

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TETBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Held in the Council Chamber, Tetbury on Monday 25th February 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Chairman: Councillor S Ball (Mayor)

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

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

Public: PCSO Andy Biddell and four members of the public

Mayor's Opening Remarks

The Mayor thanked everyone who had offered her support and good wishes following the loss of her husband Brian.

TC01. 02/19 Apologies for Absence:

Received from Councillor Monks.

TC02. 02/19 Declarations of Interest:

None

TC03. 02/19 Public Consultation:

None

TC04. 02/19 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2019:

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2019 were APPROVED as a correct record.

Record of Voting: For - 13, Against – 0, Abstention – 1, Absent/Apologies – 1.

TC05. 02/19 Progress Reports:

(a) External Staircase – A visit by a Conservation specialist and an Architect had identified that more material could be salvaged from the existing staircase than had previously been expected, which should reduce the cost of the project. New drawings had been requested.

(b) Traffic Regulation Order – Payment to GCC had been made, formal public consultation was due to start in May.

(c) Urgent repairs to play equipment on Recreation Ground – Officers had accepted a quote of approximately £1,200 for urgent Health and Safety repairs.

TC06. 02/19 Mayors and Town Clerk Reports:

(a) Mayor's report – Looking at setting up litter picking days dates to be confirmed.

(b) Town Clerk's report – Drop-in sessions had been arranged for prospective new councillors to learn more about becoming a Town Councillor. 20 volunteers had come forward to assist with the next Lorry Watch session.

TC07. 02/19 Reports from Committees and Working Groups:

Noted.

TC08. 02/19 Police Report for January 2019:

The Council noted that there had been 22 substantiated crimes in January, compared to 9 for the same month in 2018. The Town Council expressed concern that the figures for violent and sexual offences figures showed a dramatic increase. The Mayor expressed her regret at the decision to cease using the Town Council's Offices as a Police Information Point.

TC09. 02/19 Updates from Feoffees, Dolphins Hall, Rail Lands Trust:

(a) Feoffees – Nothing to report

(b) Dolphins Hall Management Committee – A public consultation session had been held on the new building proposals. Over 100 people had attended the public consultation events and the plans were likely to change as a result of the feedback.

(c) Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust – Nothing to report

TC10. 02/19 Budget for 2019/20:

The Council noted that it had set its Precept for 2019/20 on 28th January 2019 and had resolved that a detailed Budget would follow. Subsequently, it had been identified that some of the Budget figures for 2018/19 required correction and, in doing so, an Accounting Technician had identified a deficiency in the Council's General Reserves. In view of the above, the Council was invited to consider an initial Base or Skeleton Budget to start the 2019/20 Financial Year with the intention of undertaking further work on major projects in the new Financial Year following a satisfactory solution for the improvement of the Council's Reserves. The following was RESOLVED:

- (a) That the initial Budget for 2019/20 (attached to these Minutes) be approved;
- (b) that the Council ratifies the Town Clerk's action in cashing in the Aberdeen Bond and the funds returned to the General Reserve;
- (c) that all funding not required to meet routine expenditure and not Earmarked Reserves shall be paid into the General Reserve;
- (d) that conditions be agreed with Cotswold District Council to return 90% of the Allotments Earmarked Reserve and 90% of the Market House Earmarked Reserve (not being required in 2019/20) to the General Reserve;
- (e) that all Burial Ground Income be paid into the General Reserve and no longer into the Burial Ground Earmarked Reserve;
- (f) that the Town Council shall operate three bank accounts:
 - (i) a Current Account for routine expenditure,
 - (ii) Deposit Account 1, to hold the General Reserve at 25% of routine expenditure for the Financial Year, and
 - (iii) Deposit Account 2 for Earmarked Reserves
- (g) that the movement of any funding in or out of Deposit Accounts 1 or 2 shall require a recommendation from the Finance and Scrutiny Committee and agreement by the full Council;
- (h) that the Finance and Scrutiny Committee shall conduct a full quarterly review of all income, expenditure, accounts and processes, at which time, the Committee shall also review and make recommendations based on affordability regarding any funding applications, internal or external; and
- (i) that a suitable member of the Finance and Scrutiny Committee be appointed immediately to conduct an internal audit/investigation into the root cause of the current situation and provide a simple report to the Council in a Closed Session.

Record of Voting: For - 12, Against – 0, Abstention – 2, Absent/Apologies – 0.

TC11. 02/19 Correspondence:

- (a) A letter had been received regarding the missing bollard behind the Market House, a new bollard had been ordered.
- (b) It was noted that residents in Long Street had received a letter from Gloucestershire Highways regarding repairs to the metal gullies across the pavement carrying the rainwater from their houses.

TC12. 02/19 Reports from County, District and Town Councillors:

- (a) County Councillor Hirst – Provided highlights of the County Council's Budget for 2019/20 which had seen a 2.9% increase.
- (b) District Councillor Hirst – advised that Cotswold District Council's Budget would be decided on Tuesday 26th February.
- (c) Councillor Maslin – Advised there was no street lighting from Trubshaw Close to Cirencester Road, which he considered very dangerous.
- (d) Councillor Morgan – Advised that Stroud was to lose its Visitor Information Centre and stated that Tetbury was extremely fortunate that the District Council had agreed to assist with funding the Tetbury VIC for the next three years. Requested information regarding pavements

from the new Wells Masonry and Lions Court development along Cirencester Road as this was a very fast road for pedestrians to cross.

(e) Councillor Mitchell – Asked whether the traffic lights along Cirencester Road could be removed in the evening and weekends as this was holding traffic up unnecessarily.

(f) Councillor Turton – Looking at setting up a meeting in March regarding Pride in our Town to see if organisations within the town would like to be involved. Holding a meeting with the Manager at Tesco and attending the Dolphins Hall meeting to discuss electric charging points and electric bikes.

(g) Councillor Williams – Advised the building firm developing the old Youth Club had gone into liquidation and the property was back on the market.

(h) Councillor Ind – Advised that vegetation at the entrance to Love Lane from the Damsells needed cutting back

(i) Councillor Easterbrook – Asked if the bollard at the bottom of Love Lane could be painted as this area is not very well lit and the bollard was currently black.

(j) Councillor McCorkell – Although the Twinning Association’s application for EU funding had been unsuccessful the event would still proceed but on a much smaller scale.

TC13. 02/19 Items for inclusion on future agendas:

Members were invited to contact the Mayor and/or Town Clerk.

TC14. 02/19 Date of next meeting of the Council Monday 25th March 2019 at 7pm

Noted.

TC15. 02/19 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.

TC16. 02/19 Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th January 2019:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th January were APPROVED as a correct record. Record of Voting: For - 13, Against – 0, Abstention – 1, Absent/Apologies – 1.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

Chair Dated