

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TETBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the Council Chamber, Tetbury on Monday 23rd July 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Chairman: Councillor S Ball (Mayor)

Councillors: P Burrell, D Creed, J Easterbrook, S Hirst, N Ind, I Maslin, R McCorkell, C Morgan, K Painter (Deputy Mayor), J Turton, A Walsh and J Williams.

Officers: Town Clerk – Stephen Holley.

Public: Two members of the public.

TC01. 07/18 Apologies for absence:

Received from Councillors E Monks and T Stevenson.

TC02. 07/18 Declarations of interest:

(a) Councillors Ball, Burrell and Easterbrook declared ‘other’ interests in the request for a grant by the Dolphins Hall Management Committee (Minute TC10. 07/18 (a) refers) and the Dolphins Hall Rebuild and Extension Project (Minute TC19. 07/18 refers) in that they were Trustees on the Management Committee.

(b) Councillor Walsh declared an ‘other’ interest in the Dolphins Hall Rebuild and Extension Project (Minute TC19. 07/18 refers) in that he was a Committee member for the Rugby Club and the Cricket Club.

(c) Councillor Williams declared an ‘other’ interest in the grant application by St Mary’s Day Centre (Minute TC10. 07/18 (b) refers) in that he was related to the applicant.

(d) Councillor Hirst declared an ‘other’ interest in the grant application by St Mary’s Day Centre in that he was involved in running the Centre.

TC03. 07/18 Public Consultation:

Nothing raised.

TC04. 07/18 Minutes – Meeting of the Council held on 25th June 2018:

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25th June 2018 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following correction to Councillor Ind’s report (Minute TC20. 06/12) to read “Cirencester Civic Society was carrying out a ‘pride in the town’ event”. Unanimous.

TC05. 07/18 Progress Reports:

(a) Old Coombe House/Community Hub – A re-paint was being arranged. Councillor Hirst’s suggestion that he could use the Hub for a District and County Councillor Surgery had not generated similar interest from the other District Councillors or the MP. A comic art workshop was being planned and it was suggested that a widows’ support group might be interested.

(b) Burial Ground Project – The Council welcomed the news that Planning Permission had been granted, following the Council’s decision to enter into a Unilateral Undertaking replace the land concerned within two years.

(c) External staircase – The District Council’s Heritage and Design Manager had confirmed the need for Listed Building Consent to replace the staircase like-for-like. A Building Control inspector would assess whether the stairs were a ‘dangerous structure’.

(d) Traffic Regulation Order – To date, over 200 replies had been received following the consultation notice in the Tetbury Advertiser.

(e) Beaufort Hunt – The Clerk was requested to make arrangements with another consultant.

(f) Renewal of lease over VIC premises – The landlord’s agent was holding off completion in order to consider at the same time an alterations licence, following the Heritage and Regeneration Committee’s suggestion that the entrance door be changed to something more accessible to wheelchair users.

(g) Initiating review of SLA with Dolphins Hall – Progress had been deferred in view of changes to the Management Committee and both parties giving priority to the rebuild project.

TC06. 07/18 Reports from the Mayor and Town Clerk:

(a) Mayor’s Report – The Mayor had attended the recent launch of the new ‘Visit Tetbury website, led the Civic Party to Chatillon-sur-Indre in France for the Twinning ceremony and other activities.

The Mayor expressed her concern about problems with power struggles and infighting in the Committee running the Dolphins Hall.

(b) Town Clerk's Report – Noted.

TC07. 07/18 Police Report:

It was noted that there had been 9 crimes in June 2018 compared to 15 in the same month in 2017. A member reported having been told by a recent victim of crime that she didn't want to call the 101 non-emergency telephone number for the Police 'because of the high cost'. Another member advised that the Police website showed that the 101 number cost 15p per call, irrespective of the length of call and whether the call was from a landline or a mobile phone.

TC08. 07/18 Appointment of New Members to Committees and External Organisations

Councillor R McCorkell was appointed to serve on the Finance and Scrutiny Committee, the Heritage and Regeneration Committee, the Planning Committee and the Highways Working Group. Councillor J Turton was appointed to the Heritage and Regeneration Committee and the Planning Committee. With the exception of the members concerned, voting was unanimous. Councillor A Walsh advised that Tetbury Hospital Trust was looking for new members.

TC09. 07/18 Consultation of Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Fouling

The Council was requested to consider and agree a process for responding to the District Council's consultation on Dog Fouling and the adoption of a Public Spaces Protection Order. It was RESOLVED to appoint a Working Group comprising the Mayor, Councillor R McCorkell and the Town Clerk to consider the consultation, with authority for the Town Clerk to issue a response on behalf of the Council. Unanimous.

TC10. 07/18 Grant Requests:

(a) Dolphins Hall benches – The Management Committee had submitted a request for a grant of £846 to purchase three new benches for the Recreation Ground. The Council had now been supplied with accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018. The Council's appointed Trustees advised that the accounts had not been presented to the Hall Committee and expressed concern about some of the content. Some reservations were expressed by other members, but a new Committee was being formed for the Dolphins Hall and it was felt that the Council's priorities should be (i) to support it while it found its feet and (ii) to concentrate on the building project. It was proposed that the Council pay half the sum requested, but an amendment to pay for two of the three benches was APPROVED. Record of Voting: - For – 11, Against – 0, Abstentions 2, Absent – 2.

(b) St. Mary's Day Centre (Wednesday Group) – Request for a grant of £1,500. APPROVED. Record of Voting: - For – 12, Against – 0, Abstentions 1, Absent – 2. In addition, the Council felt that, when it started the Budget-Setting process for 2019/20, it should bear in mind the possibility of creating an ongoing 'strategic' grant towards elderly care in the town, similar to the ongoing grants to the Dolphins Hall and to the Youth Club.

TC11. 07/18 Annual Return – Accounts for 2017/18:

(a) The Town Clerk re-presented the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR – the new name for the Annual Return) for submission to the External Auditor, including the review of effectiveness of internal control. Following the end of year shut-down of the RBS Omega accounts system, the Independent Auditor had adjusted some of the figures to comply with proper accounting procedure. To show an audit trail of the changes, those adjustments were shown as manual changes to the RBS Omega figures. The Chairman of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee explained that the Committee had given some consideration to the issues which had given rise to deferral at the last meeting and the Committee was now satisfied that it could recommend approval. The covering report made clear that the previous deferral would result in the Council not meeting the deadline for submission of the accounts. The Council noted that the Annual Internal Audit Report had 'Yes' responses to all questions except K, due to the decision to close the dormant Charitable Trust 301633.

(b) The Council received and approved the Accounts for 2017/18.

TC12. 07/18 Correspondence:

The Town Clerk advised that a resident had written to request that the Council open a recycling collection point to replace the one formerly at the Tesco store. It was AGREED that the Town Council did not have the resources to operate such a facility.

TC13. 07/18 Brief Reports from County, District and Town Councillors:

(a) County Councillor Hirst – Reported the need for more foster parents. A work team was due to repair the damaged wall on the Chipping. A consultation on waste was expected. Councillors McCorkell and Turton expressed an interest.

(b) District Councillor Hirst – Following his report at the last meeting that Tetbury could expect £30,000 over the next three years to support the towns' senior citizens as part of the S106 agreement for the new Steepleton development, Councillor Hirst understood that a proposal for its use would soon be discussed by a District Council Working Group.

(c) Councillor Ball – Reported her amazement at the quality of the roads in France, which were in good order with clean, tidy verges, whereas many in Britain were a disgrace.

(d) Councillor Creed – Reported that he was arranging to meet leaders of the Youth Club.

(e) Councillor Inđ – Reported a visit to St Marys Day Centre, where she had spoken with a number of users and noted a range of comments, many of which concerned transport. Suggested that the Council could assist with promotion/advertising of the services available. Reported a suggestion that an 'elderly people crossing' triangular warning sign be installed near the Dolphins Hall and Old Coombe House.

(f) Councillor McCorkell – Thanked all who had helped him 'catch up' on some recent projects as a new member of the Council.

(g) Councillor Morgan – Reported a conversation with the mother of a former Tetbury resident whose daughter had been living in a shared-ownership property in town. The Housing Association concerned had imposed a considerable rent increase, causing the daughter to move out of the county. Requested that the Council obtain some facts on affordable housing. Stated that a pavement was needed on London Road from the Highfield development past Cooks Pool. It was AGREED this should be referred to the Highways Working Group.

(h) Councillor Burrell – Followed Councillor Morgan's comments by reporting that, as the Chair of the Highways Working Group, she had been assisting Officers with inputting the replies to the consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. Some of the replies indicated that children found it difficult to cross London Road and a crossing might be needed. Asked that other Councillors consider joining her as volunteers to keep the Police Museum open over the Summer. Informed the Council that the town's Christmas lights would be switched on on Friday 7th December and requested that other Councillors consider volunteering.

(i) Councillor Painter – Reported receipt of a letter of thanks from the 'Mock Mayor' of Barton in Gloucester following a recent visit to Tetbury during a tour of many of the 'Bartons' across the county, in collaboration with BBC Radio Gloucestershire.

(j) Councillor Turton – Asked what would be the follow up to the launch of the 'Visit Tetbury' website. Officers were requested to provide information.

(k) Councillor Williams - Reported that attendance at the Tetbury Fiesta had been poor. The Finance and Scrutiny Committee had awarded a grant of £500 as a 'one off', with another £250 to be held in reserve if needed.

TC14. 07/18 Items for inclusion on future agendas:

Transport for the elderly and elderly care.

TC15. 07/18 Next Meeting

Monday 24th September 2018 starting at 7pm

TC16. 07/18 Exclusion of the Public and Press to allow discussion of Confidential business:

It was RESOLVED that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public and Press be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business on the

grounds it involved the likely disclosure of confidential information (as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Part I of Schedule 12A to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 [Information relating to an individual and Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person]), and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned. Unanimous.

Note: the business covered in the following Minutes was considered in Closed Session for the reasons agreed in Minute TC16. 07/18, but the summary decisions in these Minutes are not Exempt/Confidential. More detail is provided in the Confidential Minutes.

TC17. 07/18 Minutes:

The Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 25th June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

TC18. 07/18 Employment Matter:

The Council was advised of a possible claim for a gratuity by a former employee. Officers would investigate the personnel files, take advice if necessary and report back.

TC19. 07/18 Dolphins Hall Rebuild and Extension Project:

The Council was requested to consider the next steps in the project. It was agreed that the Council not only needed to provide support to the Hall but to be seen to be doing so, in view of some undeserved criticism. A shortfall in the funding for the project was noted and it was RESOLVED that, subject to a viable Management Committee being in place, the Town Clerk would have the Council's authority to apply to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan not exceeding £100,000, to be repaid over ten years. The precise figure would be determined with reference to the Project Steering Group.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chair Dated