

RICHMOND TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2017

Present: Councillors Parsons – Mayor
Hodgson
Blease
Harris
Heap
Steggles
World
Preece
White
Hadden

In attendance: Ms. H. Lawler, Town Clerk
Mrs C. Ord, Assistant Town Clerk
Mrs. G. Lunn

Councillor World thanked Mrs. Lunn for the excellent sermon on Civic Sunday and wished to convey thanks to the bell ringers, and the Ladies of Richmond Meet for providing the marvellous tea. He stated that lots of comments had been received by invited guests saying how much they had enjoyed the occasion.

01.09.17 Apologies: Councillors Lord, Cooke and Bryant.

Absent: Councillor Spencer

02.09.17 Public Open Session:

No members of the public present.

03.09.17 County Councillor:

County Councillor Parsons gave a brief update on future road works near Barclays Bank.

04.09.17 Richmondshire District Councillor:

Nothing to report

05.09.17 Declarations of Interest:

None declared.

06.09.17 Minutes:

Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 31 July 2017 be accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Councillor Heap Seconded: Councillor Hadden

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4 September be accepted as a true record.

07.09.17 Updates:

No updates.

08.07.17 Town Clerk's Report:

Request to stage music event in the Market Hall

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that a request had been received asking Council to consider permitting the use of the Market Hall for a music event in the early part of next year. Details of the event and its timing possibly to coincide with proposed building works and deep cleaning of the hall were also discussed.

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor White

RESOLVED: that

- a) **permission to hold the event be granted**
- b) **the Town Clerk to co-ordinate any planned works.**

09.09.17 Communications: The correspondence was noted.

10.09.17 Accounts:

Proposed: Councillor Harris Seconded: Councillor Blease

RESOLVED: that the accounts for July and August 2017 be approved.

11.09.17 Committees:

- Planning - 9 August 2017
- 30 August 2017
- 13 September 2017

Minutes of the above Planning Meetings were noted.

- Community - 18 September 2017

Councillor World asked that thanks be recorded to the Minute taker for producing the minutes of the above meeting.

Referring to Minute: Christmas Lights C04.09.17 Councillor Hodgson stated that at no point in any of the meetings she had attended were larger electrical boxes requested. Other Councillors agreed with her comments.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Community Meetings held on Monday 18th September be accepted as a true record.

Donations

Proposed: Councillor Hodgson Seconded: Councillor Harris

RESOLVED: that

- a) full Council approve the Donation of £1,000 towards costs of logistics and safety aspects of the Richmond Town Christmas Market.**
- b) the sum be debited from the Community Project Fund**

12.09.17 Outside Bodies:

Nothing to report.

13.09.17 Town Council Councillors:

Councillor World opened the debate and discussion took place relating to the proposed reduction of Councillors serving on the Town Council from 15 to 12. 14 Town Councillors currently serve due to a resignation from a member who recently moved away from the area.

Proposed: Councillor World Seconded: Councillor Preece
That the number of Councillors be reduced at the 2019 election from 15 to 12.

This motion was not carried.

Councillor Harris stated that he felt that sending a News Letter to residents should be considered.

14.09.17 CCTV in Richmond:

The Town Clerk gave a comprehensive synopsis on CCTV in Richmond. Two quotations had been received and the Town Clerk gave background information relevant to each quote. Councillors were informed that full justification would need to be proved to the Information Commission for reinstatement of CCTV cameras in Richmond.

Proposed: Councillor Parsons Seconded: Councillor Steggles

RESOLVED: that

- a) the Town Council look at working with Company (B)**
- b) a request be made to Company (B) to split the capital cost from their quotation.**
- c) Town Council to ascertain whether any exit costs will be applied in the event of the five year contract being terminated before the end of the term.**
- d) any new information and future discussions on the project to be taken to the Resources Committee.**

15.09.17 Committee Application:

Councillor Preece raised the issue of committee nominations and structures. He asked that members consider changes to the system to make it more streamlined and also to prevent any potential abuse of the system.

Proposed: Councillor Preece Seconded: Councillor Parsons

RESOLVED: that

- a) **Councillors to put their names down for every committee they wish to serve on**
- b) **in the event of too many applications on any one committee then a vote will be taken.**

This decision was unanimous.

16.09.17 Dementia Friendly:

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that four members of staff had recently attended a training course at Richmondshire District Council.

Proposed: Councillor World Seconded: Councillor Hodgson

RESOLVED: that

- a) **Richmond Town Council become a Dementia friendly Council during the forthcoming year**
- b) **Town Council appoint a nominated officer**
- c) **staff and Councillors to be trained**
- d) **signage in Town Council premises be checked to see whether they follow Dementia friendly guide lines**
- e) **businesses and organisations to be encouraged through training to become part of a Dementia friendly town.**
- f) **training session to be offered in the Town Hall**
- g) **any costs to be referred to the Resources Committee.**

16b.09.017 Richmond Town Council – Emergency Item:

The Mayor requested that this item be added to the agenda as there are matters relating to the behaviour of some Councillors which needs to be addressed. He stated that due to recent unacceptable behavior, i.e. storming out of meetings, verbally attacking officers and other Councillors during meetings, and whispering campaigns to discredit other members after meetings, the Town Clerk had been requested to seek advice from Richmondshire District Council on this matter.

Members were reminded that when attending any Committee or Full Council meetings they are there to represent the whole community and the Town Council. Therefore their behavior is under scrutiny and they have signed a

Code of Conduct and are bound by that document. The Mayor reported that the reputation of the Town Council comes into disrepute as these incidents are often witnessed by members of the public and outside bodies who attend these meetings. Both the manner of speeches and their content are damaging to this council.

He also pointed out that it is completely unacceptable to openly criticise any officer of the Council in open meetings, it is disrespectful and a form of harassment. Councillors were reminded that should they have cause to question the integrity of an officer then they should direct their concerns to the Town Clerk in the first instance. If their concerns relate to the Town Clerk then they should speak with the Mayor and Chair of Resources. Officers are not in a position to challenge accusations leveled in a public meeting and such accusations could be interpreted as bullying and harassment and used in any tribunal situation arising from their employment.

The Mayor stated that any further instances of unacceptable behaviour will immediately be reported to the Standards Committee at Richmondshire District Council for them to take action.

He also apologised to those members who have continued to behave in an appropriate manner as he felt it was unfair to set out this position to all Councillors. The Mayor thanked Councillor White for his handling of a very difficult meeting recently and also thanked the officers for their continued attendance at what have been very difficult meetings.

17.09.17 Proposed: Councillor White Seconded: Councillor Preece

RESOLVED: to move into Private Session

RESOLVED: to move out of Private Session