

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THE FULL COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 22 APRIL 2021
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Councillors Bannister, Chowns, Harvey, Hughes, Howells, Knight, Manns, Morris, Troy, Whattler, Vesma (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk – Angela Price

C345 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Eakin and Treanor.

C346 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

C347 TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST AND AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2021

Members were asked to approve as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 1ST and the Extraordinary meeting of 6th of April 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 1 and Extraordinary meeting 6 April 2021 be approved and signed as correct record.

C348 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

C349 TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IN RELATION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP) 2021

Notes to Consider in relation to the Public Consultation Issues
Issues & Options – Version 9
Issues & Options Explanatory Leaflet – Version 9
Issues & Options Questionnaire – Version 9

Councillor Howells advised members that documents provided with the agenda should be ready for approval and that there are a set of comprehensive documents. He thanked Councillor Harvey for the comments

that she had made and advised that they have been considered and amended appropriately. 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.

Whilst Councillor Harvey appreciated the work that had been carried out by the Working Party and Councillor Howells, she felt that she had to look through the documentation with a critical eye, due to other councillors not providing comments. She advised that there were obvious mistakes in the documentation which could subsequently lose the confidence that residents have in the council to carry out the NDP. She subsequently asked the Chair of the committee to go through the comments she had submitted individually for consideration.

She asked if Councillor Howells could advise members what the implications for properties and premises that find themselves under the revised conditions in the town centre, whereas previously they were not.

Councillor Troy proposed that members go through the documentation to ensure that there are no errors and that members fully understand the proposed documents. Councillor Knight agreed with Councillor Troy and asked for a named vote at the end of the discussion.

Councillor Harvey referred members to her email that the Clerk circulated before the meeting and advised the below points:

1. The colouring of the maps, in particular the green and purple, were not clear and could cause confusion. This could also be an issue for members of the public who are colour blind.
2. Concerns with the settlement boundary options, due to the previous settlement Boundary being rejected by the Inspector (option number 2 on page 1818)
3. Concerns with the working to question 2a. There is a need to expand provision for sport rather than a high priority (Question 2a page 1819)
4. The proposed boundary on the Little Marcle Road should be a dotted line so it is clearer for residents to see (question 2b page 1819).
5. Changing Question 2d(i) to ***'Advancing more than one site to meet this requirement'***.
6. Concerns with the wording of question 3b on page 1821.
7. Concerns with the lack of pros and cons in relation to question 4a on page 1823.
8. Figure 6 reference to be mentioned at the start of Green Infrastructure to help residents make informed decisions on question 5.

Discussions on the above points made by Councillor Harvey.

Point 1 (Maps)

Councillor Howells advised that due to the leaflet being printed on A5 paper, it was agreed that the maps would be uploaded to the website where they could be enlarged. He advised that changing the colours would take more time and effort for the consultants however he will look into this.

The Clerk advised that there is an accessibility statement on the council's website and that the colours would have to be suitable for visitors who are colour blind.

Councillor Chowns noticed that some maps had larger margins than others and suggested changing the layout of the maps which could be made bigger and therefore clear to read. The Town Clerk advised that the staff in the office could look into this.

Councillor Whattler suggested that the employment and sporting land could be a spotted line to keep consistent with other maps.

Point 2 (Settlement Boundary)

Councillor Howells advised that some members of the public do not want a settlement Boundary, therefore option 1 should be available. He also advised members that the reason the inspector did not accept the settlement boundary was because they felt that there were not enough supporting documents available.

Councillor Harvey asked whether the NDP working party had addressed the comments made by the inspector last year. Councillor Howells advised that they had taken advice from professional consultants and that they have been addressed.

Councillor Howells reminded members of a recommendation that was made in the previous meeting of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting. He asked members for a named vote on whether to include a question in relation to proposing a route for a bypass to the north of the town to be protected. (Question 3a on page 1821). There has been strong advice received from consultants to remove the questions as Developers could challenge this in the future.

A named vote was taken after Councillor Bannister seconded the proposal from Councillor Howells to remove question 3a from the Issues and options document.

Agree

Councillor Troy
Councillor Bannister
Councillor Hughes

Councillor Harvey
Councillor Howells
Councillor Morris
Councillor Whattler
Councillor Chowns
Councillor Manns

Abstain

Councillor Vesma
Councillor Knight

Councillor Harvey suggested having a question asking whether people want to see a southern access protected increase its needed.

Councillor Howells agreed with Councillor Harvey's suggestion however was advised not to raise public expectations by consultants and Sam Banks at Herefordshire Council. He suggested that the replacement question be:

'Assuming it is technically feasible, which is not certain and despite the enquiry result. Do you think LTC should continue to press for second access under the Viaduct to be delivered at some point in the future.'

Councillor Harvey felt that Councillor Howells proposed question was not appropriate and proposed the following question to be presented as question 3a in the Issues and options document:

'Should an option to provide an additional access off the Hereford Road to the viaduct housing development be preserved for the future'.

A named vote was taken after Councillor Knight seconded Councillor Harvey's proposal.

Agreed

Councillor Troy
Councillor Vesma
Councillor Knight
Councillor Bannister
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Howells
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Manns
Councillor Whattler
Councillor Chowns

Point 3 (Employment and Recreation)

Councillor Harvey was unsure on the wording of question 2a on page 1817. She advised members that there was a proven need for more sporting land and suggested incorporating this into the question.

Both Councillor Vesma and Bannister advised that just because there was a proven need for sporting land, it did not mean that all residents would agree to it being a high priority. Councillor Vesma thought that it could be beneficial to give a list of priorities and ask residents to put them in order of priority.

Councillor Harvey suggested adding **'for this update'** at the end of question 2a.

Point 6 (Land North of the Viaduct and Railway Line)

Councillor Harvey proposed that question 3b is amended to read; ***'Do you support development to the eastbound platform of the railway station, platform services and extended carparking'***.

Suspension of Standing Orders

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Howells send the NDP maps to Council Officers to see whether it is possible to make them bigger and subsequently clearer.
2. That question 3a on page 1821 be removed from the Issues and Options document.
3. That the following question be included in the Options and Issues document as question 3a.

'Should an option to provide an additional access off the Hereford Road to the viaduct housing development be preserved for the future'.

4. That question 2a on page 1817 read ***'Do you agree that providing land to expand provision for a sport is a high priority for this update'***.
5. That Question 2d(i) on page 1820 be amended to read ***'Advancing more than one site to meet this requirement'***.
6. That question 3b is amended to read; ***'Do you support development to the eastbound platform of the railway station, platform services and extended carparking'***.
7. That members of the NDP add more information, including pros and cons to ensure that members of the public are able to make an informed decision on question 4a on page 1823.
8. That question 4b on page 1823 be amended to read; ***'Given the changes in retail type definitions, do you agree that there should be no planning terms differentiation between primary and secondary shop frontages and shops, restaurants and cafes, drinking establishments, financial and professional services, and that hot food takeaways be allowed within this combined frontage?'***.
9. That the proposed documents be approved by Full Council, noting that the NDP Working Party take Councillor Harvey's comments into consideration and amend appropriately.

C350

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Members were requested to suspend Standing Orders to consider confidential agenda item 6.

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended to allow an additional 30 minutes to discuss agenda item 6.

C351

TO CONSIDER HOW TO MANAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS BETWEEN 7 MAY – 21 JUNE 2021

Members were provided with information received from the society of Local Council Clerks in relation to how the council could manage its activities during the period 7 May – 21 June 2021 due to the current legislation being withdrawn.

Members were requested to confer delegated powers to the Clerk in conjunction with Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the period 7 May to 21 June 2021.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That delegated powers be given to the Clerk in conjunction with Chairs and Vice Chairs for the period of 7 May to 21 June 2021.**
- 2. That it be noted that the next meeting of Annual Council Meeting will be rescheduled for 24 June 2021.**

C352

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: To note that the date of the next Annual Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 24th June 2021.

The meeting closed at 10:17 pm

Signed
Town Mayor

Date