HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

## Tuesday 1st December 2015

**PRESENT:**  The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford, Cllr Nicholls and Cllrs Chappell, Dykes, Griffiths, Hall, Hey, Keyon, Mansell, Michael, Rone, Stevens and Tawn.

**C2015/2016.92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**C2015/2016.93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members received no declarations of interest made by Members under the Herefordshire Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

**C2015/2016.94 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public present.

##### C2015/2016.95 MINUTES

Cllr Kenyon proposed, seconded by Cllr Chappell

Cllr Stevens notified Members there was a grammatical error under item C2015/2016.90 which read as he was unaware ‘on’ instead of ‘of’ and requested this be amended.

It wasunanimously

**Resolved**

**To approve the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting and the Chairman duly sign, initial and date the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 20 October 2015**.

**C2015/2016.96 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATION**

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

Cllr Rone arrived in the Chamber at 6.05 pm

The Mayor informed Members he had received a letter from Dave Piears, past City Council RFO and Treasurer, in relation to a board displaying names of the past juniors mayors. He informed the Mayor that this was something that had been agreed whilst he was still working for the City Council but had still not been implemented. Mr Piears asked for the City Council to erect such a board and identified space near door to Mayors Parlour for its installation. Mr Piears also offered to contribute to cost of the board up to the value of £1,000 and requested it stays in line with the style of the past mayors boards. The Mayor informed Members he would ensure the item is put on the agenda for the next appropriate committee for resolution.

##### C2015/2016.97 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

##### Members received and noted the interim report of the Council’s Internal Auditor.

The Town Clerk asked members to note that the report had commended the work done by the Finance Officer and the good standard of accounting shown by the Council. The Chairman of the Finance and Policy Committee echoed this and asked for the report to be received by Council.

**The report of the Internal Auditor was noted by Council.**

**C2015/2016.98 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT**

Members received the report of the Town Clerk and determined the Council’s response.

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of his report and the confusion around the council tax support grant. He explained that this year Herefordshire Council have decided not to pass on the grant despite a consultation process resulting in 62% of those consulted saying they should still pass on the grant to parishes.

He informed Members that for this financial year the City Council received £92,000 in council tax support grant from Herefordshire Council.

Herefordshire Council though has decided that a small selection of parishes will still receive an amount of this grant but none of the other parish councils.

The Town Clerk then covered his recommendations contained within his report and asked if members still wished officers to consider negotiations with Herefordshire Council in relation to taking over devolved services from them.

Cllr Tawn informed Members that he felt the City Council does not have any choice in the matter. The City Council needs to take over these devolved services as it owes that to our electorate and our City.

Cllr Tawn proposed 3.2 but not 3.1 of the Town Clerk’s recommendations.

Cllr Kenyon asked if the decision was a full Council decision or a Cabinet decision. He also informed Members he wanted to know exactly why some parishes will be receiving the grant and the rest will not.

Cllr Kenyon proposed 3.2. and 3.1 as long as the word “protest” was removed and replaced with “to question.”

Cllr Chappell seconded Cllr Tawn's proposal to go with 3.2 and agreed with all Cllr Tawn had expressed.

Cllr Kenyon proposed both 3.1 and 3.2 but that each point is voted on separately and not together.

The Town Clerk informed Members that he believed the decision regarding the grant was for cabinet although the final decision on the whole budget would be reserved for full council at Herefordshire.

Cllr Keyon’s proposal was seconded by Cllr Michael.

The Town Clerk asked members to vote on 3.1 as amended to read: That Council wishes to enter in to dialogue on the proposed decision by Herefordshire Council’s cabinet to stop passporting money from DCLG to parishes.

8 voted in favour. 3 abstained.

The Town Clerk then asked Members to vote on 3.2.

10 voted in favour 1 abstained.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council wishes to enter in to dialogue on the proposed decision by Herefordshire Council’s cabinet to stop passporting money from DCLG to parishes**.

**That Council is prepared to continue to discuss possible devolution of services from Herefordshire Council to the City Council in the light of this proposed change in policy.**

##### C2015/2016.99 NALC SUBSCRIPTION

Members received the Town Clerk’s report and determined the Council’s response.

##### 

The Town Clerk gave a brief over view of the NALC briefing report and the rather confusing information given at the HALC AGM by the chairman of the HALC finance committee.

Cllr Kenyon informed Members he has wrestled with this for many years and that it is not value for money.

Cllr Kenyon proposed not renewing the HALC/NALC annual membership.

Cllr Rone asked if anyone in the Chamber had benefited from any of the training delivered from the association. The mayor said he had but in his opinion feels Members of the City Council have not taken up much training and so it has not really been value for money. The Town Clerk informed Members that Officers of the Council have attended some training events in the past.

Cllr Michael said she found the training beneficial but whether it is worth the three thousand ponds the City Council pays she is unsure without a comparison of what other training organisations charge.

Cllr Kenyon felt that £3,000 was very expensive for the small amount of training the City Council receive.

Cllr Tawn seconded Cllr Kenyon’s proposal.

Members echoed the view about the subscription not being value for money.

Training is available from other sources.

Cllr Kenyon’s proposal was put to the vote.

4 voted in favour. 5 voted against. 2 abstained.

**RESOLVED:**

**To renew the NALC/HALC annual Membership for 2016/2017**

##### C2015/2016.100 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS

##### Members received and noted the draft minutes of the committees held since the last meeting of Council.

Governance and Procedures Committee 27th October 2015

Members noted the minutes.

Finance and Policy Committee 3rd November 2015

Members noted the minutes.

Planning and Highways Committee 4th November 2015

Planning and Highways Committee 25th November 2015

Members noted the minutes.

Cllr Kenyon wished to know more about the bridge developments and which Officer is responsible for leading on the matter.

The Town Clerk informed Members that he is the Officer responsible.

Cllr Kenyon asked that members are notified by the Town Clerk when an application comes in for their ward areas.

Cllr Michael and the Town Clerk both opposed Cllr Kenyon’s request explaining the impact on workload and also that all applications are available on the Herefordshire Council website which can be searched ward by ward.

Members noted the minutes.

Community Development Committee 10th November 2015

Community Development (Grants) Committee 2nd November 2015

Members noted the minutes.

**C2015/2016.101 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Cllr Chappell and seconded by Cllr Michael and unanimously

**RESOLVED**

**To exclude the press and public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to enable notes of a discussion of an item containing personal information regarding a member of staff to be considered.**

**C2015/2016.102 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING**

Confidential Minutes of theGovernance and Procedures Committee 27th October 2015.

Members noted the minutes.

**C2015/2016.103 RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There being no more confidential business, the press and public were allowed back in to the Chamber for the remainder of the meeting.

**C2015/2016.104 REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

1. **Municipal Charities** Cllrs Baker, Boulter, Hey and Lloyd-Hayes

Nothing to report from Cllr Hey

1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum** Cllrs Nicholls, Tawn and Wilcox

Cllr Tawn apologised for not submitting a report. He informed Members he had now become Chair of the forum and the new procedures the forum are trying to promote for the meetings. He expressed to Members the benefit of the forum as a tool of communication. The next meeting is on the 27 January 2016.

1. **HALC Executive Committee** Cllrs Griffiths and Nichollsone vacancy

The Mayor informed Members he had been unable to attend the last meeting due to mayoral duties. Cllr Griffiths informed Members he had nothing to report.

1. **SAM** Cllrs Griffiths and Nicholls

Report as circulated.

1. **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group** Cllr Paul Stevens.

Cllr Stevens informed Members he had not heard anything in the 7 months since he was elected as a Cllr and how very disappointed he is that there seems to be absolutely no activity in relation to this very important group. Cllr Stevens asked the Town Clerk to write to the organisation to relay the City Councils feelings.

The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up.

1. **Three Choirs Festival** Cllrs Baker and Bushkes

No one present to give a report.

1. **Hereford Twinning Association**

(The Mayor automatically holds this post as President of the Association)

Report as circulated**.**

1. **Hereford City Tourism Group** Cllr Lloyd-Hayes

No one present to give a report.

1. **Hereford in Bloom** Cllr Kenyon

Cllr Kenyon appalled at the groups behaviour and the fact they have still not thanked any of the community groups who were involved with achieving gold for the City. Cllr Kenyon asked the Town Clerk to write to the group expressing the City Council’s disappointment in them.

Cllr Kenyon informed Members he wished to stand down as a representative of this group.

The mayor suggested he could write to all the groups and thank them personally as Mayor.

Cllr Kenyon informed Members that many influential and good people are now walking away from this group which is disappointing.

1. **NALC Larger Councils Committee** Cllr Wilcox

The Town Clerk informed Members he was attending a conference the next day.

1. **New Hereford University Working Group –** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Stevens

Cllr Stevens informed Members he had not heard anything in the 7 months since he was elected as a Cllr and how very disappointed he is that there seems to be absolutely no activity in relation to this very important group.

Cllr Stevens asked the Town Clerk to write to the organisation to relay the City Councils feelings.

The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up.

1. **Close House** Cllr Tawn

Cllr Tawn informed Members that the last meeting of the board was the 19 November. The board expressed it’s gratitude to the City Council for their annual grant support and the community grant awarded for the garden project. The Countess of Wessex was extremely impressed with the facility when she visited and she took time to have a conversation with each of the young people present.

1. **City of Culture Strategic Board** Cllr Hall

Still no communication.

Cllr Stevens informed Members he had attended a meeting with Jessie Norman who thought that this was a dead duck with issues such as no TIC and the cultural involvement being at a low ebb.

1. **Business Improvement District Board of Management** CllrTawn andTown Clerk

The Town Clerk informed Members of the chewing gum cleaning machine and a protective film for paving which the BID group had been investigating. The group is in discussion with Herefordshire Council in relation to considering the paving protection treatment in relation to the refurbishment of high town.

**C2015/2016.105 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from the Town Clerk as follows:

* Letter of thanks from the RAF Veterans Association.
* Plaque on Elgar's home mysteriously disappeared. He's looking in to it and replacing it.
* The lady has been in touch about the conservation of the Belgium Flag to say she can complete it’s conservation within the £6,000 budget.
* HALC AGM.
* Continuing with discussions on devolution of parks and open spaces.
* Announcement over chinese lanterns and them being banned in the county.
* Christmas light switch on. Very successful. Wash up meeting agreed to improved measures for lost children, a better location for the first aid station and asking St. John's to quote in future years rather than a commercial company.
* Introduced Eleanor Mason as our new temporary member of staff.

**C2015/2016.106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting is 12th January 2016.

There being no further business the Mayor called the meeting to a close at 7.35 pm

Signed……………………………………………………………………………………………..

Dated………………………………………………………………………………………………