

TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2023/24 MEETING TC11

Minutes of the meeting of TENBURY TOWN COUNCIL held on
Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.00 pm
in The Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BA

PRESENT: Cllr. S. Bowkett, G. Brittain, M. Davies, N. Ferguson, D. Patrick [Mayor] and R. Perrin.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk, the Assistant to the Town Clerk, Worcestershire County Council, Cllr. D. Chambers, Malvern Hills District Council, Cllr L. Bruton and Cllr. A. Wilmot, 2 representatives of the Environment Agency, 1 representative of The Regal, 2 applicants for co-option and 1 member of the public.

C23.203 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies from Cllr. L. Davies due to a family commitment, Cllr. D. Ingram due to illness and Cllr. C. Dey-Badham due to a hospital appointment.

C23.204 CO-OPTION

- (i) Members considered the co-option for the vacancy of office of Councillor to represent the Town Ward. Following a separate vote on the two applications it was:

RESOLVED:

Mrs F. Gittens and Mrs L. Jones were duly elected as Members of Tenbury Town Council representing the Town Ward.

- (ii) There were no applications for co-option for the vacancy of office of Councillor to represent the St. Michael Ward.
- (iii) **Mrs F. Gittens and Mrs L. Jones duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Acceptance of the Code of Conduct, which were witnessed by the Town Clerk as the Council's Proper Officer.**

C23.205 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made under the Code of Conduct pursuant to the Localism Act 2011, by Cllr. F. Gittens and Cllr. L. Jones in respect of item **C23.219 Community Residents' Groups** on the agenda, due to both Councillors looking to start community groups.

C23.206 DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

C23.207 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was adjourned for public question time.

- (i) **Public Question Time – General**

None.

- (ii) **Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team (Appendix A)**

PCSO A. Partridge from the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team attended the meeting. A report had been circulated to Members, which detailed 26 incidents that had been reported through the Operational Control Centre during November 2023 to January 2024. PCSO Partridge stated that herself and PC. Lawman had



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been attending local community events and coffee mornings trying to rebuild residents trust in the service to hopefully lead to more reports being made.

(iii) **Worcestershire County Council** (Appendix B)

Members received a report from the County Councillor, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Chambers stated that there are major concerns in regard to the budget, which will be presented to Council on the 15th February. There are three areas of overspend, Adult Social Care, Childcare Placement and Home to School Transport.

Cllr. Chambers stated that the Childcare Services was an area that will be receiving attention with currently over 1,000 children in care with some of these placements costing up to £12,000 per child, per week.

Cllr. Chambers asked again if anybody is considering becoming a foster carer to please come forward.

Cllr. Chambers stated that he is currently trying to seek permission for a road crossing on Oldwood Road by the High School. If permission is granted, Cllr. Chambers will fund the majority of the cost from his Ward Budget.

Cllr. Chambers stated that the project to install a sump and pump in Market Street has been given the green light, with work starting on 28th March. The work will require traffic management, however this will be via traffic lights, not a full road closure.

A Member queried the root cause of the flooding in Market Street.

Cllr. Chambers stated that there is a problem with the drains in Market Street and Severn Trent will be carrying out works when the Pumping Station is upgraded. The Environment Agency representative stated he could explain in more detail in his presentation.

A Member queried the constraints on the budget, and whether this would affect youth services.

Cllr. Chambers stated that he can only answer in relation to youth services provided by Worcestershire County Council to say that there are no planned cuts or reductions in Youth Services.

A Member queried the status on the requested footbridge.

Cllr. Chambers stated that a footbridge simply is not an option as there is no funding available for such a project and will not be for at least five years. It is also not possible to remove one of the pavements as there are utilities underneath and the edges of the bridge were not designed to hold the weight of traffic. The County Council are currently looking at raising the kerbs to make it difficult for vehicles to mount the pavement and are also in conversation with Shropshire Council regarding a one-way system with traffic lights. In the meantime the County council have removed the white lines and there will be signs in place indicating the narrowness of the road.

(iv) **Malvern Hills District Council** (Appendix C and D)

Members received reports from the Malvern Hills District Councillors, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr. Bruton stated that she was pleased to report that her ward budget had been allocated to the primary school for the purchase of new library books.



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A Member stated that he wished to raise an item in Cllr. Wilmot's report regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. In his report, Cllr. Wilmot stated that the Town Council had agreed to take on the Neighbourhood Plan, when in fact the decision had been deferred.

Cllr. Wilmot apologised for the misunderstanding.

A Member questioned Cllr. Wilmot with regards Teme Bridge, firstly that a footbridge is not under active review and secondly on the dates that the four pedestrians and a cyclist were hit.

Cllr. Wilmot stated that he had not been aware until this meeting that the footbridge was not a possibility and that he did not have dates for the incidents, but that these were historical, not since the last meeting.

The PCSO was asked if the police had received any such reports of pedestrians or cyclists being hit on the bridge by traffic, to which she replied she was not aware of any.

The meeting of the Council was reconvened.

C23.208 TENBURY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Members received an update from the Environment Agency's Flood & Coastal Risk Management Advisor on the proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme for Tenbury.

The representative began by explaining the flooding on Market Street, which is in two phases. Firstly the ground water rising, secondly when the Kyre Brook overtops. These issues will be addressed in a separate scheme involving Severn Trent and Worcestershire County Council who will be investigating exactly how and why there is flooding in this area and how best to deal with the issues.

A Member asked if the representative could clarify the timescale of the project.

The representative stated that the timescale has not been confirmed at this stage, however a large amount of work has been devoted towards the formation of the planning application.

A Member queried if there was a risk to the project if costs become too high.

The representative stated that this is always a potential risk, however the project team are constantly seeking additional funding.

A Member stated that for the operational plan, community engagement is key.

A Member asked would it be a community operated scheme.

The representative stated that in the event of a flood it would be most likely that the Environment Agency would be unable to get to Tenbury in time, therefore the community would be required to close the flood gates.

A Member asked if the representative believed that the risk of the project not being undertaken was higher now than it was 12 months ago.

The representative stated that the risk was about the same with no real difference.

C23.209 TRAILTALE HISTORIC TOWNS

Members received an online presentation via Teams regarding the possibility of collaborating with TrailTale Services C.I.C. to create a mobile phone based heritage trail



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for Tenbury at no cost, subject to securing grant funding from The Heritage Lottery Fund.

The nearest areas already involved are Ledbury and Tewkesbury. The trail is developed through engagement with civic societies and town councils. To proceed the town council would be required to draft a letter of necessity stating that the trail was required to help regenerate the town.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. D. Patrick seconded by Cllr. G. Brittain and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To defer a decision until further research can be undertaken into existing users of the Mobile Phone Application.

C23.210 THE REGAL

Members received an update from the Chair of The Regal (Tenbury) Trust Ltd, who stated that the main emphasise of the trust had been around finances. The Trust have been taking very rigorous measures to return the theatres finances back in balance. There has been an improvement however the trust is still at a loss.

Current measures being undertaken include no unplanned overtime, very small paid staff group, a restructure on the replacement of staff, reviewing all contracts, working on fundraising and pushing to sell space in both the theatre and community space simultaneously.

The pantomime was run on a very strict budget and although it did make a small profit, this was not as much as hoped for.

Seven new trustees have been appointed and 13 new volunteers have been recruited and trained.

Looking forward, the projector requires replacing for which, a Rural Grant application has been submitted to the District Council. The front of the building will undergo a refresh with funding from Malvern Hills District Council. There is a new Regal Choir and Regal Dance Troupe, the theatre is supporting Kyrebrook Day Centre in their fundraising and the theatre are looking to participate in the Easter HAF (Holiday, Activities and Food) program. The Town is also being asked to vote for its favourite films, with the films receiving the most votes beginning shown.

C23.211 MINUTES

To approve and sign the draft minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 8th January 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. R. Perrin seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of Tenbury Town Council held on 8th January 2024 were confirmed as a true and accurate account of the meetings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

C23.212 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES

Members received and noted the draft minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- (i) Facilities Committee – 15th January 2024



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- (ii) Planning Committee – 29th January 2024
- (iii) Finance & Staffing Committee – 29th January 2024

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Brittain seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To note the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

- (i) **Facilities Committee – 15th January 2024**
- (ii) **Planning Committee – 29th January 2024**
- (iii) **Finance & Staffing Committee – 29th January 2024**

C23.213 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- (i) To consider whether to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. M. Davies seconded by Cllr. N. Ferguson and

RESOLVED: (For 5, 1 Abstention)

To no longer continue with Neighbourhood Plan process due to potential costs outweighing the benefit.

- (ii) Members considered refunding Burford Parish Council's contribution to the plan of £2,500.00.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Patrick seconded by Cllr. G. Brittain and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree refunding Burford Parish Council's contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan of £2,500.00.

C23.214 D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Members considered holding a commemorative event to mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings on 6 June 2024 and/or the weekend 8/9th June 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Brittain seconded by Cllr. D. Patrick and unanimously

RESOLVED:

- (i) **To agree to holding a commemorative event to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Normandy Landings.**
- (ii) **To agree a working group to organise the events to include Cllrs. D. Patrick, G. Brittain, L. Jones and N. Ferguson and to be supported by the Town Clerk and Town Council Community Builder.**

C23.215 HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE (HWFRS) PUBLIC

CONSULTATION

Members noted the Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service have launched a public consultation exercise on the Service's Resource Review proposals.

[Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service \(HWFRS\) - Resource Review Consultation \(ors.org.uk\)](https://www.ors.org.uk)



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C23.216 COMMUNITY FLOOD INFORMATION

- (i) Members noted the Emergency Planning Officers information on which local authorities and organisations have responsibilities regarding flooding.
- (ii) Members considered producing an updated 'Your Guide to an Emergency' leaflet.
It was proposed by Cllr. D. Patrick seconded by Cllr. G. Brittain and unanimously

RESOLVED:

To agree to produce an updated 'Your Guide to an Emergency' leaflet.

C23.217 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW

Members noted the draft recommendations for new divisions, division boundaries and division names for Worcestershire County Council. There were comments from Members.

Due to the late running of the meeting, the following five agenda items were postponed to the next scheduled Full Council meeting.

C23.218 WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

- (i) To note the briefing note on Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- (ii) To consider a response to the Issues and Options consultation.

C23.219 COMMUNITY RESIDENTS' GROUPS

To consider free room hire for small resident led community groups.

C23.220 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

To consider a request by a Member for meetings to be recorded and to be used to produce the minutes.

C23.221 CORRESPONDENCE/MEETING INFORMATION

To note that supporting documents for decision items and for information can be viewed on Members SharePoint. Training on SharePoint can be arranged through the Town Clerk if required.

C23.222 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

To receive reports from the representatives on outside bodies - deferred.

The following agenda items were discussed.

C23.223 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members agreed the exclusion of Press and Public on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.



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C23.224 DAVID & CHRISTINE LLOYD-JONES FOUNDATION

(i) To nominate a Member to represent the Council on a working party.

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Brittain seconded by Cllr. N. Ferguson and unanimously

RESOLVED:

Cllr. D. Patrick to represent the Council on the working party.

(ii) Members noted the Terms of Reference and made no comments.

C23.225 RE-ADMISSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There being no further confidential business, Members agreed a motion to readmit the press and public for the remainder of the meeting.

C23.226 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Deferred agenda items.

C23.227 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4th March 2024 at 7:00pm

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Date

