HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

## TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr Jim Kenyon and Cllrs Baker, Boulter,

Bushkes, Edwards, Griffiths, Hall, Hey, Lloyd-Hayes, Michael, Nicholls, Stevens, Tawn, Wilcox.

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr Rone

**C2016/2017.74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Chappell, Dykes and Mansell.

**C2016/2017.75 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.

**C2016/2017.76 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

**C2016/2017.77 MINUTES**

Cllr Stevens proposed, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that Members approve the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 25 October 2016.

**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 25 October 2016.**

**C2016/2017.78 THE RIVER WYE**

Members received a presentation from Dane Broomfield, Environment Agency, in relation to recent investigations into the viability of better use of the River Wye as a community facility, asset for improved tourist facilities and a suitable launch site for emergency Fire and Rescue vessel.

Mr Broomfield briefly outlined his role as Waterways Manager with the Environment Agency. He mentioned the Navigation Authority and stated there was a Navigation Order 2002, giving a Public Right of Navigation for the Rivers Wye and Lugg.

He referred to the two opportunities being explored for development and usage of the River Wye, i.e.

River/Boat trips - From the Left Bank. He said that the River Wye has protected status and preparatory work for provision of boat trips may require planning permission. He estimated the costs for remedial river work could be approximately £1,500 to £2,000 plus around £11K for the construction of a floating pontoon.

Fire & Rescue Services Access – Improved access for Emergency Vessel Launch site. Mr Broomfield explained that these proposals are at an earlier stage. He said options are being considered. Two locations have been identified:

* Quay Street site (which would need to be cleared to create good access).
* The Sea Cadets and Rowing Club (in respect of possible installation of a hoist on the site of the Rowing Club to launch the fire and rescue vessel).

Moving forward

* Need to secure funding.
* Must keep working together with various Partnerships.
* More opportunities to be sought using the River to benefit the City.

Following the presentation by Mr Bloomfield, The Mayor asked Members for their questions and comments:

Questions and comments from Members covered the following:

* Approximately 18 years ago a piece of land was purchased in Belmont Rural Parish for a stop off site for boats/river buses as an alternative means of transport.
* What distance along the river would the boat trips cover?
* Distance along the river would all be dependent of type of boat used and affected by operational window such as high and low flows and draft of boat.
* Large carp are known to be in the area around the Left Bank, has this been considered?
* Public Right of Navigation and arrangement of consensus.
* River Wye being Hereford’s ‘Jewel in the Crown’
* Better use of the River Wye and improved tourist attraction.
* Once a boat operator is engaged the Environment Agency will work with them to enable the commencement of pleasure boat trips on the river. Talks in relation to this are going on at present.
* Herefordshire Council’s Policy Statement for the use of the River Wye and Lugg. Created in December 2006.
* This policy was signed up to by all users of the River Wye.
* The policy is not included in the Core Strategy but is acknowledged.
* The policy will become part of the Hereford Local Area Plan.
* All the relevant agencies that need to be consulted with to enable these plans to move forward have been involved with all the investigative work to date and are all on board.

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked Mr Broomfield for his time.

Cllr Bushkes proposed the recommendations in the Town Clerk’s report.

This was seconded by Cllr Tawn and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council approves in principle the concept of restoring pleasure boat facilities to the River Wye.**

**The Council will consider a planning application for a pontoon at its Planning Committee.**

**The Council will consider the allocation of funds to support the use of the River through grant applications from the Rowing Club and Sea Cadets at Community Development Committee and consider any further call on funds to support specialist work at Finance and Policy Committee.**

**C2016/2017.79 CITY OF CULTURE BID 2021**

Members received a presentation from Abigail Appleton (Principal of Hereford College of Arts) in relation to the Hereford City of Culture Bid 2021.

Ms Appleton’s presentation covered various elements:

* A re-cap of the Hereford bid for 2021, as it now stands.
* Consultations taking place with several market towns.
* Comparisons made to City of Hull having won the City of Culture bid for next year. (Highlighted Liverpool as an example of a previous City of Culture which was very successful in regenerating the city).
* Formation of new group, ‘Herefordshire Cultural Partnership’.
* Aims and aspirations – To work together on cultural ambition to improve the lives of the people who live and work in Hereford and draw more visitors to the City.
* Developing young people’s pride by providing them with more opportunities to enhance their skills, creativity and confidence.
* Formal culture bid due to be submitted around end of January, early February 2017.
* Short time remaining to put in a strong bid. Three cities will then be selected for the next stage of the bid.
* Want to attract more students to the city (University of Hereford development) and improve enterprise opportunities to ‘change perceptions’ and also benefit people outside Herefordshire.
* Using maps as a theme, the bid will focus on good relationships between urban and rural areas and how this could be built into diversity.
* Being a rural city, how to create more events based around themes such as ‘Food Culture’ and ‘Light’ with our ‘access to the night sky ‘.
* A need to ‘excite’ the City and to promote as widely as possible using personal sign-up, word of mouth, leaflet drops, billboards, banners in High Town and badges for schools etc.
* Funding request grant for promotional materials to be submitted via the Civic and Community Development Officer.
* BBC1 programme, ‘Inside Out’ coming to film in January 2017.

At the conclusion of Ms Appleton’s presentation, The Mayor opened the floor for questions. Members put forward the following questions and comments:

* Ensure the incorporation of people with disabilities. Consultation with RNCB and Riding for the Disabled.
* Have the schools been involved? What type of involvement would they have going forwards?
* Ideas shared at meetings with Secondary School Heads so far. Promoting creativity via artwork in Primary schools, e.g. designing badges.
* Want to do formal consultation with the Youth Council/other existing groups.
* Potential for sculptures around the city, e.g. ‘Farmer/sheep’ statue.
* Possible assistance from Herefordshire Lore.
* Very keen to progress the bid. Need to be bold and push for ideas to be put forward.
* The culture bid has an emphasis on promoting Hereford’s future and several groups already been approached to discuss ideas regarding various arts’ projects.

There were no further questions or comments and the Mayor thanked Ms Appleton for her time.

**C2016/2017.80 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATION**

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

* Guild of Guides - Parlour Visit. Also, Cllrs invited to attend one of their historic walks/tours.
* Trip to Jawornzo, Poland. Cllrs invited to visit the City in January 2017.
* Attended a Cycling course in London.

**C2016/2017.81 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE UPDATE**

Members received a report and recommendations from the Town Clerk.

* Work is due to start after Christmas on major development of the Butter Market, including a possible Tourist Information Centre housed within, which could take one to two years.
* The Town Clerk has a mandate to employ a proposed Tourist Centre Manager in Spring 2017 to run an interim Tourist Information Centre at the Town Hall, in the room currently used by the public library. He thinks it would not be sensible to make a permanent appointment at this stage in case the project does not succeed into the future. He proposed appointing a temporary employee for an initial period of 12-24 months (to protect the Council’s interests and ensure no liability for potential redundancy costs).

The Mayor opened the floor to Members for their questions and comments:

* Although it was thought the City Council can deliver a Tourist Information Centre, several Members questioned the concept of its value for money and thought it may not be viable (e.g. The Worcester TIC, at the Guild Hall was unsuccessful).
* No concrete statement has yet been received from Darren Sockett and Members generally felt it would be wrong to invest £25,000 until more is known about development of the potential site at the Butter Market. We could formally write to Darren Sockett to request more information.
* The ‘multi-purpose’ Receptionist at the Town Hall provides interim signposting and advice to the public and tourists.
* Looking at an SLA agreement with Rural Concierge for the delivery of TIC.

Following discussions, it was proposed by Cllr Tawn that we do not go ahead with the recommendations at this stage. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards, 11 voted in favour and 3 abstained and it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Clerk defers any action at this stage on the recruitment of a Tourist Centre Manager and provision for a Tourist Centre at the Town Hall, pending more details on the Butter Market refurbishment plans received in writing from Darren Sockett.**

**C2016/2017.82 TOWN HALL MUSEUM**

Members received a report and recommendations from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his report including the possibility of using the space (presently occupied by other parties) at the front of the Town Hall as a civic museum to display some ancient artefacts, currently held in the vaults. Members would need to give consent for the Town Clerk to pursue this idea with all parties concerned and establish costs involved, including specialist advice for storage and display, staffing, cleaning, security etc.

The Mayor opened the floor to Members for their questions and comments:

* Artefacts are hidden away but we should celebrate our history and special collections by making them more accessible for public display.
* The idea was well received and fully supported.
* It was thought to be viable and should be explored further.

It was proposed by Cllr Bushkes to approve the idea in principle and accept the Town Clerk’s recommendations. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards and put to the vote. 11 voted in favour, 1 abstained and it was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Council agrees in principle that the Town Clerk explore the possibility of establishing a civic museum at the Town Hall to display some of the artefacts currently held in the vault.**

**C2016/2017.83 BROAD STREET MUSEUM AND MILITARY DISPLAY**

Members received a report and recommendations from the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of his report. The museum is due to re-open in January 2017 and the Mayor recently had preliminary discussions with the museum about the possibility of using their main exhibition space to display a collection of militaria.

The Town Clerk explained that this would be a very expensive project which would require the specialist removal and storage of the museum’s existing display of historical artefacts, should they be in agreement to proceed with this idea.

Members discussed these proposals and made the following points:

* Use of the entire exhibition space would be expensive and logistically complicated regarding security, transport and specialist storage of existing items.
* The museum’s main display of artefacts is part of the school curriculum which would probably prohibit this.

Moving forward:

* The City Council could take advantage of the museum’s gallery area to display the military items.
* Members generally expressed their great support for our military heritage but had concerns that this project may not be feasible and too costly to implement.

Members supported the proposals in principle but felt that more information and an estimate of costs would be needed before they could give their full support and agreement. The Town Clerk stated that Hereford City Council and the Military Curators would need to finance this project.

The Town Clerk’s recommendation 2.1 was proposed by Cllr Bushkes and seconded by Cllr Stevens.

Following discussions, It was proposed by Cllr Tawn, seconded by Cllr Michael, to support the Town Clerk’s recommendations 2.2 and 2.3.

The recommendations were put to the vote:

**2.1** – 5 Members voted for, 6 against and 3 abstained.

**2.2** – 7 Members voted for, 1 against and 5 abstained.

**2.3** – 9 Members voted for, 4 abstained.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Council agrees in principle to support the proposal for an exhibition of selected items of militia in the gallery area of the museum when the museum’s schedule permits.**

**That the Council authorises the Finance and Policy Committee to approve appropriate expenditure from established budgets and reserves to enable further investigations to be carried out and costs established for the delivery of either project.**

**C2016/2017.84 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES**

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

Community Development Committee**:**

1 November 2016

Planning Committee:

9 November 2016

Finance and Policy Committee**:**

22 November 2016

Planning Committee**:**

1 December 2016

**C2016/2017.85 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Nicholls was elected as a new Member of the Finance and Policy Committee, to replace Cllr Bushkes who had recently stood down.

**C2016/2017.86 REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports were received from Members who represent the City Council on the following bodies.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| 1. **Municipal Charities (x 4 Members)** Cllrs Boulter, Baker, Hey and Lloyd-Hayes.   Cllr Boulter advised that new flats were to be opened in March 2017. |
|  |
| 1. **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x 3 Members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Wilcox. (plus 1 outstanding vacancy).   Cllr Wilcox reported that a meeting was attended by David Harlow and Nick Webster from the Herefordshire Economic Plan. He stated that Herefordshire Council would not be investing money into the economic plan and it was expected that market towns would be contributing. |
|  |
| 1. **HALC Executive Committee (x 3 Members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Griffiths (plus 1 outstanding vacancy) |
| Cllr Nicholls reported that recent meetings had been cancelled, however the AGM had been successful. |
| 1. **SAM (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Nicholls and Griffiths   Nothing to report. |
|  |
| 1. **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (X 1 Member)** Cllr Griffiths   The last meeting was cancelled and deferred until February 2017. |
|  |
| 1. **Three Choirs Festival (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Nicholls   Cllr Lloyd-Hayes stated there had been no meetings but she had attended an event in London with the choristers. |
|  |
| 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   Nothing to report. |
|  |
| 1. **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member) -** Cllr Lloyd-Hayes   An 84 page Guide was now underway and the website was currently being upgraded. Cllr Lloyd-Hayes reported that HCTG were delighted with the input from Hereford City and The Mayor.   1. **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member)** Cllr Michael   Cllr Michael had not attended the last meeting. The Town Clerk gave a brief overview of last year and the lessons learned. He also reported that this organisation is well- run, viable and will be continuing next year. |
|  |
| 1. **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes   Cllr Lloyd-Hayes had spoken with K Usher regarding funding and is still waiting to hear back.   1. **Close House (x 1 Member)** Cllr Tawn   No meetings to report. An event to celebrate their achievements is to be held at St Peter’s Church, on 13th January 2017.   1. **City of Culture Board (x 1 Member)** Cllr Hall   Abigail Appleton was thanked for attending and there was a general plea to Councillors to get involved.   1. **The BID group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Len Tawn   It was reported that this was working well and their weekly report on visitors to the areas was positive with a high footfall in the Eign Gate area. The city’s Wi-Fi had been launched. A cost-effective chewing gum removal machine had been demonstrated. The City Life website was also successful in helping to grow visitor numbers to Hereford. |

**C2016/2017.87 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from the Town Clerk as follows:

* NALC - Local Councils Committee – The Town Clerk had attended their conference.
* SLCC – Attended a workshop and met an organisation called ‘Playforce’ – a useful link in relation to the future development of King George V playing fields and the Bishop’s Meadow.
* Aston University Super-diversity in smaller urban areas research project – The Civic and Community Development Officer and Cllr Boulter had been invited by Aston University to sit on the AU Board to look at urban diversity within the city of Hereford. The Town Clerk to write a letter to Aston University in support of this project.
* New staff – 3 new staff members had recently been appointed – Two part-time staff who had already joined the HCC in the role of Admin, Finance and Information Officers and one full time person in the role of Receptionist would be starting on 3rd January 2017.

**C2016/2017.88 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 24 JANUARY 2017.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Signed ……………………………………………………………………………

Dated …………………………………………………………………………….

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Hereford City Council has adopted the Code of Conduct of Herefordshire Council pursuant to the Localism Act 2011. In terms of declarations of interest the following principles now apply.

1. The former distinction between prejudicial and personal interests has been replaced, and these terms should no longer be used. They will not be used in minutes.
2. Where a member has registered a financial or “pecuniary” interest in the register of interests held by the Monitoring Officer of Herefordshire Council, they must repeat this declaration when any item in which they have such an interest is on the agenda at any meeting they attend. Having made that declaration, they must fill in the register brought to each Committee and Council meeting and may not make any comment whatsoever while the item is under discussion. They may, if they wish, remain in the meeting to observe the debate.
3. Where a member has an interest which is sufficient to give rise to a reasonable expectation that they will not be able to consider a matter impartially, for example where they have a close personal relationship with a party involved, where they have made a public and unequivocal statement of their views etc, this is a disclosable, but non-pecuniary, interest. They should declare this interest at the start of the meeting and may remain in the room and speak (provided members of the public would also be allowed to speak on this item). Members who have declared an interest of this type may not, however, vote on the item to which their interest applies.
4. Where a member becomes aware of an interest during discussion they must declare it immediately and act accordingly.
5. Members of the Planning Committee should continue to resolve at the start of each meeting that their views are preliminary and that those who are members of Herefordshire Council reserve their final position until all representations and facts have been considered.

Steve Kerry

Town Clerk

**All enquiries concerning this agenda should be addressed to the Town Clerk,**

**Hereford City Council, Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PJ**

**Tel: 01432 260454 Fax: 01432 344063**