

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2016/17 MEETING TC06

**Minutes of the meeting of TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL held on
TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016 at 7.00pm in the Pump Rooms, off Teme Street,
Tenbury Wells.**

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Bowkett, M. Davies, M. Drummond, J. Fielder, E. Hudson, D. Ingram, J. Morgan, D. Patrick, S. Perry, Mayor Cllr M. Willis **[Chair]**,

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr P Grove, Cllr K Pollock, Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, 8 members of the public, 1 member of the press

APOLOGIES: Cllr C. Rogers

6.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Rogers.

The Mayor informed the meeting that he wanted to put on record the Town Council's thanks to the out-going Town Clerk Dawn Worgan for all her hard work over the last 6 years.

The Mayor welcomed the new Town Clerk Lesley Bruton to the Town Council.

The Mayor stated that the Assistant Town Clerk Fiona Peplow was leaving the Town Council and thanked her for her work over the last 9 months and wished her well in the future.

6.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Perry stated she had a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6.11 Party in the Park.

6.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Tina Cole from St Michaels who wished to speak to the Town Council about a children's project which was proposed in the town.

Mrs Cole stated that a children's poem competition was being proposed for all secondary and junior schools to participate in. She had spoken with Mrs Caroline Palethorpe who was very supportive as well as the school Heads within the town. There would be no charge to the schools.

The poetry competition would take place in Easter 2017 until July/August and would involve successful poets. The competition theme would be "My Town" and the children's poems would be displayed around the town with a prize giving event at the end of the competition with a poet as a judge.

Mrs Cole stated that her husband would set up a website at no cost and there would be advertisement and flyers informing everyone that the competition was taking place.

The competition was aimed at KS2 children aged 7-11 and KS3 children aged 11-14.

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Another idea being proposed was compiling a book of the poems from the children that could be sold in the town.

Mrs Cole wanted to inform the Town Council of the competition and asked for their support and asked if any financial support could be provided towards advertisement in the local press.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Cole for speaking about the competition and all members gave their support to the project. The Mayor stated that financial support would be put on the next Full Council Agenda on the 3rd October for consideration.

6.4 WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR K POLLOCK

Cllr Pollock referred to his report **[ATTACHED APPENDIX A]**.

Cllr Pollock wished to place on record his appreciation of the work of the former Clerk, Dawn Worgan, over the last few years, covering most, if not all, of his time as County Councillor. He stated that Dawn was unfailingly polite, always well informed and worked unstintingly for the benefit of the townspeople of Tenbury. As such she was a pleasure to work with and always a credit to the town. Cllr Pollock stated that he wished Dawn well.

Cllr Pollock wished the new Clerk Lesley Bruton every success in the role and stated that he looked forward to working with her in the coming months.

Cllr Pollock stated that it was now clear that Tesco's would be building their store in Tenbury on the cattle market site. Despite the fact that they were demolishing buildings, the company had not made clear that they were to proceed immediately with the build, despite the fact that there were four open lines of communication between Tenbury people and the company.

Tenbury can expect to see the structure being built from the end of October onwards with the aim of opening the store around the end of February 2017.

Cllr Pollock mentioned that as a result of this, the Tenbury Transport Trust should be receiving the first instalment of the £95,000 promised over 5 years for supporting public transport. In addition it will mean that the County Council can now proceed with the second phase of the public realm work to take place in Teme Street. This is partly funded by Tesco's and should see the new footways and two more raised tables between Crow Corner and the Teme Bridge. In addition there will be a re-sited bus stop and new street furniture.

An additional £12m over the next 2 years will be spent on improving the minor roads in the County. This is really confined to the C and U roads, with an emphasis on estate roads that have become neglected.

Over the last couple of months Cllr Pollock mentioned that there had been extensive investigation about increased signage in the St Michael's area, to seek to reduce speeding through the village.

It had been agreed that an extra sign would be erected for westbound traffic, at the far end of the common, and that village gates would be installed at the 30 mph limits.

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These signs will work in conjunction with what we hope will be an increased Police presence to apprehend speeding traffic, as well as extra painted signs in the road.

The County is also ready to install four new Tenbury Town signs at the borders of the town, these depicting the Pump Rooms, as well as the name of the town.

Cllr Pollock stated that the signs would need to come from the Town Council's resources but he would make a contribution from the Divisional Fund for both the new Tenbury Town signs and the St Michael's sign and village gates.

The County Council were in the process of seeking the necessary permissions to rebuild the collapsed bridge at Eastham. The County Council recognises the extreme inconvenience this is causing to local people. The delay has been caused by the statutory regulations concerning the environment that need to be observed, and this has resulted in a longer period of preparation than had been expected.

Cllr Pollock stated that it now looks as if a bridge cannot be provided before the Spring of 2017, but the matter was still subject to negotiation.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bowkett commented that the site at Eastham Bridge looked like an archaeological site and asked why a temporary bridge could not be built in the meantime.

Cllr Pollock stated that the reason that the site looked like an archaeological one was that there was scientific interest with regard to the habitat for animals etc and lots of investigative work had been undertaken at the site to establish what had happened to the bridge to find out why it had collapsed in the first place. An environmental impact assessment also had to be carried out.

The County Council were looking at all the options of building either a temporary bridge and replacement bridge or just replacing the bridge. It was important that the siting of a temporary or permanent bridge was located in the right place.

Cllr Fielder mentioned that the drain by the flower shop was still blocked. Cllr Pollock stated he would raise this issue again.

Cllr Fielder stated that there was insufficient drains or gutters by Beauty Lane and this causes problems. The gradient ramp by Beauty Lane was unsuitable in that the gradient needed to be changed to make it gentler and painted a different colour as cars were going too fast across it.

Cllr Pollock stated that the gradient should ensure that vehicles travelled over it at 5 miles per hour and part of the Phase 2 public realm work would be looking at the raised tables and changing the colour of them. He would mention this to Martin Hunt.

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6.5 TO BE INFORMED REGARDING WCC PLANS FOR PUBLIC REALM WORKS IN TEME STREET AND OVERFLOW CAR PARKING PROVISION ON PALMERS MEADOW AND HOW THIS IS TO BE ORGANISED TO COMBINE WITH TESCO CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE TOWN

Cllr Pollock referred to his report [**ATTACHED APPENDIX B**].

The Mayor stated that he wished to raise two issues regarding the timing of the public realm works and how this would affect the traders particularly if this was before Christmas, and when the overflow car park would be completed.

Cllr Pollock stated that the County Council would plan to start the public realms work early before Christmas or delay until January. There was no timings for the overflow car park at this stage but provision of funding had been made.

The Mayor allowed for members of the public to speak regarding Cllr Pollock's report in relation to the public realm works, overflow car park and Tesco's.

Mr Matt Crawford

Mr Crawford stated that he was related to the Bowkett family so had the interests of traders within the town at heart.

Mr Crawford expressed concern about Tesco being allowed to do their own thing and how this would affect the traders and the community within Tenbury. He stated that the traders within the town are already ordering stock ready for the Christmas trade and it was the most important time of the year and makes all the difference.

Businesses in the town are fearful that the work on the site will cause traffic and parking problems that will discourage people to come into Tenbury and do their Christmas shopping. An overflow car park needed to be provided now so that parking in the town is made easier for shoppers.

Mr Crawford stated it was vital that Malvern Hills District Council make sure that all of the planning conditions relating to the application are met and added that if to prevent damage to the Christmas trade for existing businesses it is necessary for Tesco to delay the opening then this should happen.

Mrs Diann Dowell

Mrs Dowell said that she had spoken with the Project Manager at the site and he had told her that the public realm work would commence shortly and would be concluded by the middle of November. Cllr Pollock dismissed this as Tesco had not approached WCC for permission to commence works on their responsibility regarding highways or pavement works.

Mr Gary Thompson

Mr Thompson stated that he was the Treasurer of the Chamber of the Trade for Tenbury.

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Mr Thompson stated that he had to pre-order his Christmas stock in May and was concerned how the Christmas trade would be affected. There had been very limited communication to the traders from Tesco as to what was going on.

The public realm work timings was crucial as there would be huge implications to the town and Teme Street as there was the Mistletoe Festival and Santa Parade to consider and was already planned for. The Chamber of Trade had raised £6,000 towards new lights for the town and they would need to be put up in time for Christmas. Tesco would need to communicate with the Chamber of Trade to ensure that this was not disrupted.

Cllr Eric Hudson stated that he was disappointed with the failure of Tesco to communicate to the traders within the town. Cllr Eric Hudson stated that before the commencement of the public realms work it should be approved in writing. He stated that the Town Council, MHDC and WCC should have a full statement from Tesco of where they are with the work undertaken so far and their future proposals, and they should not be allowed to open the store until the building work and public realm work was completed satisfactorily.

Cllr Hudson considered it was unacceptable for the community conditions in relation to the public realm works to be approved without factual information being considered by the Town Council, MHDC and WCC first.

Cllr Hudson stated that the Town Council had written to MHDC planning department regarding the sudden start of the Tesco development and the Town Council's concerns that had been raised by both Town Councillors and businesses in the Town. Planning conditions 12 and 13 relate to the Public Realm works and the work to be done at the junction of the A456 and A4112. The Town Council had stated that in essence engineering details should be submitted and approved in writing and that the development shall not be occupied until the approved works have been completed.

As Tesco have publicly announced their aim is to be open in February next year the concerns are that if these two conditions are to be discharged we could have some major disruption in the Town before Christmas which would hit the businesses badly. Cllr Hudson stated that the response from MHDC was that from a planning perspective, the issue will always be whether a breach of planning control had occurred or not as a matter of fact. If a breach has not occurred then there is nothing for the MHDC planning enforcement team to pursue. MHDC were sure that Tesco are very aware of the trigger points in the planning conditions and will have reviewed very carefully which conditions were pre-start conditions and which restrict the opening of the store etc.

The comments made by Cllr Hudson were supported by Members of the Town Council and Cllr Pollock commented that the County Council did have the community of Tenbury at heart.

6.6 MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR P GROVE

Cllr Grove referred to his report [**APPENDIX C**].

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Cllr Grove stated that he wanted to endorse the comments from Cllr Pollock regarding Dawn Worgan and wished to thank her for her hard work she had done in her role as Town Clerk. He also wished the Assistant Town Clerk good luck in her new job and welcomed Lesley Bruton the new Town Clerk well in her role.

Cllr Grove stated that as part of MHDC's 1.8M savings which needed to be found, £200,000 per annum of savings had been identified by combing all of MHDC's services at the Council House in Malvern which would leave Brunel House empty. The Mayor asked if MHDC would wish to receive a revenue stream from it and Cllr Grove confirmed that this along with other options would be considered by MHDC.

Cllr Grove stated that MHDC in partnership with WCC, were organising a Services for Older People Event on 10th October from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm at the Regal Theatre, Tenbury **[APPENDIX D]**.

Cllr Grove stated that as far as Tesco complying with all conditions regarding the public realm works and highways junction improvements, they had been met and he agreed that MHDC Enforcement team should be involved.

Cllr Maggie Davies expressed disappointment that the Tourist Information Centre had not been consulted on the information to be included in the Teme Valley Trail leaflets. Cllr. Davies stated that there were numerous mistakes in the leaflet. Cllr Grove apologised that this happened and stated he would take this up with Melanie Whistance at MHDC who had organised them.

Cllr Janet Fielder asked if Richard Clarke Tenbury's Street Cleaner could have access to a mechanical road sweeper as this would improve the town considerably. Manually sweeping the streets created lots of dust and some areas are missed. The gutters and edges of pavements are swept, but never the inside near buildings. Sometimes dusty piles are left around the town and some are forgotten about. Cllr Grove stated that he would raise this with Ron Evans and Alex Bill

Cllr Fielder asked why the Round Market which sells goods all year round is not charged business rates. Cllr Grove stated that this was run and managed by the Baylies Trust.

The Mayor stated that the Town Council and MHDC had not had a Liaison Meeting recently and asked if one could be arranged. Cllr Grove confirmed that he would organise some dates to meet.

6.7 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH JULY 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of proceedings.

6.8 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH JULY, THE FINANCE & STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD ON 25TH JULY AND THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 30TH AUGUST AND THE FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 30TH AUGUST 2016.

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RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee and the Finance and Staffing Committee were received and resolutions approved.

6.9 TO APPROVE THE MONTHLY ACCOUNTS FOR JULY/AUGUST 2016 AND THE OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE ON 30TH AUGUST 2016.

RESOLVED that the Monthly Accounts be approved and the Outstanding Accounts be approved for payment [**APPENDIX E**].

6.10 TO CO-OPT A NEW MEMBER TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor stated that all Members had been circulated with the applicant details of the three candidates.

The Town Clerk circulated ballot papers to all Members of the Committee and each Member voted for their preferred candidate.

After the counting of the votes for each candidate which was verified by the Town Clerk, the Mayor announced that Mr Anthony Gould had received the overall majority.

The Town Clerk gave Mr Anthony Gould a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was signed by him and witnessed by the Town Clerk.

Cllr Gould joined the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED that Mr Anthony Gould become a member of Tenbury Town Council.

6.11 TO CONSIDER TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR PARTY IN THE PARK

Cllr Perry stated that the Party in the Park had been organised by the Police for the past 5 years. The Police had always been happy to have their name associated with the event but due to changes to their Public Liability Insurance they were no longer able to support it.

Cllr Perry stated that the Police with support from herself and other volunteers were still very keen to run it and they had received financial support from Cllr Penn, Cllr Pollock, Stonewater Housing and David Wilson Homes. The event cost between £5,000 - £6,000 to run.

The Members considered the event to be good for the town and gave their full support as many people attended the event each year. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would check on the Council's Public Liability Insurance to see if there would be any cost involved.

6.12 TO CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW SIGN FOR ST MICHAELS AND NEW BOUNDARY SIGNS FOR TENBURY WELLS

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Cllr Hudson stated that it was extremely important that the Police Commissioner John Champion was informed regarding the speeding in St Michaels and to reinforce the need for speed radar checks to be put into place. The Mayor stated that the Town Council would make a direct approach to the Police about the speeding in St Michaels and implementing the speed radar checks.

The new sign for St Michaels and new boundary signs for Tenbury Wells were circulated to the meeting **[APPENDIX F]**.

Cllr Hudson asked Cllr Pollock about the cost of the St Michaels sign and Cllr Pollock confirmed that this would be approximately £300.

The white gates would cost approximately £2,300 for 2 pairs of gates for either end of the village.

The Boundary signs would cost approximately £1,100 for all of them.

It was decided that the contribution from the County Council and the Town Council towards the costs of the signs would be discussed further.

6.13 TO APPROVE UPDATES TO THE BANK MANDATE

The Town Clerk asked if Cllrs Fielder, Patrick and Morgan could stay behind after the meeting to sign the Bank Mandate forms which would enable her to become a signatory on the Town Council's bank accounts.

6.14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hudson stated that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met with Cllr Helen Winer the Chair of Clifton upon Teme Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Clifton-on-Teme Parish Council had gone through the Neighbourhood Plan process and it was interesting to hear of their feedback . Cllr Hudson stated that this had been very useful and the Steering Group had learned a great deal.

The Steering Group were now at the reviewing state of the process and then going forward more public events would be arranged.

The Town Council would be having a stand at Applefest on the 1st October which would give members of the public the chance to give further feedback. Once all the stages had been completed the Neighbourhood Plan would be submitted to Malvern Hills District Council for approval.

Cllr Morgan agreed to help with the Neighbourhood Plan website.

6.15 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE REGAL AND ITS MANAGEMENT

Mr Little referred to his report **[APPENDIX G]**.

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Mr Little stated that it was another great year at the Regal and the best ever figures for July and August.

The film the BFG had been a huge success over the summer holidays.

Mr Little stated that on the 31st August it was the end of the fourth year that the Regal had been under the management of the Regal Tenbury Trust and it was the busiest year on record.

The Mayor wished to thank Ian for the wonderful job he had done at the Regal and to his Assistant Julie as well as the help and hard work of the volunteers.

It was agreed that an annual inspection would take place at the Regal with members of the Town Council and Mr Little agreed to give the Town Clerk some dates so that this could be arranged.

6.16 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The Town Clerk stated that the Council had received thank you letters from Tenbury Transport Trust thanking the Town Council for its donation of £500, Tenbury Tourism Partnership for the donation of £350 and the £1,000 donation to the Tenbury office of the CAB.

The Town Clerk stated that a request had been received from Global Adventure Challenges who were organising a charity bike ride for Lloyds Banking Group who will be cycling from Cardiff to Pudsey in just 4 days and raising essential funds for BBC Children in Need.

They had contacted the Town Council to ask permission to use the car park of the Palmer's Meadow for their lunch stop. The caterer would set up a couple of tables a gazebo, and begin to prepare the lunch out of the van ready for when the cyclists arrive. The cyclists would arrive, check in, grab some food and water and continue on their journey. The Town Clerk stated that provision would be made on the Burgage.

The Members agreed that this was a worthwhile cause and should be supported.

The Mayor reminded Members about the Civic Service which was taking place on Sunday 2nd October.

The Mayor mentioned that at the far end of the churchyard it had become overgrown and neglected with weeds and asked if any Members were interested in helping to clear this on a Tuesday afternoon to let him know.

6.17 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

It was agreed that the cleaning of the Teme Bridge should be put on the next Full Council Agenda.

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Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Signed

Date