HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

##  MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

## TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017 at 6.00pm

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Cllr Jim Kenyon and Cllrs Baker, Bushkes, Chappell, Griffiths, Hall, Hey, Lloyd-Hayes, Mansell, Michael, Nicholls, Rone, Stevens and Wilcox.

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllrs Edwards and Tawn**.**

**C2016/2017.120 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Boulter and Dykes

**C2016/2017.121 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.

**C2016/2017.122 Public participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**C2016/2017.123 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Cllr Stevens proposed, seconded by Cllr Michael that members approve the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 7th March 2017, which were accepted as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

**C2016/2017.124 Disabled Swing and Roundabout Improvements**

The Mayor handed over to the Town Clerk who gave a brief overview of his report to members:

The Town Clerk explained that this has been a long running project involving separate meetings for various aspects including supply, installation, associated costs, commissioning Spencer Grogan at Herefordshire Council to oversee the works etc and that no single authorisation to proceed had yet been agreed, hence the need for a Council decision to be made on this now.

Following the original estimate of £15,000-£18,000 for supply of the swing, we now have the full quotation from BBLP which includes costs for installation, tarmac resurfacing of the broken pathway and renovation of the roundabout. Herefordshire Council has no budget to repair or replace the roundabout which if not renovated would decay and could become unsafe.

There is also BBLP’s fee for management and insurance which City Council would have to pay whoever we employed for the works. The total price is £26,211.65 and Council’s agreement is now sought to accept this quotation and enable to works to proceed.

The Mayor asked members for their comments and members expressed their full endorsement of this project. Cllr Chappell stated that he had regular meetings with BBLP and he suggested that a small contingency budget of around a few hundred pounds could be set up to cover general maintenance costs and any spare parts which may need to be sourced from the manufacturer in the future. In response, the Town Clerk stated that a specific contingency budget would need to be allocated for any maintenance requirements to show exactly where the money is coming from and this could referred to be dealt with by the Finance and Policy Committee.

The recommendation was then proposed by Cllr Chappell, seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Hayes and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council authorises the Town Clerk to confirm to Mr Spencer Grogan that it agrees to fund the installation of a disabled access swing, the renovation of the children’s roundabout and the replacement of the access surfacing with tarmac in the play area in Bishop’s Meadow.**

**C2016/2017.125 Eastern Route and Bridge**

**6.1** The Mayor addressed members regarding his proposal below:

“The Council notes that the dates for completion of the western bypass are unknown and could be years away. However, the City Council fully supports the proposed western bypass. The traffic problems in the city require a relief road to be built, with a new bridge connecting Rotherwas to A438, now. Council agrees to include a proposal for such a relief road in any response to the Local Transport Plan currently under consultation, the Core Strategy Review when it occurs, and in the meantime to continue to support actively a local campaign to get this road included in Herefordshire Council’s plans now.”

The Mayor then stated that he had put forward this motion before Easter and had since spoken with fellow Councillors and County Councillors on this and he was now happy to withdraw this motion.

**6.2** Members were asked to consider, at the request of Finance and Policy Committee, the Town Clerk’s draft letter to the Leader of Herefordshire Council (Appendix 3).

The Town Clerk explained to members that following discussions on major projects at the last Finance and Policy Committee, he had been asked to draft two separate letters which members had received for their consideration.

The Town Clerk referred to Appendix 3, his first draft letter to the Leader of the Council and stated that he had since received a proposed alternative draft from Cllr Wilcox and that Councillors are entitled to change and to approve, or not, either of these draft letters if they so wish.

Cllr Wilcox stated that the letter should clarify where the City Council stands on this issue and was concerned that the Clerk’s proposed draft letter did not use the word ‘support’ and did not use the words ‘western route’. He felt that the wording did not get a message of support across to Herefordshire Council hence his suggested amended version to actually state that City Council are in support of a western route.

In response to a question, the Town Clerk clarified that it was his first draft letter which was currently up for discussion. The Mayor then asked members for comments and also if there was a seconder. Cllr Nicholls expressed his view that the Clerk’s draft letter was precise and clear and he would be happy to second it.

Other comments from members included:

* Further approval of the Town Clerk’s draft letter.
* A member’s disagreement with some of the wording in the second paragraph in relation to - ‘infrastructure required for housing’ and ‘other development’ - not keen to support, felt this was unclear, ambiguous and raised questions.
* Echoed agreement and support for the Clerk’s draft letter from a member not on the Finance and Policy Committee who felt that the letter said everything it needed to.
* Other important wording was ‘ring road’.
* An eastern crossing would be required to support all work in Holmer and Rotherwas areas but City Council needed to show support to get a western route first.
* No mention of an eastern crossing in Cllr Wilcox’s amended draft letter therefore the Town Clerk’s draft letter was felt to be more accurate.
* Proposal to approve the Town Clerk’s draft letter as it stands to send to the Leader of Herefordshire Council.

Moving forwards, the Mayor asked members for their votes, as follows:

1. Proposed alternative draft letter from Cllr Wilcox:

**4 in favour, 10 against**

1. Original draft letter (Appendix 3) from the Town Clerk:

**10 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention**

It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council approves the Town Clerk’s draft letter (Appendix 3) to send to the Leader of Herefordshire Council.**

**6.3** Members were asked to consider, at the request of Finance and Policy Committee, the Town Clerk’s draft letter to neighbouring parish councils (Appendix 4).

After a brief discussion, this was put to the vote:

**11 in favour, 3 against**

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Hayes and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council approves the Town Clerk’s draft letter (Appendix 4) to send to the neighbouring Parish Councils.**

**C2016/2017.126 Mayor’s Communication**

Members received communication from The Right Worshipful the Mayor:

* The Mayor reported that he had recently been very busy expressing his thanks to many people from various local groups and organisations including members of the medical profession and emphasised how important he felt it was, as Mayor, to officially thank all concerned for their support during his time in office.

**C2016/2017.127 Visit From a Delegation From Jaworzno**

Members received a brief oral report from the Town Clerk on the timing and numbers suggested by the President of Jaworzno for a visit to Hereford in connection with possible twinning to consider approving the use of the Mayor’s Expenses budget to fund accommodation.

The Town Clerk explained that his report was seeking to clarify that the delegation of six people from Jaworzno would be coming to Hereford during the time of the River Carnival and May Fair. As no resolution or decision was made at the previous meeting there was no mandate for using City Council money for the visit, which would be entirely at the visitors’ own expense. He added that it would be appropriate to use The Mayor’s Expenses budget for this visit which had over £2,000.00 left and could pay for accommodation and at least one civic meal. This was the suggestion for members to consider. The Mayor mentioned that the delegation would also include the Transport Manager who would be coming to speak about Jaworzno’s electric buses.

The Mayor asked members for their comments which included:

* Reiterated comments from the last meeting that Council should make visitors welcome and show hospitality as it reflects on us.
* Important that City Council shows the Polish delegates we are generous and welcoming.
* Fully in support of City Council providing accommodation and hospitality to the Polish visitors.
* Fantastic that The Mayor has been frugal with his budget and still has £2k left over.
* Reference made to a comment in the previous minutes - about our country not seeming to cooperate well on exchange visits in twinning cities – Hereford is engaging positively with this.
* Each Mayor brings something individual to this and felt twinning could work very well in conjunction with exchange visits.

It was formally proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Michael and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council agrees to approve the use of The Mayor’s Expenses Budget to fund accommodation and civic meal costs for the Polish delegation from Jaworzno during their visit to Hereford.**

**C2016/2017.128 Draft Minutes of Meetings of the Committees**

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

Community Development Committee 14th March 2017

Planning Committee 16th March 2017

Finance & Policy Committee 4th April 2017

Planning Committee 6th April 2017 (To follow)

**C2016/2017.129 Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Reports were received from members who represent the City Council on the following bodies:

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| 1. **Municipal Charities (x 4 members)** Cllrs Boulter, Baker, Hey and Lloyd-Hayes – Nothing to report.
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| 1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x 3 members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Wilcox. (plus 1 outstanding vacancy) – The next meeting is taking place tomorrow.
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| 1. **HALC Executive Committee (x 3 members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Griffiths (plus 1 outstanding vacancy) – Cllr Griffiths declared nothing to report. Cllr Nicholls stated that one report outlined at the last meeting was fully explained and debated and he could provide copies of the presentation if colleagues would like to see it.
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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 advised that residency had been taken up at Skylon and the magazine was to go ahead.
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| 1. **Three Choirs Festival (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Nicholls – Nothing to report.
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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) **-** Cllr Michael as Deputy Mayor declared nothing to report.
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| 1. **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member) -** Cllr Lloyd-Hayes – The recent visit to the NEC for the Tourism and Travel Show was very successful and everyone was made very welcome. She is hoping there will be a joint visit with HCT Group and the City Council next year and feels it encourages the Group to continue.
2. **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member)** Cllr Michael – Nothing to report.
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| 1. **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes explained there are questions on the amount of property being used and there is a lot going on with numerous properties being sold and stated that more information was needed. There are also concerns about Herefordshire young people being asked to live in Halls of Residence which Cllr Hayes felt would not be right if they’re living locally. The Mayor suggested that City Council could seek more information on this from Herefordshire Council.
2. **Close House (x 1 Member)** Cllr Tawn – Absent from the meeting - Nothing to report.
3. **City of Culture Board (x 1 Member)** Cllr Hall – Nothing to report.
4. **The BID group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Tawn – Absent from the meeting - Nothing to report.
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Following the feedback from members, The Mayor asked if a strategic review may be needed on the City Council’s ‘Representatives to outside bodies’ as it seems there is often nothing to be reported back to Council and he questioned whether Council hold representation on too many outside committees.

The Town Clerk advised members that constitutionally, the City Council are part of some of those bodies and as such have an ongoing relationship with some of them but not with others and he suggested that this could be brought to Governance and Procedures Committee to debate.

The Mayor invited members to give their thoughts and after brief discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bushkes, seconded by Cllr Stevens and unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council defers to the Governance and Procedures Committee for debate, a request to review the City Council’s current ‘Representation to Outside Bodies’ by members.**

**C2016/2017.130 Town Clerk’s Communications**

Members received communications from the Town Clerk as follows:

* Planning Committee item (Ref: 170562) – There had been a controversial planning issue at the last meeting which City Council had lodged an objection to. The Clerk had spoken this morning with Kelly Gibbons, Planning Officer, and although there was no issue as yet, he would be attending their next meeting in May to see what happens on this.
* Catchermedia – Hereford Lottery Fund has awarded funding for the ‘Herefordshire Life Through A Lens’ project which is very good promotion for the County as a whole and also no cost involved for City Council.
* Youth Council – They have now got a Facebook page and chosen a logo in homage to our City Council logo. They have done a fantastic job and they will also be involved with the River Carnival.
* Cycle Track - A public meeting will be taking place to discuss the Cycle Track at the Racecourse.
* River Carnival – Volunteers - The Civic & Community Development Officer has asked for any volunteers to let her know if they could spare some time to help out on the Roadshow Vehicle at the River Carnival.

The Mayor mentioned to members that he would welcome any Councillors who may wish to meet the delegation visiting from Jaworzno. He added that this was his last full Council meeting as Mayor and conveyed his thanks to all for their support during his time in office. He expressed that he had enjoyed a fantastic time in his Mayoral year and thoroughly recommended the role of Mayor to any members who had yet to undertake the office.

 **C2016/2017.131 Date of Next Meeting**

 **Monday 15th May 2017 – Annual Meeting of the Council**

There being no further business, The Mayor thanked all members and closed the meeting at 6.40pm.

Signed ……………………………………………………………….

Date ………………………………………………………………….