point of order as he had just been pulled up for raising items in relation to another item and this should not be discussed further.

The Town Clerk informed Members this invoice had now been paid and there was no need for further discussion in relation to this item.

Cllr Kenyon asked how a decision made by committee has been over turned and who has paid this invoice and stated that this should not be paid out of the tax payers money.

The Town Clerk informed members that an individual had covered the cost of the said invoice.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 15 October 2013.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 22 October 2013.

C2013/2014.72 NALC LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Members considered nominating a member of the council to stand for election of the NALC larger councils committee. No one wished to be nominated. The Town Clerk informed Member that as no one has nominated themselves to stand for election the council will go no further with this.

Cllr Wilcox proposed himself for the nomination but did inform people he does have an interest and if Council felt his interest was too close then he understood.

Cllr Toon seconded Cllr Wilcox proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Wilcox be put forward as the City Council's nominated representative on the NALC Larger Council's Committee.

C2013/2014.73 TRUSTEE OF THE MUNICIPAL CHARITIES

Members considered nominating a member of the council or other suitable person to replace Cllr Michael.

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view and informed members there is someone who would be interested in filling this seat although he does not sit on the Council. The Council would be quite within their rights to co-opt a member to represent the City Council on this body. Cllr Andrews proposed David Fleet fulfils this role. Seconded by Cllr Kenyon and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

Mr David Fleet sits as a nominated representative of the City Council on the Trustee of the Municipal Charities body.

C2013/2014.74 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- a) **Municipal Charities (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Aubrey Oliver and Anna Toon)**
No meeting to report on.
- b) **Here for the City (Cllrs Alex Hempton-Smith & Anna Toon)**
Here For the City the Chief Executive from HVOSS was unable to attend Community Development Committee. Cllr Toon proposed this body can be withdrawn from future agendas as the group no longer exists and there is nothing more to discuss. AGREED
- c) **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Charles Nicholls & Brian Wilcox)**
The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of what is happening at present and informed Members there was due to be a meeting in a couple of weeks.
- d) **HALC Executive Committee (Cllrs Alex Hempton-Smith, Jim Kenyon & Anna Toon)**
Cllr Toon informed Members there was now a vacancy on the HALC Executive Committee and SAM as Cllr Hempton-Smith has resigned from the City Council. Members need to elect a new representative to fill this vacancy. She also informed Members that some Larger Local Councils are considering withdrawing their support from NALC but will defer making a decision until the new Chairman and Chief Executive have been in office for a period of time.
- e) **SAM (Cllrs Alex Hempton-Smith & Anna Toon)**
As noted above.
- f) **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (Cllr Tawn)**
Nothing to report
- g) **Three Choirs Festival (Cllrs Liz Chave & Jason Kay)**
Unable to attend the last meeting
- h) **Hereford Twinning Association (The Mayor)**
Disappointed the gentleman coming from Dillenburg was unable

to attend a recent visit due to a bereavement.

- i) Hereford City Tourism Group (Cllr Chave with Cllr Tawn as reserve)**
Cllr Chave attended a meeting on 24 October. The group is aiming to try and produce a Hereford City Destination plan.
- j) Hereford in Bloom (Cllr Kenyon)**
Nothing to report that hasn't been reported on already this evening. Disappointed about the fact there is going to be no winter planting and how drab the City will look for the Remembrance Day Service and Parade.

C2013/2014.75 TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

Sustainable Communities Act – The need to move away from sending agendas by hard copy through the post and signing of cheques rather than by banking via electronic means. Will be looking in to getting these policies changed.

Replies for Davis Short memorial, please reply.

Expansion of Remember Day Parade and Service for 2015 – The Town Clerk informed Members he had written to Sir John Foley to request a meeting soon after Remembrance Day this year to discuss this further and the complications that could be associated with this.

C2013/2014.76 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
10 DECEMBER 2013 – noted

There being no further business the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 7.05 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....