# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

# Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.00pm at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor D Ravenscroft – Chairman Councillors C Bartrum, C Bennett, H Bramer, V Coker, P Cutter, N Gibbs, J Gren, J Hyde, J Jennings, H Lerego, R Mayo, J Roberts and C Utting

In attendance: Mrs S Robson - Town Clerk There were three members of the public and two members of the press present.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of Jo Lane, a former mayor of Ross who died in July.

# 16/09# 146 Apologies for Absence

Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1) Councillor D Bedford – Illness, Councillor C Gray – Holiday, Councillor D Lister – Work commitment and Councillor C Morgan – Conflicting appointment

# RESOLVED - to accept the apologies given

# 16/09# 147 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ravenscroft declared a NPI in Agenda Item 16/09#164 Asset Transfer – Homs Road, due to being a member of the Management Team for Ross Cadets who have made an informal approach to the Council in respect of this site. Councillors Lerego and Gibbs declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/09#159 due to cheques payable to them for the re-imbursement of expenses.

# 16/09# 148 Applications for Dispensations

None

# 16/09# 149 Reports from County Councillors (for information only)

It was reported that 60 Syrian refugee families and 25 unaccompanied children have been taken in by Herefordshire Council, mostly accommodated in Leominster and Hereford. This has posed challenges in finding suitable places.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming AONB Tour, spaces are still available if anyone is interested.

There have been further meetings with residents from Kent Avenue about traffic management problems, the possibility has been raised that if the residents can contribute towards the scheme that some of the signage could be changed. It was proposed the Town Council might also like to consider making a contribution towards the cost.

There have been on-going issues with street sweeping, any complaints please report them to Cllr Mayo who is liaising with HC contractors. There has been continued work with police about graffiti issues around town.

Members were informed that parking outside John Kyrle HS has got out of hand, a Traffic Order to extend the double yellow lines has been proposed as local buses cannot pull up due to parked cars and elderly people are having to walk further as a result of the buses not being able to stop.

### 16/09# 150 Report from Ross Police (for information only)

PC Barradale-Smith reported to Members that the new Inspector has started in post recently. It has generally been a good summer with fewer reports of youths causing problems than in other years, work is in hand with John Kyrle HS to identify who has been responsible for the spate of graffiti in and around town recently. The need for a quick response to clear areas is required to discourage further mess, damage and vandalism. With the darker nights approaching, a new campaign is in hand to raise awareness towards burglaries, people are encouraged to leave lights on timers as this acts as a deterrent. Operations to target poachers from outside the area will commence soon on a monthly basis. A meeting has taken place to try and resolve licencing issues at a local pub and it has been encouraging there is a will to make improvements to discourage anti-social behaviour. A new speed camera will see checks taking place shortly. The scaffolding in Copse Cross St is demonstrating an attitude of courtesy by motorists and it has been encouraging that people are not driving on the pavement but are giving way and the flow of traffic is moving well. A question was asked about the badger cull in South Herefordshire, it was reported there have been very few calls or enquiries. A Member reported that the phone number 101 was not working when a recent incident of drinking in an 'alcohol free zone' was unable to be reported. A question was asked about the fires that had occurred over the summer and whether anyone had been detained, there was no further news to report. Information about a Road Traffic Accident at Wilton Road was given, it was reported there had been significant damage to the wall, the driver's details have been obtained. An incident was reported of glasses being taken outside public houses; Members were informed this is not normally allowed but pubs are reliant on the door staff being aware of these incidents.

7.20pm PC Barradale-Smith left the meeting

### 16/09# 151 Public Participation

A member of public reported on the recent volunteer work done in the railway garden at the bottom of Brampton Hill and asked if repairs by local residents can commence on the existing bench to refurbish it. It was confirmed that the Amenities Committee has agreed to request a licence from HC to position new benches there. There is still litter and fly-tipping in this location which need to be reported.

# 16/09# 152 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed: Councillor Lerego Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Gibbs

RESOLVED – that agenda item #16/09#164 'Commercial in Confidence' and 'Staff in Confidence' be treated as confidential and be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) have been excluded.

7.30pm One member of the public left the meeting

### 16/09# 153 Full Council Meeting Minutes

Local Government Act 1972 schedule 12 para 41(1) To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be signed as a correct record.

The Chairman requested the item 16/09#156 relating to the Neighbourhood Plan be brought forward.

### 16/09#156 Neighbourhood Plan

i) to receive an updated report from the Sub Committee

Work on the project is on schedule and it is hoped the first draft of the Plan can commence in October, this will enable identification of gaps and overlap. (Early sight of this will be available). The objectives have been refined through the Working Groups. The Carnival event was successful in raising awareness and a large number of people responded. Policies will be drafted within the plan; a dossier of evidence is starting to be put together which is required as part of the process which needs to be collated and the Consultants are working on this to bring everything together. Motivation remains high as there is a positive stream of information sharing as the Plan progresses. A meeting in Hereford on Wednesday is taking place with Planning Officers about site allocation to allow further understanding of their views on some issues. Another meeting will take place about future plans for schools within Ross parish which may, or may not result in further work in the Plan. There will be no further wide ranging consultation on the big issues, the next thing will be Regulation 14 consultation in the first quarter of next year.

ii) to review expenditure to date

The project is within budget and a further report will follow.

Members were reminded that the next Sub Committee meeting is taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.15pm in the Corn Exchange.

7.50pm Melvin Reynolds left the meeting

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# 16/09# 154 Committees – To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and approve any recommendations;

Planning & Development Committee 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Planning & Development Committee 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Policy & Management Committee 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Proposed: Councillor Mayo For: 13 Against: 1 Seconded: Councillor Lerego

**RESOLVED** – to approve the recommendation to adopt the Social Media Policy with immediate effect.

Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee 21st July 2016

Markets Sub Committee Markets Sub Committee	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2016
Finance & Personnel Committee	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Amenities Committee	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the minutes of the committees and sub committees.

### 16/09# 155 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor spoke of a number of engagements he had attended but reported August had been a quieter month than usual. He had represented the Council at the funeral of Jo Lane, former mayor, the Carnival event and the Civic Service which was well attended and received good feedback. The office staff were thanked for their hard work in arranging the event.

### 16/09#157 Policy & Management Buildings Working Group

 to receive verbal report on the recent site visit by an Inspector from Historic England

> The Working Group has identified the need to put a maintenance plan in place for the Corn Exchange and Market House. A very positive meeting with the Inspector took place in July which was very helpful, he offered advice and sent an email following up his recommendations.

### **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

to accept recommendation from the Working Group to make investigations into engaging a specialist Conservation Accredited Architect to assess the urgent repairs

Proposed: Councillor Bartrum Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Gibbs

RESOLVED – to confirm authority for investigations to commence to identify a Conservation Accredited Architect to assess the urgent repairs on the Market House.

 to confirm authority to the Policy & Management Committee to commit expenditure from within the Management Capital and Non Recurring Expenditure cost centre for the production of a Management Plan and Options Appraisal

Proposed: Councillor Mayo Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Roberts

RESOLVED – to confirm authority for expenditure from the Management Capital and Non Recurring Expenditure cost centre for the production of a Management Plan and Options and Appraisal.

### 16/09#158 Finance- Income & Expenditure 2016/2017

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 To review the budget information for the year to date.

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

# 16/09# 159 Finance – Accounts for payment Local Government Act 1972 s150 (5) To review and note items of expenditure received since the last meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Mayo Unanimous RESOLVED – to approve the accounts for payment.

Seconded: Councillor Bartrum

**16/09#160** Herefordshire Council Consultations To consider and respond to the following:

> i) Consultation on Travellers Sites Development Plan Document Preferred Options (deadline 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016)

The Chairman advised he felt the work to put together a formal response could be better dealt with in a smaller group. The Members felt the consultation was vitally important and some discussion at Full Council should be aired in a public forum for transparency purposes. The previous consultation earlier in the year was responded to with the Council's view that there were no suitable sites in Ross for additional Traveller Sites. Herefordshire Council have been presented with a very strong case against the proposed site in Ross for a number of reasons with this town having already been more badly disadvantaged than other towns. Members have been contacted by many local residents expressing concerns they have and wish to object in the strongest terms that this site is completely inappropriate and impacts strongly on businesses and residents in town due to its close proximity to the heart of the town rather than on the outskirts as has been proposed in other towns. There had been some suggestions that laybys along the A40 could be considered as an alternative option.

Proposed: Councillor Lerego Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Bennett

RESOLVED – to give delegated authority to the Planning Committee to respond on behalf of the Council and that a full Press Release be issued with the Council's comments.

- ii) Consultation on supporting bus services and community transport schemes (deadline 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016)
  RESOLVED – to give delegated authority to the Planning Committee to respond on behalf of the Council.
- iii) Consultation on new Standards Procedure for dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints (deadline 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016)
  RESOLVED – to give delegated authority to the Policy & Management Committee to respond on behalf of the Council.

# 16/09#161 Citizens Advice Bureau

To consider approval of proposals for the provision of locally accessible advice in Ross-on-Wye by the Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

Members were in agreement that any request for longer term funding would need to be accompanied by a fully costed proposal. There was a view expressed that it would be appropriate for the surrounding parishes to contribute towards the cost if residents from outside the parish were accessing the service. Members requested that monitoring the users of the service by post code should be undertaken to enable the Council to see the extent to which the service is being taken up by local residents and this would also offer evidence if a request to parishes to ask for financial assistance was to be made. There should be a contribution based on outcomes and the CAB must be accountable for the service and how it spends the money.

Proposed: Councillor Roberts Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Bartrum

RESOLVED – to approve total expenditure of £5000.00 for the interim provision of a local CAB advice service for the remaining period of 2016/2017 with authority for expenditure of up to £1000 as a contingency towards the set up costs.

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# 16/09#162 Reports from official representatives on Outside Bodies

To receive reports from Councillors appointed to represent the Town Council on the following bodies:

i. Association of Ross Traders	Cllr C Bennett	New Committee, chairman to be appointed shortly
ii. Basement Youth Trust	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
iii. Betzdorf Twinning Association	Cllr P Cutter	The Assoc wants assurance that Council is committed to support next visit
iv. Board of the Community Association	Cllrs C Gray, P Cutter	Efforts to maintain planned work there and progress being made
v. Cinema Group	Cllr J Hyde	Plans in progress – no formal meeting
vi. Condé Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	Nothing to report
vii. Education Foundation	Cllr H Lerego	Nothing to report – meeting in October
viii. Friends of St Mary's	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
ix. Market Towns Forum	Cllrs D Ravenscroft, D Lister	Nothing to report – meeting imminent
x. Namutumba Twinning Association	Cllr J Jennings	Nothing to report
xi. Parochial Church Council	Cllr R Mayo	Meeting recently but nothing of note to the Council
xii. Ross Charity Trustees	Cllrs P Cutter, C Gray	Housing discussions in progress, planning issues being resolved. Liaison is necessary with NDP.
xiii. Ross Fairtrade Group	Cllr C Bennett	Nothing to report
xiv. Ross Sports Club	Cllr H Lerego, D Lister	There is a meeting that clashes with the Council meeting – a number of fund raisers have been held
xv. Ross Tourism Association	Cllr N Gibbs	A number of on-going initiatives, looking at the production of a Town Guide in the future
xvi. Town Team	Cllr C Utting	Nothing to report
xvii. Walkers are Welcome	Cllr C Utting	23/25 September – Walking Weekend

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the reports.

# 16/09#163 Correspondence for consideration and response.

i) Western Power Distribution – Major Works – Electricity Mains and Services replacement to Ross-on-Wye Town Centre.

# **RESOLVED** – to note the correspondence

8.37 pm Members of the Press left the meeting

# 16/09#164 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 16/09 # 152 above refers)

# Commercial in Confidence

To receive a verbal report on outstanding leases in relation to the following;

# **Market House**

The Lease has been drawn up and arrangements are in hand for it to be signed.

# **Old Chapel**

Members were informed there had been no progress to date in finding a commercial tenant and the unplanned expenditure continued to rise. It was therefore agreed to authorise the Policy & Management Committee to review and discuss alternative options and make a recommendation to the Full Council.

### **Crossfields – Ross Tennis Club**

The Clerk reported that further negotiations were in hand for amended Heads of Terms for the proposed new lease and progress is being made towards mutually acceptable terms.

Allotments - no further progress to date

Weather Station - no further progress to date

**RESOLVED** – to receive the verbal reports and confirm acceptance of the proposed actions.

# **Transfer of Homs Road Car Park**

Members had received a written report and Business Plan in advance outlining the case.

RESOLVED – to give delegated authority to the Policy & Management Committee to authorise expenditure within the Professional Fees EMR to engage an architect to provide detailed plans and a fully costed specification. The Committee is also required to make recommendations back to Full Council with regards to future operating arrangements of the car park and the possibility of shared space with other users.

9.00pm It was resolved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes

#### **Staff in Confidence**

To receive and approve recommendations from the Policy & Management and Finance & Personnel committees in relation to the Market Officer post.

Members were informed that accepting these recommendations would result in an overspend in the Markets budget of £500.00

Proposed: Councillor Gibbs Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lerego

RESOLVED – to approve the recommendations of the committees and authorise the overspend in the budget by £500.00 /

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman

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Date

# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

# Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council

held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.00pm at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor D Ravenscroft – Chairman Councillors C Bartrum, C Bennett, V Coker, C Gray, N Gibbs, J Gren, J Hyde, J Jennings, H Lerego, R Mayo and C Utting

In attendance: Mrs S Robson - Town Clerk There were three members of the public and two members of the press present.

# 16/10# 165 Apologies for Absence

Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1) Councillors P Cutter & D Lister - holiday Councillor D Bedford – Illness Councillor J Roberts – family commitment

# **RESOLVED** – to accept the apologies given

# 16/10# 166 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ravenscroft declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/10#173 Asset Transfer – Homs Road, due to being a member of the Management Team for Ross Cadets who have made an informal approach to the Council in respect of this site. Councillors Lerego, Coker and Gibbs declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/10#177 due to cheques payable to them for the re-imbursement of expenses.

# 16/10# 167 Applications for Dispensations

None

# 16/10# 168 Reports from County Councillors (for information only)

An announcement about the Model Farm was made, Members were informed it has been earmarked as the number one viable investment in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and it is expected there will be further news relating to the site in the Autumn Statement. The importance of this investment is vital and will create a number of jobs for the area.

Western Power is due to start work shortly, discussions have been taking place in an effort to minimise disruption with road closures and diversions which commence next week.

A proposal to create a Bid (Business in Development) Team for Ross is imminent, a referendum would be needed but if successful it would provide additional funds, raised by a 2.5% contribution from the Business Rates, to promote the economy within the town.

It was reported that negotiations with the Applicant at the Ledbury Road site have been on-going and the Planning Consent has been approved to include a pedestrian crossing at the site.

# 16/10# 169 Report from Ross Police (for information only)

No police presence

# 16/10# 170 Public Participation

Mr. Mark Calvin, Vice Chairman of Herefordshire CAB made a brief presentation to the Members about the service and its future. Investigations are underway looking for alternative funding streams to safeguard the service since the withdrawal of HC's funding in2015/2016. The drop-in service has ceased in Hereford and all initial calls are now handled via telephone, text or email and then follow up appointments are made if necessary.

The future is still unclear and a review is being undertaken, the good news is that some of the market towns have offered a life-line to provide a local appointments based service to see a CAB assessor.

Another major piece of work is underway to allow further collaboration with other charities and organisations, sourcing funding opportunities is crucial and a number of scenarios are being considered.

2015/2016 figures for the Ross area, during this time 252 people were dealt with, 347 cases opened, 935 total issues, the financial benefit over the year equated to £544k that was secured for people in the Ross area.

7.30 pm one member of the public left the meeting

# 16/10# 171 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed: Councillor Gibbs Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lerego

RESOLVED – that agenda item #16/10#183 'Commercial in Confidence' be treated as confidential and be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) have been excluded.

# 16/10# 172 Full Council Meeting Minutes

Local Government Act 1972 schedule 12 para 41(1)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be signed as a correct record.

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# 16/10# 173 Committees – To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and approve any recommendations;

Events Events	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Planning & Development	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Markets Sub Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Policy & Management	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2016
Proposed: Councillor Bennett Unanimous	Seconded: Councillor Lerego

# RESOLVED – to approve the recommendation to authorise expenditure from the Energy Efficiency EMR in the sum of £1165.00 plus vat to upgrade the lighting underneath the Market House to LED floodlights.

The recommendation from the Policy & Management Committee for authority to be given to the Clerk to put together a Business Case to seek disposal of the Old Chapel through a commercial sale whilst continuing marketing to find a suitable tenant on a commercial lease basis was discussed. An amendment was proposed and seconded;

Proposed: Councillor Coker Seconded: Councillor Lerego

The amendment proposed;

To instruct a Land Agent to put together a Business Case to seek disposal of the Old Chapel through a commercial sale whilst continuing marketing to find a suitable tenant on a commercial lease basis.

For: 8 Abstentions: 4

The amendment therefore became the substantive motion.

Proposed: Councillor Gren

Seconded: Councillor Coker

A named vote was requested by Councillor Bartrum

Those in favour: Councillors Gray, Hyde, Mayo, Coker, Gibbs, Bennett, Lerego and Gren

Those against: Councillors Utting, Jennings, Bartrum

Abstained: Councillor Ravenscroft

For: 8 Against: 3 Abstentions: 1

RESOLVED – to approve expenditure for the Council's Land Agent to put together a Business Case to seek disposal of the Old Chapel through a commercial sale whilst continuing marketing to find a suitable tenant on a commercial lease basis.

7.55pm Councillor Ravenscroft having declared a DPI left the meeting and Councillor Gibbs took over chairing the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Utting Seconded: Councillor Mayo Unanimous

RESOLVED – to approve the recommendation that the Sea Cadets should be advised that further information about the space they might require is sought but no firm commitment could be made until the transfer of Homs Road Car Park has been completed.

8.00pm Councillor Ravenscroft returned to the meeting and took over chairing the meeting.

Amenities Committee 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the minutes of the committees and sub committees.

The Chairman requested that Item 16/10#175 be brought forward to allow Mr. Reynolds to address the Members and give his report.

# 16/10#175 Neighbourhood Plan

i) to receive an updated report from the Sub Committee

Members were informed that further meetings with Herefordshire Council (HC) are taking place to consider usage of key sites for allocation and their viability, particular regard is being given to educational facilities at a local and county level to explore the pros and cons. The timescale is at present on track and the pressure is on HC to comply, if there is a requirement to consider allocation of further sites there might be additional costs and a time delay.

8.05pm Mr. Reynolds left the meeting

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report

# 16/10# 174 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor spoke of a number of engagements he had attended including the Battle of Britain event in the Cathedral, the hosting of the County of Culture meeting, Services for Independent living AGM was very interesting, Shrievalty Service in the Cathedral. The following statement was read by the Mayor;

'I would like to make a statement as Chairman of the Council in connection with an article that appeared on the front page of the Ross Gazette dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

In the piece it states that a councillor 'told the Gazette .... that rather than taking on staff and then having to cover the expense of staff illness, holidays or storage facilities, local companies such as Enviroability, could have been used by the Town Council'.

This Council publicly disassociates itself from these remarks and apologises to staff for the concerns they expressed about their employment with the Council. These alleged comments do not accord with the Council's democratic decision to employ its own workforce and do not represent the views of the Council as a whole.

Councillors have the right to express their views but must make it clear when doing so that it is a personal view and that they are not speaking on behalf of the Council'.

# 16/10# 176 Finance- Income & Expenditure 2016/2017

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 To review the budget information for the year to date.

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

# 16/10# 177 Finance – Accounts for payment

Local Government Act 1972 s150 (5) To review and note items of expenditure received since the last meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Mayo Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Coker

# **RESOLVED** – to approve the accounts for payment.

# 16/10#178 Finance

To review and confirm schedule of payments for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for Direct Debits, BACS payments and manual cheques.

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

# 16/10#179 Consultation;

Herefordshire Council – on behalf of BT Payphones – removal of underused pay phones (deadline 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016).

Members were reminded of the three phone boxes under threat in Ross-on-Wye in the Avenue, Greytree and Gloucester Road. It was recognised that with improved mobile phone reception the use of public phone boxes has reduced. However, there are still people using the phones and not everybody has a mobile phone.

Proposed: Councillor Mayo For: 9 Against: 2 Abstention: 1 Seconded: Councillor Bennett

RESOLVED – to recommend acceptance of the closure of the phone boxes in Greytree and Gloucester Road but to object to the closure of one on The Avenue on the basis it is used more frequently.

# 16/10#180 External Audit /Annual Return for Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

To receive and note the conclusion from the External Auditor's certificate and opinion and confirm a copy of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been displayed.

Members were advised that the External Audit had been signed off without qualification but that the Auditors wished to draw to the Members' attention the following matters;

- Accounting for Fixed Assets Local Councils are required to account for fixed assets at purchase cost. It is necessary to restate the 2016 figure on the 2016/2017 Return.
- The minutes of the meeting must demonstrate that the Annual Governance Statement was considered, approved and signed before the Accounting Statements
- The Council should ensure it obtains a letter of engagement from its Internal Auditor stating their independence and outlining the tasks to be undertaken

Proposed: Councillor Mayo Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Bartrum

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the conclusion of the Audit for the year end March 2016.

# 16/10#181 UK City of Culture 2021

To receive a verbal report from the Council's nominated representative on the progress of the bid for Hereford.

Members were informed of the cultural partnership that has been set up in Herefordshire to progress the bid which aims to provide a countywide benefit. There was a meeting in September in Ross which was well attended by a range of partner groups and organisers. The creation of a cultural policy across the county is anticipated which will hopefully attract funding to improves facilities. This project offers a great opportunity for Ross to get involved to start working on ideas for the town.

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

# 16/10#182 Reports from official representatives on Outside Bodies

To receive reports from Councillors appointed to represent the Town Council on the following bodies:

i. Association of Ross Traders	Cllr C Bennett	Special meeting this week
ii. Basement Youth Trust	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
iii. Betzdorf Twinning Association	Clir P Cutter	Not present
		Everything going smoothly
iv. Board of the Community	Cllrs C Gray,	
Association	P Cutter	
v. Cinema Group	Cllr J Hyde	Plans in progress – no formal meeting
vi. Condé Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	Nothing to report
vii. Education Foundation	Cllr H Lerego	Meeting in October
viii. Friends of St Mary's	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
ix. Market Towns Forum	Cllrs D Ravenscroft,	A lot of discussion about CAB and its
	D Lister	partnering with other organisations. Road
		closure charges, disparate across the county.
		S106 Agreements – concern that time limits
		are expiring without monies being spent. City
		of Culture discussions.
x. Namutumba Twinning Association	Cllr J Jennings	Nothing to report
xi. Parochial Church Council	Cllr R Mayo	No meeting since last report
xii. Ross Charity Trustees	Cllrs P Cutter, C Gray	Nothing to report
xiii. Ross Fairtrade Group	Cllr C Bennett	Nothing to report
xiv. Ross Sports Club	Cllr H Lerego, D Lister	Nothing to report
xv. Ross Tourism Association	Cllr N Gibbs	Nothing to report
xvi. Town Team	Cllr C Utting	Nothing to report
xvii. Walkers are Welcome	Cllr C Utting	Walking Weekend went well, over 200 places
	Ŭ	booked.

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the reports.

8.30 pm Members of the Press and one member of the public left the meeting

# 16/10#183 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 16/10 # 152 above refers)

# **Commercial in Confidence**

To receive a verbal report on outstanding leases in relation to the following;

# **Market House**

The Lease has been signed by the appointed councillors and confirmation is awaited that the Courtyard representatives have signed.

# **Crossfields – Ross Tennis Club**

Members considered the proposed amended Heads of Terms for the new lease and confirmed acceptance. A further report will be made to Council in due course once agreement has been confirmed.

Proposed: Councillor Mayo Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Utting

RESOLVED – to approve proposed amended Heads of Terms as outlined in the written report.

Allotments - no further progress to date

# Weather Station

Members were informed that the discussion regarding repairing obligations for the mast are on-going. A further report with proposed Heads of Terms will be circulated in due course.

**RESOLVED** – to receive the verbal reports and confirm acceptance of the proposed actions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman Date

# **Ross-on-Wye Town Council**

# Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.00pm at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor D Ravenscroft – Chairman Councillors C Bartrum, C Bennett, H Bramer, V Coker, P Cutter, N Gibbs, C Gray, J Gren, J Hyde, J Jennings, D Lister, R Mayo, C Morgan, J Roberts and C Utting

In attendance: Mrs S Robson - Town Clerk There were two representatives from the police and two members of the press present.

### 16/11# 184 Apologies for Absence

Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1) Councillors D Bedford & H Lerego – Ill Health

# RESOLVED - to accept the apologies given

### 16/11# 185 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ravenscroft declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/11#196 Accounts for Payment as there is a payment for him from the Mayor's Allowance. Councillor Cutter declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/11#196 Accounts for Payment as there is a payment to his business for the Christmas Lights Contract.

### 16/11# 186 Applications for Dispensations

None

# 16/11# 187 Reports from County Councillors (for information only)

Members were informed of progress regarding traffic matters on Alton Street, although some residents are unhappy about the loss of on street parking spaces. It has improved the traffic management problems with the roadworks that are taking place in this area. It was reported there have been changes in Kent Avenue to the vehicular priorities. It is anticipated this will improve access for emergency services when a call out is in progress.

A meeting with one of the planning officers from Herefordshire Council is planned shortly to talk about local sites and there might be more information available about CIL in due course.

The electricity works by Western Power are on track, there is an embargo for road closures during December and the contractors have been working throughout the weekends to ensure good progress.

The planning application for the Riverside Inn has been refused on the basis it would be the loss of a community asset.

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#### 16/11# 188 Report from Ross Police (for information only)

The Police were congratulated on the recent event that was held – Operation Carew which was a two-day intensive policing operation. The new Police Inspector in the Safer Neighbourhood Team was also in attendance and talked to Members about her background and experience. A progress report was also given to Members about priorities to keep the town safe. There was a request for clear traffic management on 20<sup>th</sup> November for the Christmas Fayre to ensure clear signage for vehicles. Work is in progress with initiatives involving people with mental health issues and the co-ordination of services with partner organisations, it is recognised that better publicity is needed and the expansion for the provision of 'safe places' for people with learning disabilities to access (Safe Places Scheme). There are currently six places in Ross. A nationwide protocol has been set up for dementia sufferers to assist when people go missing, it acts as a register but needs better publicity so its use is widened. The Police Citizens Academy is starting in January, it is a 10-week course for people wanting to know more about the police, also there is a drive to recruit Special Constables at present, also volunteers are needed to bring their experience to help with specific tasks.

7.25pm The Police representatives left the meeting

#### 16/11# 189 Public Participation

None

# 16/11# 190 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lister

RESOLVED – that agenda item #16/11#200 'Commercial in Confidence' be treated as confidential and be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) have been excluded.

### 16/11# 172 Full Council Meeting Minutes

Local Government Act 1972 schedule 12 para 41(1) To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 be signed as a correct record.

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# 16/11# 173 Committees – To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and approve any recommendations;

Markets Sub Committee	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Planning & Development Planning & Development	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Amenities Committee	1st November 2016
Finance & Policy	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2016

**RESOLVED** – to recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Financial Reserves Policy.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter Seconded: Councillor Mayo For: 14 Against: 2

The Recommendation was approved.

RESOLVED – that subject to notification from Herefordshire Council of the Tax Base the budget is recommended to Full Council for approval.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Gren

The Recommendation was approved.

**Events** 

8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the minutes of the committees and sub committees and approve the recommendations.

### 16/11# 193 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor spoke about several engagements he had attended including the visit to Ross by the Princess Royal, various church services and charity events. He was pleased to report that the various remembrance events had been well attended.

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### 16/11#194 Neighbourhood Plan

A written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting updating Members of the progress to date.

It was reported that a meeting was held in October involving officers and councillors from Herefordshire Council as well as those representing the Sub Committee of the Neighbourhood Plan. Members were reminded that public involvement was vital and local knowledge is important in making sure all aspects of the plan are considered fully. It was noted the plan is important to the future of Ross and all facts need to be understood.

### RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

16/11# 195 Finance- Income & Expenditure 2016/2017 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 To review the budget information for the year to date.

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.

### 16/11# 196 Finance – Accounts for payment

Local Government Act 1972 s150 (5) To review and note items of expenditure received since the last meeting.

7.38pm Councillors Ravenscroft and Cutter left the meeting having declared an interest therefore Councillor Gibbs took over chairing the meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Bartrum Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Mayo

### **RESOLVED** – to approve the accounts for payment.

- 7.40pm Councillors Ravenscroft and Cutter returned to the meeting and Councillor Ravenscroft resumed chairing.
- 16/11#197 Notice of Motion from the Town Clerk to consider verbal request from Councillor Derek Bedford to approve his continued absence on the grounds of ill health.

Local Government Act 1972 s85

Members were informed the Clerk had visited Councillor Bedford following a verbal request to approve an extended leave of absence on the grounds of his ill health.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Hyde

RESOLVED – that the Council approves a continued absence from the Council for six months from the time of this meeting due to his continued ill health.

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# 16/11#198 Reports from official representatives on Outside Bodies

To receive reports from Councillors appointed to represent the Town Council on the following bodies:

i. Association of Ross Traders	Cllr C Bennett	Nothing to report
ii. Basement Youth Trust	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
iii. Betzdorf Twinning Association	Cllr P Cutter	Moving forward to the visit
iv. Board of the Community	Cllrs C Gray,	Good progress with operational matters
Association	P Cutter	
v. Cinema Group	Cllr J Hyde	Plans in progress – no formal meeting
vi. Condé Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	AGM will be held on 25th November
vii. Education Foundation	Cllr H Lerego	Not present
viii. Friends of St Mary's	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
ix. Market Towns Forum	Cllrs D Ravenscroft,	Meeting 23rd November- further information
	D Lister	at the next meeting
x. Namutumba Twinning Association	Cllr J Jennings	Nothing to report
xi. Parochial Church Council	Cllr R Mayo	Nothing to report
xii. Ross Charity Trustees	Cllrs P Cutter, C Gray	Recent meeting, working on planning at Nursery Road
xiii. Ross Fairtrade Group	Cllr C Bennett	Nothing to report
xiv. Ross Sports Club	Cllr H Lerego, D Lister	Successful events, raising funds, two projects involving the community - 5k park run and a new obstacle gym
xv. Ross Tourism Association	Cllr N Gibbs	AGM held recently, Cllr Utting has been appointed chairman, preparations over the winter are in hand for initiatives next year
xvi. Town Team	Cllr C Utting	Nothing to report
xvii. Walkers are Welcome	Cllr C Utting	Preparations for next year are underway

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the reports.

# 16/11#199 Correspondence for consideration and response (copy enclosed).

i) Historic England – confirmation that Ross District War Memorial has been awarded Listed Building Status – Grade II

# RESOLVED - to receive and note the correspondence.

7.50 pm Members of the Press left the meeting

16/11#200 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 16/11 # 190 above refers) Commercial in Confidence

To receive a verbal report on outstanding leases in relation to the following;

# Market House

Confirmation was noted that the Lease on the Market House has been completed.

# **Crossfields – Ross Tennis Club**

Members considered the written report that had been circulated and approved the terms of the Lease. It was also agreed that the Chairman of the Council and Amenities Chairman would be the signatories to the Lease.

Proposed: Councillor Gibbs Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Cutter

RESOLVED - to approve the Lease of land known as Crossfields as specified in the report.

# FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Members were informed the Legal Agreement from Herefordshire Council for the installation of the barrier at Red Meadow car park has been received and will be forwarded to the Council's solicitors for checking.

The report on options for the Old Chapel will be available for the Policy & Management Committee's consideration at their next meeting on 3rd December.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

12 Dec Dollo Date

Chairman

# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

# Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.00pm at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor D Ravenscroft – Chairman Councillors C Bartrum, H Bramer, V Coker, P Cutter, C Gray, J Gren, J Hyde, H Lerego, D Lister, R Mayo, J Roberts and C Utting

In attendance: Mrs S Robson - Town Clerk, Mrs R Lewis – Deputy Town Clerk There was one representative from the police and one member of the press present and one member of the public.

# 16/12# 201 Apologies for Absence

Local Government Act 1972 S85 (1) Councillor D Bedford – III Health Councillors C Bennett & N Gibbs – Conflicting Meetings

# RESOLVED - to accept the apologies given

# 16/12# 202 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cutter declared a DPI in Agenda Item 16/12#211 Accounts for Payment as there is a payment to his business for electrical works carried out.

# 16/12# 203 Applications for Dispensations

None

# 16/12# 204 Report from Ross Police (for information only)

Members were advised there is an operation underway on the A40 to deter and prevent lorry theft. The usual drink drive campaign has also commenced until Christmas. A campaign against speeding motorists is in operation but there is no further information about it at this time.

The Mayor thanked the Police for their attendance at the meetings and keeping information flowing about events and happenings in town.

# 16/12# 205 Public Participation

A comment was made about a planning application and associated s106 agreement by a county councillor.

# 16/12# 206 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter For: 12 Against:1 Seconded: Councillor Gray

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RESOLVED – that agenda item #16/12#220 'Commercial in Confidence' be treated as confidential and be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) have been excluded.

# 16/12# 207 Full Council Meeting Minutes Local Government Act 1972 schedule 12 para 41(1) To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be signed as a correct record.

16/12# 208 Committees – To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and approve any recommendations;

Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee 17th November 2016

Policy & Management Committee 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016

RESOLVED - to recommend approval to Full Council for expenditure in the sum of £600.00 from the Property Portfolio Sinking Fund to commission a quinqennial report for the Corn Exchange.

Proposed: Councillor Utting Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lerego

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the minutes of the committees and sub committees and approve the recommendation.

16/12# 209 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor spoke about several engagements he had attended including his visit to Ross Christmas Fayre, he congratulated the Events Committee for doing such a good job and for all their hard work. Other events included hosting the Ross Culture meeting, various church carol services, meetings and charity events.

**16/12# 210 Finance- Income & Expenditure 2016/2017** Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 To review the budget information for the year to date.

# RESOLVED - to receive and note the report.

- 16/12# 211 Finance Accounts for payment Local Government Act 1972 s150 (5)
  To review and note items of expenditure received since the last meeting.
- 7.10pm Councillor Cutter having declared an interest left the meeting

Proposed: Councillor Gren Seconded: Councillor Gray Unanimous **RESOLVED – to approve the accounts for payment.** 

# Page 3 of 6

### 7.13pm Councillor Cutter returned to the meeting

### 16/12#212 Consultation;

Herefordshire Council – to consider response to public consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Herefordshire Council [deadline 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017].

It was agreed to defer this to the Planning Committee to draft a formal response on behalf of the Council to the Consultation.

# 16/12#213 Asset Transfer - Homs Road Car Park

To receive written report and recommendations from Working Group in relation to the specification for an architect to draw up detailed plans with a fully costed breakdown of options.

The report was circulated in advance of the meeting and contained proposed details for the development of the site to provide a yard for storage purposes and a building for welfare and workshop facilities.

**RESOLVED** – to receive and note the report.

# **16/12#214** Red Meadow Car Park – Licence for Barrier to be installed To receive verbal update and report on actions to date.

advisor before it could be approved.

Members were informed the Licence was awaiting a response from the Council's legal

RESOLVED – to receive and note the report and give authority to the Clerk to sign the Agreement.

# 16/12#215 CCTV – To consider request from Herefordshire Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) from April 2017 – March 2020.

Proposed: Councillor Bartrum Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lister

RESOLVED – to approve the proposal to enter into a new SLA with Herefordshire Council for a three-year period for the provision of a CCTV system and to approve the expenditure for 2017/2018 in the sum of £ 9441.45.

### 16/12#216 To receive and note the verbal report from the newly formed createROSS group.

The initial board meeting took place in September which included representatives of the whole County. Since then each of the market towns has set up its own group, local meetings have already taken place with a group of those people interested in the arts. It is hoped the group will be able to work towards improving provision within this area, coming up with projects and ideas and art related events.

# Page 4 of 6

Notice of Motion from Councillor C Bartrum received on 28th November 2016 16/12#217 that 'this Town Council notes the Draft NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan which could fundamentally change the services provided at Ross Community Hospital, including the loss of all beds. Protecting services at Ross Community Hospital was one of the priorities in the Ross Town Plan. We resolve that the Council will take a full part in the consultation in order to protect the interests of patients. The Planning Committee is requested to draft a response to the consultation for consideration by full Council in January'.

> Members were informed of the requirement on NHS Services to work on a new 5year Plan. Local residents are invited to comment via an online survey. Initial investigations have revealed a large funding gap in the county which could leave beds in community hospitals under threat. Members supported objecting to any proposal to withdraw beds from the Community Hospital and making sure the hospital remains open. The Town Council accepted it should play its part in the consultation in making recommendations to secure services. There will be a number of roadshows being held and the one in Ross will be on 9<sup>th</sup> January. No consultation document as yet is available but further information will be circulated in due course.

Proposed: Councillor Bartrum Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Cutter

RESOLVED - to defer to the Planning Committee with the intention of setting up a Working Group which will report its findings and recommendations back to Full Council for a formal response to the Consultation.

# 16/12#218 Reports from official representatives on Outside Bodies

To receive reports from Councillors appointed to represent the Town Council on the following bodies:

i. Association of Ross Traders	Cllr C Bennett	Not present
ii. Basement Youth Trust	Cllr C Bartrum	Upgrades to equipment in the building have been taking place
iii. Betzdorf Twinning Association	Cllr P Cutter	New members have joined the Association
iv. Board of the Community Association	Cllrs C Gray, P Cutter	Good progress with operational matters with issues is still on-going
v. Cinema Group	Cllr J Hyde	Nothing to report
vi. Condé Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	Arrangements are well advanced for visit to Conde in April 2017 and return visit to Ross in 2018
vii. Education Foundation	Cllr H Lerego	No meeting until March
viii. Friends of St Mary's	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
ix. Market Towns Forum	Cllrs D Ravenscroft, D Lister	Presentation from HC about the ENP update on Bypass, broadband improvements. Concerns that CIL has been frozen and will affect the economy of the county. Code of Conduct was also discussed and a new one is being developed. S106 update was also made available.
x. Namutumba Twinning Association	Cllr J Jennings	Not present
xi. Parochial Church Council	Cllr R Mayo	Nothing to report
xii. Ross Charity Trustees	Cllrs P Cutter, C Gray	Progress with Planning Application
xiii. Ross Fairtrade Group	Cllr C Bennett	Not present

Cllr H Lerego, D Lister	Successful events – Santa Run, licences in place
	for hirers, great community asset
Cllr N Gibbs	Not present
Cllr C Utting	Nothing to report
Cllr C Utting	Programme for 2017 will be printed shortly and tickets will be available from January
-	Cllr N Gibbs Cllr C Utting

# **RESOLVED** – to receive and note the reports.

# 16/12#219 Correspondence for consideration and response (copy enclosed).

i) Begbies Traynor - (Action for Market Towns) notification that dividend will not be payable [related to previous item Full Council 16/02#41]

# RESOLVED - to receive and note the correspondence.

7.40 pm Members of the Press left the meeting

# 16/12#220 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 16/12 # 206 above refers) Commercial in Confidence

# Neighbourhood Plan

To receive the written report from the Sub Committee and consider its recommendations. Mr. Melvin Reynolds was invited as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee to address the Members

Confidential written reports had been circulated in advance outlining the progress of the plan regarding timescale and costs to date. Members were reminded the original plan did not allow for site allocation, this might now change. It was therefore recommended to extend the scope of the Plan (as set out in the Confidential Report) to make provision for site allocation, the cost of which should be borne largely by Herefordshire Council.

Proposed: Councillor Utting Unanimous Seconded: Councillor Lerego

# **RESOLVED** – to approve the extended Neighbourhood Plan as laid out in the Briefing Report and accept the recommendations proposed;

To proceed with an 'Extended Plan', so request Town Clerk:

- i. Apply immediately for additional 'complex plans' Locality grant of £6k.
- ii. Request HC Education Strategy Team to confirm extent of the additional £9k consultancy cost they will bear.
- iii. Confirm RTC additional costs up to £3k (depends on 5.a.ii) and confirm with consultants the extent of that allocation.

### Page 6 of 6

8.10pm Mr. Reynolds left the meeting 8.10pm Mr. Preece joined the meeting

### **Old Chapel**

To discuss recommendation from the Policy & Management Committee that the Council seeks to dispose of the Old Chapel on the open market subject to consultation and statutory requirements, subject to the Council's Agent continuing to seek a tenant that would comply with the terms of the Transfer Document.

Mr. Jonathan Preece was invited as the Council's Land Agent to address the Members

There was prolonged and considered debate weighing up the benefits and advantages of keeping the Old Chapel versus the continued costs and restrictions imposed by HC. The Town Clerk and Agent were authorised to arrange a meeting with HC and the Council's Solicitors to seek further clarification regarding the overage condition and other clauses within the Transfer Document.

Proposed: Councillor Cutter

Seconded: Councillor Bramer

A named vote was called for Those in favour Councillors Cutter, Gray, Lerego, Gren, Coker, Hyde, Bramer, Mayo, Lister and Ravenscroft

Those against Councillors Utting, Roberts and Bartrum

RESOLVED – to seek to dispose of the Old Chapel on the open market subject to consultation and statutory requirements, subject to the Council's Agent continuing to seek a tenant that would comply with the terms of the Transfer Document.

There being no further business the meeting closed 8.35pm

9 Jon Dai7

Date

Chairman