

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 2021

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Bannister, Eakin, Harvey, Howells, Hughes, Knight, Manns, Morris and Troy

**ALSO PRESENT:** Angela Price – Town Clerk  
Councillor Helen l’Anson – Ward Councillor

**C366. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Whattler and Vesma.

**C367. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**C368. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL HELD ON 22 APRIL AND 27 MAY 2021**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 22 April 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

(a) Minute no. C349 – first paragraph, page 1880 be amended to read:

“However, there were some comments that the consultants and the AONB did not agree with, including whether Ledbury Park should be listed in the Settlement Boundary and whether Masefield Meadow should be included as a protected green space.”

(b) Page 1881 “Discussions on the above points made by Councillor Harvey, second paragraph to be amended as follows:

“.....would have to be suitable for visitors to the Council’s website who are colour blind.”

(c) Page 1883 “Point 6” first paragraph to be amended to read:

“.....platform services and extended car parking.”

(d) Page 1883 “Point 6” – remove “Suspension of Standing Orders”

2. That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on Thursday, 27 May 2021 be deferred to the next meeting of Council to allow for more detail to be included at minute no. C355.

**C369. TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(e) and 3(f)**

None received.

**C370. TO RECIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9**

Motion received from Councillor Harvey – Proposal for Civic Protocol – Appointment of Town Mayor

Councillor Harvey advised that her motion proposed the Council broadly adopting the procedure employed by Hereford City Council and other Councils in respect of how the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be appointed.

She advised that the procedure would be that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be appointed in order of service to the Council which would allow Councillors to know when they would have the opportunity to be Mayor, noting that should they not wish to up either role they can decline.

In addition to the report provided Councillor Harvey stated that she felt it was a good idea for many reasons including allowing Members an opportunity to support their colleagues, a chance for each Deputy Mayor to train in readiness for the role of Mayor and that it removes the politics from the process. She stated that it will show that Members have confidence in one another and that everyone should be given the opportunity to stand for Mayor should they wish to do so.

Councillors raised the following points in respect of the proposal:

- That once a Member has served their year they should then return to the bottom of the list;
- That a Councillor who has left the Council and then returns should automatically return to the bottom of the list and not as Councillor Harvey had suggested, taking into account their accumulated years of service;
- That Members should not take up the role of Mayor/Deputy Mayor within the first 2/3 years of service;
- Councillors are democratically elected, and are on the Council to use their individual knowledge and experience to make

democratic decisions on who they think will be best doing a job in current circumstances – the process being proposed is anti-democratic;

- The proposal does offer a democratic process as Councillors would be required to vote on any candidate for the roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and can therefore exercise democracy through the voting process;
- What would happen when Members decline to take up the role – would they return to the bottom of the list;

There were mixed views on the proposal and Councillor Bannister urged Members to reject this proposal.

### **Councillor Knight left the meeting at 7.45 pm.**

Councillor Troy felt that the proposal was incomplete and advised that he would be nervous voting on incomplete information, suggesting that the proposal needs to be more comprehensive.

Following considerable debate Councillor Howells proposed that this item be deferred for further information and a named vote was requested:

For: Councillors Bannister, Morris, Howells, Troy and Manns  
Against: Councillors Harvey and Hughes  
Abstention: Councillor Eakin

**The Vote was carried.**

**RESOVED to defer this item to a future meeting of Council, pending further information.**

### **Councillor Howells left the meeting.**

**C371 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JUNE 2021 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATION THEREIN**

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 9 June 2021 be received and noted, noting the following amendments:**
  - (a) **Page 1 – That “Via Virtual Means” be removed from the heading, as this meeting was held in person.**

- (b) **Minute no. F360. “To receive the Balance Sheet and Trial Balance” – paragraph two be amended to read as follows:**

**“She explained to Members that this had been carried out following the year end close down.”**

- (c) **Minute no. F163 “MONITORTING” be amended to read “MONITORING”.**

- (d) **Minute no. F364 – RECOMMENDATION – be amended to read as follows:**

**“That the completed Annual Governance Statement be approved at the next meeting of Council, subject to further advice being received from RBS Accountancy.”**

- 2. That a copy of the Annual Governance Statement be attached to the minutes for clarity on the questions asked in boxes 1-9.**
- 3. That all decisions taken by the Clerk in conjunction with Chairs and Vice-Chairs to be submitted to the next meeting of Full Council for information purposes.**

**Councillor Howells re-joined the meeting.**

**C372. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JUNE 2021 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN**

Councillor Harvey noted that there were resolved points within the minutes, however the meeting had been an informal, non-decision-making meeting and questioned whether this needed to be amended. The Clerk advised that Councillor Harvey was correct and that these need to be amended.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Economic Development & Planning Committee held on 10 June 2021 be received and noted and that the following amendments be made prior to their approval at a future meeting of the committee:**

1. **Minute No. P432 be amended to read:**

**“Members of the Economic Development & Planning Committee received and noted the minutes of a meeting of the Economic Development & Planning Committee held on 13 May 2021.**

2. **Minute No. P434 (2-9) should be amended to read as follows:**

**“No objections were raised in respect of this application.”**

3. **Minute No. P436 be amended to read as follows:**

**“It was suggested that the Clerk consider arranging a meeting with Turley, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee.”**

### **C373. CO-OPTION POLICY**

Members were requested to give consideration to a request from Councillor Harvey to include either of the following within the Co-option Policy:

1. That all applicants are required to obtain two signatures from electors who reside within the ward the applicant wishes to represent.

OR

2. That all applicants be required to obtain signatures from ten electors who reside within the ward the applicant wishes to represent.

Following debate on this matter Councillor Harvey proposed and Councillor Hughes seconded option 2 – “That all applicants be required to obtain signatures from ten electors who reside within the ward the application wishes to represent.”

**The vote was CARRIED 5 votes to 3.**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the following be included within the Council’s Co-option Policy:**

**“That all applicants be required to obtain signatures from ten electors who reside within the ward the applicant wishes to represent.”**

**C374. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(x)**

**RESOLVED:**

**To suspend Standing Order 3(x) for a period of 30 minutes to allow for the completion of the remaining items on the agenda.**

**C375. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2020/21**

Members were provided with year-end budget information and asked to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement as agreed at a meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 9 June 2021, subject to satisfactory responses having been received from RBS Accountancy in respect of questions raised at that meeting.

The Chair of Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee provided an overview of the information provided.

The Clerk advised that clarification of the points raised had been sought from RBS Accountancy and that this was attached to the reports. She also advised that the explanatory note in respect of boxes 5 and 8 were also enclosed with the reports.

Councillor Harvey advised that it would be helpful to include an explanation in respect of box 7.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That subject to the inclusion of an explanation in respect of box 7 being included, the Annual Governance and Accountability be approved.**
- 2. That a vote of thanks be given to Sue Askwith for her hard work pulling the Council's finances together over the past year.**

**C376. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting scheduled for 24 June 2021.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

Signed .....  
(Town Mayor)

Dated .....