HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

## TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Tawn and Cllrs Andrews, Boulter, Chappell, Chave, Edwards, Kenyon, Michael, Nenadich, Nicholls, North, Preece, Vaughan-Powell and Wilcox.

**C2014/15.111 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Carwardine, Oliver and Toon.

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr Kay

**C2014/15.112 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were 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.

**C2014/15.113 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions put to the meeting by members of the public present.

The Mayor informed Members that he was changing the order for next two items in respect of Charles Champion and Ben Simpson having a distance to travel home.

**C2014/15.114 PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN THREE ELMS**

Members received a presentation from Charles Campion, Partner of John Thompson & Partners and Ben Simpson, Partner of Carter Jonas in relation to the above.

Mr Simpson opened the presentation explaining to Members why they were attending the meeting tonight and the proposed process for community engagement in relation to the planned development in the Three Elms Area and identified the area of land to be developed which is owed by the Church Commissioners.

Mr Simpson continued to explain how they had worked in consultation with Herefordshire Council and in line with the proposed core strategy also explaining about next stage leading up to submission of a planning application.

Mr Campion explained how they would be working hard to engage with as many people as possible to consult on the proposed plans. Consultation events will be well publicised to ensure increased awareness of the community plan weekend.

Should Members feel there are any specific individuals that should be spoken to before this point then please notify the Town Clerk.

Mr Campion informed Members that the planning event would probably be held in St Peters Church as it is a central location within the City for the event. He explained that there would be public and post it workshops. There would be shuttle busses running to and from the development site. Following the workshops they will produce a vision for the development for the following Tuesday evening. An outline planning application would then be submitted later in the year. The key to this development is community participation not community consultation.

At this point Cllr Chave informed Members she had a disclosable non pecuniary interest in relation to her and her husband are potential beneficiaries of a pension fund from the church commissioners but are not trustees and their pensions are not directly affected by this matter.

Cllr Chave informed Mr Simpson and Mr Campion that she was not happy the ward Councillors had not been informed or consulted before now and disappointed a venue was not being used in the ward area where the proposed development was to be delivered.

The Town Clerk informed Cllr Chave that as she or her husband would not be directly benefiting from the development there was no reason for her to leave the room.

Cllr Chave asked her disclosable non pecuniary interest still be minuted.

Cllr Kenyon asked that during the consultation period the purdah period be avoided.

Cllr Edwards felt this was not an issue; he did however reflect Cllr Chave’s concerns in the proposed venue choice expressing his surprise that a venue such as Whitecross School, which is in the very heart of the development area, was not being used.

Mr Simpson and Campion explained that the school would be potentially a good venue but it's about availability and the venue is not available the weekend they wish to deliver the community consultation. The venue is available the following weekend but their chosen hotel has no accommodation that weekend.

Mr Simpson and Campion then briefly covered their vision for the site and what facilities would be included within the proposed plans.

Cllr Nenadich asked that 2 bedroom accommodation be considered as part of the proposals as there is a huge shortfall in the area of this type of accommodation.

Members voiced their concerns on the impact on the infrastructure, explaining that the hospital is at maximum capacity as well as Hereford’s road system.

Mr Simpson and Campion explained that the idea of the consultation weekend is for people to be able to raise all these points and issues.

There being no further questions the Chairman thanked Mr Simpson and Mr Campion for their time and they left the room.

Cllr North arrived in the room at 6.20 pm.

##### C2014/15.115 URBAN ROOM PRESENTATION

Members received a presentation from Mr John Bothamley of the Civic Society in relation to “An Urban Room for Hereford” idea.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Tawn declared a Non Pecuniary interest as he is a member of the civic society.

Mr Bothamley explained to Members what an urban room is about and explained that the type of thing that the two previous gentlemen have come to talk about is exactly the type of consultation process to be delivered from an urban room; It's about ensuring that the community can share their ideas before building/development projects go to planning. An urban room would be the place where these ideas are displayed and the place people can go to enabling them to share their views and ideas. It is about educating not just school children but Councillors and planning officers as well.

Mr Bothamley explained the Civic Society need a place for the urban room to be delivered from so are looking to the City Council to provide that venue, be it in the one stop shop or another venue; planning should be more proactive and his plea tonight is to sort out a place where the urban room can be set up.

Mr Bothamley was informed that the City Council does not own any properties and all the places mentioned are owned by Herefordshire Council and that is the government organization the Civic Society needs to approach.

Mr Bothamley explained that he realized this but felt the City Council must be able to have some leverage to supply the space.

Cllr Kenyon proposed a letter be sent to Herefordshire Council on behalf of the City Council by the Town Clerk asking Herefordshire Council to support the urban room idea.

Some more discussion took place in relation to the wish for the City Council to provide some space for the urban room idea.

Cllr Edwards explained that Hereford City Council have a very small budget compared to Herefordshire Council and all that Hereford City Council would be able to do is ask Herefordshire Council to provide the Civic Society with a building for the delivery of an urban room.

Mr Bothamley explained that all the Civic Society were looking for was an alcove in a library or something like that; Low key but informative.

Cllr Edwards suggested that accommodated within the Buttermarket would be an ideal venue.

Cllr Kenyon’s proposal was seconded by Nicholls. 12 Members voted in favour 1 Member abstained.

**RESOLVED:**

**A letter be sent to Herefordshire Council on behalf of the City Council by the Town Clerk asking Herefordshire Council to support the urban room idea.**

##### C2014/15.116 CAB

##### Members did not receive an annual report from Claire Keetch in relation to the CAB and their annual funding award from the City Council as no report had been received to date and Mrs Keetch was not present at the meeting.

##### It was proposed and unanimously

##### RESOLVED:

##### To defer this item to the next meeting of Council.

##### C2014/15.117 MINUTES

Cllr Edwards proposed to approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 13 January 2015. This was seconded by Cllr Andrews and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 13 January 2015 and the Chairman duly initial, sign and date the minutes.**

**C2014/15.118** **MAYOR’S COMMUNICATION**

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

Police Choir supporting Mayors charities - concert 28 Feb 2015

Saxon Hall are putting on a Family Ceilidh in aid of the Mayor’s Charity SSAFA on 28 March 2015; Dancing to Bandemonium.

Mayor’s Charity race night on the 15 May 2015 has some races still available please sponsor a race.

Concern Universal 7 March 2015 Raise Your Voice at All Saints Church.

##### C2014/15.119 RECOGNITION OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Members received and approved recommendations from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his report.

Cllr Edwards aired his opinion that when considering electing a Member to fulfill the role of Mayor Members should also consider how fit and healthy that person is as this is a very challenging roll and is far more physically and mentally demanding than he expected as he found out during his year as Mayor.

##### Members asked the Town Clerk if any anyone on the list of seniority had changed their opinions on taking up the Mayoralty? The Town Clerk informed Members he had not heard anything to the contrary from Cllrs Carwardine or Oliver.

**RESOLVED:**

**That after hearing any declarations from members who wish to pass on their seniority for the coming year, the Council recognises a Mayor-elect and a Deputy Mayor-elect pending the results of the elections and affirms that seniority will continue to be the main criterion in selecting candidates for the office in future.**

##### C2014/15.120 ELECTION OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

##### Nominations from Members of the Council for the above two positions pending the results of the elections on 7 May 2015 were received.

##### Cllr Chappell nominated Cllr Nicholls as Mayor Elect explaining he carries an awful lot of respect not just in this chamber and within the community he serves but further afield also.

Cllr Kenyon seconded the proposal and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Nicholls is elected Mayor Elect for the Municipal year 2015-2016 pending the results of the elections on 7 May 2015.**

Cllr Chappell proposed Cllr Vaughan-Powell as Deputy Mayor elect as she is next in the order of seniority after Cllr Oliver.

No one seconded the proposal at this point.

Cllr Michael then proposed Cllr Kenyon as Deputy Mayor Elect reflecting on all his work in the community. Cllr Edwards seconded Cllr Michael’s proposal.

Cllr Andrews raised the issue that it has always been our custom to go in order of seniority so she will second Cllr Chappell’s proposal.

The amended proposal nominating Cllr Kenyon was put to the vote first. 8 Members voted in favour; 2 Members voted against; there were 2 abstentions.

The substantive proposal was then put to the vote; 8 Members voted in favour; 2 Members voted against with 2 abstentions.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Kenyon is elected Deputy Mayor Elect for the Municipal year 2015-2016 pending the results of the elections on 7 May 2015.**

##### C2014/15.121 DRAFT MINUTES

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Members noted the draft minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Committee held on the 20 January 2015.

Cllr Andrews raised a matter in relation to item five about complaints of vandalism of the young children's playground; Reports have been received that the culprits are wearing Whitecross school uniforms; Ward Councillors are addressing the issue with the school.

Members noted the draft minutes of Finance & Policy Committee held on the 27 January 2015.

Cllr Edwards made the Town Clerk aware of some alterations to the minutes and asked that they be amended before they go to committee for approval. The Town Clerk confirmed he had noted the amendments.

Members noted the minute of Governance and Procedures Committee held on the 3 February 2015.

**C2014/15.122** **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received reports from members who have attended meetings of Outside Bodies.

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| 1. **Municipal Charities (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Aubrey Oliver and Anna Toon)**   Nothing to report. |
| 1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (Cllrs Polly Andrews, Charles Nicholls & Brian Wilcox)**   Cllr Wilcox informed Members that at the last meeting of the group the following items had been discussed: Lengthsman Scheme and New Homes Grant. |
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| 1. **HALC Executive Committee (Cllrs Anna Toon, Carwardine & Vaughan-Powell)**   Report as circulated to Members. |
| 1. **SAM (Cllrs Anna Toon & Carwardine )**   Report as circulated to Members. |
| 1. **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (Cllr Tawn)**   Report as circulated to Members. |
| 1. **Three Choirs Festival (Cllrs Liz Chave & Jason Kay)**   Cllr Chave informed Members of the sad news that a major grant from the arts council had not been granted and that members of the committee are frantically applying to other bodies to make up for this shortfall. The programme launch date is the 24 March 2015 to be held at the Courtyard theatre; which the Mayor is invited to. |
| 1. **Hereford Twinning Association (The Mayor)**   Nothing to report. |
| 1. **Hereford City Tourism Group (Cllr Chave with Cllr Tawn as reserve)**   Cllr Chave informed Members that the Hereford City Tourism leaflet had gone to press; the printers will be providing a PDF for downloading off the website. Cllr Chave also mentioned an annual tourism leaflet swop event and that she had been privileged to a sneak preview of the BID – welcome news.   1. **Hereford in Bloom (Cllr Kenyon)**   Cllr Kenyon raised Members awareness of the new Hereford City Communities in Bloom grant and encouraged all Members to get their communities involved. |
| 1. **NALC Larger Councils Committee (Cllr Wilcox)**   Cllr Wilcox informed Members that after a long wait the Town Clerk had now become a co-opted Clerk on the NALC Larger Council’s Committee. NALC are currently lobbying on planning issues related to Change of Use and section 106 issues. |
| 1. **New Hereford University Working Group (Cllrs Tawn and Toon)**   Cllr Andrews reported that there was no funding available. The only government funding available is specific to engineering.   1. **Close House (Cllr Wilcox)**   Meeting next week**.** |

The Mayor asked that all Councillors representing outside bodies to provide their reports in writing in future so other Councillors are able to take away the information and use it as necessary.

**C2014/15.123 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communication from the Town Clerk as follows:

The Town Clerk asked that members are sympathetic to the struggle and pressures officers are up against at the present time due to two members of staff being off sick for several weeks now and ongoing plus he had been off following an operation. Those officers left in the office are trying to deliver on their own work as well as the work of those who are off sick.

Planning Application for the Broadleys Public House – Consultation response. The Town Clerk reported that after sending the observations of the planning committee in relation to the conversion of the public house to a supermarket Herefordshire Council decided it was permitted development and that no consultation was required. The campaign for real ale had written to them to challenge this seeking an article 4 direction to bring the issue back into the planning process.

The Town Clerk explained that he had received a call from Will Lindesay of HVOSS regarding the funding awarded some time ago for community plan work and requesting approval to use the funding left to pay staff.

The Town Clerk explained that this cannot be an item of approval without a motion. But Members views can be reported back to HVOSS and Mr Lindesay and a report can be considered at the next meeting of the Community Development Committee in relation to this via in funding.

Cllr Nenadich spoke in support of HVOSS and the tremendous work they do and the level of service they provide is remarkable. Cllr Nenadich informed Members he would certainly support the suggestion. Cllr Kenyon echoed Cllr Nenadich’s words of support.

Cllr Chave was sad to hear there is a possibility of reductions and asked the Town Clerk to confirm what the value of this funding was.

Cllr Wilcox declared a Non Pecuniary interest as his wife is the Chairman of HVOSS and echoes the words of the other Councillors.

The Town Clerk asked if any Members had any objections; there were no objections.

Cllr Edwards voiced his concerns about members being over exuberant with staff in the current situation and to consider things may take longer than normal and it may be more difficult to deliver requests quickly. Cllr Edwards thanked the Town Clerk for the prompt arrival of the litter pickers for Newton Farmers.

**C2014/15.124 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting is 14 APRIL 2015

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

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

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