

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TETBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the Council Chamber, Tetbury on Monday 26th February 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Acting Chairman: Councillor T Walsh

Councillors: S Ball, P Burrell, J Easterbrook, N Ind, C Morgan and K Painter

Officers: Town Clerk – Stephen Holley, Deputy Clerk – Tara Niblett

Public: Mrs M Heaven (as Chair of the Dolphins Hall Management Committee and as District Councillor) and Mr W Cook (for the Tetbury Feoffees and for the Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust)

Chairman of the Meeting:

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were both absent, so Councillor Walsh was elected to serve as Chairman for the duration of the present meeting only.

TC01. 2/18 Apologies for absence:

Received from Councillors Edge, Hirst (Mayor) Lea, Maslin, Scotford, Stevenson and Williams (Deputy Mayor). The Town Clerk advised that the Council would remain quorate as long as a minimum of four members were present.

TC02. 2/18 Declarations of interest:

Councillors Ball and Easterbrook declared an 'Other' interest in Agenda Item 11 – Dolphins Hall Rebuild and Extension in that they had both been appointed as the Council's Trustee Members of the Dolphins Hall Management Committee. Councillor Burrell declared an 'Other' interest in the same item because she was the WI Trustee member on the same Committee (Minute TC11 02/18).

TC03. 2/18 Public Consultation:

None

TC04. 2/18 Minutes – Meeting of the Council held on 29th January 2018:

Subject to a spelling correction, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th January 2018 were APPROVED as a correct record. Record of Voting: For - 7, Against – 0, Abstentions – 0, Apologies/Absent - 8.

TC05. 2/18 Progress Reports:

The Council received a table showing progress against previous decisions. It was noted that the draft lease of Old Coombe House (the former @Tetbury building) had been received and awaiting a signature from Deputy Mayor. The building might be renamed to remember Lady Helena Gibbs. Burial Ground Project – awaiting result of planning application. External staircase outside Council Chamber – two quotes would be discussed by the Heritage and Regeneration Committee on 5th March 2018. Valuations for The Old Courthouse, Goods Shed, War Memorial, Chains of Office – ongoing. Dragons Den event – contact had been made with St Mary's Primary School, Feoffees to contact office to advise whether they wish to be involved in project and if they would be paying towards the grant on offer. Arrange a meeting with APCOA regarding traffic and ticketing issues – ongoing. Consult neighbours who would be affected by TRO – ongoing, to be discussed with the Chair of the Highways Working Group. Proposed Town Twinning Arrangement – An initial meeting had taken place, the next meeting would be held later in March. Application for LCAS Quality Gold Award – following update on various Council policies application to be submitted shortly. Christmas in Tetbury – First meeting to take place 14th March. Beaufort Hunt use of goods Shed car park and rail lands – meeting held with representatives of Beaufort Hunt, Feoffees and TRLRT, agreed to engage an independent Health and Safety consultant. Cost of tree work in St Marys Churchyard – maintenance plan being updated and costed.

At this point the Chairman agreed to vary the order of business in order to accommodate guest speakers.

TC06. 2/18 Brief Updates from the Feoffees, Dolphins Hall and Tetbury Rail Lands

Regeneration Trust:

The Feoffees of Tetbury – Mr Cook advised that the Feoffees had been advised by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust that the Gloucestershire Wild Towns Project had been approved for the next stage of the application process.

Dolphins Hall Management Committee – Mrs Heaven informed the Council of discussions on a new Constitution for the Trust to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Final decisions were likely at the Annual General Meeting on 25th April. The Council AGREED that it should retain two members on the Committee and the public should be consulted on the proposed changes in an open meeting. Mrs Heaven stated that there was no intention to remove the stage.

Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust – Mr Cook advised that cinema equipment had now been installed, with a movie being shown once a fortnight to begin with and then once a week thereafter. An electricity supply had been provided to the railway carriage, and it was planned for the kitchen to be open for Easter. The long-running problem with the air handling unit had now been fixed. The Trust was looking for people to sponsor apple trees within the Rail Lands; Councillors Ball, Ind and Walsh each offered to sponsor a tree.

TC07. 2/18 Reports from District Councillors:

District Councillor Heaven reported that a new pot of money had become available to fund new defibrillators. It was noted that the Emergency Plan Working Group and the Tetbury Cares Forum had both identified need for more defibrillators to be installed. It was AGREED that the Goods Shed was an important site that needed a defibrillator, which should be available 24/7 and positioned on the exterior, to serve users of the Goods Shed and of the adjoining rail lands open space and path.

TC08. 2/18 Reports from the Mayor and Town Clerk:

Mayor's Report – The Council was pleased to note that double yellow lines and parking spaces had been re-marked on Gumstool Hill.

Town Clerk's Report – Officers were having difficulty finding a venue for the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 25th April. Alternative venues were being investigated, but it might be necessary to change the date.

TC09. 2/18 Police Report:

Noted.

TC10. 2/18 Reports from the Councils Committee's and Working Groups:

The Council noted the unconfirmed Minutes of recent meetings and the respective Chairs highlighted aspects thereof.

TC11. 2/18 Women in Local Government - Report:

Councillor Ind presented a report following her attendance at a recent Conference arranged by the Local Government Association, along with Councillor Stevenson and the Community and Tourism Development Manager. The Council RESOLVED (a) that Councillor Ind should be thanked for her excellent report (b) that the report be noted and (c) that Councillor Ind be requested to form a small Working Group to recommend actions to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

TC12. 2/18 Dolphins Hall Rebuild and Extension:

It was RESOLVED that the Council should open formal discussions with the Dolphins Hall Management Committee at the earliest opportunity, in respect of a bridging loan to facilitate the rebuilding/extension of the Dolphins Hall. Councillor Walsh would represent the Council at the Trust's meeting on Tuesday 27th February. The Town Clerk stressed that this decision would not commit the Council. The Council would employ a professional VAT consultant to provide advice as the project developed (likely cost c. £500). Record of Voting: For - 4, Against – 0, Abstentions – 3, Apologies/Absent - 8.

Note: Although their declarations of an 'Other' interest allowed them to vote, Councillors Ball, Burrell and Easterbrook abstained from voting in the spirit of impartiality.

TC13. 2/18 Motion to GAPTC in respect of Council Tax Support Grant:

The Council had been provided with a letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government which made clear that the Government still expected the principal Councils to continue passing down Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) funding. It was noted that, if Cotswold District Council paid the same in 2018 that it had in 2014 (£18,203, rather than £4,874) the Town Council would have been able to take £3.46 off the Council Tax at Band D. Also, the District Council had advised that its CTSG payment for 2018 would be the last. There was a strong feeling that the District Council had been able to freeze or cut its element of the Council Tax in recent years partly by withholding CTSG funding from the 115 towns and parish councils in the Cotswolds. It was RESOLVED (a) that the National Association of Local Councils be requested, through the County Association, to campaign for the Council Tax-collecting authorities to pass on the full amount of Central Government-provided Council Tax Support funding intended for parish and town councils; and (b) that letters to the same effect be sent direct to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to the Member of Parliament for the Cotswolds and to Cotswold District Council. Unanimous.

TC14. 2/18 Process for Election of Mayor for 2018/19:

The Council was requested to agree a process for the election of the Mayor for 2018/19 and to agree a 'Job Description' outlining the Roles and Responsibilities of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Following discussion of a number of options the two documents were AGREED. Unanimous.

TC15. 2/18 Renewal of Lease over VIC Premises at 33 Church Street

The Council RESOLVED to renew its lease over the Visitor Information Centre premises at 33 Church Street, backdated to March 2017. Its preference was for a six year lease with a rent review in the third year. If that was not agreeable to the landlord the Council would sign the first proposal for a three year lease. Unanimous.

TC17. 2/18 Correspondence:

None.

TC18. 2/18 Brief Reports from County, District and Town Councillors:

Councillor Morgan – (i) In response to a request for an update on the potential sites for the new Doctors surgery, it was advised that three sites in Tetbury were being considered by the NHS. (ii) Requested that Officers discover whether the affordable houses on the new housing developments would be run by Bromford Housing Association (iii) Requested a date for the repair of the metal benches in the Recreation Ground and Cirencester Road. The Town Clerk would obtain a completion date from the Grounds Foreman.

Councillor Burrell – Expressed a hope that more people would be interested to step forward next year at the Town Council elections.

Councillor Ball – Requested an update on the amount of money the Town Council had spent on works at St Mary's Church.

TC19. 2/18 Items for inclusion on future Agendas:

Burial Ground Project, Dolphins Hall – Rebuild and Extension, Dolphins Hall – Constitutional Changes.

TC20. 2/18 Date of next meeting of the Council – Monday 26th March 2018, 7pm

Noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman Dated