



Devizes Town Council

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Community & Civic Resources Committee

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday, 12 July 2016

Time: Immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

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

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Chairman: Councillor Geddes

Councillors: Mrs Bridewell
East
Hopkins

Carter
Evans
Nash

Corbett
Giraud-Saunders

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Community and Civic Resources Committee Meeting held on 31 May 2016 which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant 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

5. NARRATIVE INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT & KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016/2017

JUNE 2016 THEREFORE 25%

INCOME

1. Precept received 50% in April and October annually.
2. Town Hall and Corn Exchange income keeping pace with budget year to date.
3. Café income weighted towards Spring & Summer months, however stronger than budgeted.
4. Public convenience income projected to be in excess of £8000 in the 2016/17 financial year.

EXPENDITURE

5. 19 The Brittox remains vacant whilst the tenant of 3 Little Brittox was granted a 50% rent reduction for a period of 6 months.
6. Café salary costs projected at £44,500 for the financial year against a budget of £23,000.
7. Expenditure on Public Conveniences projected to be £60,000 in the current financial year. £44,000 of this expenditure is projected to be negated by unutilised additional service provision budget.
8. Superloo barriers cost £3,426 not provided in 2016/17 estimates.

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID

A Schedule of Accounts Paid is attached for information (doc 6/1 – doc 6/2).

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – ACTIVITIES OF DEVIZES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Members of the Devizes Development Partnership board, which has town Council representation, recently met and this reports sets out a summary of that meeting.

CCTV Operation. The CCTV manager submitted a report on the performance of the system. It highlighted coverage issues at the beginning of the year due to equipment failure but these have now been resolved and once again the system is fully operational.

These repairs, which included the replacement of equipment was funded an Area Board grant, use of DDP reserves and a generous discount from the contractor. The cost of this work was in excess of £7,000.

In the six months to June there were 35 incidents where footage has been requested and these comprise of shoplifting, theft, fraud, vehicle related incidents, missing persons, assault and directed surveillance. There was recently a Freedom of Information request about the type and location of equipment, however as a private company, the DDP is not required to provide this information.

Currently the Police and Crime Commissioner is considering the possibility of connecting the CCTV control room with the 999 centre. The reasoning behind this is to allow police operators to determine the level of response necessary when dealing with an incident. Although this initiative will not be just for Devizes, the equipment must be compatible with the police systems, which Devizes' is. There will be security issues which need to be agreed and if the scheme comes forward it will need to be funded by the PCC.

There has been a request for the system to be extended to cover St John's Street, which will cost between £4,000 and £5,000, however at this stage there is no funding.

CCTV Funding. The systems normal operational cash flow forecast for the current year indicates that the system will barely break event. Total projected income is £20,170 of which £18,000 comes from the Town Council and expenditure is estimate at £20,524. Whilst the cash flow has an allowance for routine maintenance through the maintenance contract, should there be a failure of equipment the level of reserves held, which are primarily needed to dismantle the system, are unlikely to be adequate.

Anti-social Behaviour by Young Car Drivers. The board discussed the issue of cars being racing around Station Road car park by younger drivers. Whilst this is principally an issue for the land owners and police to resolve, evidence gathering will be needed if there are to be any prosecutions. The CCTV manager indicated that temporary cameras could be installed to monitor the area, but this will have a cost impactation.

Business Improvement Distracts (BID). There have been several discussion by the DDP about creating a BID for the centre of Devizes. There has been mixed reviews about their success, however it would appear to the DDP that the less tangible the outcomes, such as increasing footfall, the more open to criticism for the scheme.

It was agreed that a mechanism to discuss the issue with local businesses would be advantageous, then the idea could be progressed or abandoned. What is clear, that event in areas where a BID has been agreed, very often small businesses, are more resistant that larger ones, therefore these businesses need to be involved with any discussion right from the outset.

It was suggested that at the forthcoming event to report the findings of the Benchmarking Exercise to the business community it may be an opportunity to add this to the agenda.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – TWINNING WEEKEND MAYENNE 2016

The report was provided by Councillor Nigel Carter who was representing the Mayor

The Devizes ‘twinners’ arrived on Friday 17 June. That evening Michel Angot, Mayor of Mayenne hosted a small reception for the visiting Mayors and their assistants from Waiblingen and Jesi who were also attending the weekend.

The Saturday morning commenced with an informal assembly at the Town Hall, prior to a visit to the new Hospital for Mayenne, with over 600 beds, which displaces an elderly hospital in the centre of the town with only 80+ beds. A full range of emergency care, as well as routine disciplines such as obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, long-term care, were available and there was a teaching facility hosting both doctors and nursing staff. It possesses current scanning and other advanced technology.

On departure from the Hospital, we were then shown the (currently under construction) new swimming pool. This will be a twenty five metre pool, with a pool for youngsters, a spiral slide and, ultimately, a skate-board park in the grounds. The budget is €10 million. The morning was completed with lunch in a community centre, during which an exchange of gifts was undertaken. The full works of William Shakespeare, published in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of his birth, were well received.

Officials and ‘twinners’ gathered again informally in the gardens of the Great North where following the previous planting of trees to celebrate the twinned towns, stones from each community were ‘unveiled’ in a short ceremony, during which a local choir sung Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy; from the ninth symphony, his choral symphony. This was followed by a tour of the very impressive library and auditorium, with its rehearsal rooms.

The Deputy Mayor was invited to join the Mayors from Mayenne, Waiblingen and Jesi at a commemoration service, celebrating the life of General Charles de Gaulle and his efforts in restoring the administration and the economy after the Second World War, the Deputy Mayor was invited to share in the wreath-laying.

The formal twinning gathering at the Salon Polyvalente featured some eighty young people from Waiblingen and Mayenne playing in a wind ensemble, a very competent performance.

Sunday morning saw the official parties from each town assembling at the main cemetery for a short service of remembrance for the fallen of France, during which a wreath was laid on behalf of each town.

Mass in Mayenne Cathedral was followed by a lunch for the Mayors at which the Government Representative for the Mayenne region attended. In the afternoon a number of hosts and visitors attended a piano recital in the town's older theatre. The weekend concluded with an informal game of *Molky*, a Finish-inspired alternative to skittles which inspired an inter twin town challenge.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – POLICING FOR STATION ROAD CARPARK

At the meeting of the Planning Committee on the 14 June, the issues of “Joy Riding” was discussed at length. Officers were requested to write to the police, expressing the committee's concerns.

The Police have responded and advised that they are aware of the problems and are treating our concerns seriously.

James Twyford, the Community Beat Manager for Devizes will attend the meeting, which will provide an opportunity for the committee to ask general questions about policing in the town.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Officers and Councillors from both Devizes and Roundway recently attended a meeting at County Hall alongside other Town Councils from across the County to hear about the lessons learnt following a large transfer of assets to Salisbury City Council.

Much has been learnt, not least of all, the amount time required to facilitate the transfers and therefore Wiltshire Council has split towns into tranches where they will be able to deal with any transfers that may locally be wanted.

Devizes has been placed in the first tranche and it has been indicated that the time scale for this is within the current financial year.

Working with Roundway Parish Council, there has already been some considerable debate about the type of assets and services the new authority may wish to take on and whilst the Governance Committee are leading on this it would be helpful to have a further Forward Planning Session with all Devizes and Roundway members present. This session will need to be held following this meeting at 7.45pm and a briefing paper will be distributed by email.

11. REPORT FOR DECISION – MAYORAL BALL

Recommendation

That the Committee agrees to the recommendations of the member task force charged with examining the protocols of the Mayoral Ball.

Purpose of the Report

For the Committee to consider the outcomes of the member group charged to look at this matter.

Background

A group comprising the current mayor, former mayors and councillors, who have not served as mayor, met to consider some protocols to be put in place with regard to the Mayoral Ball.

Free Tickets

That the number of free tickets should be limited as follows:

Mayor	2
Deputy Mayor	2
Chamberlains	1 each
High Constables	1 each
Town Clerk (or Deputy)	1
Chain Gang Mayors	0

Style of Event

That the event does not necessarily need to be so formal as in the past and that there is flexibility on style of menu, entertainment, dress code and ticket cost.

The event should be advertised earlier – end of October on social media.

Financial Controls

That the event should break even and in the event that there is a surplus, this could go to the Mayor's Appeal

That the cost to the Mayoral Allowance cannot exceed £500 without committee approval.

Options Considered

The Committee can decide to adopt the recommendations in relation to Free Tickets, Style of Event and Financial Control or reject or amend them.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Giving financial objectives and controls will require the Mayor to put a proper event costing plan in place to prevent a cost to the Mayoral Allowance.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Without clear protocols and controls there is a risk of a higher cost to the Mayoral Allowance.

Crime and Disorder

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

12. QUESTION TIME

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chairman for councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK