

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Hereford
TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2018 at 6.00pm**

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful, the Mayor, Cllr Susan Boulter and Cllrs Butler, Chappell, Edwards, Kenyon, Lloyd-Hayes, Michael and Tillett.

IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Kerry (Town Clerk), Tracy Morriss (Deputy Town Clerk), Lesley Robinson (Administration, Finance & Information Officer).

At the start of the meeting the Chair reminded all present of the fire evacuation procedure.

C2018/2019.55 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllrs Bushkes, Dykes, Griffiths, Hey, Mansell, Stevens, Tawn and Wilcox

C2018/2019.56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

C2018/2019.57 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

C2018/2019.58 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Chappell, seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Hayes and

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 11th September 2018 be accepted as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Chair.

C2018/2019.59 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROPOSALS FOR HEREFORD

The Clerk reported that Cllr Stevens attended the meeting with Jesse Norman MP on 7th September, not as official City Council representative but, as the member for Widemarsh ward and added that CC had not yet decided whether to support this transport initiative. An email had been circulated from Jesse Norman asking for a call for evidence, which could be provided by several sources and not necessarily the Highways Authority.

Gareth Davies (GD) from Hereford Sustainable Travel Group (HSTG) and Chairman of Rail & Bus for Herefordshire, then gave a Powerpoint presentation (as previously circulated to members) on a range of sustainable transport proposals for Hereford City, which covered:

- Introduction/GD's background and career in transport.
- Aims - Make Hereford a great and healthy city to live, work, study and relax.
- Segregated routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

- Electric buses, Ultra-Light Rail Systems/Trams
- City regeneration - Potential to link with new University on ULR sustainable transport project.
- Better city connectivity - Enterprise Zone, new South Wye housing development, large central brownfield site (previously identified for development in ESG plans), hospital routes, new university sites, railway station.
- 21st century innovation, engineering and sustainability.
- Improvement of city environment and air quality.
- Promotion of healthy lifestyles.

At the end of the presentation, members' comments and questions covered:

- Thanks to GD for his presentation.
- Support for some of the transport proposals - Ideas regarded as very good and innovative, especially electric buses as way to address city's pollution.
- Cycling and electric buses - Economically sound - Need to really push these ideas forward.
- Uncertainty on proposal for trams - Doubt raised that the Great Western Way route identified was wide enough to accommodate narrow gauge trams alongside high numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using those busy pathways.
- Accessing tram services could be difficult for elderly people.
- City's private bus service would be decimated - What about outlying places and villages extending out from City?
- Trams - Could look at in more depth - Young people on HAP asking for this type of transport.
- Recognition that a good plan network for Hereford was needed in terms of 'moving people, not cars'.
- Challenges on some of GD's proposals - Hereford City could not access wealth in the same ways that other cities did.
- Needs private partners to find project design and right financial backing.
- Timescale needed and costs required.
- Lack of political will - Need to seek other ways to approach this and make progressive changes happen.
- City Council should be supporting GD's proposals - Desire to see Hereford city lifted up and progressing.

Members then put forward their comments and questions. Gareth Davies was thanked for his presentation and members expressed support for some of the transport proposals which were regarded as good, innovative ideas, however, some uncertainty was voiced on the proposal for trams. A member raised doubt that the Great Western Way route identified would be wide enough to accommodate narrow gauge trams alongside the high numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using those busy pathways. Whilst they recognised that a good plan network for Hereford was needed in terms of 'moving people, not cars', some of the proposals presented were challenged and it was pointed out that Hereford City could not access wealth in the same ways that other cities did.

Gareth Davies referred to the original transport hub idea and was pleased that this initiative was still alive with Herefordshire Council, however, he had been unable to get any information on timescales and plans from either HC or BBLP. He then responded to points raised by members as follows:

- Trams - GD and engineers had walked the Great Western Way which showed as a main line of two railways, with embankments either side. Although it looks deceptively narrow due to trees encroaching on space, it is capable of

accommodating a tram network alongside wide pedestrian and cycle ways – He could produce some drawings to illustrate, for members.

- Electric buses – There was no intention to withdraw buses from South Wye - There would be a comprehensive network including an enhanced system of bus routes as well as trams. He questioned why Herefordshire was not applying for electric buses now, adding that Government does not like subsidy but does like capital grants, but there was a long way to go with this yet. Operators could run electric buses to outlying places such as Ledbury given that electric buses could do six circuits of the city on one battery charge. The vehicles are recharged in approximately 60 seconds by driving onto the recharge pads.
- Finance – HC did not have the funds or the willpower to get involved in the new transport proposals. Finance would need to come from outside sources - grants and various schemes were being offered throughout the world. External financing was the only way sustainable transport would happen in Hereford - it was a question of tapping it at the right time with the relevant schemes but, was worth a try.

During members' discussion, it was requested and agreed that the Clerk writes to Herefordshire Council to ask when the proposed ESG transport hub was likely to be delivered and to feedback their response to members at a future committee meeting.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Mayor thanked Mr Davies for his presentation.

C2018/2019.60 VISIT TO JAWORZNO, POLAND

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a brief presentation on the recent visit by herself, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Lloyd-Hayes to Jaworzno.

Linking with the previous presentation – one major feature had been the transport systems. The city uses electric buses and introduced them in 2017. There is a flat fee equivalent to 10p. They have opened their first separate cycle and electric cycle highway and have electric bikes for loan. The group visited a geological education centre and a country park which were impressive and generally the extremely well maintained and clean public spaces were a marked contrast to much of Hereford. There is significantly more investment in these issues in Poland. Parking is well organised with large car parks on the city edge and good public transport links, with some small short stay car parks at low cost in the city centre.

The reception and welcome by the hosts was outstanding. The first official event was the opening of the velustrada (the cycleway). The city is a similar size to Hereford and there is live entertainment in the central area quite often. There is a lot of community involvement in building hubs around libraries and public buildings which are multi-use including small community cinemas ranging from family rooms to 20-30 seater. The one visited had a piano and a seating area for informal gatherings and was well used as a contact point for friends and neighbours. An old quarry had been adapted to be a scuba training area and the city's mining history was well portrayed in the local museum. Part of the visit was the signing by the Mayor and President of the official linking document. The group also visited Krakow, the nearest major city with a long history and many fine buildings.

The visit had been very well planned by Jaworzno and had given much food for thought on how community development could benefit Hereford.

In response to the presentation Council congratulated the President on his re-election and noted that a cycleway like theirs could be developed in Hereford, and should be. In answer to a question it was confirmed that follow up in much more detail and proposals for ideas seen that could be developed in Hereford would be referred to Community Development Committee for detailed discussion. It was noted that Poland has made a rapid transition from communism to democracy and show what amazing things can be done where there is the political will to do them.

C2018/2019.61 HEREFORD THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL - SUMMARY REPORT

The Clerk reported that some summary data from the recent Three Choirs in Hereford had been received and was presented for information. It was not sufficient to be the basis for any decision and more information would be made available to Community Development Committee on 6th November.

C2018/2019.62 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION

The Mayor welcomed Fabien Bernagout the Deputy Mayor of Vierzon to the meeting and confirmed that the Ladies Rugby Team had arrived and were enjoying their visit. They had a very busy programme of activities. In answer to a question the Mayor confirmed that she is trying to get more activity related to the existing twinnings during her mayoral year. The Mayor also confirmed in answer to a question that the work for the visit had been done by the Secretary John Marshall and the Council thanked him for his efforts.

C2018/2019.63 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES:

Community Development Committee: 18th September

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee the Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Friends of Castle Green had not been able to accept the offer of the gazebos. The permission to donate them to a community group remained in place if another group was interested and would accept the conditions.

Finance & Policy Committee:

4th September

16th October **(to follow)**

APPENDIX SIX

Governance & Procedures Committee:

21st August

25th September **(to follow)**

Councillor Lloyd-Hayes reported that joint working with Unison is underway to update policies and procedures.

APPENDIX SEVEN

Planning & Highways Committee:

20th September

11th October **(to follow)**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair the minutes were noted.

APPENDIX EIGHT

C2018/2019.64 REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from members who represent the City Council on the following bodies:

- a) **Municipal Charities (x 2 Members) Cllrs Boulter and Hey – mtg in 2 weeks time.**
- b) **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x 1 Member - Cllr Wilcox to attend ad hoc meetings)** Nothing to report.
- c) **HALC Executive Committee (x 3 Members) Cllr Griffiths** (plus two outstanding vacancies) – no volunteers to fill vac – nothing reported.
- d) **HALC Southern Area Meeting (x 2 Members) Cllr Griffiths** (plus one outstanding vacancy) nothing reported
- e) **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (x 1 Member) Cllr Griffiths** nothing reported
- f) **Three Choirs Festival (x 3 Members) Cllrs Bushkes, Chappell and Lloyd-Hayes** – nothing to report
- g) **Hereford Twinning Association** (x 1 Member who is always the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford as President of the Twinning Association). Nothing to add to the item in Mayor's Communication. .
- h) **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member) Cllr Lloyd-Hayes**
Councillor Lloyd-Hayes reported that a meeting is due next week which she will attend. The silver museum is attracting more visitors and the TIC in the Butter Market is going well.
- i) **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member) Cllr Boulter**
The Mayor reported that the team had gained a Gold Award and there would be a reception in the parlour on 1st November to congratulate them, which members were welcome to attend.
- j) **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members) Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Stevens**
Councillor Lloyd-Hayes reported that the inauguration at the cathedral had been a great success, including contributions from schools and choirs, academics, the new student cohort and both Councils.
- k) **Close House (x 1 Member) Cllr Kenyon –**
Councillor Kenyon reported that Close House continues to do a fantastic job among the City's young people.
- l) **The BID group (x 1 Member) Cllr Stevens** – Councillor Edwards confirmed that at a meeting he had asked if new pavement would be sealed – confirmed yes they will be steam cleaned and sealed.
- m) **Magna Carta Committee (x 1 Member) Cllr Lloyd-Hayes** – no mtg.
- n) **Hereford Area Plan (x 2 Members) Cllrs Griffiths and Lloyd-Hayes**

Councillor Lloyd-Hayes reported that the HAP is progressing. The City have made the point that it must look at whole of outside of Hereford including the

approach from the east. There are long meetings, and it is very good that the Youth Council are taking part and coming up with excellent suggestions. Councillor Kenyon reported the concerns of residents in Tupsley area – better ways of investigating potential development sites – hoping consultation will be taken on board. The Clerk reported that the planning authority looked at and mapped lot of sites which in fact cannot be developed as it must show to external scrutiny that it has covered every site. Potentially desirable sites are also identified. It could have done more to explain to residents near those sites. The consultation responses will be made to HAP working party. The more people involved in the consultation system the more strength it would give. Assurances have been given about bio diversity, protected woodland, etc. in the decision making process. An update was given on progress towards a policy on Housing in Multiple Occupation.

- o) Community Land Trust (x 1 Member) Cllr Michael** – Nothing to report although a meeting is due soon..

C2018/2019.65 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported that Councillor Kenyon has stood down from Governance and Procedures Committee, creating a vacancy. Members agreed to consider this at their next meeting.

C2018/2019.66 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 4th DECEMBER 2018, at 6 PM
The meeting will include Junior Mayor Making

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.32pm

Signed

Date