

MINUTES OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2007

PRESENT

Chair: Councillor Hall, The Mayor, The Deputy Mayor, Councillors Baddeley, Booth, J Harrison, K Harrison, Hart, Jackson, Jones, Meredith and Rogers

Also in attendance: Councillor Gibson

75.06 APOLOGIES

None were received.

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Meredith declared a personal interest in Minute 78

Councillor Baddeley declared a personal interest in Minute 78

Councillor Rogers declared a personal interest in Minute 6

77. MINUTES

The Mayor gave a report to members of the arrangements for the funeral of Pte Johnathon Wysoczan. A letter of condolence had been sent to the family on behalf of the town. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor visited the family on Sunday to express condolences. Also, a letter has been sent to the Regiment and signed the Book of Condolence. They will attend the funeral on Thursday. It has been arranged with the District Council that the route of the cortege will be swept and bin collection will take place early. The Police will be clearing the route of parked cars. The town flag will be flown at half mast on Thursday and minute's silence held at next week's Town Council meeting. Car Parking charges have been suspended from 12 noon, as requested by the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor asked if the Town Council should send a wreath. The Mayor will liaise with the Royal British Legion to see what their wishes are. It was moved to leave this to the Mayor to take the appropriate action.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2007 were signed as a true and correct record.

78. TWINNING ANNIVERSARY

The Twinning Association had decided to get prices for a mosaic by an Italian artist. It was moved to Defer this to the next meeting.

79. QUALITY COUNCIL

We can meet all of the criteria. The application will be made at the end of March, once the accounts have been finalised. The Administrator reported that it may be necessary to supply proof of qualified clerk status and it was agreed to meet the £50 cost of replacement certificate if necessary.

80. TOWN CENTRE/REGENERATION

- a The Executive thanked the Town Council for its concerns re the market and will be writing to say that these concerns have been taken on board, also the suggestion for the transport interchange; meetings of the Executive are open for members to attend; minutes (including draft copies) to be circulated to Town Council as early as possible.

Councillor Rogers suggested that the area from Top to Toe to Bargain Booze could be used as a market site if problems arose in north High Street. This would be visible and would not interfere with bus routes. Councillor Jackson said that the point of the market was to bring trade into town. The feeling of the Executive was to press on

with this (or funding issues could arise). The stalls will not be fixed and the situation can be reviewed.

Councillor Jones expressed concern that this decision had been made, despite the views of the Town Council. Councillor Hart said that the original market failed as it was too isolated and feared the same fate if moved to suggested location. Bus companies had said their piece, but the County Council officers also said they may have to object to their own Traffic Regulation Orders if sited at southern end. Would have to put additional buses on. Councillor Jackson reported that the County Council said there was no money for other buses to be put on. The bus companies were definite and said they would withdraw some services. The Executive has been meeting for many years and is at last seeing development. It was now vital to press on and see what happens. The traders at northern end had always felt they were getting short straw (Christmas lights etc), so this may help some of those. It was not a perfect solution, but best we can come up with. The Executive's aspiration is still to pedestrianise the southern part of the High Street. The funding for the central Gateway and the transport interchange will be from S.106 development money.

- b The new application for the non-food retail park had now been received. The main changes were the DIY store position and landscaping.
- c Water is still pooling at pedestrian crossing in High Street. County Council officers keep saying repair work is to begin shortly, but no progress has been made. The Administrator will check dates given and write to County Council again.
- d Bowyers Butchers closing – there will be five empty premises in that stretch of town. Retailers need all the support they can get.
- e Signs – one to bar HGV lorries in town centre had been requested (weight limit). It was moved to write again to the County Council. (Also, to remind officers of the promise to install crossing lights at Oxhey School.)

81. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Further tenders are still awaited. It was moved to remind them.

82. TOWN HALL CHARGES/WEDDINGS

Councillor K Harrison felt that the Licence should be lapsed as facilities were not as good as other centres. The Finance Sub-Committee had agreed to renew the licence and to review the situation in 12 months time.

Councillor K Harrison also wished to raise the discrepancy of Town Hall charging. It was moved to obtain new fees/charges from the District Council and bring back to this meeting when available.

The Meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

..... Signed

..... Date