

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2020/21 MEETING TC02

**Minutes of the meeting of TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL held on
Monday 6th July 2020 at 6.00pm
held remotely via Microsoft Teams.
(Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings)
(England) Regulations 2020)**

PRESENT: Cllrs S.Bowkett, A. Corfield, M. Davies, D. Dowell, M. Drummond, J. Fielder, E. Hudson [**Chair**], N. McVey, J. Morgan, D. Patrick and A. Wilkinson.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk, the Assistant to the Town Clerk, Malvern Hills District Council Cllr. A. Penn and the Manager of The Regal.

C20.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. G. Hurst due to ill health.

C20.27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members under the Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in respect of items on the agenda.

C20.28 DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk stated that no requests for dispensation had been received.

C20.29 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned for public question time.

(i) Public Question Time – General

None

(ii) Report from Worcestershire County Councillor (Appendix A)

Cllr. Pollock was not present. Cllr. Pollock's report had been circulated to all Members.

(iii) Report from Malvern Hills District Councillor

The report for Malvern Hills District Council had been circulated to all Members.

Cllr. Penn stated that he was Malvern Hills District council Heritage Champion and as such was determined to make more use in promoting the tourism side of Tenbury.

A Member suggested that with the new development beginning work, that it would be time to reconsider extending the 20mph limit out of town.

Cllr. Penn stated that if the Member could get Cllr. Pollock to support it that he would support the proposal.

Cllr. Penn left the meeting at 6:17pm

The meeting of the Council was reconvened.



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C20.30 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 8th June 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hudson seconded by Cllr. Drummond and

RESOLVED: (10 For, 1 Abstention)

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 8th June 2020 were confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meeting. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

C20.31 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES

To receive and note the draft minutes of the meeting of:

Planning Committee – 29th June 2020

Finance and Staffing Committee – 29th June 2020

It was proposed by Cllr. Hudson seconded by Cllr. Drummond and

RESOLVED: (9 For, 2 Abstentions)

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 29th June 2020 and the Finance and Staffing Committee held on the 29th June 2020 were noted.

C20.32 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Members discussed a leave of absence for Cllr. G. Hurst, whose home was badly affected by the flood in February. The Chair requested the Town Clerk pass on the Council's best wishes to Cllr. Hurst.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hudson seconded by Cllr. Drummond and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To approve Cllr. G. Hurst a leave of absence for a period of 6 months until 6th January 2021.

C20.33 TENBURY COMMUNITY POOL LTD.

Members received an update from Tenbury Community Pool Ltd, who have agreed to remain closed until September to complete the upgrade to the facility. The Town Clerk stated that the agreed removal of the streetlight column, which was situated next to the extension has been completed. The cost of removal will be paid by Tenbury Community Pool Ltd as part of the project.

C20.34 THE REGAL

- (i) Members received an update from the Manager on the reopening of The Regal. The Manager stated that The Regal is classed as a mixed arts venue and falls into three main categories in relation to government guidance.
 - Live Performance Venue – The Manager is awaiting government guidance regarding reopening and grants available to assist, which is expected in the



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coming week. All acts from the autumn programme have been retained and dates rescheduled in 2021.

- Community Space – This is governed by the guidance for safe use of multi-purpose community spaces and will require risk assessments to be produced for each group wishing to utilise the community space as some activities will constitute a higher risk.
- The Cinema – There is extensive advice with regards the cinema and the Manager has been working closely with the U.K. Cinema Association, The BFI, The Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England, to produce a Risk Assessment and Action Plan for reopening potentially in September/October.

Members received a presentation on the proposed box office and auditorium seating plans, which detailed how the reopening would comply with social distancing guidelines.

- (ii) The Manager of The Regal explained that in keeping with the new look for the Community Centre that a more contemporary name such as “The Studio” would appeal to a wider range of users promoting better use of the venue.

Following a discussion, it was agreed unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree to renaming The Regal Community Centre to The Regal Studio.

- (iii) Members considered any action to be taken regarding the external works to The Regal Community Centre, which is a separate contract to the flood damage works. The architect had instructed the contractor to install uPVC fascia’s over the plywood boards, which was not included in the agreed contract. As the building is considered part of the Listing, the fascia, as agreed, should have been replaced like for like.

The Town Clerk stated that she has sought the opinion of the Conservation Officer. A meeting is to be arranged with the Heritage Manager from the District Council for advice on the works.

Members agreed to seek the advice of the Heritage Manager before taking any further action. It was noted that work had been stopped on site by the architect following a meeting with the Mayor and Town Clerk.

- (iv) The Town Clerk updated Members on the flood damage repair work to The Regal including the alterations to The Community Centre.

The Town Clerk was thanked for her efforts with regards the flood repairs.

The Town Clerk and the Manager of The Regal to continue to liaise with the Quantity Surveyor and the contractor.

RESOLVED:

Members noted the schedule of works, health and safety information and the building minor works contract for the flood damage works in The Regal.

C20.35 THE PAVILION

The Town Clerk updated Members on the flood repairs being undertaken in The Pavilion. The works have been approved by the Conservation Officer and include a new concrete



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floor, timber cladding to 1 metre high, a new kitchen and toilet. It was noted however that the roof was in a poor condition and the exterior of the building requires decorating.

The Quantity Surveyor managing the flood repairs project had provided the Town Clerk with a quotation to strip the asbestos slate, repair the roof structure, insulate, replace the roof and for external decoration of the building, with professional fees of 11%.

The quotation for the works is estimated at £40,268. The Town Clerk stated that funds of £24,500 are available for the works, however the shortfall of £15,768 could be funded from the General Fund Reserve.

Following a discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree to the additional works to The Pavilion to replace the roof and external decoration of the building and the works be managed through the existing Quantity Surveyor, Ionic Surveying Consultants Ltd.**
- (ii) To suspend Financial Regulations 11.1 (h) requiring 3 quotations, due to the existing Quantity Surveyor, Ionic Surveying Consultants Ltd currently undertaking works on this building.**
- (iii) The balance of the funds of £15,768 required to carry out the works be funded from the General Fund Reserve.**

C20.36 CEMETERY

Members discussed the Memorial Inspection Report undertaken following the flooding in February, which detailed repairs required to 23 monuments at a cost of £1,260.

It was proposed by Cllr. E. Hudson seconded by Cllr. M. Drummond and unanimously

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the Memorial Inspection Report**
- (ii) To agree to the repairs to the memorials to be carried by William Griffin Monumental Sculptor.**
- (iii) To agree for the works, at a cost of £1,260, to be funded from the General Fund Reserve and recharged, where possible, to the family of the deceased responsible for the memorial.**

A Member requested a comfort break from the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm and reconvened at 7:44pm.

C20.37 TENBURY FOODBANK

The Mayor stated that due to the current circumstances that he had not been able to undertake the planned fundraising event, Tenbury's Got Talent, however he did have charitable funds available to allocate from the previous year. The Mayor stated that the effects of COVID-19 were proving extremely difficult for many families including the elderly and youth of the community. The Mayor stated that he had therefore decided to contribute £1,000 to the Tenbury Foodbank's Fundraising campaign, which is promoted through Spacehive.

Members noted the Mayor's contribution to the Tenbury Foodbank, the fundraising campaign and sincerely thanked the Mayor for the gesture.



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The Town Clerk stated that the Foodbank usually supports approximately 15 families, however due to the current crisis is now supporting on average 150 families a week.

C20.38 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

The Town Clerk stated that she had ordered three, foot pump operated hand sanitiser stations for the play areas, tennis courts and bowling green. These were at a reduced cost of £385 each, due to the District Council ordering a large number. The Town clerk also purchased a pressure sprayer and antiviral disinfectant for the Groundsman to clean all the touch points on the children's play area equipment. The purchases were authorised with the agreement of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Cllr. Wilkinson stated that he had been approached by a member of the Cleobury Mortimer Band, who asked if it would be possible for the band to use the bandstand in the Burgage. The Town Clerk stated that live performances for wind and brass bands was not currently permitted. The Mayor stated that perhaps an event could be arranged in the future.

C20.39 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 3rd August at 6pm

Meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed

Date



TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

06.07.20

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

1. County Matters

We must hope that the impact of the coronavirus outbreak is diminishing and that we may soon be able to resume what we might refer to as normal life. The County has suffered around 500 deaths from Covid 19, with around 57% of them in hospitals. The most recent figures I have to hand show there are 15 confirmed cases in our acute hospitals and just one in intensive care. There had been no deaths in hospitals in the previous 24 hours.

We have stood down our reserve provision, to make it unnecessary for patients discharged from hospital to go to a care home, with the risk of infecting other relatively weak residents. This arrangement might have been usefully duplicated around the country, with a little more understanding from hospitals and county councils, and a stronger resistance from care homes to acting against their better judgement. One third of the county's care homes have had no cases of Covid-19 among their staff and residents.

Meanwhile, we are trying to revive the local economy with help from a number of government schemes to get money in grants or loans to local businesses. Details can be found on the Worcestershire Business Central website. The County's GDP has fallen by 20.4% and 75,700 workers are currently on furlough. Meanwhile, traffic has risen to about 77% of normal pre-Covid levels.

At this time, it is unfortunate that for many people the solution to reduced use of public transport in London has meant strong pressure to assist cycling and walking in Worcestershire. So far, we have not seen the sort of temporary measures suggested as worthy of implementation. Our established policies, set out in LTP4, give us plenty of schemes to follow, where the funds allow.

One example of the county's aspirations in active travel is under consultation just now. We are asking for views on a new pedestrian and cycling bridge at Kepax, mirroring the Diglis bridge that has proved so popular. It would run from the Kepax site on the west bank to Gheluvelt Park in the east, and provide a useful connection for recreation and commerce for all who wish to walk or cycle across the Severn, without needing to go into town to the Sabrina bridge.

2. Local Matters

The county has been keen to follow the government's guidance on returning pupils to schools. Until recently this has been confined to vulnerable children and those of key workers. We are grateful for all the efforts by teachers attending schools and those who have contributed to providing education for children at home.

At present there are many schools who would not be able to accept all pupils back to school in September, as is planned, unless there is a relaxing of the social distancing rules. Reducing the normal separation to 1 metre as from last Saturday is a help, and one must hope that in two months' time, even that can be eliminated.

I am very conscious of the impact on businesses of all types, and of family incomes, of the need for one or other of the parents to be away from work, looking after their children. Nothing could be more important, but the economy will be greatly boosted when all that want to work are back doing their normal jobs.

Touring Tenbury last Friday, it was encouraging to see so many businesses open again, and I hope all residents will seek to follow the idea of “shop locally”, to help these relatively small enterprises. That said, it was encouraging also to see the Tesco’s car park nearly full, indicating that many shoppers are staying within Tenbury, rather than needing to go to neighbouring towns for their regular shopping.

We have all missed the Post Office, a victim of the floods – remember them? It appears that a fully refurbished Spar will reopen next week, with its Post Office facilities functioning again. We have to hope this will be true of many others, who like “Nice Things” and “Mr Thoms”, are now open again or soon will be.

Maybe for the next Town Council meeting, we can all forgather in the Pump Rooms, as before. We should not accept a second best solution to what is a world-wide disaster.

In the meantime, it is worth observing that our highways personnel have been able to take advantage of the much lower number of vehicles on the road to complete a lot of routine maintenance, pothole filling and surface dressing, so that our roads are in a better condition facing the summer.

Similarly, we are spending £8 million on repairing and restoring footways, the footpaths that run alongside the carriageway. At present there are 7 crews working on this, but the number will increase to 10 this month. Note, this does not excuse the trip hazard in Powick, highlighted in the Worcester News last week, but it does indicate that the County Council is not oblivious to this problem, which we hope will be dealt with quickly.

I would be naïve to think that all such problems are behind us, and I would be grateful if you could let me know of any such matters that need our attention.

Cllr Ken Pollock
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL50 2BZ
06.07.20

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL JULY REPORT 2020 FROM CLLR THOMAS.

In January, Malvern Hills District Council witnessed a decline in planning applications received due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Following a spike of applications received in May, there has been a steady increase throughout June.

Total number of applications received January to June

2019: 859

2020: 828

31 applications fewer this year.

Data released by public health England on the 2nd of July showed there were 416 confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded in Wychavon and 220 in Malvern Hills Districts. These are both significant increases caused by the addition of Pillar 2 test results to the data and does not mean there has been a significant spike in COVID-19 cases in our districts.

The number of cases in our districts and Worcestershire as a whole, has been in decline over the past two weeks.

The local government secretary, Robert Jenrick, has announced a major new support package to help councils respond to the Coronavirus. Councils in England will now receive a further £500 million to respond to spending pressures they are facing. This has not been ring fenced.

Tenbury food bank is 70% of the way towards their target and has received £2500 from Malvern Hills District Council.

Both Councillor Penn and Councillor Thomas have been involved in considerable work with local planning applications and the Planning Department. Councillor Penn, the Heritage Champion, is organising a face-to-face meeting with officers at Malvern Hills District Council to promote more tourism in Tenbury.

It is hopeful that the Tourist Office will reopen on the 13th of July, mornings only for the first two weeks, provided there are enough volunteers to man the office.

Councillor Penn has recommended that the Market Street public toilet doors need renovation.

Councillor Penn and Councillor Thomas intend to discuss, with the manager of Tesco, the installation of a Tesco sign at the entrance of the pedestrian access.

We have managed to confirm that there will be no street lighting at the Morningside development, following concerns raised by local residents.

Councillor Penn and Councillor Thomas have attended many Zoom meetings with Malvern Hills District Council. Councillor Penn is a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He admits that he is looking forward to the return of face to face meetings in the future.

We are pressing for a meeting of the Tenbury Area Partnership as we believe this would be useful in aiding Tenbury's recovery. Discussions are continuing regarding the proposed flood defences for Tenbury.