

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

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## HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HEREFORD  
on Wednesday 17th August 2016

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor, and Councillors Boulter, Dykes, Griffiths, Mansell, Nicholls, Chappell and Lloyd-Hayes

**OFFICERS ATTENDING:** Steve Kerry, Town Clerk; Mr John Bothamley representing Hereford Civic Society

**P184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Michael and Hey

**P185 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES:**

None. As the Chairman was absent the Vice Chairman Councillor Lloyd-Hayes chaired the meeting.

**P186 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

It was noted that all members had a non-pecuniary interest in (and a possible presumption of a predisposition to support) the first application to be considered, namely storage containers at Grandstand Road as the Council had purchased these for use by the community association. As all members had an interest it would be impossible for a quorum of members without an interest to assemble to decide the matter. In this situation the Clerk advised that the Committee can vote itself a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011 to enable a decision to be made. It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd-Hayes, seconded by Councillor Griffiths and

**RESOLVED That the Committee grant itself a dispensation enable a quorum of members to vote on the application regarding storage units at Grandstand Road as allowed under the Localism Act 2011 s33.2**

**P187 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE:**

It was noted that Councillor Boulter should be added to the list of those attending. With that addition it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held on 27th July were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**P188 DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**It was Resolved that the participation of those City Councillors who are also members of the County of Herefordshire District Council in both the debate and any subsequent vote on matters contained in this agenda is on the basis that the views expressed are preliminary views taking account of the information currently available to the City Council and that District Councillors reserve their final views on all applications until they are in full possession of all relevant information both for and against.**

**P189 POLICY ISSUES**

The Clerk referred to the recently circulated Travellers Policy from Herefordshire Council and noted that the City's observations on this issue when the Core Strategy was being consulted upon seem to have been accepted. It was proposed to make single pitch additions to the

sites in and around the City, not to seek new urban land for this purpose. The only new site proposed was well outside the City in a rural parish. Members were pleased to see that the City's views appear to have been taken seriously and are reflected in the proposals. Although some concern was noted that only one additional pitch on each local site might not remove the problem of unauthorised settlements, the detrimental effects of which are serious. The Clerk was mandated to advise Herefordshire Council of these views.

Noting that the Committee's remit includes highways matters, the Clerk referred to the Traffic Regulation Orders toolkit circulated by BBLP, and apparently agreed by Herefordshire Council to be imposed on parishes. Council Mansell referred to the "Clerks' and Chairs" meeting he had attended on behalf of the Mayor where this had been presented as a fait accompli to a very hostile reception by parish representatives. Councillor Lloyd-Hayes confirmed that she has had a TRO request in her ward outstanding for over four years, and was aware of other councillors with similar experiences. It was agreed that the imposition of this measure by BBLP acting as if it were the highway authority, and the acquiescence of Herefordshire Council in this imposition, are wholly unacceptable and the Clerk was mandated to write to the council leader in those terms.

Councillor Kenyon queried the cost to Herefordshire of using the Hereford Times for advertising planning applications and statutory notices. The Clerk advised that a former Secretary of State at DCLG had ruled against the use of council publications for this purpose on political grounds and that until legislation was changed to allow for social media to replace newspaper advertising councils were effectively caught by monopoly suppliers of local newspapers in most areas.

## **P190 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

It was **Resolved**

**That the applications noted in the attached table, and the licensing matters attached with the responses of the City Council be agreed and forwarded to the Planning Authority by the Clerk.**

The Mayor apologised that he had to leave the meeting for another engagement at this point.

## **P.191 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **P191.1 Area Plan**

The Clerk advised that dates had now been agreed for the working party.

### **P191.2 Eastern River Crossing**

The Clerk reported that Mordiford Parish had accepted the offer of a visit by the Mayor to speak to their parish council about his, however the Mayor confirmed he would be unable to attend. The Clerk would represent the Council at this meeting. Answers from other parishes would continue to be sought.

It was noted that the civil engineer suggested by the Civic Society as a possible contact had agreed to produce some preliminary drawings and other details to enable further publicity

and consultation to build support for this project to be undertaken and that he did not propose to charge a fee. As there would be no cost it was not necessary to tender this work and the Mayor and Clerk would be meeting the engineer as soon as practicable to get this stage of the project moving forward.

### **P192.3 Community Land Trust**

Following the last meeting the Mayor and Clerk had met representatives of the Community Land Trust which is being developed in Hereford. The Clerk apologised that this had not been specifically mentioned on the agenda for this meeting. Mr Andy Johnson representing the CLT spoke to the Committee and explained the purpose of a CLT and how it could interact with developers on behalf of the local community. While there were some in Three Elms who would oppose any development and any positive relationship building with developers there were others who saw advantage in lobbying for inclusion in plans to manage green space, affect the amount of affordable housing and even encourage the building of nearly finished homes for people to buy at low costs to complete themselves. All of these ideas were within the purview of a CLT to push forward. Councillor Mansell confirmed that the development of a CLT – albeit in the very early stages of formation – had been a positive development and offered opportunities for community involvement as opposed to simply trying to block a development which is highly likely to go ahead given that the land is earmarked for residential development in the core strategy.

The discussion broadened to consider other possible areas of operation, funding issues for capital investment, which depends on grants to a fully-fledged CLYT, and ongoing interaction with large development proposals which will be forthcoming now the core strategy is in place.

It was agreed that this was a matter that should be brought to the attention of full Council and the Clerk was asked to arrange a presentation at the next council meeting.

### **192.4 Enforcement**

The Clerk reported that studying the tree report relating to the Brockington redevelopment proposals had highlighted a further area in which the owner of Victoria House had breached planning law. He had written to Herefordshire Council to query why no enforcement action is being taken over the numerous breaches of law on this site.

### **P193 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Signed .....

Date .....