

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2013

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

The Mayor welcomed the newly elected Member to the City Council, Cllr Cath North.

**C2013/2014.77      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Toon, Vaughn-Powell and Wilcox.

**C2013/2014.78      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members received declarations of interest made by Members under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 from Cllr Tawn in respect of the minutes of the Finance and Policy meeting 26 November 2013 which contained an item in relation to the Buttermarket.

**C2013/2014.79      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from members of the public present at the meeting.

**C2013/2014.80      WEST MERCIA POLICE IOM SCHEME**

Members received a presentation from Andy Bennett and Gareth Thomas, Hereford Police Station, in relation to the Integrated Offender Management scheme.

The presentation covered the following points:

- What Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is.
- Reduction of reoffending.
- Reduction of costs – judicial system. (From approx £130,000 to £20,000)
- Partner agencies working together on a regular basis to provide support for offenders.
- Offenders facing their responsibility or face consequences.
- Who are the agencies that make up the Herefordshire IOM Multi Agency Team and what do they do.
- Team made up of West Mercia Probation Team, Drug and alcohol abuse agencies, Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Housing and the West Mercia Police.
- The IOM Strategy – Prevent & Deter, Catch & Convict, Rehabilitate & Resettle, Close Supervision.

- 53 three offenders on the scheme.
- Cohort Entry Criteria.
- Scored via a matrix system.
- Red, Amber and Green categories. (Green category are offenders who have not offended for two to six months).
- Offenders stay on the scheme for one year which enables evaluation of scheme.
- Monthly meetings with partner agencies to discuss each individual identified on the scheme.
- Hereford have 24 offenders in the red category, 5 in the amber and 24 in the green category.
- Volunteer partners for placements of those identified in the green category.
- Aim for offenders regularly attending volunteer placements, gaining skills, attending college courses thus resulting in them being enabled to seek employment.
- Integration of ex offenders.

Members were asked if they had any questions.

Is there a reasonable budget to support this scheme and the offenders on it? Yes but it has to be used carefully.

Cllr Nenadich arrived in the Chamber.

Do the Police Crime Commissioners support this scheme? Yes.

How easy is it for the ex offenders to get on the housing scheme? The IOM team are selective in who they place in housing, only the ones who have not smashed up a property before, sold the white goods, annoyed their neighbours and have always paid their rent before are offered housing.

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked Andy Bennett and Gareth Thomas for their time and they left the Chamber.

## **C2013/2014.81**

### **FUTURE PLANS FOR THE NEW HEREFORD UNIVERSITY**

Members received a presentation from Karen Usher and David Sheppard from the Hereford New University group.

The presentation covered the following:

- Why does Hereford need University?
- Hereford loses 12,000 young people a year to universities and better employment prospects in the country.
- Need to keep young people in the county.
- Hereford is becoming too small to survive.
- Need to attract new young talent and new business in to Herefordshire.
- The university will be a national and world class unit.
- Focus will be on teaching and scholarships.
- Commence in 2017 with a small number of students and grow over future years.

- Students who stay here will add to the economy through tuition fees, accommodation costs and purchases they make whilst they are here.
- The university will be integrated thoughtfully and wisely in to the surroundings.
- The university is at the centre of Herefordshire Council's economic development plans.
- Looking at potential sites around the City.
- Accommodation would be sympathetically spread throughout and around the City.
- Heavily in conversation with Herefordshire Council on the location for the university and possible transfer of suitable buildings.

Members were asked if they had any questions.

How will the university be funded? Through European funding, Capital funding through the state and other sources.

Is there enough opportunity for another university in the country? There is a need to increase university places by 25%.

Where will the students come from? National and international recruitment.

Impact on the present housing stock for rent. Very difficult to find housing for rent within and around the City. How will this be addressed? Outside investors will be brought in to the City to build sympathetic student accommodation which will be spread throughout and around the City.

The Art College already has university status how will this affect the art college and what they are already delivering? The Art College and the other colleges within the City all attend the meetings in relation to the new university ensuring they have an input in to the project and how it develops. It will be an opportunity to share faculties, accommodation opportunities and facilities. All available facilities are being considered for the delivery of the university from different sites within the City, these include facilities such as the Courtyard, Herefordshire United's facilities and the rowing club. It would not prove viable to replicate what is already here.

There are political groups in Hereford opposed to new housing and infrastructure, how are you going to get these groups to come on board? The decision on this project and how it develops is in the hands of the population within this county.

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked Karen Usher and David Sheppard for their time and they left the Chamber.

## **C2013/2014.82**

### **HEREFORD CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU**

Members received a presentation from Claire Keetch in relation to Herefordshire Council withdrawing their grant.

Ms Keetch covered the following:

- Grateful to the City Council for all its years of support with annually funding contribution to the CAB of £10,000.
- Request to ask the City Council to respond to Herefordshire Council's budget consultation requesting they do not cut the CAB's funding.
- Based on any funding cuts a request that the City Council supports the CAB with a greater amount of funding.
- The clients who attend the CAB bring in approximately £3 million a year to the City economy.

The Mayor explained to Ms Keetch the City Council's budget position and explained that the only income the City Council receive is from the precept which from his recollection is around £600,000 a year. He informed Ms Keetch that it is impossible for the City Council to support all the groups who are losing funding from Herefordshire Council as well as take on devolved services on such a budget.

Members were asked if they had any questions.

If the clients of the CAB bring in around £3 million to the City a year, if your service stopped, will that mean the City would lose £3million a year?

Can the CAB not charge a small fee for their services? No it is the national CAB agreement not to charge fees for services.

If the CAB service stopped would these services be picked up by the Herefordshire Council Welfare Rights Team? They do not have the resources to deliver the services the CAB do. The CAB is the only service in the county that delivers advice on debt issues and bankruptcy.

How is the CAB looking to reduce their outgoings in light of the possible budget cut. The CAB cannot reduce running cost any more, they are already running on the absolute minimum that they can.

The Mayor proposed the Town Clerk writes to Herefordshire Council asking them not to cut the budget of such a valuable service.

Members agreed that until the City Council knows what budgets are going to be cut by Herefordshire Council and/or by how much the City Council cannot consider any possibility of increasing the funding support already given to the CAB.

Cllr Tawn seconded the Mayor's proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Town Clerk writes to Herefordshire Council asking them not to cut the budget of such a valuable service.**

There being no further business the Mayor thanked Claire Keetch for her time and she left the Chamber.

**C2013/2014.83 MINUTES**

Members considered and approved the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 29 October 2013. Cllr Andrews proposed, seconded by Cllr Kenyon and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**The minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 29 October 2013 approved by Council and be initialed, signed and dated by the Chairman.**

**C2013/2014.84 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor informed Members of the following four items:

- Meeting with Balfour Beatty to discuss the lettering in High Town.
- County Mayor's meeting at Brockington which discussed the Buttermarket and other public services.
- Recent attendance at a City School informing the children all about John Venn and the work he delivered within the City.
- The opening of the Greenway project..

**C2013/2014.85 NEWTON FARM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Community Development Committee meeting held on the 4 November 2013 in relation to the above large grant application.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the recommendation, seconded by Cllr Edwards and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**To award the funding requested, £27,992.50 over three years, (= £9,330.83 per year) with the release of the funding for year two and year three being considered following an annual report from the association.**

**The grant to be funded from the street scene budget over the next three years due to its environmental impact on the City.**

**C2013/2014.86 THE WHITEHOUSE PROJECT**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Community Development Committee meeting held on the 4 November 2013 in relation to the above large grant application.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the recommendation, seconded by Cllr Tawn and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

To award the full £30,000 requested over a three year period towards revenue costs. Should there be a shortfall in the funding projected for the capital costs; the committee will consider supporting the capital shortfall out of the proposed revenue funding award.

The release of the funding for year two and year three will be considered following an annual report from the Whitehouse Project Board.

The funding of this project to be funded from the Community Development Reserve. The reserve currently has a balance of £26,500.00. It is recommended, therefore, that the balance of £3,500.00 is funded from the Parish Plan Budget.

**C2013/2014.87****MOOR FARM PLAY AREA AND PATH**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Community Development Committee meeting held on the 3 December 2013 in relation to the above large grant application.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the recommendation, seconded by Cllr Andrews and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**Council fully support this project and the £30,000 funding be awarded from the anticipated under spend in the floral features budget for 2013.**

**C2013/2014.88****COMMUNITY FIRST YAZOR, WIDEMARSH & EIGN BROOK APPRAISAL**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Community Development Committee meeting held on the 3 December 2013 in relation to the above large grant application.

Cllr Kenyon proposed the above recommendation, seconded by Cllr Andrews and voted in favour of. There was one abstention and one vote against.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Council does not to support this application.**

**The Council's reasons for this are as follows:**

- **A majority of the work this appraisal project would cover has already been completed.**
- **The Council's preference would be to support on the ground projects delivered by community groups which would make a difference to the look, feel and environmental impact of these watercourses.**

**C2013/2014.89      HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTER FIRE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 6 November 2013 in relation to the above consultation.

Cllr Andrews proposed the recommendation, seconded by Cllr Tawn and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**Hereford City Council appreciates that, like many other organisations, the Fire Authority has to trim its budget and, that it has made substantial back office and staffing cuts already. But given that Hereford City is a major population centre we would advocate, if possible, the retention of all three fire engines. If this was not a sustainable option then we would like to see that both of the two proposed fire engines for Hereford are whole time with whole time fire crew, rather than on-call crew.**

**C2013/2014.90      DRAFT MINUTES**

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on the 6 November and 27 November 2013.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee held on the 26 November 2013.

Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of the Community Development Committee held on the 4 November and 3 December 2013.

The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Community Development Committee and the committee Members for their hard work in this area of Council business

**C2013/2014.91      NALC LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

Members considered the mandate put forward by the Town Clerk requesting Members to nominate the Town Clerk of Hereford City Council to stand for election as an advisory Clerk to the NALC larger councils committee.

Members discussed the following:

- Concerns about the cost to the City Council and the Town Clerk's time in dealing with emails, phone calls and attending meetings as an advisor to this outside body.
- The need for the Town Clerk to concentrate on what is going on in relation to City Council business especially with the increased pressures on the City Council in relation to negotiations with Herefordshire Council and the possible transfer/devolution of services from them.

The Town Clerk spoke in favour of his mandate, his past 28 years experience delivering local government services and what he could offer NALC as a result. He also informed the Members that it would benefit the City Council having him as an adviser to the NALC Larger Councils Committee.

Cllr Andrews proposed the Town Clerk's recommendation, seconded by Cllr Nenadich and agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Council endorses the Town Clerk's application to be considered for one of the co-opted clerk positions in support of the NALC Larger Councils' Committee.**

**C2013/2014.92**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT**

Members received and considered the report from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his report to Members.

Cllr Andrews proposed the Town Clerk's recommendation, seconded by Cllr Kenyon and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- **That the Finance Officer identify in as much detail as is possible the cost of printing and dispatching Council and committee agendas under the present system.**
- **That the Council's Facebook facility is used to run a survey of opinion suggesting a saving of that money to release funds for supporting community groups and activities.**
- **That the Clerk raises this issue through the Larger Council's Clerk' Network of SLCC seeking other larger councils support.**
- **That the Council's representative on the Larger Council's Committee seeks to raise this nationally.**
- **That the Council's representatives on the HALC Executive seek county-wide support for this initiative.**
- **That when it is most propitious the Clerk submits a proposal to the DCLG for a relaxation of the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 paras 10 (2) (b) and 26 (2) (b) to permit agendas and other papers germane to meetings of the Council or its committees to be sent electronically to those members who wish to receive them in this way.**



**C2013/2014.93 VACANCY ON THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**

Members considered electing a Member of the Council to sit on each of the above committees.

The Mayor asked Cllr North if she wished to sit on either committee. Cllr North advised the Mayor she would like to attend a few meetings first and find her feet before making any decisions as to which committee's she would like to sit on.

Cllr Michael proposed Cllr Boulter to sit on the Finance and Policy Committee. This was seconded by Cllr Kenyon and unanimously agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Preece to leave the vacancy open for now on the Community Development Committee, which was seconded by Cllr Andrews and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Boulter to sit on the Finance and Policy Committee.**

**To leave the vacancy open until after the New Year on the Community Development Committee**

**C2013/2014.94 HALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & SAM**

Members considered electing a Member of the Council to sit as a representative on each of the above outside bodies.

It was proposed by Cllr Preece to leave the vacancy open for now on the above mentioned outside bodies, which was seconded by Cllr Andrews and unanimously agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**To leave the vacancy open until after the New Year on the above mentioned outside bodies**

**C2013/2014.95 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- a) **Municipal Charities (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Aubrey Oliver and Anna Toon)**  
Nothing to report.
- b) **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Charles Nicholls & Brian Wilcox)**  
The last meeting discussed asset transfers from Herefordshire Council to the market towns.
- c) **HALC Executive Committee (Cllrs Jim Kenyon & Anna Toon)**  
No one was available to attend the last meeting.

- d) **SAM (Cllr Anna Toon)**  
No one was available to attend the last meeting.
- e) **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (Cllr Tawn)**  
The next meeting 11 December 2013.
- f) **Three Choirs Festival (Cllrs Liz Chave & Jason Kay)**  
The festival is in Hereford in 2015 and this will be the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the festival. It is planned to make it bigger than in previous years.
- g) **Hereford Twinning Association (The Mayor)**  
The Mayor informed Members he was unable to attend the last meeting. Next year will celebrate 25 years of twinning with Dillenburg and 20 years of twinning with Vierzon.
- h) **Hereford City Tourism Group (Cllr Chave with Cllr Tawn as reserve)**  
Not been able to attend any meetings.
- i) **Hereford in Bloom (Cllr Kenyon)**  
Under spend this year on the Floral Features budget. Aim to get businesses involved in 2014. Aim to get even more community groups involved in 2014. Hope to reduce spending even further in 2014. Now HIB have achieved Charity Status it should assist with drawing funding down from other funding providers to support the project.

**C2013/2014.96****TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported on the following:

- Buttermarket – still awaiting information requested from Herefordshire Council.
- Possibility of Hereford in Bloom becoming partners in relation to the Buttermarket.
- Election now called for the vacancy in the Belmont City ward.
- Christmas - Office closures.
- Armistist Day – A person attending to represent the Belgium refugees.

**C2013/2014.97      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting of Council - 4 FEBRUARY 2014

Signed.....

Dated.....