

DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL
15 October 2020

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|--------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Councillors: | Bridewell | Burton | Carter |
| | P Evans | S Evans | Gay |
| | Geddes | Hopkins | Nash |
| | Pennington | Rose | Rowland |
| | Stevens | | |

Officers: Simon Fisher –Town Clerk
Jan Rendle – Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: Three

188. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 June 2020 having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed by the Council.

189. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Giraud-Saunders and Von Berg

190. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None declared.

191. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None.

192. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 15

None.

193. MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION

The committee noted the list of meetings, whose minutes have been signed, held since the last meeting of the Council.

194 FOR DECISION – CANON PAUL RICHARDSON

The Mayor welcomed Canon Richardson.

Members of the Council and former Mayors took the opportunity to formally thank Canon Richardson for his support of the Mayoralty and the Council and for his active participation within the Devizes community. After many compliments were expressed, it was proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Carter and unanimously agreed

THAT Vote of Thanks be formally recorded in the minutes to Canon Paul Richardson for the contribution he has made to the civic life of the Council and the important role he has played in supporting the parish of St John's with St Mary's and the Town of Devizes.

In response to the resolution, Canon Richardson expressed what a privilege it had been to be part of the Devizes community and that he was honoured and humbled that his work had been recognised in this way and wished God's blessing on the Council.

195. FOR INFORMATION – NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2019/20

The committee received and noted the report which had confirmed that there were no matters within the authority's accounts or governance which the auditors wished to draw to the attention of Devizes Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2020.

196. FOR INFORMATION – PROJECT LIST

The report was received and noted.

The Council were updated on the Green Lane project and an agenda item will be presented at a future committee meeting to ensure that Devizes Town Council is kept up to date with the management of the new facility. There will also be an agenda item on the commercial property portfolio.

197. FOR DECISION – DRAFT ESTIMATES 2021/22

After a detailed discussion on the reasoning behind officers' budgetary recommendations and a recognition about how the ongoing Covid19 restrictions were having on various levels of income, it was proposed by Councillor Carter, Seconded by Councillor Rose and unanimously agreed

THAT the proposed budget is in line with current levels of services it wishes the Council to deliver in 2021/22 and therefore they should go forward for adoption at the December Council meeting subject to changes that may be desirable to reflect any changes in priorities that may come forward before that meeting.

198. FOR DECISION – VACANT SEAT ON THE COUNCIL

After a brief discussion about the recommendation made by the Community and Civic Resources Committee at its meeting on the 25 August, it was proposed by Councillor Burton and seconded by Councillor P Evans and unanimously agreed

THAT the current two vacant seats on the Council should be left unfilled until the next election in 2021.

The Council went on to discuss that it should have in place a policy for co-option in these uncertain times, therefore it was proposed by Councillor Rose and seconded by Councillor Geddes and unanimously agreed

THAT a working party of Councillors Rose, Gay, Nash and Geddes be set up to formulate a co-option policy that will be considered by the Council at a future meeting.

199. COMMON SEAL

It was proposed by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Burton and agreed

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.

200. QUESTION TIME

None

201. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

CHAIRMAN