

HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2019

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful The Mayor Cllr Hey and Cllrs Andrews, Butler, Dykes, Foxton, Hornsey, Hunt, Milln, Oliver, Powell, Stevens, Tillett, Toynebee, Tyler, Wilcox and Williams.

Also present was Carmello Garcia from the Hereford Times.

C2019/20.54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Were received from Cllrs Boulter and Kenyon.

C2019/20.55 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.

C2019/20.56 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions from members of the public present.

C2019/20.57 MINUTES

Members considered the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 25th June 2019 and the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 17th September 2019, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 25th June 2019 and the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 17th September 2019 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and be duly signed by the Chair.

C2019/20.58 BUSINESS PLAN

The Town Clerk (TC) gave an overview of the Business Plan and its proposals and staffing and financial implications. He explained that it is not a finite plan at this stage – it is still in the working document stage due to many devolution discussions with Herefordshire Council still being in their infancy. Planning Committee have used the plan to come up with a series of policy objectives, Community Development Committee have come up with community orientated proposals mainly around the devolution of services and Governance and Procedures Committee have looked at the staffing implications. If approved thus far, at this Council meeting, Finance Committee will then have a mandate to develop a budget and Community Development will prioritise their activities – the TC advised that it

may be prudent to have Off Street Parking high on the agenda as it is the only revenue generating activity, to help fund the other activities.

Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- Ensuring HCC doesn't bind itself through this plan to activities or actions that are fluid (for example the recent changes to the relationship with Friends of Castle Green and events) and doesn't commit to providing any services that might prove difficult in the future – the plan isn't a legally binding document, it is more of a statement of intent.
- Taking ownership of activities in the City.
- Thanked officers and committees for their work – need to ensure transfer of responsibilities to the working groups.
- Suggestion of additional working groups covering climate, environmental impact and health and wellbeing.
- Suggestion of an additional objective to ensure electronic goods are recycled.

It was proposed by Cllr Toynbee, seconded by Cllr Oliver and voted on with 14 for and one abstention and

RESOLVED:

To create an additional working group covering Climate Emergency and Environmental Impact.

It was proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by Cllr Stevens and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Council endorses the business plan for delivery from now up to the next elections.

That Council instructs each committee to identify their specific contributions and to agree a timed programme for delivery against these objectives in line with available resources.

That Council instructs the Finance and Policy Committee to consider the resourcing of the business plan in setting the budget for 2020/21 and following years.

C2019/20.59 NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL

Cllr Hey gave a summary of the motion and then passed over to Cllr Stevens, who explained that in his role as Deputy Mayor, he has been to several functions relating to health and wellbeing and men's mental health and has personally suffered with mental health problems since his youth, so feels HCC should be supporting this. He explained that he and the Town Clerk will be attending mental health first aid training in December provided by Services for Independent Living and will evaluate it, report back to Council and then decide whether to roll-out to all staff.

Comments, questions and discussions covered:

- How will "Blue Monday" help – isn't it more important to campaign for more money to be spent on mental health services? HCC are responsible for lobbying on

matters and promotion of this day will highlight the issues, including needing more money.

- Support from a Cllr who works with young people, some with mental health issues – very important to lobby and try to get it part of the national framework.
- Wholehearted support from a Cllr who has suffered with mental health issues since the age of 13 – if there was a day and a safe space when they were in their darker days, they would have been there. Need to break the stigma and get talking, especially in relation to farmers who are often male and working in an isolated environment and are also a large part of the local demographic.
- Reminder about the “Let’s Listen” initiative and urges everyone to get behind it.
- There are safe spaces around the City for people in crisis – could Town Hall be designated one?

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Hey and voted on with 14 for and one abstention and

RESOLVED:

That City Council recognises the importance of mental health and supports Herefordshire Council’s “Let’s Listen” campaign, including recognising the third Monday in January as “Blue Monday”.

C2019/20.60 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave an overview of some of the key events she has attended recently, including the Ciderlands Festival, Trafalgar Day Parade and the Armed Forces Partnership Covenant event (aim to renew HCC’s pledge).

Cllr Hey informed Cllrs that the Junior Mayor interviews were successful and that there were 18 nominations in total with two days of interviews. The successful candidate had been informed by letter that day and will be installed on 10th December.

Additionally she informed Cllrs that their communities might want to arrange street parties for the 75th anniversary of VE day on Friday May 8th as there are coordinated events across the country and reminded everyone that HCC would be in High Town Wednesday 30th October to promote the Love Exploring app.

C2019/20.61 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES:

To note the draft minutes of the meetings, as laid out below:

Governance and Procedures Committee

The Chair drew Members’ attention to the need to nominate a lead Member for the period of an administration, to represent HCC at Hereford Twinning Association meetings, as discussed at the last committee meeting – Cllr Hey asked that this be dealt with under Item 10. Cllr Tillett raised that he had been approached by a member of the public, thinking that the Twinning Association was being taken over by HCC. He explained no, and thinks this misunderstanding may have arisen from the minute to nominate a lead Member.

15th October 2019 – Noted

Finance and Policy Committee

No Meetings

Community Development Committee

22nd July 2019 (Grants) – Noted

23rd September 2019 (Grants) – Wrongly typed in Agenda as 2049 – Noted

24th September 2019 – Noted

Planning and Highways Committee

Cllr Andrews informed Members about a presentation from Taylor Wimpey regarding a large development at Grafton of approx. 300 houses – there was no reference to an intent to develop with climate change in mind, despite numerous questions asking what they will initiate in the development to address this issue. Hopes acknowledgment of the questions would be included in full planning application.

12th September 2019 – Noted

10th October 2019 – Not included with the Agenda – to be included in next Council meeting.

C2019/20.62 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council received Cllr Kenyon's resignation from Governance & Procedures Committee and all Members were asked if they would like to fill the vacancy. With no volunteers, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

To leave the vacancy on Government & Procedures Committee open.

C2019/20.63 ENFORCEMENT & STREET SCENE, CLEANING & MAINTENANCE WORKING PARTY

The Town Clerk explained that it was decided at Community Development Committee on Tuesday 24th September that the above topics be combined under one working group with the same Members, however the nomination was accidentally omitted. Cllrs Andrews, Wilcox and Williams were then nominated for the working party.

Cllr Tillet proposed and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

To increase the number of Cllrs on the working party from two to three.

That Council appoints three Members of council, Cllrs Andrews, Wilcox and Williams, to work with the Clerk and Deputy, in consultation with the relevant bodies, on the Enforcement and Street Scene, Cleaning and Maintenance working party.

Their remit includes pressing for a joined up enforcement service and that the City Council officers bring forward a costed proposal for a contribution to that service to buy additional enforcement time to be deployed within the city area on priorities determined by the City Council.

Their remit also includes bringing a fully costed proposal forward to develop a model, similar to that currently being delivered in Leominster, for Hereford ensuring the look and feel of the City is delivered to a gold quality standard.

Nominations for the new Climate Emergency and Environmental Impact working party were also considered under this item and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Council appoints two Members of Council, Cllrs Toynbee and Oliver to the Climate Emergency and Environmental Impact working party, with the Clerk and Deputy, in consultation with the relevant bodies.

As mentioned in Minute 61, it should also have been on the Agenda to nominate a lead Member to represent HCC at Hereford Twinning Association meetings. It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox and seconded by Cllr Stevens that this be Cllr Dykes, but with the amendment that the remit of the person be enlarged to monitor the Twinning budget, and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That Council appoints Cllr Dykes as the lead Member to represent HCC at Hereford Twinning Association meetings for the duration of the present administration and to ensure the Twinning budget is monitored effectively.

C2019/20.64 REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members were asked to report any relevant information from attendance at meetings of outside bodies.

- a) **Municipal Charities (x 1 Member)** Cllr Boulter
Cllr Boulter had given apologies so unable to report.
- b) **Herefordshire Market Towns Forum (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Andrews and Hunt
No meeting yet – nothing to report *(for ad hoc meetings)*
- c) **The Enterprise Zone Stakeholder Group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Hornsey
Cllr Hornsey attended a meeting recently where discussions covered environmentally friendly lighting of the Greenway Route as a preventative measure against anti-social behaviour, the progression of the Holme Lacy Road Improvement Scheme as part of the South Wye Transport Package including moving the bus stop which has been causing issues and a new Park and Choose site at Festival Way in Rotherwas where people can collect Beryl Bikes or walk into town.
- d) **Three Choirs Festival (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Foxtton and Hornsey
No meeting yet – nothing to report
- e) **Hereford Twinning Association (x 1 Member)** who is always the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford as President of the Twinning Association and **(x 1 Lead Member)** Cllr Dykes
Cllr Hey informed Members about her successful trip to Dillenburg in September to celebrate their 675th anniversary of their town charter and 30 years of the twinning relationship with Hereford. The Mayor's speech regarding ensuring relationships are

nurtured was well received, especially due to Brexit. Cllr Hey also informed Members of the recent discussions with the president of the Twinning Association to ensure visits are meaningful.

- f) **Hereford City Tourism Group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Hornsey
No meeting yet – nothing to report
- g) **Hereford in Bloom (x 1 Member)** Cllr Boulter
Cllr Boulter had given apologies so unable to report.
- h) **New Hereford University Working Group (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Powell and Stevens
No meeting – nothing to report, however have been approached to arrange one.
- i) **Close House (x 1 Member)** Cllr Boulter
Cllr Boulter had given apologies so unable to report.
- j) **The BID Group (x 1 Member)** Cllr Stevens
Cllr Stevens informed Members that the ballot had resulted in a successful vote for a second term of the BID. Turn out was 41% with 80% in favour and 90% of rateable values.
- k) **Hereford Area Plan (x 2 Members)** Cllrs Powell and Stevens
No meeting – nothing to report
- l) **Community Land Trust (x 1 Member)** Cllr Milln
Cllr Milln informed Members that work continues on two fronts: looking at sites within the City, historic buildings largely, for which a funding application is in; and at vacant sites outside of the City. The new administration has signaled changes to the way it will provide social housing and the CLT hope to be a part of that. Limited visibility of CLT until a site is found but addressing this by running events in High Town to raise awareness.

C2019/20.65 TOWN CLERK’S COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Clerk informed Members about copies of the notice of the Great Collaboration – Members are able to sign up to that event if they wish. He also informed Members about the passing of Judith Hereford on Thursday 24th October.

He asked Members to collect their Civic Society newsletters on the way out.

C2019/20.66 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 21ST JANUARY 2020, at 6 PM.

There being no further business the Mayor called the meeting to a close at 19.09hrs

Signed.....

Dated.....