

UPTON UPON SEVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 20th June 2006 IN THE
MEMORIAL HALL

18/06/07

Present: Chairman Cllr J Thompson (Town Mayor)
Vice Chairman: Cllr T. Perry (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors: P. Martin, J. Surtees, A. Morgan, S. Walsh, J. Dean, T. Drake, C. Mair, M. Morgan, P. Thomas, S. Yates, S. Wilkinson (also acting as clerk for this meeting).

1. To receive apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies Cllr E. White, & The Clerk. Absent Cllr T. Dickson

2. Minutes

- 2.1 To adopt all agreed Committee meeting minutes March/April en-bloc - **Approved**
- 2.2 To agree the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 9th May 2006 - **Approved**
- 2.2 To agree the Minutes of the AGM held on 16th May 2006. Amended to correct the name of the Chair of the Hill Association (Item 6) for "Mike Maynard" read "Mark Mynard". – **Approved as amended**
- 2.3 To adopt the Minutes of the Skateboard Sub Committee meeting held on 16th May 2006 – **Approved.**
- 2.4 Motion to instruct the Council's solicitor to prepare a legal agreement once the signed Constitution is received was **agreed.**
- 2.4 To adopt the Minutes of the Open Spaces & Cemetery Committee meeting held on 23rd May 2006. - **Approved**
- 2.5 To adopt the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9th May & 6th June 2006 - **Approved**
- 2.6 To adopt the Minutes of the Hall, F&GP Committee meeting held on 9th May & 6th June 2006. Minutes of 9th May were amended to insert "Deputy Town Mayor" in the membership of the Staffing Committee (Item 2e).

3. Crime and Disorder

The Town Mayor welcomed Inspector Clive Griffiths to the meeting.

Inspector Griffiths said that the new "Local Policing" arrangements would mean that the Upton team covered a smaller area. Recent activity in Kempsey meant that CSO Burrows had been used there: she should now be seen more in Upton. Two more CSOs were being appointed in the Malvern Hills District

Inspector Griffiths commented on the Crime & Disorder Data for Jan – May 2006 and answered questions about their format, for which he was not responsible, about Anti Social Behaviour and ASBOs, about Drugs, about speeding in the town – the Council should ask for enforcement and specify times and days when this was most needed – and about the comparison which was made between crime levels and the level of policing in Tenbury and in Upton. He said that the relative isolation of Tenbury made a police presence there necessary. Inspector Griffiths recommended that the Council make contact with Steve Hill of Crime-stoppers about the reward scheme. He mentioned vandalism in the cemetery and considered that information might be forthcoming. He thought that the arrangements for rewards operated by crime-stoppers would be more appropriate, and could be more generous, than one operated by the Town Council. It was suggested that Steve Hill be invited to the September meeting of the Council.

Inspector Griffiths commented that at the meeting of the Police Consultative Committee the state of the roads and the pavements appeared to be the main matter of concern.

4. MHDC Council Plan 2006

To discuss statements from the Council Plan.

District Councillor Mary Wilkinson considered that the availability of affordable housing was the most important part of the MHDC Council Plan. It was noted that the Housing enabler had been invited to the July meeting of the Town Council.

The Clerk's concerns about lack of consultation about any plans for the development/enhancement of the town centre were noted. Cllr S. Wilkinson suggested that an early meeting between all the interested parties should be arranged so that there was not some scheme imposed by the District Council.

5. Matters Outstanding from MHDC

District Councillor Mary Wilkinson commented on three matters concerning letters to the District Council:

1. Complaint dated 5th May 2006 re: late payment of Precept sent to Chris Boccock (not even acknowledged). This letter had gone astray and the matter had now been dealt with.
2. Letter dated 5th April 2006 re: Conveyance of High St. toilets Objection to change of use sent to Nigel Snape – acknowledged by telephone by his Secretary (no reply). A reply had now been sent.
3. Letter dated 17th May 2006 re: Litter Collection Skateboard Park sent to Gordon Morris (not acknowledged – no reply). This letter had been going around the system trying to find the right person to reply to it.

6. Matter Outstanding with Worcs CC

County Councillor Bullock said that he would follow up matters concerning the County Council which had been raised by the Clerk especially:

1. Action on making riverfront steps safe.
2. Upton Bridge – paintwork and pavement surface.

County Councillor Bullock said that he was having London Lane looked at. Cllr Surtees drew his attention to Old Street and the High Street and wondered what had happened about the additional bollards in Old Street. Dunns Lane and Severn Drive were also mentioned as being in need of attention

Cllr M. Morgan asked about the considerable amount of work, presumably at County Council expense, which had been observed on the field where caravans been temporarily placed during viaduct work.

County Councillor Bullock would follow up these matters.

Proposals for pedestrian safety were still outstanding. The Clerk would be asked to pursue this with the Highways Partnership Manager.

7. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Yates reported on an optimistic District Scout AGM.

Cllr Walsh reported on the Police Consultative Group Meeting. She echoed Inspector Griffiths on the matters of the CSOs, and concern about the state of roads and pavements. She hoped that more interest would be taken in the group: the minutes were passed to the clerk and contained a questionnaire which might be completed.

Cllr S. Wilkinson reported on the Area CALC AGM. Cllr M. Morgan had been re-appointed to the CALC executive. The importance of Quality Parish Status had been emphasised. It appeared that clusters of parishes might be encouraged in any reorganisation of local government: not reinventing the RDC, but a step in that direction.

District Councillor Mary Wilkinson reported that the arrangements for a "hub" in Upton were progressing, but that there had been some slippage in the timetable. She answered questions about grass cutting: a wet May had delayed activity. She was "on the case".

The Town Mayor and the Clerk had met Mr Ivor Pumfrey about the Council's proposals for reopening the Lower High Street lavatories. There had been an exchange of information. Mr Pumfrey had not considered that the first two of the Council's options could be recommended to MHDC. He was unwilling to recommend a decision until there had been discussions with the other Town Councils: he accepted that this might mean an extension of the deadline.

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8. Town Council to adopt email as a method of sending copy minutes to members.

It was **agreed** that minutes would in future be sent to members of the council by email when this was possible. Minutes for other members would either be collected, or delivered by hand or by post.

9. Correspondence for reply

1. Worcs CC dated 30/5/06 Prohibition of Waiting – School Lane. It was agreed that there was no case for the removal of parking places in School Lane. Large vehicles should not be using Prices Lane, it was increasingly residential, its surface was unsuitable, it was much used by school children. The Clerk was asked to reply accordingly.
2. Mrs D. Shepherd's letter about the Tunnel Hill playground was referred to the Open Spaces Committee.
3. Mrs Winfield's letter about the consequences of the closing of the toilets was noted. The Council agreed that they should be reopened.
4. The complaint from Mr Hands about parking in the disabled spaces and on double yellow lines was noted. The Council was in agreement, but in the absence of enforcement, there was little that could be done.

10. Information/Correspondence

Available from the Committee Room:

Upton Tourism & Trade Association News June 2006
Worcestershire Children & Young People's Plan Consultation Document
Response to Byelaws Discussion Paper

11. Date of next Meeting

18th July 2006

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm.