

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 MAY 2007

PRESENT The Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Adams, Baddeley, Betts, Brown, Deaville, Gibson, Hall, Harris, J Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Redfern, Sheldon and Walley.

1.07 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Harris was proposed by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Adams, there were no other nominations and Councillor Harris took the Chair and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Gibson was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor J Harrison, there were no other nominations and Councillor Gibson was elected as Vice Chair.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were given and reasons accepted by Councillors Deane and K Harrison.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hart declared a private and prejudicial interest in Minute 11 as landowner of part of the path and left the chamber before discussion took place, returning after.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2007 were agreed and signed.

6. FORMER HIGHWAYS DEPOT & LAND AT WHARF ROAD

A letter was received from the County Council containing information that the above land had now been declared surplus to requirements and enquiring whether the Town Council had any interest in pursuing an acquisition.

Councillor Hall proposed that it was important to register an interest, but query the price, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and all were in favour. This was Moved.

7. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

A letter was received from the above outlining the benefits of membership – the annual fee being £190.00. The Society is pro-active in training and at the forefront of the Quality Council initiative. The first year's joining fee would be waived if a decision was made before the end of May 2007.

It was proposed by Councillor Jackson and seconded by Councillor J Harrison that a trial one year's membership be taken out. All were in favour.

8. TOWN CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Sarah Humphreys took up her post on 14 May 2007. Councillors offered help and support to Mrs Humphreys.

9. RECYCLING AND WASTE ROADSHOW

A letter received from Rebecca Dalton, District Council Waste Awareness Officer, with information on the Roadshow events that will be taking place to enable residents to ask questions and find out more about recycling, composting and waste collection. The District Council would like to set up a mobile exhibition unit in the town to coincide with Town Council meetings in July or August and would also like to give a short presentation to the Council. It was agreed to invite Ms Dalton to the July meeting of the General Purposes Committee. Councillor Jones requested that the Roadshow also visits Biddulph Moor.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a Licensing Act – premises licence application (change of internal layout) at the Talbot, Grange Road was moved Received. It was noted that it would have been helpful if more details were included, which would have enabled constructive comments to be made.
- b Campaign to Protect Rural England Staffordshire Branch – Annual Report received. Web addresses to be included in future agendas.

11. MATTERS REFERRED FOR ACTION AND AWAITING RESOLUTION

Councillor Hart declared a private and prejudicial interest in the following item and left the Chamber prior to discussion.

A reply was received from County Council's Principal Rights of Way officer re Footpath 29, explaining that there had been a delay with the diversion work and to state that a team of volunteers from the Ramblers Association was to undertake the work on the new route, avoiding the tunnel. Negotiations were underway with the landowner to arrange a permissive route until the path had been officially diverted.

Councillor Shaw proposed that this Town Council supports temporary closure for repairs of tunnel but that repairs/restoration be carried out for the heritage of the town. Grants are available for this type of work. It was proposed that a letter to this effect be sent forthwith. This was seconded by Councillor Hall and Agreed.

Councillor Gibson abstained from voting on this item.

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED IN THE MONTH

There were none

It was moved that the meeting resumes after the meeting of the Planning committee to discuss the confidential item from Mayor's Communications. This was Agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 7.35pm for the Planning Committee & resumed at 8.10pm

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

It was moved:

'That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.'

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed Date
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