HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 25 June 2024

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Kevin Tillett and Councillors Andrews, Boulter, Carwardine, Foxton, Griffiths, Hobbs, Hornsey, Kenyon, Milln, Owens, Potts, Powell, Proctor and Toynbee.

Attending: Becci O'Reilly Administration and Events Manager and Alyson Kinsey Finance Officer.

C2024/25.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Mark Dykes, Adam Spencer and Paul Stevens. It was proposed by Councillor Tillett, seconded by Councillor Powell and unanimously

RESOLVED That these apologies be accepted.

C2024/25.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

C2024/25.21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

C2024/25.22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Andrew and with 13 in favour and 2 abstentions

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council on 21 May and the meeting of Council on 28 May 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and signed accordingly by the Mayor.

C2024/25.23 2023/24 FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The 2023/24 Final Internal Audit Report was presented to Council with no issues, as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 June 2024. Thanks were given to the staff involved. It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Potts and unanimously

RESOLVED That the 2023/24 Final Internal Audit Report be noted.

C2024/25.24 2023/24 REPORT ON VARIANCES, CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS & COMPLETION OF AGAR

The 2023/24 accounts, report on variances and draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return were presented to Council as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 June 2024. With no questions, it was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Andrews and unanimously

RESOLVED That the 2023/24 accounts be accepted and signed accordingly by the Responsible Financial Officer.

That the report on variances for the Financial Year 2023/24 be accepted.

That the AGAR be completed and that it be signed accordingly by the Acting Town Clerk/RFO and the Mayor and be submitted to the external auditor.

C2024/25.25 HEREFORD RIVER CARNIVAL LARGE GRANT APPLICATION £13,000

It was explained that the previous three year Service Level Agreement approved at Council held on 19 March 2024 was now null and void due to the recent cancellation of their largest event. Therefore, this item was to consider a large one-off grant for 2024/25 instead, to retrospectively approve the £3,000 that had already been awarded for the Hereford Happening and to consider the proposal for alternative activities for the remaining £10,000 as recommended by Community Development Grants Committee held on 11 June 2024.

It was proposed by Councillor Owens, seconded by Councillor Potts and with 8 in favour, 2 against and 5 abstentions

RESOLVED That Hereford River Carnival be awarded a grant of £13,000 for financial year 2024/25 for Hereford Happening and a series of smaller events as alternatives to the cancelled River Carnival.

C2024/25.26 MEMBER SUBSTITUTIONS

The Proper Officer had sought clarification on this point from HALC and the recommendation was debated and it was

AGREED That no resolution be made and that the Town Clerk would provide Councillors with more information.

C2024/25.27 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Kenyon, seconded by Councillor Hornsey and unanimously

RESOLVED That in order to enable confidential business to be discussed, the press and public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2).

C2024/25.28 HONORARY RECORDER

Some background information on the post and the candidates application were presented to Members.

It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Andrews and unanimously

RESOLVED That HHJ Martin Jackson be appointed to the ceremonial role of Honorary Recorder upon the retirement of HHJ Daniel Pearce-Higgins in December 2024 and an installation ceremony organised.

C2024/25.29 READMISSIONS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Confidential business having been concluded, it was agreed without a vote to readmit the press and public.

C2024/25.30 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor wanted to remind Members that even though the diary is busy, please do still extend invitations to any events in their wards that they would like publicity at, and he will always do his best to attend.

Councillor Tillett informed Members of his quarterly meetings with the Chief Superintendent and to remind them to inform him of any issues within their wards they want raised.

Regarding Twinning, the Mayor informed Members of the online meeting they had had with Vierzon about primary schools in both countries interacting. It was very successful with attendance of the Junior Mayor along with the Head of her secondary school St Mary's who is keen to engage. Special thanks were given to French speaker Councillor Toynbee who offered translation services which made the meeting much more productive.

C2024/25.31 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

The following minutes were reported for information:

Climate and Biodiversity Committee – 16 April 2024

Planning and Highways Committee – 2 and 30 May 2024

Policy and Resources Committee – 4 June 2024

Community Development Grants Committee – 11 June 2024

Youth Council – 15 April and 20 May 2024

C2024/25.32 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

a) **Hereford in Bloom (HiB)** – Councillor Foxton informed Members that there was a planning meeting on 4 June to discuss the judging tour route of 14 stops taking place on 3 July. A final meeting to tie up loose ends is taking place on 27 June. The Mayor will be meeting the judges. The Administration and Events Manager informed Members she had been in talks with Herefordshire Council and its contractors to try to push back the date of the erection of the scaffolding at the Black and White House, however all they could do was bring it forward, so it was nearer completion and therefore tidier. There was then a discussion about the recent garden party at Blackfriars Rose Gardens with Councillor Andrews conveying Anne Harbour's thanks for HCC's help and funding.

b) **Close House** – Councillor Potts informed Members that the Close House Board have been having budget discussions. HCC's service level agreement provides secure funding, which is very helpful, and they are very grateful, however when the HAF programme funding ends, it

is looking very bleak. They do a wonderful job and there is positive contribution from their young people so it would be a real shame if cuts have to take place.

c) **Hereford Business Improvement District (HBID)** – No report as Councillor Stevens had given apologies.

d) **Stronger Towns Board (STB)** – Councillor Proctor informed Members there had been one meeting but nothing to note.

e) **Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School (BHBS) Charity** – Councillor Foxton asked for a substitute for the next meeting on 20 November as she is away. It was proposed by Councillor Hornsey, seconded by Councillor Foxton and unanimously

RESOLVED That Councillor Kenyon attend as a substitute.

f) **Community Land Trust (CLT)** – Councillor Milln thanked the Council for their recent grant, informed Members that the small housing scheme in Barton Road had stalled but they were hoping the importance of affordable housing in the draft Local Plan might help rekindle it.

g) **Hereford Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (HALG)** – Councillor Kenyon informed Members that he meets with the Secretary weekly and everything is fine – no news is good news. The Administration and Events Manager informed Council about the works approved recently at Policy and Resources Committee to the fence and toilets.

h) **Hereford Association of Local Councils (HALC)** – Councillor Potts informed Members that the next Executive Meeting had been postponed which was a shame as he was hoping to hear about the conference so would chase.

i) **Three Choirs 2025** – Councillor Hornsey informed Members there had been no meetings, however, there would be a preview of the 2025 Hereford festival programme in August.

C2024/25.33 TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

In the Town Clerk's absence, the Administration and Events Manager reminded Members that the Town Clerk has name badges for all of them and reminded Members to respond to the Freedom Ceremony invitation.

C2024/25.34 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Mayor confirmed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Signed .....

Date.....