HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Hereford**

## TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017 at 6.00pm

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful, The Mayor, Cllr Sharon Michael and Cllrs Baker, Boulter, Bushkes, Chappell, Griffiths, Hey, Lloyd-Hayes, Nicholls, Stevens, Tillett and Wilcox.

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllrs Dykes, Edwards, Kenyon, Mansell, Rone and Tawn.

The Mayor gave congratulations to Kevin Tillett for his recent appointment as Councillor with Hereford City Council.

**C2017/2018.56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllrs Dykes, Edwards, Kenyon, Mansell, Rone and Tawn.

**C2017/2018.57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**C2017/2018.58 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

**C2017/2018.59 MINUTES**

Cllr Bushkes proposed, seconded by Cllr Griffiths that members approve the **Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 25th July 2017,** which were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**C2017/2018.60 HEREFORD BUSKING FESTIVAL**

The Town Clerk informed members that Nick Penny of Nick Penny Event Services had sent his apologies and was unable to attend the meeting to give a presentation, which would be rescheduled for the next meeting of full Council.

**C2017/2018.61 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATION**

Members received communications from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, as follows:

1. The Mayor informed members she had received two letters:

* The first from the Chairman of Herefordshire Council - Placing on record his thanks to the Mayor’s Officers and Mace Bearers for their support at the heritage event last Saturday celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Shire Hall. The event was a huge success, hundreds of people came into the hall and the city’s regalia and pageantry was very well received – well done to all involved.
* The second from the Deputy Chairman of North Herefordshire Conservation Association – Inviting the Town Clerk and all Councillors to attend a coffee morning networking event for parish Councillors which, it was hoped, would take place towards the end of October/beginning of November depending on the level of interest.

1. Cllr Stevens had emailed the Mayor requesting to speak to members regarding transport problems in and around Hereford City. The Mayor invited Cllr Stevens to address members:

* Cllr Stevens referred to current transport problems in the city - Newtown Rd, A49 Southbank road closure, traffic lights going from south to north, Belmont Road due to close for re-surfacing and Whitecross Road water works.
* He stated that public information given by Cllr Price of Herefordshire Council on a recent radio interview was muddled and unclear.
* He added that it would be helpful if HC could come up with a better message for members of the public which would clearly explain what is happening.
* He asked Cllr Wilcox, as Chairman of HC, if he would help to take this matter forward.

Cllr Wilcox responded that as this was a Herefordshire Council matter, he would be happy to discuss it outside of this meeting.

A member suggested that City Council write to Herefordshire Council asking that this matter be put forward to them at their next meeting on 10th October. It was also requested that Cllr Price be invited to the next City Council meeting to clearly explain and update members on the situation and the Town Clerk agreed to move this forward.

**C2017/2018.62 CITIZENS ADVICE HEREFORDSHIRE – Transfer of service**

Members received a report and presentation from Dawne Shepherd of Citizens Advice, regarding the proposed service provision transfer of Citizens Advice Herefordshire to Worcestershire Citizens Advice.

Dawne Shepherd introduced herself, thanked the Mayor and City Council for inviting her to the meeting to brief members on what is happening with the CA service:

* CA Herefordshire no longer operationally or financially viable as an independent charity.
* CA had serviced the Herefordshire community for fifty years - Wanted to provide a legacy for the people of Herefordshire with support of City Council.
* The new service would be delivered by their partners within the wider CA network.
* Volunteer team very dedicated and committed to delivering the service would still be involved with Herefordshire.
* Wanted to keep the market town outreach services available in Ross, Leominster and Ledbury.
* Struggled over last year with capacity issues - Still managed to see over 1,000 people from Hereford City - Financial benefits of £853,000.
* Closed drop-in service last year.
* Hopeful to make transition to Worcestershire at end October – Similar level of service due to potential savings from back office and management costs.
* Want to maintain a presence in Herefordshire using existing accommodation - still outward facing.

Members’ comments and questions covered:

* Very disappointed that local service was being discontinued.
* Why didn’t anyone from CA approach City Council individually for use of potential premises? - CA do not have resources or funding to send staff out to other parts of the county - Volunteers are life blood of the service – have not been able to recruit for past three years.
* Keeping existing premises at side of Town Hall - Cannot move anywhere else due to costs and lack of resources.
* A scandal in these austere times that organisation such as WISH was created by Herefordshire Council and funding reduced to CA.
* Thanks to CA for looking at the other operational options in South Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
* Hereford City Council has limited funds but will do what we can to help fund CA.
* How many people have come from outside the city for advice? – Unable to specify as factsheets for localities are done by post code areas.
* There are six parish councils around the City who could contribute to this service – Suggested that Town Clerk writes letter to neighbouring parish councils to seek their support for CA in Herefordshire.

The Mayor asked members to vote on this - 8 voted for, 3 against and it was unanimously agreed.

The Town Clerk recommended that members confirm the City Council grant for this year of £10,000.00. Members agreed and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council agrees to provide a Hereford City Council grant of £10,000.00, to Citizens Advice Herefordshire, in support of the proposed transfer of service provision to Citizens Advice Worcestershire.**

**C2017/2018.63 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES**

Members noted the draft minutes of the meetings, as laid out below:

**Finance & Policy Committee:**

18th July 2017 - Noted

5th September 2017 – To follow

Vacancy on Finance & Policy Committee:

It was proposed that the outstanding vacancy on Finance and Policy Committee be **filled by Cllr Hey, seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Hayes and unanimously agreed.**

**Planning & Highways Committee:**

10th August 2017 - Noted

31st August 2017 – To follow

**Community Development Committee (Grants):**

24th July 2017 – Noted

**C2017/2018.64 REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received reports from members who represent the City Council on the following bodies:

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| 1. **Municipal Charities (x 4 Members)** Cllrs Boulter, Hey and Lloyd-Hayes (plus one outstanding vacancy). Cllr Boulter stated that no-one had attended the last meeting on 1st September and the next meeting would be in November. |
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| 1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x 3 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes, Nicholls and Wilcox. Cllr Nicholls submitted a written report which was tabled at the meeting. |
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| 1. **HALC Executive Committee (x 3 Members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Griffiths (plus 1 outstanding vacancy). Cllr Nicholls had nothing to report. Cllr Lloyd-Hayes asked that HALC be added as a future agenda item to discuss how much is being paid by City Council and asked if the Town Clerk would bring information on this to the next Council meeting. |
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| 1. **SAM (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Griffiths. Nothing to report. |
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| 1. **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Griffiths. Nothing to report. |
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| 1. **Three Choirs Festival (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Bushkes and Nicholls. Nothing to report. Cllr Chappell voiced concern - Had heard that performances of Gathering Wave community choirs at the festival had been stopped. Hereford would be hosting TC festival next year and City Council could ask for community choirs to be reinstated. Cllr Wilcox had spoken with Chairman of Three Choirs Committee over a week ago – Gathering Wave choirs not being stopped, but performances may be moved to beginning of programme instead of the end. The Mayor suggested members liaise with Cllr Bushkes after this meeting, let our representatives deal with it and report back at the next Council meeting. |
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| 1. **Hereford Twinning Association** (x 1 Member who is always the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford as President of the Twinning Association). The Mayor went to Vierzon at weekend - Had serious conversation with their Mayor who is very keen for English twinned contingent to be more proactive. Can see quite a few things that could be improved on our part. Mayor was not accompanied by anyone to France – Some Cllrs had gone there last year, paid their own way and were not aware of this year’s Mayoral visit. Members agreed didn’t want to see twinning die, that we should be far more active and it’s time to re-look at this.   The Mayor stated she would put in a committee report for Council. |
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| 1. **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Lloyd-Hayes. Attended very successful tourism meeting in Ross-on-Wye – Everyone delighted with City Council support and looking forward to working with us in future. Word is getting around about Hereford City tourist information provision by Liz Hill of Rural Concierge – Aim to volunteer couple of hours a week support with them. 2. **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member)** Cllr Boulter. Still waiting to hear from the last meeting – Nothing to report. |
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| 1. **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Stevens. Cllr Stevens commented it’s been two years, four months and still no invitations to their meetings. Herefordshire Council loaned £300,000 to the new unit – Is this to pay for the salary of their new Canadian Chief Executive? University Joint Board not following conduct – have not been issuing minutes of its meetings. Cllr Chappell discovered they have a base in Friar Street and will pass on address to Cllr Stevens. 2. **Close House (x 1 Member)** Cllr Kenyon. Cllr Kenyon was not present to report. 3. **The BID group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Tawn. Cllr Tawn was not present to report. 4. **Magna Carta Committee (x 1 Member)** Cllr Nicholls. Cllr Nicholls submitted a written report which was tabled at the meeting. |

**C2017/2018.65 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from the Town Clerk for their information, as follows:

* Hereford in Bloom - Community Development Committee meeting on 19th September – Item on agenda regarding their Annual Report and SLA.
* University and HAP Working Group - Visit to Lincoln on 3rd October – To look at the impact of having a university in a cathedral city.
* Town Clerk absence – Town Clerk would be absent from work w/c 18th September and out of action for one-two weeks, due to a knee operation. The Deputy Town Clerk would be covering during his absence.

**C2017/2018.66 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.41pm.

Signed ………………………………………………………………

Dated ………………………………………………………………..