HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

## TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford, Cllr Charles Nicholls and Cllrs Baker, Boulter, Chappell, Hall, Hey, Kenyon, Mansell, Michael, Stevens and Tawn

**NOT PRESENT**: Cllr Rone.

**C2015/2016.35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Bushkes, Edwards, Lloyd-Hayes and Wilcox.

**C2015/2016.36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members under the Council’s Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

**C2015/2016.37 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions by members of the public present.

##### C2015/2016.38 MINUTES

##### Cllr Kenyon proposed, seconded by Cllr Chappell and unanimously

##### RESOLVED:

**To approve the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting and Chairman duly sign, initial and date the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 26 May 2015**.

**C2015/2016.39** **MAYOR’S COMMUNICATION**

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

* Informed Members of an accident on Salisbury plane in which two soldiers were badly injured. As a result of hearing this news he had written on behalf of citizens of Hereford conveying everyone’s thoughts for the Riflemen who were injured.

##### C2015/2016.40 ANNUAL RETURN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

##### Members considered and approved the Annual Return for 2014/2015 and answered the associated questions for submission to the external auditor.

The Town Clerk spoke in relation to the internal audit statement and that the auditors commend the way the accounts are conducted. The Town Clerk praised the Finance Officer for this work as virtually all of the work covered by the audit is financial.

The Town Clerk then read out to Members the 8 questions/statements from the Annual Return asking if Members were content with each of the statements.

Cllr Kenyon thanked the Finance Officer for the accounts and proposed the statements.

Cllr Chappell asked that it be recorded that the Council applaud the Finance Officer’s work.

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**The City Council answers yes to all questions contained within the Annual Return March 2014 and approves the Statement of Accounts as laid before them.**

**C2015/2016.41** **MOTION**

Submitted in the name of Councillor Kenyon, once moved this will require a seconder for debate to continue.

“Council notes that membership of the National Association of Local Councils was renewed at a cost of £3,365.66 this year. Council does not intend to renew this affiliation after March 2016 as it considers this is not good value for money.”

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of the two bodies mentioned above their role and the membership link to the two bodies and spoke in favour of the benefit of continuing with the affiliation. He referred to Cllr Toon’s crusade to reduce membership costs via capping on larger councils; which if goes through will reduce the councils membership cost to £1,700.

The Mayor read out the motion laid before Members.

Cllr Kenyon spoke in favour of his motion and his views behind putting it forward.

The Town Clerk informed Members that until the motion was seconded none would be able to speak in relation to the motion.

Cllr Michael seconded the motion.

Cllr Michael spoke in favour of continuing the HALC/NALC membership and the benefit of attending the training courses they deliver.

Cllr Tawn proposed that as the renewal date is 2016 the City Council holds this item over until the Council know the decision in relation to capping and a possible reduction in cost.

Cllr Michael seconded Cllr Tawn's proposal.

Cllr Kenyon stated that he does not feel this is value for money and referred to the additional costs when the Town Clerk goes off to attend NALC business and whilst attending to NALC/HALC business is not available to deliver his role and support the Council.

Discussions continued which followed with Cllr Kenyon withdrawing his motion.

9 Members voted in favour of Cllr Tawn’s proposal with one abstention.

**RESOLVED:**

**Consideration of the City Council’s renewal of membership to HALC/NALC to be held over until the Council know the decision in relation to capping and a possible reduction in cost.**

##### C2015/2016.42 DRAFT MINUTES

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Members noted the draft minutes of the Meetings of the Community Development Committee held on the 9 June 2015

Members noted the draft minutes of Finance & Policy Committee held on the 2 June 2015.

Members noted the draft minutes of Planning and Highways Committee held on the 27 May and 11 June 2015.

Members noted the draft minutes of Governance and Procedures Committee held on the 16 June 2015.

Cllr Chappell proposed Cllr Michael to fill one of the vacancies on this committee this was seconded and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Michael is nominated to fill one of the two vacancies on the Governance and Procedures Committee.**

**C2015/2016.43** **REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received reports from members who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies as laid out below:

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| 1. **a) Municipal Charities (x3)** | |
| Cllrs Boulter and Kenyon (One vacancy pending)  No communications or meeting yet.    To agree Cllr Lloyd-Hayes to fill the pending vacancy  The Town Clerk informed Members that the trust had specifically requested Cllr Andrews stays on. Ex Cllr Davis Fleet currently stands as the other City Council representative.  Cllr Kenyon proposed removing Mr Fleet and nominated Cllr Lloyd-Hayes as the other City Council representative on the group. This was seconded by Cllr Tawn and unanimously agreed. | |
| 1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x3)** | |
| Cllrs Nicholls, Tawn and Wilcox  The leader; or his deputy; from Herefordshire Council have been invited to attend the meetings in future plus there has been a request for an officer from the planning department to attend. | |
| 1. **HALC Executive Committee (x3)**   (Three vacancies pending) | |
|  | |
| 1. **SAM (x2)**   (Two vacancies pending) | |
| 1. **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (x1)** | |
| Cllr Paul Stevens.  No communication from the group to date. | |
| 1. **Three Choirs Festival (x 2)** | |
| Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Bushkes  Not present | |
| 1. **Hereford Twinning Association (x1 normally the Mayor)** | |
| The Mayor automatically holds this post as President of the Association  Nothing to report | |
| 1. **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1)**   Cllr Baker  The group will be meeting on Friday. The Town Clerk suggested that Cllr Baker should not attend the meeting as at the moment this group is supported mainly by officers of various bodies and the group needs to stand on its own. The Town Clerk will not be attending as he will be in Shrewsbury.   1. **Hereford in Bloom (x1)**   Cllr Kenyon  Cllr Kenyon gave a brief over view of the current situation. | |
| 1. **NALC Larger Councils Committee (x 1)**   Cllr Wilcox as elected to the committee until December 2015  Not present | |
| 1. **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2)**   Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Stevens  No communication to date.   1. **Close House (x 1)**   Cllr Tawn  No communication to date.   1. **Buttermarket Project Management Group (x 1)**   As a member of planning the Planning Committee, Cllr Michael.  The Town Clerk gave an oral report to members on recent events over the past six months as he has been attending the meetings.  He also briefed Members on the organisations that had put bids forward to take over the Buttermarket and the renovation work to be carried out and the final two shortlisted bids. The final successful bid was accepted from Darren Socket and work will commence in the next few months. | |

**C2015/2016.44** **ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered representatives to sit on the following outside bodies.

1. **BID Group** (x 1 Member)

The Town Clerk informed members that strictly speaking the City Council are not able to have a member on the board, however there is an operational group which the City Council would be able to have an Officer on and he informed Members that Officer would be him.

1. **City of Culture Strategic Board** (x1 Member)

Cllr Chappell nominated Cllr Hall. This was seconded by Cllr Stevens and unanimously agreed.

1. **Hereford Shop Mobility Liaison Group** (x 1 Member)

Town clerk informed Members that he had received an email requesting a Member to cover Adrian bridges from the City Council

But following a conversation with the group the City Council do not have a position on the group.

**C2015/2016.45** **TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from the Town as follows:

* The Town Clerk informed Members of the SLCC Clerks network the benefit of how when he needs advise he can get the information he requires to do his work very quickly and reported of a proposal for NALC larger Council’s to have a similar on line forum and recommended that Members nominate a member to represent the Council on this group.
* Asked members to get their blogs in to Alyson Kinsey. Photos before the start of next council meeting to be taken by roger.
* Historical Hereford day request for volunteers.

The mayor encouraged members to sit down and write out a blog and submit it.

**C2015/2016.46** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meetings as 28 JULY 2015.

There being no further business the Mayor called the meeting to a close at 7.02pm

Signed………………………………………………………………………………………

Dated………………………………………………………………………………………….