

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 7th May 2013

MINUTES OF MEETING

PRESENT : The Mayor and Cllr Chappell, Tawn, Chave and Nichols

IN ATTENDANCE : Steve Kerry, Town Clerk

G+P2013/14.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Edwards, Preece, Michael and Toon.

G+P2013/14.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

G+P2013/14.12 ITEM REFERRED FROM COUNCIL – PARKING AT TOWN HALL

The Town Clerk described the process which had led to the present position and asked Members to determine the way forward. His initial suggestion that this be dealt with as a change to terms and conditions of the tenancy with a rent review having been rejected by Herefordshire Council's Property Service.

Members discussed whether it was right in principal to support staff in meeting charges would be levied on them for what had previously been free parking. It was noted that this might cause some tension between Herefordshire Officers who were paying for parking and those whom the City Council was funding. Comparison was also made with other employers, some of whom may provide subsidised or free parking to staff, some who do not.

It was noted that it was the opinion of members that Herefordshire had not handled this matter correctly. It had not been dealt with by way of a Section 26 notice (Landlord and Tenant Act) and that any imposition of charges might well be subject to a legal challenge. This was not a desirable way to do business with Herefordshire Council, and if possible a resolution should be sought.

There was general agreement that the Council did not wish to see staff effectively losing disposable income because of these charges but that the Council did not wish to pay salary supplements outside of conditions of service previously agreed. The availability of parking spaces had previously been part of the terms and conditions of using the building and should remain so, albeit with some adjustment to rent or service charges as this now had a cash value.

It was proposed by Councillor Chappell, seconded by Councillor Wilcox and

RESOLVED That the Town Clerk write to Herefordshire Council rejecting their approach and asserting that this should be dealt with as a landlord and tenant issue. This response to reiterate that the City Council is prepared to accept a rent review or service charge adjustment in respect of parking.

That the Chairman of the Committee use his good offices with Herefordshire Council to see if a more constructive way forward can be found.

That a further report is received at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

That staff be advised to keep receipts for any parking fees paid from 3rd June while this matter is resolved.

The Meeting closed at 7.05 pm

Signed

Date