



BROMYARD & WINSLOW TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of The Extraordinary Full Council meeting
held on Monday 28th November 2022 at 7:00pm in
The Council Chamber, The Old Vicarage,
1 Rowberry Street, Bromyard.

Minutes
C22/154 – C22/159

Members Present: Dr D Dunne-Thomas (Chairman), M Franklin, (Vice Chairman),
G Churchill, F Clark, C Davies, L Holman, Lady A Hughes, D James,
L Law, J Lester (part), C Robinson and M Stevens.

Officers Present: Karen Mitchell (Town Clerk)

Also present: Mr Marc Bayliss, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West
Mercia
Inspector James Ashton, West Mercia Police
Samantha Banks, Neighbourhood Planning Service Manager,
Herefordshire Council
Stephanie Kitto, Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Herefordshire Council
Dan Attire, Senior Planning Officer, Herefordshire Council
Cllr Nigel Shaw, Ward Member for Bromyard Bringsty, Herefordshire
Council
19 members of the public.

The fire and evacuation procedure was read to the meeting.

C22/154 Apologies

LGA 1972 S85 (1)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Quantrill.
Cllr Lester had given his apologies for lateness due to attendance at another
meeting.

C22/155 Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensation

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 SI No. 1159

There were no declarations of interests made at this point in the meeting.

C22/156 Public Question Time

Members of the local farming community from near-by parishes expressed
their deep anguish and anger about the unprecedented rise in organised
criminal activity in rural areas which was affecting them both economically
and mentally. Incidents of threatening behaviour and even physical assault
had left people feeling unsafe and too frightened to leave their properties
unattended despite having their own security measures in place.
Dissatisfaction was expressed about the way the Police respond to incidents
and communication and follow-up was felt to be poor. The lack of visible
police presence in the countryside was not helping to deter criminals,
particularly after dark. Questions were directed to the Deputy Police & Crime
Commissioner and the Police Inspector about their approach to tackling rural
crime and what could be done to support the farming community.

Initial..... Date.....

C22/157 Police and Crime Commissioner

The Chairman welcomed Mr Marc Bayliss, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Mercia and Inspector James Ashton of West Mercia Police to the meeting. Mr Bayliss gave apologies for Mr John Campion, PCC who was unable to attend the meeting due to being unwell. Mr Bayliss thanked Members for the invitation and gave an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role, powers, and responsibilities, one of which is to hold the Chief Constable to account in terms of delivering an efficient and effective service that meets the needs of the public. He advised that rural and acquisitive crime has been identified as one of the key priorities in the Safer West Mercia Plan, and that the Police are recruiting 145 extra police officers to meet demand as well as investing in some additional dedicated rural crime officers. The police are working with other forces across the country to try to learn from their best practice about how they tackle rural crime. Mr Bayliss responded to issues and concerns raised during public question time and advised that he would be asking the Inspector to reflect and take action on the issues raised where possible.

The Deputy Commissioner handed over to Inspector James Ashton who gave an overview of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and additional dedicated rural crime team covering the Bromyard area. From early January 2023 Bromyard will have two dedicated Police Constables and two PCSO's to cover the parish and the surrounding areas.

He advised that investment in new technology and local initiatives had yielded some good results with stolen property starting to be recovered. The Police are focusing efforts on evidence-based policing with a drive to deter criminals and secure convictions, however, the burden of proof beyond reasonable doubt must be established in order for the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether a case will be taken to court.

Members of the public present were invited to leave their contact details for the Police to follow-up on the issues raised and were encouraged to sign up to the Neighbourhood matters messaging service.

Cllr Churchill asked a question about how the police were dealing with antisocial behaviour in and around the Old Vicarage complex. Inspector Ashton advised that the youths had been identified and spoken to and should the behaviour escalate then further action would be taken.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy PCC, Police Inspector and members of the public for their attendance.

At 7:48pm the meeting was suspended for a 5 minute comfort break whilst invited guests and members of the public left the chamber.

C22/158 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Samantha Banks, Neighbourhood Planning Service Manager, Stephanie Kitto Neighbourhood Planning Officer and Dan Attire Senior Planning (Herefordshire Council) joined the meeting to give a presentation on the process involved in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

Initial..... Date.....

Mrs Banks advised that NDP's were introduced in 2012 through the Localism Act. Parish Councils in Herefordshire can produce a Neighbourhood Plan which, subject to ratification through a local referendum, would become a statutory planning document and sit alongside the main document which at the moment is the Herefordshire Core Strategy. NDP's are not compulsory but do have to be in conformity with the Core Strategy which is currently being reviewed and will be replaced with the emerging Local Plan. In producing a neighbourhood plan, the Council would be able to set a settlement boundary and develop relevant policies with land use implications such as allocation of non-strategic sites such as housing, employment, open space, town centre retail boundaries and design coding.

Should the Council decide to progress with an NDP it was recommended that a steering group be set up to include interested members of the local community and that the first stage would be to begin work on issues and options consultation. The next stage would be to write a draft plan which would then be consulted upon and submitted to Herefordshire Council to undergo further public consultation, examination and culminate in a public referendum.

As work on the Local Plan 2021-24 had begun it was recommended that any work on an NDP should be prepared in line with the emerging master plan rather than the existing Core Strategy.

Cllr Lester joined the meeting at this point.

Sam Banks handed over to Dan Attire who outlined the work that had been done on the Local Plan including some of the strategic options and policies for the Bromyard.

- 3 consultations had been carried since the beginning of the year: Spatial options; Policy options; Play space options
- Central government requirements for Herefordshire as a whole over the Plan period 2021-41 is approximately 17,000 dwellings, of which commitments of 5,300 are already in the system.
- Work is currently being done on regulation 18 which will go out for further consultation in 2023.
- A housing allocation of about 650 dwellings is expected for Bromyard over the plan period.
- Consultants have been commissioned to carry out an employment land study work for allocation of approximately 3-4 hectares in Bromyard.
- Allocation of strategic sites in Bromyard will be those with over 50 dwellings. Any sites with under 50 dwellings could potentially be included in an NDP for Bromyard.

Sam Banks advised that grant funding was still available from Locality to help with the production of an NDP and should the Council decide to go ahead with an NDP, then they would be happy to come back to give a specific talk about the steps involved.

A question and answer session followed.

The Chairman thanked Sam and her colleagues for attending the meeting.

Initial..... Date.....

Neighbourhood Planning guidance documents can be found on the Herefordshire Council website via the following link:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/490/neighbourhood_planning_guidance_documents

C22/159 Extraordinary Market Town Maintenance Fund

Members considered a proposed design for the pedestrian crossing on Cruxwell Street as prepared by Balfour Beatty Living Places. Some concern was expressed about the proximity of the crossing to the High Street/Cruxwell junction and the risk of vehicles not being able to stop in time.

Following discussion, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to reject the proposed design due to safety concerns and to request that Balfour Beatty investigate the possibility of moving the crossing further away from the junction.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:54pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE