

**UPTON UPON SEVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Held on Tuesday 19th June 2007.

Present: Cllr P. Thomas (Deputy Mayor)
Cllrs E. White, Father D. Round, Mrs P. Martin, Mrs S. Walsh, Mrs A. Morgan, J. Thompson, S. Yates, M. Morgan, T. Drake, Mrs J. Surtees, M. Wilkinson.

In Attendance: Mrs A Oliver, Clerk

Procedural Matters

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest – apologies were received from Cllrs Perry and Dean. There were no declarations of interest.
2. The minutes of the Town Council Meeting of 15th May 2007 were approved except for the following amendment:- Cllr. John Smith is Chairman of Worcestershire County Council, not Malvern Hills District Council as stated. Cllr Thompson proposed and Cllr White seconded that the minutes be approved with this amendment.
3. The minutes of the Planning Meeting of 15th May 2007 were proposed for approval by Cllr Mrs J Surtees and seconded by Cllr Mrs P. Martin.
4. Cllr White presented the minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting of 22nd May 2007. They were proposed for approval by Cllr Father Round, seconded by Cllr Mrs Walsh and proposed for adoption by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Mrs Morgan.
5. The minutes of the Planning Meeting of 5th June 2007 were proposed for approval by Cllr Mrs Morgan and seconded by Cllr Mrs Walsh.
6. Cllr Yates presented the minutes of the Hall, Finance and General Purposes Meeting of 5th June 2007. They were proposed for approval by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Mrs Surtees, seconded by Cllr Thompson and proposed for adoption by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Thompson.
7. The Council approved expenditure for the Memorial Hall of £19,664.03 for new curtains, chairs, racking system for chairs and induction loop. The clerk informed the councillors that a grant of £9,500 from Awards for All had already been received. This was proposed by Cllr Mrs Morgan and seconded by Cllr Mrs Surtees.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

Information

1. Report from County Councillor B. Bullock
County Councillor Bullock informed the councillors that new leaflets had been issued on Environmental Services. The clerk confirmed that she had received them. Cllr Mrs Surtees felt that the Council should have been informed about the new lampposts being erected in New Street. Cllr Bullock will follow this up. Several councillors commented again regarding the amount of potholes and large puddles Upton, which are particularly bad in Hanley Road Car Park – a car park used by many visitors to Upton. County Cllr Bullock had spoken to County Cllr Prodger who informed him that the contractor for road repairs has changed and he hoped the situation would improve. District cllr Morgan suggested that the footings under the potholes are insufficient. Cllr White asked whether the repairs were checked after the work was completed. Cllr Mrs Walsh felt that although the bridge had very attractive tubs at each end, the bridge itself was dirty and covered in many weeds..

2. Report from District Councillor M. Morgan

District Councillor Morgan informed the Council that the toilets in the High Street will be officially opened on Friday 22nd June 2007 at 10 a.m. A jazz band will be present. The clerk informed the councillors that a reception will be held in the Memorial Hall following the ceremony, with coffee and cakes. Cllr Morgan reported that he will be a member of the following committees:- Overview and Scrutiny, Licensing, Malvern Hills Conservators and he will be the Hill Centre representative on the District Council. Cllr Yates stated that the 'flaps' at the entrance to Hanley Road car park from New Street had still not been replaced. Cllr Thompson asked the opening hours of the toilets. Cllr Father Round asked about the signage for the local churches. Cllr White felt that more signs would be needed for the Hook Church further along New Street as the road divides. Cllr Morgan will take the letter presented by Cllr Father Round to the District Council and state that the Town council is in favour. Cllr Yates reported that trees and bushes are overhanging the cycle path to Hanley Castle School.

3. Reports from Town Councillors

Cllr Mrs Martin requested a new bin on New Street children's play area to replace the damaged one and an extra bin, both with lids as large birds are foraging for food. Cllr Wilkinson reported that the alleyway near The Graftons is overgrown and needs attention. County Cllr Bullock will speak to the Community Support Officers regarding the problems of vandalism. Cllr Yates had attended a meeting of CALC and reported that the new guidance to the Code of Conduct must be accepted by September or it would be forced upon Councils. The council needs to accept it voluntarily or forfeit Quality Council status. The clerk was asked to ensure that this would be an item for the agenda for the Council meeting on July 17th 2007. Cllr Thompson asked for a report from the Staffing/ Interview Committee regarding the new officers of the Council. The clerk reported that Mrs Jo Adams will be commencing employment as Deputy Clerk on 16th July 2007. Cllr Drake proposed that the Council should consider the possibility of 'twinning' with a riverside town in Western Europe. Cllr Father Round seconded this proposal and informed the council that he had experience of this in his previous parish in Redditch. Cllr Drake felt it would be beneficial in terms of exchange of culture and business opportunities. A working party consisting of Cllrs Drake, Wilkinson, Father Round and Thompson. A plan would be produced and the opinions of ratepayers would be sought.

Correspondence

1. The clerk reminded those councillors who have not completed the Register of Interests document that they need to do so as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Date of next meeting 17th July 2007.