

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING 7pm  
held at Tetbury Library, Close Gardens, Tetbury, GL8 8DU on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
November 2023**

Present:

Town Councillors: Liz Farnham (Mayor), Nikki Ind, Ian Watson, Suzanne Sanderson, Patricia Burrell, Steve Scott, Judith Taylor, Ann Pearce, Colin Pearce, Rodney Smith, Peter Leech, Kevin Painter, and Peter Colman.

Officers: T Niblett (CEO (Chief Executive Officer)) V Bolwell (EO (Executive Officer))

Public: 14 members of the public.

**TC01. 11/23 To receive and accept any apologies for absence:**

Cllr Z Baker – received and accepted.

**TC02. 11/23 To receive declarations of interest in connection with agenda items as shown and not already stated on Register of Interests:**

None.

**TC03. 11/23 Public Consultation:**

**VIC Assistance** - The significance of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was emphasised by an assistant, highlighting its global reach and local importance. Drawing visitors from across the world, the VIC's strategic location within the town ensures easy accessibility, complemented by nearby parking facilities. Its value extends beyond the High Street, catering to the needs of both tourists and residents.

Could council consider sustaining its presence on Tetbury High Street, could council operate the VIC under reduced hours?

**Resident** – Tetbury has recently experienced further incidents of vandalism, impacting residents. We relocated from Bristol last October and we have unfortunately fallen victim to this vandalism twice. Concerned about these occurrences, the resident addressed the council, seeking measures to prevent future incidents. The resident shared with the committee that, via the Facebook Group "Experience Tetbury," a private group has been established to actively pursue justice regarding these incidents.

**Representative of Greening Tetbury** - Greening Tetbury (GT) expressed their disappointment regarding the council's decision to remove four Cherry trees at St. Saviour's Church for the purpose of creating more burial plots. They felt that the decision was made without allowing the public to voice their concerns. GT highlighted the contradiction in the council's actions, considering the declaration of a climate emergency and the existence of a climate strategy. They questioned why the council seemed to disregard these initiatives despite their stated commitment to environmental considerations.

**Resident** – A resident suggested that the Highways working group should have brought up the recent road works in Tetbury to Gloucestershire Highways (GH). These road works coincided with a prolonged period of rain, which made the alternative routes impassable. The resident questioned why the highways department did not take the initiative to contact GH regarding this issue.

Cllr C Pearce – The working group members were not notified about the road works. Additionally, their role within the group is solely advisory, lacking any decision-making authority or powers.

Chair Cllr Liz Farnham moved Agenda item 09 for the benefit of the public.

**TC09. 11/23 To discuss the Tetbury 20s plenty proposed 20mph zone:**

Representative from '20 is plenty' updated members with the progress of the TRO order application. Councillors' feedback regarding a proposed zone map was requested. This is an online survey, and it is requested that, at this time, should only be shared with other councillors. Final version, once approved by TTC, will be available at a future public consultation.

'20 is plenty' members appreciated TTC inclusion of the campaign in the Business Plan.

The members would like to request that consideration be given for the following:

- Can the campaign use the TTC logo on advertising that shows the council's support?
- Councillors provide feedback by completing the survey.

Cllr K Painter started this many years ago. The work produced by the 20 is plenty team is excellent and we should be supporting it. Cllr K Painter despite being a great idea who will police this?

Cllr I Watson fully supports the initiative; we need to approach Gloucestershire County Council.

Cllr P Coleman fully supports and reiterates the excellent work that has been produced.

In order to seek approval of the 20 is plenty project it was proposed by Councillor N Ind seconded by Councillor I Watson to suspend Standing Orders.

Voting record	For 13	Abstain 0	Against 0	Absent 1
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It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor K Painter to support the 20 is plenty 20mph zone.

Voting record	For 13	Abstain 0	Against 0	Absent 1
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**TC04. 11/23 To approve minutes of Full Council meeting of the council held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023:**

After amendments, it was proposed by Councillor P Coleman seconded by Councillor J Taylor to approve the minutes of the meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

Voting record	For 11	Abstain 2	Against 0	Absent 1
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**TC05. 11/23 To note action points:** Noted.

**TC11 12/22 Dolphin Recreation Committee** – Please can we get an update regarding the build.

**TC07 07/23 S106 Allocation** – Ongoing

**TC06. 11/23 To discuss and approve VIC arrangements for 2024 onwards:**

Cllr J Taylor commended the Visitor Information Centre (VIC), acknowledging its prime location within the town. Moreover, Councillor J Taylor praised the exceptional performance of both members of staff at the VIC.

Contrarily, Cllr K Painter expressed a desire for more time in exploring potential changes to the VIC. Specifically, Cllr Painter suggested a working group report to investigate the feasibility of staff

reduction and reduced operating hours. Additionally, Cllr Painter initiated discussions about the prospect of relocating the VIC to the church.

Cllr S Scott highlighted financial considerations, noting that the current operation of the VIC costs the council £34,000. Moving the VIC under the town council's administration could potentially yield savings of £9,500 in the initial year, as proposed by Cllr Scott.

Cllr A Pearce raised concerns about the potential impact of relocation on available space for councillors to hold private meetings. Cllr A Pearce emphasised the accessibility of the current front office and cautioned against overlooking the importance of having suitable meeting spaces for councillors to conduct essential work.

It was proposed by Councillor K Painter seconded by Councillor A Pearce to decide the future of the Visitor information centre until Full Council in January 2024.

Voting record	For 7	Against 6	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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The VIC Working Group will now consist of Cllrs A Pearce and K Painter, tasked with preparing a comprehensive report for presentation to the Full Council in January 2024.

In the latest developments, Cllrs P Coleman and P Burrell have stepped down from their positions within the Working Group. Cllr S Sanderson has expressed a desire to continue contributing and wishes to remain an active member of the group.

This reshuffling within the Working Group highlights changes in membership, with Cllrs A Pearce and K Painter taking charge of steering the efforts to produce the forthcoming report, while Cllr Sanderson remains committed to contributing to the group's objectives.

**TC07. 11/23 To discuss and recommend draft 2024-25 budget for the public consultation taking place on Wednesday 17th January 2024:**

After a lengthy debate It was proposed by Councillor S Scott seconded by Councillor L Farnham to reduce the number of options and present this in Decembers full council meeting.

Voting record	For 13	Against 0	Abstain 0	Absent 1
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**TC08. 11/23 To approve Tetbury Town Council 2024-2028 Business Plan:**

Cllr L Farnham noted the working group – Cllr S Scott, Cllr P Burrell, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr Z Baker, and herself.

Cllr N Ind noted how important these documents are for the Council. Also thanked the group for all their hard work.

It was proposed by Councillor P Coleman seconded by Councillor I Watson to approve the Tetbury Town Council 2024-2028 Business Plan.

Voting record	For 10	Against 1	Abstain 2	Absent 1
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*Agenda Item 9. Moved forward*

**TC10. 11/23 To note Neighbourhood planning training report:**

The members thanked Cllr J Taylor for the informative and interesting training. Noted.

**TC11. 11/23 To note Cotswold District Council polling station review:**

The members discussed the option of Tetbury being warded and asked the CEO to find out more information. Noted.

**TC12. 11/23 To note Mayors and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) reports:**

Cllr L Farnham and T Niblett met the CEO from GAPTC.

**TC13. 11/23 To note Police Report:**

As the representative on the South Cotswold Councillor Advocacy Scheme Cllr Farnham raised the issue of an absent report. Members received link to online report.

**TC14. 11/23 To note minutes from Committees and Working Group:**

**Health, Wellbeing and Youth** – Accessibility Terms of reference is still not approved – there had been a discrepancy regarding when the paper had been received.

Cllr Z Baker – The committee gave no financial contribution for the recent Fireworks Display.

**Highways** – Meeting was called off. Bath Bridge repair is still ongoing due to Heritage England.

**TC15. 11/23 To consider correspondence received to date:**

Tetbury Library – March 2024 full refurbishment begins; we will need to move our meetings during this period.

Cherry Trees Greening Tetbury – Disappointed that there had been no information regarding the removal of these trees.

FOI- Chris Twells

**TC16. 11/23 To receive County Councillor Report:**

Noted.

**TC17. 11/23 To receive District Councillors Reports:**

Noted - Cllr N Ind – Would like to invite the developers of the doctor's site back to keep the Town Council updated.

Noted – Cllr I Watson The pre-planning phase for the sports pitch at Sir William Romney's School has been initiated.

Cllr C Pearce has expressed reservations concerning the expected increase in traffic volume due to this development. Cllr C Pearce expressed the need for consideration of an alternative route to mitigate the potential traffic impact on the area.

The concerns raised by Cllr C Pearce highlights the importance of assessing and addressing any potential traffic implications associated with the development of the sports pitch at Sir William Romney's School, a need for thoughtful planning to minimise adverse effects on the local traffic flow.

**TC18. 11/23 To receive Members Reports:**

**Cllr A Pearce** – Has continued as Rural Domestic Abuse Champion.

Asked Cllr P Coleman, as a trustee of the Good Shed, why has there been lack of advertising for the Bon Jovi Experience event. Could you provide information into why the Good Shed have failed to promote this event?

Could we please write to Tetbury Football Club and thank them for the successful Fireworks display and bringing it back to the community.

**Cllr C Pearce** – Could our District Councillors’ please ask the Monitoring Officer to respond to emails.

**TC19. 11/23 Items for inclusion on the December Agenda:**

Budget  
VIC

**TC20. 11/23 To note the dates and time of the next Full Council meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm:** Noted.

Cllr I Watson gave apologies.  
Cllr N Ind gave apologies.

**TC21. 11/23 Exclusion of the Public and Press to allow discussion of confidential business:** It was proposed by Councillor N Ind seconded by Councillor K Painter 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 items of business on the grounds they 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.

**TC22. 11/23 To discuss and approve response for FOI request received by District Councillor Twells:** It was proposed by Councillor L Farnham seconded by Councillor S Scott following the public interest test the Council supported the reasons for withholding/disclosing the requested information.

Voting record	For 12	Against 0	Abstain 1	Absent 1
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Meeting ended 2138

Chair ..... Dated .....