

Full Council Meeting

22nd February 2021

6:30pm via Zoom

(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was not possible for Council to meet in person)

Present: Present: Councillors: T Astell (Chair), P Astell, D Boynton, I Gow, D Healy, C Hopkins, D Horsley, D Jack, L Johnson, M Pinder, D Tucker, A Willis

In Attendance: Matthew Snowden (Deputy Town Clerk) and Libby Woodhouse (Administrative Assistant).

124/20: Mayor's Introduction

The Mayor announced the sad passing recently of Councillor Josie Head, Mayor of Goole and wished to pay honour to her with a Minute's silence. He also reported on the sad passing of the Town Clerk's father, a community member. A minute's silence was held for both.

124.1: The Mayor to explain that the meeting is being live-streamed on You Tube via Zoom.

The Mayor explained that due to an error, the meeting could not be live-streamed on You Tube. The Deputy Town Clerk will upload the Zoom recording of the meeting to You Tube as soon as possible.

124.2: The Mayor to explain meeting protocol in terms of using remote technology.

The Mayor reminded all present of the provisions contained in the Virtual Meetings Policy and Standing Orders referring to meetings.

124.3: The Mayor to carry out a rollcall of Councillors present.

The Mayor carried out a rollcall of Councillors present.

125/20: To Receive Apologies for Absence

The Council received apologies for absence from Councillor C Wildey.

126/20: Declarations:

126.1: To record declarations of interest by any member of the council in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.

There were no declarations of interest.

126.2: To note dispensations given to any member of the council in respect of the agenda items below.

There were no dispensations.



127/20: To confirm and sign the following Minutes of Full Council:

127.1: Full Council held on 11th January 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 11th January 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

127.2: Extra-ordinary Full Council held on 11th January 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Full Council Meeting held on 11th January 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

128/20: To confirm and sign the following Committee Minutes:

128.1: Policy and Finance Committee held on 18th January 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held of 18th January 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

128.2: Personnel Committee held on 26th January 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 26th January 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

Councillor Pinder requested that policies surrounding staffing are reviewed by Councillors at the next Policy and Finance Committee.

128.3: Planning, Property and Services Committee held on 26th January 2021

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Planning, Property and Services Committee held on 26th January 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

128.4: Grants Committee held on 8th February 2021

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that Kings Church had confirmed that grant funding given to them would not be used to promote religion or faith. The funding will be used for youth activities only.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 8th February 2021 are approved and signed as a true and correct record.

129/20: Mayor's Announcements and Correspondence (Cllr T. Astell to report)

129.1: The Mayor reported that his Virtual Cabaret evening was a fabulous evening of glitz and glam and approximately £500 had been raised. He thanked all those involved and all who had donated.

Proposed: Councillor Hopkins

Seconded: Councillor Pinder

Resolved: To formally thank the Mayor and the staff and congratulate them on a successful evening in such difficult times and raising money for worthwhile causes.

129.2: The Mayor reported that the Awards Evening would be virtual and work will be progressing on it shortly which will be shared with Councillors.

130/20: Reports from Councillors serving on external bodies

To receive brief reports (if any) from Councillors who represent the Town Council on external bodies.

130.1: Councillor P Astell requested that Councillors support NALC's recommendations for the Government to extend the virtual meeting regulations by writing to the MP. This will be discussed in the agenda item for this subject.



130.2: Councillor Hopkins reported ERVAS would be sending out a survey shortly. She had not been able to attend meetings recently due to timing commitments however this should be resolved moving forward.

131/20: Beverley Working Group

To select a Councillor to represent Beverley Town Council on the "Beverley Working Group" – an independent group of organisations and individuals which are working together (and supported by ERYC Local Growth) to help sustain the commercial centre of Beverley as the country comes out of the Covid-19 Lockdown (Deputy Town Clerk to report and see attached document).

Proposed: Councillor P Astell

Seconded: Councillor Willis

Resolved: *That the Mayor (the Office of) will represent the Town Council at the Beverley Working Group, and in his absence the Deputy Mayor will attend. The Councillors will report back to Full Council or the appropriate Committee.*

132/20: Virtual / Face-to-Face Meetings

To consider advice from Mathew Buckley (ERYC Head of Legal and Democratic Services) regarding the future of virtual meetings, because the Government has yet to indicate whether or not it will extend emergency regulations to allow virtual meetings to continue after 7th May 2021. If the Government does not extend this regulation, it will be unlawful to hold virtual meetings and only face-to-face meetings will be permitted (Deputy Town Clerk to report and see attached document).

Proposed: Councillor P Astell

Seconded: Councillor Hopkins

Resolved: *That the Deputy Town Clerk makes enquiries to ERYC to hold future Full Council meetings at the Guildhall and make enquiries to East Riding College to hold future Committee meetings in their Committee Room.*

Proposed: Councillor T Astell

Seconded: Councillor Hopkins

Resolved: *That a Working Group consisting of the Mayor, Councillor P Astell, Councillor Hopkins and the Deputy Town Clerk will meet via zoom to consider this issue and make recommendations.*

Proposed: Councillor Hopkins

Seconded: Councillor T Astell

Resolved: *That the Deputy Town Clerk writes to the MP on behalf of the Town Council to lobby the Government to extend the regulations pertaining to Virtual Meetings. Councillors are encouraged to write individually.*

133/20: Domestic Abuse

Nationally there has been an increase in domestic abuse under lockdown conditions since 2020. Anecdotally this may also be true in Beverley itself (Cllr C. Hopkins to report).

Proposal: To ask East Riding of Yorkshire Council if they are able to update Beverley Town Council on the provision of services to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse in our town.

Anyone who needs help, support or advice regarding domestic abuse issues can call the National Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247 or the ERYC Domestic Abuse Helpline on 01482 396330.

Councillor Hopkins reported concern that the national figures show an increase in intensity and frequency of domestic abuse and domestic violence. Community members are concerned that there is an increase in Beverley. Councillor Hopkins agreed to a wording change to her original proposal.

Proposed: Councillor Hopkins

Seconded: Councillor Pinder

Resolved: *To ask East Riding of Yorkshire Council to provide information to Beverley Town Council on the provision of services to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse in our town.*

Councillor Gow let the meeting at 19.40



134/20: Internet Banking

To approve an application to the Town Council's bank to make the Deputy Town Clerk a Corporate Administrator on the online bank system (Deputy Town Clerk to report).

Proposed: Councillor T Astell **Seconded:** Councillor Johnson

Resolved: To approve the Deputy Town Council as a Corporate Administrator for the Town Council's online banking system.

135/20: Internal Audit

To consider the appointment of an Internal Auditor (see attached documents)

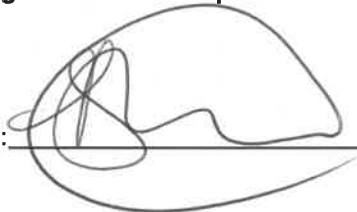
The Deputy Town Clerk has received one quote. He explained that there had been significant difficulty sourcing an auditor to provide a quote and undertake the work.

Proposed: Councillor Healy **Seconded:** Councillor P Astell

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Internal Audit Yorkshire in the sum of £1,850 for a one-year contract for the 2020/2021 financial year to provide an interim audit during week commencing 1st March 2021, and a year-end audit in April/May/June 2021 as outlined in their letter and documents of 14th February 2021. The Council is aware of the provision of Financial Regulations requiring three quotes to be obtained, however as a matter of urgency due to the difficulties outlined and previously recorded in Minutes, and on an emergency basis the Council waives Financial Regulations to enable work to be carried out to comply with imminent statutory audit deadlines.

Meeting finished at 7.50 pm

Signed: _____



Date: _____

12/4/21