

# HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Cllrs Butler, Chappell, Dykes, Edwards, Hey, Kenyon, Lloyd-Hayes, Michael, Rone, Tillett and Wilcox.

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllrs Baker and Mansell.

### **C2018/19.98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllrs Bushkes, Griffiths, Stevens and Tawn.

### **C2018/19.99 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.

### **C2018/19.100 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

### **C2018/19.101 MINUTES**

Members considered and approved the **Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019** and **Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council held on the 28 February 2019**.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council held on the 28 February 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and be duly signed by the Chair.**

### **C2018/19.102 GREEN DRAGON HOTEL – PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation from representatives of the Green Dragon regarding proposed plans to regenerate the Green Dragon Hotel and Broad Street.

The presentation covered the following:

- Took over the Green Dragon 20 August 2018.
- 83 en-suite bedrooms
- Ballroom and other hospitality facilities.
- Restoration works
- Works to the Façade – scaffolding started going up Monday – works to be completed in approximately 2 months – off stone colour with green paintwork.
- Ground floor space consists mostly of hospitality and services/staff.
- Ballroom event space should be ready in May/June

- Cocktail bar will be aimed at high end
- Brasserie more affordable
- Current bar will be open from 7am serving coffee and pastries etc. In the evening it will serve as a bar
- Café/lounge will work on a reservations basis and will serve afternoon teas.
- Just signed contract for all the work to be carried out
- Cost £2½ million
- Hereford is an unusual market
- The aim is to draw in not only local people but also a national and international audience.
- Ground floor area will be all about local Herefordshire food and drink and will be the platform for local independent businesses.
- Rooms will be reasonably priced – Boutique Budget Hotel – approx. £100 per night.
- Looking to continue road treatment in High Town down Broad Street with an outside café culture the frontage of the hotel.
- Aim to regenerate the food and drink market in Broad Street area.
- People now do not want to just go shopping in their City Centre they want events and activities as well. Chester and Cheshire were used as examples delivering this and their success at increasing footfall to their City Centre.
- The innovative street scene scheme was originally put on the table in 2014 but there was resistance to the ideas then. Now it is back on the table and they are positive it will go ahead and possibly continue down Kings Street.

Members were asked if they had any questions. These covered the following:

- Concerns with regards to the street scene scheme and the issues resulting from the kerbs in Widemarsh Street. – Confirmed that the scheme will be flat as the curbed scheme is no longer legal.
- A double hatted Cllr said they were not aware of the proposed street scene scheme at county level. – Confirmed they had spoken to Officers at Hfds C and confirmed they are behind the scheme.
- Exciting
- Innovative
- Spot on
- Thank you

There being no further questions or comments the Mayor thanked the representatives for their presentation and their time.

### **C2018/19.103 NMiTE – UPDATE PRESENTATION**

Members received a presentation from Professor Elena Rodriguez-Falcon, CEO, updating Members on developments at the New Model in Technology & Engineering.

The presentation covered the following:

- Appointed as CEO last November.
- Brief overview of the work so far
- The challenges
- Shortfall of skills in university education and innovation
- Students attend for 46 weeks per year over a three-year period
- Teaching groups are 25 per group

- Students working with local companies whilst developing their skills
- Need a lot of involvement from local industry to deliver this style of curriculum
- Design cohort of currently 25 university aged – pilot – covering what they feel is good and what needs to be changed or improved.
- Importance of having young people engaged with the development and delivery of the new university.
- Students will be expected to contribute to the community
- Millar Court currently providing student accommodation space.
- Progressing with development of building in Blackfriars Street
- The planning application for Station Approach has been approved.
- Fluidity between physical and digital.
- Example of the design vision for Blackfriars by cohort students.
- The next stages –
- Sept 2019 aim to have 50 student cohort
- Sept 2020 200 student cohort
- Aim to have 1,000 by 2023
- Continuation of fundraising

The floor was opened to questions which covered:

- If there are currently any students from abroad in the present student cohort
- New dawn for the City
- Importance of the night time economy especially with the new students coming in.

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked Ms Rodriguez-Falcon for her presentation and she left the Chamber.

The Mayor informed Members she was going to receive item 11 to this point in the meeting and asked Alex Haines from HALO Leisure and Owen Davies from Owen Davies to come up and present in relation to the Closed-Circuit Cycle track.

#### **C2018/19.104 HALO LEISURE LTD – CLOSED CIRCUIT CYCLE TRACK GRANT APPLICATION**

Members noted and considered a large grant application from Halo Leisure Ltd for £50,000.00 to help fund the construction of a closed-circuit cycle track and considered a recommendation from Community Development Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The presentation covered the following:

- Overview of the project so far
- Development of the business case to this point
- Strong and long dialog with British Cycling who recognize the need and benefit to Hereford of this project.
- Application submitted February 19 to BC for £400,000 from the 15 million pound funding pot to support this project
- First stage of long process, if successful will go through to the next stage
- Not sure what they will be expected to submit for the second stage of the funding application – waiting to hear – expect it to be about how they will deliver the project

- 1,000 followers on the Closed Circuit Cycle Track Facebook page
- Need to find match funding
- Looking at various funding pots
- Grateful if Hereford City Council can help with funding support

The floor was opened to questions which covered the following:

- Numerous members spoke in favour of the project
- 2 amendments to the recommendation from the Committee were proposed
- Number of people in the City who don't own bikes that will not benefit from this large funding award
- Essential to have written evidence that this project will happen
- Has confirmation been received from Herefordshire Housing with regards to the £50,000 106 money towards the project?
- Has written confirmation been received with regards to the £100,000 covenant money?
- Wish to see a full business plan prepared for this project.
- Planning approval expires April 2020
- £40,000 has already been awarded to this project by Hereford City Council
- Where is there written evidence that from anyone else supporting this project with funding?
- Where is the written evidence of the funding support claimed to have already been pledged? – There has been no commitment from other sources at present.
- The next stage of the British Cycling application will provide Hereford City Council with all the information they are asking for with regards to the business plan and the funding.
- No other funding awarded to support this project so far except for the £40,000 awarded by Hereford City Council.
- 12 week timeframe to hear back from British Cycling with regards to the first stage of the application.
- There is no question about the City Council's support for this project as that is evident with the £40,000 it has already committed to this project.
- Need to think of the number of the public that would benefit from this project
- The City Council has committed a large amount of funding to this project and should not be committing any more. It should be down to other funding bodies now to support the project.
- This project was sold to the public at the start off stating it was not going to cost the tax payer any money, but it has already cost the tax payer £40,000
- Where is the written confirmation of the £50,000 and the £100,000?
- Explanation of the difference between a 1 km and 1.5 km cycle track.

Cllr Edwards asked the Town Clerk to read out the amended proposal to ensure all Members understand and are satisfied with the proposal they are voting and to ensure that the newly elected council will be happy to support this project going forward and the delivery of the project will be properly managed.

The Town Clerk read out the amended proposal and confirmed that the decision to release the money will be made by him and reported back to the appropriate committee.

KH proposed the amended proposal, seconded by Cllr Rone and it was put to the vote with 9 for, 1 against and 1 abstention

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Council approves that a sum of £50,000 be taken from the general reserve and held in an earmarked reserve for up to two years and that the funding be released to enable the project to proceed when sufficient funding from other sources is confirmed in writing and is available to deliver the whole project and a satisfactory business plan has been produced and ratified by the Town Clerk.**

**C2018/19.105 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT**

Members considered and approved a nomination from Members of the Council for Mayor Elect for 2019/2020.

Cllr Kenyon Proposed Cllr Hey which was seconded by Cllr Lloyd-Hayes. It was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Hey is nominated as Mayor Elect for 2019-2020.**

Members considered and approved a nomination from Members of the Council for Deputy Mayor Elect for 2019/2020.

Cllr Chappell proposed Cllr Stevens for Deputy Mayor Elect.

There was much discussion covering Cllr Steven's suitability as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Kenyon seconded Cllr Chappell's proposal

Concerns were raised by Members regarding the following:

- Commitment to the civic element of the Mayoralty
- Having never attended a civic event previously it is a concern Cllr Stevens will know what is expected of him in this role and the duties he will need to carry out
- Concerns that for four years since elected RSVP emails in response to invitations for civic events have been received from Cllr Stevens stating he does not partake in official or civic events
- Assurance that Cllr Stevens will acknowledge and respect all areas of religion within the City communities as part of the duties expected of the Mayor.
- Concerns over Cllr Stevens upholding the tradition element of the Mayoralty
- The need for confirmation from Cllr Stevens that he will not embarrass the Mayoralty and the City
- Proposal to defer the item to the next meeting of Council to get confirmation of the above from Cllr Stevens.
- Several Members stated that Cllr Stevens had confirmed to them that he would ensure he would uphold all the civic elements expected of the Mayor and would carry out all the duties expected of the role.

The Mayor proposed to defer the item to the next meeting, and this was seconded by Cllr Hey.

This was put to the vote – 2 voted in favour, 6 voted against and two abstained.

Cllr Chappell's proposal was put to the vote – 10 voted in favour 1 voted against

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cllr Stevens is nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2019-2020.**

**C2018/19.106 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND CIVIC EVENTS**

Members noted and unanimously approved the Calendar for Council, Committee and Civic Events for 2019-2020.

**RESOLVED:**

**Members approved the Calendar for Council, Committee and Civic Events for 2019-2020.**

**C2018/19.107 NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL**

Members received and considered the Notice of Motion put forward to Council by Cllr Chappell regarding auditing and reporting milestones and artefacts within the City.

*Notice of Motion.*

*Across the city there are a number of mile stones, some 200 hundred years old. Recently, two mile stones were removed from Ross Road and Holme Lacy Road when Highways England started on their new road scheme. These have been located and are currently being restored in Stafford.*

*There are a number of these historic donators of times gone by across the city which, if not recorded and safeguarded will be lost forever.*

*We petition Hereford City Council to do an audit and keep a record of all the mile stones, and similar artefacts in the city, to assist contractors and developers to preserve before they undertake any ground work in the city.*

*Proposed: Cllr Chris Chappell.*

Cllr Chappell gave a detailed explanation behind his reasons for bringing this motion to council.

Cllr Lloyd-Hayes seconded Cllr Chappell's motion and spoke of an occasion when George Hyde was Mayor and an event, walking of the boundary stones.

Cllr Edwards informed Members that he felt it was not productive of Officer time that things are being done twice as Herefordshire Council already keep these records and keep the records up to date.

Cllr Edwards also informed Members this motion was put to Herefordshire Council and was unanimously supported.

Cllr Edwards proposed that all Members support Herefordshire Council in keeping their records up to date.

Cllr Chappell explained to Members he was not just talking milestones but fingerposts and other things too. Cllr Chappell informed Members he was not expecting the City Council to keep these records up to date, it could be any organisation such as the Civic Society.

The proposal was put to the vote, 9 voted in favour with 1 abstention

**RESOLVED:**

**That all Members support Herefordshire Council in keeping their records up to date.**

**C2018/19.108 NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL**

Members received and considered the Notice of Motion to Council regarding climate change.

*Notice of Motion.*

*Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels.*

*Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.*

*It is imperative that as a species we reduce our carbon dioxide levels from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.*

*Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Government at a national and local level needs to change its laws, taxation and infrastructure to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.*

*City Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and are lobbying and committing resources to address this emergency.*

***Recommendations:***

***The Mayor will contact the Leader of Herefordshire Council and express members' concerns about a 'Climate Emergency'.***

***We will remind Herefordshire Council that they have a duty of care to their residents.***

***What are they doing to lobby central government and planning for ways in which carbon emissions can be reduced.***

***Hereford City Council will lead with examples of best practice where possible to show we are committed to carbon reduction measures. We will continue to lobby Herefordshire Council to ensure good practice is carried out at a county level.***

***Hereford City Council will work with partners across the city and region to deliver the goal of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.***

***The Town Clerk will contact our local MPs Jesse Norman and Bill Wiggin asking them to report back to the city council on what is being done at Westminster to tackle the issue of climate change. This should be done as a matter of urgency with the long term view of making Hereford City carbon neutral by 2030.***

***Proposed: Kath Hey***

Cllr Hey informed Members that this subject was very current and important now. And that a similar motion was accepted at Herefordshire Council last week.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Kenyon.

Members comments covered the following points:

- Every individual needs to take responsibility for their own carbon footprint and there is no substance behind this motion unless this happens.
- What is required is leadership in this matter.

Cllr Wilcox read out a statement and proposed that the motion is amended to take into account the motion passed at Herefordshire Council.

Cllr Hey proposed deferring the motion to the next meeting to work with Cllr Wilcox on the proposal.

Cllr Edwards suggested that if you changed some of the words in the first paragraph  
To read 'remind Herefordshire Council of it's due duty of care to its residents'

Cllr Kenyon said he was happy with Cllr Edwards suggestion if this was acceptable to Cllr Hey.

Cllr Rone queried 'duty of care' should it not be to the environment not the residents.

Cllr Edwards proposed the question was put to the vote and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED:**

**The Mayor will contact the Leader of Herefordshire Council and express members' concerns about a 'Climate Emergency'.**

**Hereford City Council will remind Herefordshire Council that they have a duty of care to their residents.**

**Hereford City Council will ask what Herefordshire Council are doing to lobby central government and planning for ways in which carbon emissions can be reduced.**

**Hereford City Council will lead with examples of best practice where possible to show it is committed to carbon reduction measures. Hereford City Council will continue to lobby Herefordshire Council to ensure good practice is carried out at a county level.**

**Hereford City Council will work with partners across the city and region to deliver the goal of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

**The Town Clerk will contact the county's local MPs Jesse Norman and Bill Wiggan asking them to report back to the City Council on what is being done at Westminster to tackle the issue of climate change. This should be done as a matter of urgency with the long term view of making Hereford City carbon neutral by 2030.**

**C2018/19.109 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATION**

There were no communications from The Right Worshipful the Mayor.

**C2018/19.110 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES:**

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

**Community Development Committee:**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (Grants)

**Finance & Policy Committee:**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Governance & Procedures Committee:**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2019



Cllr Lloyd-Hayes informed Members that there was a meeting of members on the 21 March to receive the report from Hoople with regards to staff job descriptions and contracts.

**Planning & Highways Committee:**

31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

21<sup>st</sup> February 2019

**C2018/19.111 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**  
Nothing to report.
- 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)**  
Nothing to report.
- d) **HALC Southern Area Meeting (x 2 Members) Cllr Griffiths (plus one outstanding vacancy)**  
Nothing to report.
- e) **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (x 1 Member) Cllr Griffiths**  
Nothing to report.
- f) **Three Choirs Festival (x 3 Members) Cllrs Chappell, Lloyd-Hayes and Tillett**  
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)**  
Visit from Vierzon in May
- h) **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member) Cllr Lloyd-Hayes**  
Reported the current secretary had sadly passed away and the group were looking for a volunteer to fulfil this role.
- i) **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member) Cllr Boulter**  
Nothing to report.
- j) **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members) Cllrs Lloyd-Hayes and Stevens**  
Nothing to report.
- k) **Close House (x 1 Member) Cllr Kenyon**  
Nothing to report.
- l) **The BID group (x 1 Member) Cllr Stevens**  
Nothing to report.
- m) **Hereford Area Plan (x 2 Members) Cllrs Griffiths and Lloyd-Hayes**  
Still no meetings. Request the Town Clerk writes to Herefordshire Council and raises HCC's concerns.
- n) **Community Land Trust (x 1 Member) Cllr Michael**  
Cllr Michael has met the new Chairman and the next meeting is on Thursday.

**C2018/19.112 TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Members received communications from the Town Clerk as follows:

- Report as circulated for annual SLCC Practitioners' Conference he attended.
- Asked for cheque signatories to stay behind after the meeting to sign cheques.

Cllr Kenyon suggested the Council goes paperless.

Cllr Chappell asked that water in future for Council meetings is provided in jugs.

Cllr Rone offered to buy some jugs and help fill the jugs for the meetings.

**C2018/19.113 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019, at 6 PM

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.26 pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....