**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HEREFORD**

**on Thursday 1st December 2016**

**Present:**  The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors Dykes, Hey, Michael, Nicholls, Mansell, Boulter, Griffiths and Stevens

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

**P231 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr Chappell

**P232 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTES:**

Councillor Stevens for Councillor Chappell

**P234 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None at this time.

**P235 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The minutes of the meeting of 10th November were agreed as an accurate record.

**P236 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.**

**P237 POLICY ISSUES**

237.1 River Development

The Clerk reported that he would be presenting a report to Committee seeking agreement in principle to river developments to restore pleasure boating and would give members the option of supporting the costs of presenting a planning application for a pontoon. In addition he had attended a meeting regarding the “Economic Masterplan” for Hereford which included whose ideas for left bank developments.

237.2 Area Plan

The Clerk reported that the last meeting of the Area Plan Working Party had been mainly focussed on the building implications of the possible new university. The Steering Group had some good ideas about developing sites for student accommodation which would use some of the brownfield sites, although they were somewhat unclear about timing. The Working Party urged them to get in principle applications in sooner rather than later to protect the sites they needed against residential developments by other parties that could prejudice their capacity to deliver a full accommodation offer to students. The register of brownfield sites was still a work in progress.

237.3 Eastern River Crossing

The Mayor reported that he had been to a very successful meeting with Hampton Bishop Parish Council, regarding the eastern river crossing proposal. He and the Clerk reported on a meeting with various interested parties including the Senior Planning Officer responsible for forward planning on the same topic. There had been general agreement about a road plan for 2030 onwards, but less agreement about bringing the implementation forward. The Mayor had suggested a referendum within the City and neighbouring parishes to create pressure for that review of transport policy. The Clerk had spoken briefly with a legal expert in the operation of General Power of Competence who had expressed doubt about the legality of that within GPC. The Clerk sought approval from the Committee to obtain a definitive legal option on this.

It was proposed Councillor Michael, seconded by Councillor Boulter and

**Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to seek specialist advice on the lawfulness of a referendum and to commit up to £300-00 for fees to that end.**

**P238 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

Councillor Hey declared an interest in item 163688 as a supporter of the organisation presenting the application and left the room while this item was considered.

The Mayor declared an interest in item 163552 as the applicant and left the room while this item was considered.

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.**

**P.239 CORRESPONDENCE**

**239.1** **On Street Parking Proposals**

It was noted that Balfour Beatty had agreed to send a representative to the Committee but that he had not been able to attend. After discussion it was agreed that the Council opposes on street parking charges because of the likely impact on passing trade, especially a problem for the smaller city businesses. It was felt that a more strategic approach, including disposing of some of the off street sites for residential development to fund a multi-storey car park to complement the developing transport hub in the development around the railway station and Commercial Road would be more beneficial to all businesses and tourists. The clerk will convey these views to the BBLP officer running the consultation.

**239.2 Eign Outfall**

Noted that the owners of the site are maintaining their appeal against enforcement action and that the Committee does not need to modify its position on this matter.

**239.3 Victoria House**

The Clerk reported the negative response of the Herefordshire Council Enforcement Supervisor dismissing the grounds for enforcement action on this site without any explanation. After over a year of complaints this is entirely unacceptable. It was agreed to ask the Enforcement Supervisor to attend the next meeting to explain the criteria being used to decide which sites would be the subject of enforcement action and on what grounds officer can decide not to apply planning rules in some cases.

**P240 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 15th December 2016 at 6 pm.

Please note this is two weeks after the previous meeting not three to avoid clashing with Christmas closure of the building.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed ……………………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………………………....