



SPECIAL **DEVIZES TOWN** **COUNCIL**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Devizes Town Council Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 12 May 2009

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Chairman: The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors:	Beinhorn	Callow	East
	Evans	Mrs Evans	Gagen
	Gudgeon	Hopkins	Leighton
	Nash	Parsons	Smith
	A R Taylor	Mrs Taylor	C S Winchcombe
	Mrs Winchcombe		

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

The committee will approve and sign off the minutes from the meeting of 19 March 2009 at the next meeting of the Full Council at Mayor Making on 14 May 2009.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosures by a Councillor(s) and/or Officers in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

- 4. To receive announcements and communications.
- 5. To answer questions (if any) under standing order No. 15.

6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION

Since the last meeting of the Council on 19 March 20 the following Committees have taken place whose minutes have been approved as a correct record and signed by the appropriate committee chairman.

The minutes of these meetings have been previously circulated to all members.

COMMITTEE NAME	COMMITTEE DATE
Planning	17 March 2009
Planning	31 March 2009
Planning	14 April 2009
Community & Civic Resources	24 February 2009
Community & Civic Resources	17 March 2009
Recreation & Properties	24 February 2009
Recreation & Properties	3 March 2009
Recreation & Properties	31 March 2009

NOTE: Before dealing with the next item (No 7) the Council will wish to consider whether or not to suspend Standing Order No 5 (members to stand when speaking). If the Standing Order is to be suspended, it must be done by way of a proposition, duly seconded and carried.

7. REPORT FOR DECISION – DEVIZES CASTLE

Recommendation

That the Committee considers a request by Councillor Ray Parsons for the possible purchase of part of Devizes Castle and if minded to consider it, what actions officers should take to facilitate this.

Purpose of the Report

To decide if Devizes Town Council wishes to support Councillor Parsons aspiration to acquire part of Devizes Castle and turn it into a local heritage centre.

Background

At a meeting of the Community and Civic Recourses Committee on the 28 April, a request by Councillor Parsons was considered regarding the current sale of the North Tower and whether the Town Council should acquire it for the town. At that meeting it was resolved to pass this matter to the Full Council for a decision.

The North Tower of Devizes Castle has recently been placed on the market for an asking price of £2.7 million and Councillor Parsons feels that this is an excellent opportunity for this important local landmark to be brought back into public ownership. At this time it is not clear on how the funding could be raised. It has been suggested that if the building could be acquired, it could be used as a tourist information centre and museum with space left for a restaurant and café.

It was the view of some members at that meeting of the Community and Civic Recourse committee that officers need to supply further information before such a decision can be made. The information will take considerable officer time and therefore this Council need to give clear indication on how it wishes to progress the matter. Officers are reluctant to commit too many resources to the project without a clear instruction from the Council given the current workloads.

A copy of a letter received from Dr Lorna Haycock is attached for members information.

Options Considered

The Council needs to decide if they wish to pursue this matter.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The asking price is £2.7 million, however there is no plan in place to secure this capital.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council would need to consider various powers under which such a purchase would be made including the Local Government act 1972s 44 the power to encourage tourism. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19 the power to provide and equip buildings for educational objectives.

Environmental Implications

Officers, at this time, are unaware of any environmental implications associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers, at this time, are unaware of any risk implications associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

8. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING SEALING RESOLUTION

THAT the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to or the Town Clerk do sign on behalf of the Council where appropriate any Orders, Deeds or Documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports received and adopted at this meeting or other decisions of the Council thereat.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions addressed to the Chairman concerning the administration, function or responsibilities of the Council or upon a matter, which was the subject of debate at the meeting.

A person may also be permitted to make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to local government, or to the Council's administration or upon a subject, which may be of general interest to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business.



Town Mayor