HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 OCTOBER 2025

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hereford Cllr Daniel Powell (in the Chair) and Councillors: Elizabeth Foxton, Debbie Hobbs, Diana Toynbee, Cat Hornsey, Jacqui Carwardine, Jeremy Milln, Rob Owens, Jim Kenyon, Sam Potts, Ben Proctor, Paul Stevens and Kevin Tillett.

Attending: Officers of the Council: Kim Carpenter – Town Clerk, Sarah Jones – Committee Co-ordinator,

DP welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that no fire evacuation test was planned, so if the alarms were to sound everyone was to leave the building.

He also remined all in attendance of the Nolan Principles of Public Life and the need to ensure that these principles were followed by all members of the council and its staff.

He also added that if members were unable to attend meetings, they need to send apologies for absence or provide a substitute.

C2025/26.52– APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Spencer, Dykes, Andrews and Boulter (Disp).

C2025/26.53 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were made, and there were no requests for dispensation.

C2025/26.54 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

C2025/26.55 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were some minor amendments proposed to the minutes, which were noted by the Town Clerk for inclusion following a vote of 8:2 with three abstentions for the proposed amendments.

DP proposed that with these changes the minutes were an accurate account of the meeting, this was carried by a vote of ten with one abstention.

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a true representation of Council Committee on 30 September once these changes had been made.

C2025/26.56 – FUTURE OF APPLEFEST

The Council thanked Cllr Stevens for his work on this event and supported the motion proposed by him to transfer the event to another organisation. Cllr Stevens proposed a slight amendment to the motion in that Applefest be offered to either the Cider Museum or The Three Counties Cider & Perry Association to organize and run. The amended motion was seconded by DP and carried by a unanimous vote.

It was RESOLVED to carry the amended motion that Applefest be offered to either The Cider Museum or The Three Counties Cider & Perry Association to organize and run.

C2025/26.57 – YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE AND PROPOSED DIRECTION

Cllr Proctor briefly spoke about the paper distributed with the agenda and pulled some key points from this to aid further discussion of the recommendations tabled in the report, with these being that Youth Council are currently restrained by the staffing resource available and that HCC could engage more deeply and support the Youth Council to achieve their ambitions with guidance and support from a youth worker.

There were comments about the current level of support provided for youth work by HCC with some councilors feeling unable to support the recommendations until more detailed costs were provided. This led to discussion about budget setting and whether we decide the budget first or to set out the councils' aims and areas of focus.

KT proposed the following:

This Council encourages the Finance Committee during the budget setting discussions to explore the potential for increased support for youth provision/support work. This was seconded by BP and carried with a vote of twelve with one abstention from PS who has been involved in the early budget setting discussions with the Town Clerk.

It was RESOLVED that during Budget Setting the potential for increased support for youth provision / support work would be explored.

C2025/26.58 – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The proposal to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2) as the remaining business of the meeting is confidential and personal to named individuals was proposed by CH, seconded by KT and agreed by unanimous resolution of Council.

C2025/26.59 – CONFIDENTIAL STAFFING

[REMOVED. Minutes of this item are contained in the Confidential Minute Folder under C2025/26.59]

C2025/26.60 – READMISSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The meeting resolved to readmit the press and public to the meeting and return to open session.

Cllr D Toynbee left the meeting.

C2025/26.61 – MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS

The Major spoke briefly about the British Empire Medal event the previous day, which went very well. He added that the highlight of his recent engagements was the Baton of Hope event where he walked the entire route and the 55th anniversary of Fijian Independence where he offered to present a major's shield, and this would be organized at the Town Hall in due course.

DP reminded the meeting of the forthcoming Remembrance Day and Armistice Day events and also encouraged all members to engage with the Website Survey, developed by Sophie, and that this could be shared with the wider community as it would help shape the future of the website.

DP then spoke about the misinformation around HCC signing the parish charter and that he asked for this to be corrected and an apology was added to the comments on the Facebook post.

C2025/26.62 – REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Following reports were received:

a) Hereford in Bloom – EF gave a brief resume of the activities of Hereford in Bloom throughout the year and the Gold Award they had achieved. She also spoke about the Rose Garden project, which is supported by volunteers and how this has been awarded a special Chairs Award & trophy, this is the third Chairs Award presented to Herefordshire projects.
b) Close House – There was nothing to report at this time.
c) Hereford BID – PS spoke about the removal of a board member and said that they were still waiting for a meeting with the Leader of Herefordshire to discuss the replacement.
d) Stronger Towns Board – BP stated there was not much to report but the contribution towards the Zipper feasibility study had been approved. He also noted that the Great Western Way is starting to progress.
e) Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School Charity - Nothing to report.

f) Community Land Trust – JM spoke briefly about the failed Lottery Awards for All application but there was no further report.

g) Hereford Allotments & Leisure Gardeners – JK spoke about their ongoing issues with planning for the Ross Road site, he also spoke about the hedge at the Holmer Road site needing taking back rather than just trimmed and the need to chase Highways England about the pavement and its wall.

h) Hereford Association of Local Councils – The Executive have not meet but there has been some discussion about the advised any parish or town council to adopt. He also spoke about the recent consultation from the Monitoring Officer about a local protocol for dealing with complaints and was appalled by the 2-week timeframe for this consultation.

i) The Town Clerk added that a response had been sent to this consultation which stated that HCC would not be adopting this, and this would be additional work for already busy clerks, many of whom work part-time.

j) Youth Council – BP spoke about the Youth Council attendance at a service with the High Sheriff, the lack of engagement from the Herefordshire Councillor following their reporting from the organized litter pick although this seemed to be a key document with the community safety partnership. The Director of Children's Services will be attending the next meeting.

DH also added that raffle prizes were still needed for the Makers Market event, being held on 6th December, and the selected charity was West Mercia Womens Aid.

Cllr J Kenyon left the meeting at 19:25

C2025/26.63 – TOWN CLERK'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that PS was now a mental health ambassador for the HCC, with JK also being a mental health ambassador.

The Town Clerk advised the Council that a couple of meeting options had been proposed for all Council to hear about the Town Hall, this prompted comments about the need to see the technical reports, that written papers were required to allow Council to digest the information and that all Councillors were volunteers with busy lives, other commitments and possible day jobs which meant short notice meetings were not easy attended.

With the general feeling being that further information in clear and concise language was required before any meetings were arranged it was left with the Town Clerk to communicate this to the officers at Herefordshire.

It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would contact Herefordshire Council regarding more information about the Town Hall before a meeting could be booked with Council.

C2025/26.63 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 November at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 19:50

Signed.....

Date.....