

UPTON UPON SEVERN TOWN COUNCIL
M I N U T E S

of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th October 2005 in the Memorial Hall at
7.40pm

53/05/06

Present: Chairman Town Mayor Councillor J Thompson
Vice Chairman Deputy Town Mayor Mrs S Walsh
Councillors A Morgan, M Morgan, T Perry, J Surtees, S Wilkinson, S Yates
Also Present: The Clerk Ms G Jennings, County Councillor Bullock, Tarik Alrasheed
(Malvern Gazette), 3 representatives of Upton Tourism & Trade Association

1. To receive apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies: Cllr T Dickson, Cllr R Tyler, Cllr E White, Cllr Mrs P Martin
District Councillor S Adeney

Absent: Cllr T Drake

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

**2.1 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th September 2005 -
Approved**

2.2 To adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee of 20th September 2005 - Adopted

**2.3 To adopt the minutes of the Hall, Finance & General Purposes Committee of 4th October
2005 and to agree waiver of financial regulation 11(i) – item 4.2 line 4 “request” amended to
ask and “plea” amended to request. Cllr. M Morgan clarified that in item 2.7 the assistance to
RBL was to be given in caretaker’s own time and was their decision to make. Financial
regulation 11(i) was waived by Council. – Adopted with amendments**

**2.4 To formally accept the resignation of Councillor Mark Kerrigan as advised to the meeting
of 4th October 2005.** The Council acknowledged the resignation and the Returning Officer
would now be informed.

An adjournment was offered for public participation but declined.

3. Membership of Town Council

3.1 To Co-opt New Council Member

The Council considered the application of Mr Paul Thomas and by unanimous vote co-opted
Mr Thomas who signed his declaration of acceptance of office. No declaration of interest
declared.

**3.2 To consider requesting MHDC to revise the number of councillors necessary and the
spread of representation.** Councillor Wilkinson advised the Council that to achieve Quality
Parish Status the Council must consider the requirement to achieve 100% elected
membership. In 1894 15 councillors were allocated to Upton:

9 Town Ward
3 Hook
3 Longdon Heath. This was later changed to:

9 Town Ward
2 Hook
4 Longdon Heath

Voters were currently split as follows:

1506 Town
190 Hook
657 Longdon Heath

54/05/06

It was difficult to get representation from either the Hook or Longdon Heath and 100% representation had never been achieved to Cllr. Wilkinson's knowledge.

If the numbers were reduced to, say, 11 the 100% might be achieved:

3 Longdon Heath
1 Hook
7 Town

(214 votes per councillor)

Councillor Wilkinson proposed that the Council requests a reduction in the number of councillors for 2007 to adjust the imbalance of votes. The motion stood proposed for decision at the next full Council meeting.

4. Matters outstanding with Worcs. County Council

Matters reported 20/9/05 ongoing – No report necessary

5. Matters outstanding with Malvern Hills District Council

5.1 Alcohol Free Zones – a report was not available from the District Councillors

5.2 Closure of Public Conveniences – Town Council to make a resolution from the attached report. The Town Council were committed to opposing the closure of the High Street public conveniences but in the absence of any firm indication by MHDC that they would refurbish the toilets, it was not possible to consider how the Town Council could enter into an agreement about cleaning. In fact although it had been a decision of MHDC to come back to the table and negotiate with the Town Councils there had been no sign of a compromise on their part and a fait accompli was still being presented. There was a consensus of opinion that the issue was a political game. Councillors were not happy with the financial information being exchanged and the lack of true negotiation. The Town Council **resolved** to defer a decision until the outcome of MHDC's discussions with the other Town Councils was known. The Town Clerk was asked to liaise with Malvern and Tenbury Clerks.

6. To receive reports

6.1 County Council – County Councillor Bullock suggested that the Heart of England Tourist Board was asked to support the opposition to the High Street toilet closure. He advised that the traffic control study was progressing and the Town Council would be further consulted as soon as possible. Worcester County Council currently discussing healthy eating plans for schools.

6.2 District Council - District Councillor Adeney had emailed the following report: She was progressing better bus service with a close watch on 363/364 service to Worcester. A new travel concept was the use of people carriers providing an on demand taxi service to outlying areas but ideas such as this would be discussed when Worcester's main service running efficiently. Recycling targets not yet achieved – not enough lorries and distribution of bags difficult in rural areas. Schools may be included in the domestic recycling and MHDC may look at ways to encourage businesses to recycle. Hoping to attend Community Pride's meeting of 12th December and encouraged by response to the MHDC Community Safety Day recently held in Uton.

6.3 Town Council -

Councillor Wilkinson reported that the Upton Shuttle matter was progressing at last. The Town Guide was being revamped with new photographs and amended text. The Interpretation Panels were now subject to a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. There would be a further meeting on the 14th November.

6.4 Upton Tourism & Trade Association re: Xmas Lights

The Association would be decorating the town with trees and white lights this year and required support in the sum of £400. The Town Council had already committed £200 to lighting but would review this figure again at the next Finance meeting. The Council were

keen to discuss the Associations plans well in advance next year and obtain any necessary advice for them. A regular rapport with community organisations was welcomed. The Association voiced their deep concern about the closure of the High Street toilets which they felt would be to the detriment of the town. They were advised to pass on their concerns direct to MHDC.

7. Skateboard ramps

To appoint a sub-committee to examine the correspondence received, to meet with representatives and to report a recommendation back to Council.

The Council appointed Cllrs. S Yates, E White, M Morgan, S Wilkinson, S Walsh to act as a sub-committee in the way described in the heading.

8. Correspondence (Tabled)

1. Environment Agency – Severn Corridor Management Strategy 2005 update

9. Authorisation of payments

Issue of cheques 4703 – 4718 was agreed

10. Date of Next Meeting

15th November 2005

Excluded Item

11. Boiler

The Council having already agreed to waiver financial regular 11(i) agreed to the hire of temporary heating for the interim period to 17th November. The clerk had advised that it would be more economical to purchase 4 electric heaters to use in the hall now and keep for long term use in the chapel.