

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at Tewkesbury Abbey on
Tuesday, 21 May 2019 commencing at 7:30 pm and re-convened at the Council
Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday, 28 May 2019 commencing at
6:00pm**

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

R H Hatton
Councillor G F Blackwell

and Councillors:

R A Bird, G J Bocking, C L J Carter, C M Cody, K J Cromwell, M Dean, R D East, J H Evetts,
L A Gerrard, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D W Gray, D J Harwood, E J MacTiernan, J R Mason,
H C McLain, P D McLain, H S Munro, J W Murphy, P W Ockelton, A S Reece, J K Smith,
P E Smith, V D Smith, R J Stanley, S A T Stevens, P D Surman, S Thomson, R J E Vines,
M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Hollaway, M L Jordan, C Reid, R J G Smith, C Softley and M G Sztymiak.

CL.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

- 2.1 With the retiring Mayor, Ruth Hatton, in the chair, it was proposed by Councillor Elaine MacTiernan, and seconded by Councillor Mike Dean, that Councillor Gill Blackwell be, and is hereby elected, Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury for the ensuing Municipal Year.
- 2.2 On the Motion being put to the meeting it was declared to be carried, whereupon the Mayor took the chair, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.
- 2.3 In thanking Members for the honour and pleasure of being elected Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury, and those present for attending the ceremony, Councillor Blackwell indicated that Tewkesbury Borough was working hard with all of its communities to raise the profile of the Borough, whether it be employment or leisure interests. Officers at the refurbished Borough Council offices worked hard to help all members of the community with the Public Services Centre not only accommodating office staff but also the Police, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Citizens' Advice Bureau and officers from Gloucestershire County Council's Social Services, among others. The Council was also the first local authority in the country to have a Growth Hub within its building which helped businesses with information and provided a place to get assistance with all aspects of growing a new business. As Mayor for the coming year, she hoped to be able to promote the Borough in the best possible way and to ensure that the 'open to everyone' message was carried across the whole Borough, especially to those in the communities that may need extra assistance.

- 2.4 The Mayor advised that her Consort for the year would be her husband, Mike Blackwell, and she hoped that together they would be able to represent the Borough at as many events as possible. Her Chaplain for the year would be Reverend Wendy Ruffle and she offered her thanks to Wendy for her continued support. The Mayor also announced the organisations that she would be supporting during her Mayoral Year which were the Butterfly Garden at Bamfurlong Lane and the Maritime Volunteer Service – Severn Unit. The Butterfly Garden offered people of all ages who were dealing with disablement of any kind the chance to feel that they had an opportunity to do something purposeful through its offer of education, recreation and therapy. The Maritime Volunteer Service aimed to keep the UK's maritime tradition alive by training and delivering skills to nationally recognised standards; its members were volunteers and helped out in times of need and emergency for local communities which the Mayor considered to be of great value to Tewkesbury as the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Avon.
- 2.5 In concluding her speech, the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and hoped they would have an enjoyable evening. She also thanked the organist and each of the students, whose contributions to the ceremony had made it such an enjoyable event, as well as Reverend Wendy Ruffle and the Head of Music at Tewkesbury School for their help in organising the performances for the evening.

CL.3 RETIRING MAYOR - R M HATTON

- 3.1 Councillor Jim Mason expressed the Council's thanks to Ruth Hatton for the way that she had represented the Borough throughout her year in Office. Councillor Mason indicated that, 12 months ago, he had had the great privilege to propose Ruth for the position of Mayor as he knew she would be excellent in the role. He felt she had been a fantastic ambassador for the Borough and, together with her Consort, had attended well over 100 functions and events. There were too many engagements to mention them all but there were a few he felt demonstrated how wholeheartedly Ruth and Harry had embraced Ruth's Mayoral year; they had joined the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service on their 'bed push' challenge which had raised over £15,000 for the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre; attended the German Bivouac at the ARRC where Ruth had made a speech in German having never spoken the language before; crowned the May Queen and King at the Woodmancote fete; and Ruth had read a poem when attending the Women in Aviation exhibition at the Jet Age Museum. Councillor Mason felt it was those little extra personal touches that had made the year such a success; Ruth had also attended a number of events involving young people including Alderman Knight's Got Talent Show, Angels and Superheroes and a Scratch Nativity play at Queen Margaret's Primary School where Harry had dressed up as an elf. Ruth had been a great supporter of the youth of the Borough raising funds for her charitable organisations; the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service – Tewkesbury Fire Cadets and the Aston Project, and she had invited young people from those organisations to take part in her Civic Service and talk about some of the things they were involved in. Councillor Mason indicated that, at Council meetings, Ruth had been a fair and impartial Chair who had managed the meetings expertly and ensured a smooth transaction of business with her usual quiet authority. He was of the view that Ruth had looked after the other Councillors like a mother hen tending her chicks, ensuring they were all well-fed after Council meetings with her home-prepared food, and felt she would be a hard act to follow with her kindness and true dedication to the Borough – although he was sure the newly elected Mayor would be up to the challenge. In summing up, Councillor Mason expressed his sadness that both Ruth and Harry had lost their seats in the recent local elections and, whilst that was democracy, they would be missed. Ruth had conducted her Mayoral year with great dignity and decorum and had been exceptionally popular out in the

community and was spoken about with great affection and warmth – she had received great support from Harry and together they had worked tirelessly with compassion and commitment making everyone feel comfortable with their quiet and relaxed way as they had hosted and attended many functions; it had been a very successful year full of great memories for the community and hopefully for Ruth and Harry.

- 3.2 Ruth thanked Councillor Mason for his kind words and indicated that it had been a fantastic year which she had thoroughly enjoyed. She expressed her thanks to all of the Officers who had supported her and her Consort in carrying out their civic duties, which had totalled 134 events, and from which they would take many memorable friendships. Some particular highlights of the year had been their visit to Belfast on behalf of Tewkesbury in Bloom to collect an award – this had not been an official Borough Council remit so they had funded the trip themselves but had had a wonderful time and had felt honoured to attend the awards ceremony on behalf of the Borough. She particularly thanked the Chief Executive for his guidance at Council meetings, the Democratic Services Team for their support and her Chaplain, Reverend Wendy Ruffle, for her individual attention and loyal support. Ruth indicated that she had enjoyed supporting both of her chosen organisations throughout her Mayoral year and hoped the money raised would go some way to supporting the young people that used the services of both the Aston Project and the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service – Tewkesbury Fire Cadets. She also thanked her Consort, Harry, for driving her faithfully and safely over 300 miles on their Civic duties. In concluding her speech, Ruth also offered her thanks to everyone who had attended her events and made them such a success.
- 3.3 The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Gill Blackwell, presented Ruth Hatton with a Past Mayor's Badge. Harry Turbyfield presented Mike Blackwell with the Consort's Badge of Office and Mike Blackwell presented Harry Turbyfield with his Past Consort's Badge.
- 3.4 Flowers were presented to Councillor Gill Blackwell and Ruth Hatton.

CL.4 ADJOURNMENT

- 4.1 Upon the Motion of the Mayor, the meeting of the Council stood adjourned until Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 6.00pm.

CL.5 RESUMPTION

- 5.1 The meeting then resumed in the Severn Room at the Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday 28 May 2019, when the attendance was as follows:

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

R H Hatton G F Blackwell
Councillor A S Reece

and Councillors:

R A Bird, G J Bocking, C L J Carter, C M Cody, K J Cromwell, M Dean, R D East, J H Evetts, L A Gerrard, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D J Harwood, A Hollaway, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan, J R Mason, H C McLain, P D McLain, H S Munro, J W Murphy, P W Ockelton, C Reid, V D Smith, P E Smith, R J G Smith, J K Smith, C Softley, R J Stanley, P D Surman, M G Sztymiak, S Thomson, R J E Vines, M J Williams and P N Workman

CL.6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 6.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D W Gray and S A T Stevens.

CL.7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 7.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 26 June 2012 and took effect from 1 July 2012.
- 7.2 The following declaration was made:

| Councillor | Application No./Item | Nature of Interest (where disclosed) | Declared Action in respect of Disclosure |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| K J Cromwell | Item 13 – Garden Community Programme – Garden Town Status for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch | Has a disclosable pecuniary interest. | Would not speak or vote and would leave the room for consideration of the item. |

- 7.3 There were no further declarations of interest made on this occasion.

CL.8 MINUTES

- 8.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.9 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.
- 9.2 The Mayor indicated that she had used her discretion to amend the order of the Agenda so point 3 under Item 11 would be taken as point 1; the remaining items would follow consecutively.

CL.10 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- 10.1 There were no items from members of the public on this occasion.

CL.11 MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

- 11.1 There were no Member questions on this occasion.

CL.12 STATE OF THE BOROUGH PRESENTATION

12.1 The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council for the 2018/19 Council year, Councillor R A Bird, to present his 'State of the Borough' report.

12.2 The presentation covered the following key points:

- Introduction – the State of the Borough presentation provided an annual synopsis of the Council's achievements in the last year and a way forward for the forthcoming year. Currently the Council was at the end of the third year of the 2016-2020 Council Plan, as such, work would commence on the new Council Plan towards the end of this year. The overarching achievement was the fact that the Council Tax remained one of the lowest in the country; it seemed that the Council was an expert at doing more with less and had been successful in reinventing itself to be more flexible and innovative in how it approached its finances.
- Year Three Achievements: Finance and Resources – the Council had a property portfolio of £39.5 million which generated an annual gross income of £2.4 million. In addition, the Council Offices building had been revamped and its nature changed to ensure it was possible to gain income from the lettable spaces and that had achieved income of £270,000 per year and was a boost to the Council's finances. Mace Group Ltd, which was a company that specialised in redevelopment, had been appointed to explore the options for Tewkesbury Town Centre; a new commercialisation strategy had been approved which would explore new income generation initiatives and efficiency savings and a new car pool pilot had been launched which would reduce mileage and emissions, remove unnecessary journeys and combine trips to save time, money and the environment.
- Year Three Achievements: Promoting and Supporting Economic Growth – the new Growth Hub was now operational – with Tewkesbury Borough being the first Council in the country to incorporate a Growth Hub within its main Council building – the Growth Hub sought to offer an open invitation to businesses to come and make use of the facilities and the support it could provide. In addition, 30 projects had been approved under the 'LEADER' Project Scheme which had a total value of over £755,000 across Tewkesbury Borough and the Forest of Dean District; the concept masterplan for Junction 9 of the M5 had been approved for consultation; an all-ways Junction 10 business case had been submitted to the government – this was seen as being exceptionally important for driving the economic growth of the Borough; and the Tewkesbury Town Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been consulted upon and was to be considered by the Council.
- Year Three Achievements: Growing and Supporting Communities – it was felt the Council was good at influencing government to help it develop its area for the benefit of local residents and this was demonstrated by the achievement of Garden Town status being one of only five locations to receive that award. The preferred options for the Tewkesbury Borough Plan had been approved and consulted upon; the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) initial issues and options consultation had taken place; the 2018/19 target of delivering 200 affordable homes had been exceeded; and 14 neighbourhood areas had been designated across 16 Parishes.

- Year Three Achievements: Customer-Focussed Services – the Council had an average recycling rate of 55% for 2018/19; the garden waste club had continued its success with over 16,000 sticker licences having been purchased and a resulting income in excess of £800,000; residents were now able to pay for a variety of services via Paypoint which made paying bills more accessible for all; new performance indicators for the planning service had been introduced to support the planning improvement action plan; the Council continued to support the Citizens' Advice Bureau with a £52,000 grant; new websites had been developed on behalf of key partners including the JCS, Building Control and Tewkesbury Town Regeneration Partnership; a community services restructure had been undertaken to support the place approach; and a proactive stance was being taken against enviro-crimes.
- Looking Forward to 2019/20 – the Council would have a real focus on delivering commercial activity; delivery of the Garden Town programme and maximising growth potential would be a priority, along with the adoption of the Borough Plan and regeneration of Tewkesbury Town. In addition, the Council's place approach would be delivered; the Growth Hub services would be maximised; and the Council would be delivering new ICT and digital strategies.

12.3 The Mayor thanked the Leader for his informative presentation and it was

RESOLVED That the 'State of the Borough' presentation provided by the Leader of the Council for the Council year 2018/19 be
NOTED.

CL.13 ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

13.1 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED That Councillor R A Bird be elected as Leader of the Council, and therefore Chair of the Executive Committee, for the ensuing Municipal Year.

13.2 Councillor Bird thanked the Council for having confidence in him and undertook to perform his role as Leader in accordance with their expectations.

CL.14 ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

14.1 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED That Councillor J R Mason be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council, and therefore Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee, for the ensuing Municipal Year.

14.2 Councillor Mason thanked the Council for his appointment and promised to fulfil the role to the best of his ability for the good of the Council and the Borough of Tewkesbury.

CL.15 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

15.1 It was proposed and seconded that Councillor A S Reece be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Tewkesbury for the ensuing Municipal Year.

15.2 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED That Councillor A S Reece be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

CL.16 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, PANELS AND BOARDS, LEAD MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Report from the Leader of the Council

16.1 The Leader of the Council indicated that, as part of the Constitution, he was required to report at the Annual Council meeting on the number of Lead Members, and the scope of their Portfolios for the coming year, and any other matters in relation to the political management of the Council. He proposed that the number of Lead Members increase from nine to 11 with a Support Member for each and these were set out on the chart which had been circulated around the table. He indicated that this would reflect the change of the make-up of the Council and promote the Council's long-held tradition of working effectively together irrespective of political labels; it should also help to spread the workload more evenly, taking account of the significant changes to the Council's priorities.

16.2 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Leader's report be **NOTED**.
2. That the number of Lead Members be increased from nine to 11 with the names of Lead Members and their portfolios being as set out below:
 - Councillor R A Bird – Leader / Economic Development/Promotion.
 - Councillor G F Blackwell – Housing.
 - Councillor M Dean – Customer Focus.
 - Councillor L A Gerrard – Organisational Development.
 - Councillor M A Gore – Built Environment.
 - Councillor E J MacTiernan – Commercial Transformation.
 - Councillor J R Mason – Clean and Green Environment.
 - Councillor C Softley – Community.
 - Councillor R J Stanley – Health and Wellbeing.
 - Councillor M G Sztymiak – Corporate Governance.
 - Councillor R J E Vines – Finance and Asset Management.

Membership of Committees 2019/20

16.3 Upon being proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED

That the following Committee Memberships be **AGREED**:

Executive (11)

R A Bird
G F Blackwell
M Dean
L A Gerrard
M A Gore
E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
C Softley
R J Stanley
M G Sztymiak
R J E Vines

Planning (19)

R A Bird
G F Blackwell
R D East
J H Evetts
M A Gore
D J Harwood
A Hollaway
M L Jordan
E J MacTiernan
J R Mason
P W Ockelton
A S Reece
P E Smith
R J G Smith
S A T Stevens
P D Surman
R J E Vines
M J Williams
P N Workman

Standards Committee (7)

C M Cody
M Dean
L A Gerrard
J W Murphy
C Reid
P E Smith
P D Surman

AD HOC COMMITTEES

**Employee Appeals Committee
(any 5 from 8)**

R A Bird
G F Blackwell
A Hollaway
J R Mason
P D McLain
A S Reece

Licensing Committee (15)

G F Blackwell
G J Bocking
C L J Carter
P A Godwin
D W Gray
M L Jordan
E J MacTiernan
J W Murphy
P W Ockelton
C Reid
J K Smith
R J G Smith
C Softley
M G Sztymiak
M J Williams

Overview and Scrutiny (15)

G J Bocking
C L J Carter
K J Cromwell
P A Godwin
H C McLain
P D McLain
H S Munro
J W Murphy
P W Ockelton
J K Smith
R J E Smith
S A T Stevens
P D Surman
M J Williams
P N Workman

Audit & Governance (9)

C M Cody
K J Cromwell
L A Gerrard
P A Godwin
H C McLain
P D McLain
H S Munro
P E Smith
V D Smith

**Employee
Appointments/Disciplinary (5)**

K J Cromwell
M Dean
M A Gore
E J MacTiernan
R J E Vines

P D Surman

M J Williams

Horsford Trust Management Committee

(Committee of Councillors representing the Tewkesbury Wards)

C M Cody

K J Cromwell

C Reid

V D Smith

M G Sztymiak

P N Workman

Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel

D W Gray

A S Reece (Reserve)

Shared Legal Services Joint Monitoring and Liaison GroupLead Member (*Corporate Governance*)

E J MacTiernan

M A Gore (substitute)

H C McLain (substitute)

Shared Building Control Joint Monitoring and Liaison GroupLead Member (*Built Environment*)

R D East

Working Groups, Boards and Panels 2019/20

16.4

The Leader of the Council indicated that the Devolution Working Group was no longer required and, as such, would be disbanded. Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED

That the following Working Groups, Boards and Panels membership be **AGREED**:

Flood Risk Management Group (8)**Established 09.06.10. Re-established 28 May 2019.**

Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment Plus 7

C M Cody

K J Cromwell

E J MacTiernan

V D Smith

C Softley

M G Sztymiak

M J Williams

Planning Policy Reference Panel (10)**Established 25.11.11.****Amended 16.05.17. Re-established 28 May 2019.**

Lead Member for Built Environment Plus 9

R A Bird

G F Blackwell

C Cody

M Dean

R D East

L A Gerrard

E J MacTiernan

P W Ockelton

C Reid

**Community Infrastructure
Levy Working Group (7)
Established 04.12.12. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

R A Bird
G F Blackwell
M A Gore
A S Reece
C Softley
R J Stanley
R J E Vines

**Commercial Investment
Board (6)
Established by Executive
Committee 23.11.16. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

R A Bird
K J Cromwell
D W Gray
E J MacTiernan
R J G Smith
R J E Vines

**Tewkesbury Borough Plan
Working Group (7)
Established by Executive
Committee 26.04.17. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

Lead Member for Built
Environment
Lead Member for Economic
Development/Promotion Plus
5

C M Cody
R D East
P W Ockelton
A S Reece
P D Surman

**Transform Working Group
(14)
Established 30.04.14.
Amended 16.05.17. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

Executive Committee Plus 3

K J Cromwell
H C McLain
V D Smith

**Spring Gardens and Oldbury
Road Regeneration Member
Reference Group (10)
Established by Executive
Committee 06.04.16. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

C M Cody
K J Cromwell
M Dean
P A Godwin
M A Gore
E J MacTiernan
C Reid
V D Smith
M G Sztymiak
P N Workman

**J9 Area Member Reference
Panel – NEW WARDS (11)
Established by Executive
Committee 15.10.14. Re-
established 28 May 2019.**

Leader of the Council
Lead Member for Economic
Development/Promotion
Lead Member for Built
Environment
Lead Member for Community
2 Ward Members for Northway
2 Ward Members for
Tewkesbury East
2 Ward Members for Isbourne
1 of the Ward Members for
Tewkesbury Town with Mitton –
M G Sztymiak

Outside Bodies 2019/20

16.5 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED That the following Outside Bodies representation be
AGREED:

| | |
|--|--|
| 2gether NHS Foundation Trust (<i>observer</i>) | J K Smith |
| A46 Member Partnership | V D Smith |
| A48 Meeting | J K Smith |
| Ambulance Trust (<i>observer</i>) | Vacancy |
| Cleeve Common Trust | R D East |
| Cotswolds AONB Conservation Board | M Dean |
| District Councils Network | Leader of the Council |
| Gloucester and District Citizens' Advice Bureau | C Softley |
| Gloucestershire Airport Consultative Committee | M J Williams |
| Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (<i>observer</i>) | G J Bocking |
| Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association | M A Gore |
| Leadership Gloucestershire | Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of the Council (Reserve) |
| Local Government Association | Leader of the Council <i>* should the Leader of the Council be unable to attend the Annual Local Government Association Conference in any year, authority will be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to appoint a representative to attend.</i> |
| Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board | M J Williams |
| Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Joint Committee | K J Cromwell J R Mason (Reserve) |

| | |
|---|--|
| Prior's Park Neighbourhood Project | K J Cromwell |
| Roses Theatre Trust | A Hollaway |
| South West Councils | Leader of the Council M Dean (Deputy) |
| South West Councils – Employers Panel | M Dean |
| Tewkesbury District Twinning Association Management Committee | K J Cromwell |
| Tewkesbury Leisure Centre Partnership Board | Lead Member (<i>Health and Wellbeing</i>) Lead Member (<i>Finance and Asset Management</i>) |
| Tewkesbury Regeneration Partnership | Lead Member (<i>Economic Development/Promotion</i>) E J MacTiernan P N Workman |
| Winchcombe Sports Hall Management Committee | J W Murphy |

Chairs and Vice-Chairs, County Council Health and Care Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

- 16.6 A short meeting of each of the main Committees set out in Paragraph 16.3 took place to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also elected representatives to the County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee and the Grounds Maintenance Working Group. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED 1. That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each Committee be **AGREED** as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Chair – Councillor K J Cromwell

Vice-Chair – Councillor J W Murphy

Audit & Governance Committee

Chair– Councillor V D Smith

Vice-Chair – Councillor H C McLain

Planning Committee

Chair – Councillor J H Evetts

Vice-Chair – Councillor R D East

Licensing Committee

Chair – Councillor G J Bocking

Vice-Chair – Councillor E J MacTiernan

Standards Committee

Chair – Councillor P D Surman

Vice-Chair – Councillor M Dean

2. That Councillor J K Smith be the Council's nominated representative on the County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee; there was no nominated reserve.
3. That Councillor J W Murphy be the Council's nominated representative on the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee; there was no nominated reserve.
4. That Councillors K J Cromwell, P D Surman, M J Williams and P N Workman, along with the Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment, comprise the Grounds Maintenance Working Group.

CL.17 MAYOR OF TEWKESBURY'S APPEAL FUND

17.1 It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED That Councillors M A Gore, E J MacTiernan and J R Mason be appointed as Trustees of the Mayor of Tewkesbury's Appeal Fund for 2019/20.

CL.18 GARDEN COMMUNITY PROGRAMME - GARDEN TOWN STATUS FOR TEWKESBURY AT ASHCHURCH

- 18.1 The report of the Head of Development Services, circulated at Pages No. 12-17, advised Members that the Council had been successful in its bid for Garden Town Status for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch. Members were asked to make the necessary decisions to put in place arrangements for the delivery of the Garden Town for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch as part of the government's Garden Communities Programme.
- 18.2 The Head of Development Services explained that, in August 2018, the government had announced a third round of its Garden Communities Programme and local authorities had been invited to bid for Garden Community Status. Tewkesbury Borough Council had submitted its bid based on the concept masterplan for Ashchurch. In April 2019, the Council had heard that its bid had been successful which would allow the Council to engage additional resources to develop the garden community. Further reports and presentations would be made on the programme in due course but this report was the first stage of what promised to be an extremely exciting opportunity.
- 18.3 In proposing the recommendation within the report, the Leader of the Council felt this was an exciting opportunity for the Borough and was a huge project. He considered it to be a considerable achievement to have been awarded Garden Community Status and the report before the Council was an important element, and necessary step, to ensure the initial work was undertaken and effectively delivered to progress the project. In seconding the proposal, the Deputy Leader felt this was an exciting opportunity to develop a twenty first century town for twenty first century living without exacerbating problems in existing communities. A Member suggested an amendment, which was agreed by the proposer, so the third recommendation would read '*...are to be made by the Council and those that relate to the determination of any planning applications) to deliver develop the necessary plans to support the delivery of the Garden Town for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch...*'. In response to a query, the Chief Executive advised that the Member making the amendment wanted to ensure the resolution at this stage was about development of plans rather than actual development which was perfectly acceptable; for that

reason, the project would remain within the remit of the Executive Committee as set out within the report.

- 18.4 During the discussion which ensued, a number of Members questioned what the outcome of the consultation on the Ashchurch masterplan had been; they considered that it would be difficult to make a decision on the current project without having seen the results of that important consultation. In response, the Head of Development Services advised that the Garden Town programme and the Ashchurch masterplan were separate processes which had just so happened to start to align. The Ashchurch masterplan consultation had closed approximately two months ago and Officers were still going through the responses to bring to Members. In terms of the area of the designation, Officers would be in conversation with all stakeholders across the entire site. The Ashchurch masterplan looked at a phasing strategy for development which was not prescriptive so it was impossible to say at this stage whether the Ministry of Defence (MoD) site or other greenfield/brownfield sites would come forward first. In terms of capacity funding and other government funding, the Head of Development Services advised that the Council had received £750,000 for the Garden Town funding and almost £500,000 from the Local Sites and Infrastructure Fund.
- 18.5 In respect of the amount of development suggested for the area, the Head of Development Services explained that, in the broader masterplan, there was consideration given to the different elements involved, the amount of development that was possible and the amount that would be required for the Garden Town bid and a broad discussion had been held in relation to one-bed, two-bed properties etc. The work undertaken had been very indicative and had looked at the potential in line with JCS policies; that detail was not in the masterplan but was in the concept of design within the JCS.
- 18.6 There was a lot of concern expressed about the fact that the Council's membership had changed by almost half at the recent local elections and this was the first time that many Councillors would have heard anything at all about this important project, so it may have been helpful to include a map to show them where the site in question was located. In response, the Head of Development Services indicated that the current report was about the governance arrangements of the project rather than the detail of the masterplan which was why there was no map included. She felt it was important to recognise the fantastic opportunities offered by being part of the Garden Communities Programme and, accepting that the report was not about planning status, the recommendations within the report would help move the project forward and investigate the opportunities which may be available. There would be consultation going forward and that would include Parishes which could be affected more widely than just those in the immediate area, including Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council. There was concern expressed by Members that asking the Council to make a decision at this stage was too soon and that more information was needed before a fully informed decision could be made. In response, the Chief Executive indicated that he understood the concerns expressed but reminded the Council that the government was looking for a commitment from Councils that they wanted to be in the Garden Communities Programme. It was understood that the Council needed government support for off-line improvements to the A46 and it was felt that Garden Town Status should help with that. At this stage, the Council had been invited by government to attend induction meetings in June and July in respect of the Garden Communities Programme and, through that process, the government was looking for commitment to be demonstrated by Councils. The reason for the current report was to set up the initial governance arrangements and Members would be fully involved in the details of the project going forward. He offered reassurance that the Council was not committing to anything in terms of the shape of the area at this stage and there would be many more discussions going forward; the purpose of the

Garden Town bid was to get ahead of speculative development, to try and shape the major development of the Borough and get exemplar development. The programme was likely to run to at least 2050 so it had to be right.

- 18.7 In response to a query regarding the funding, the Head of Development Services confirmed that the Council would have to demonstrate it had done all it could to try and provide an opportunity for development in order that it would not have to return the funding if development was not achieved for any reason. It was important to remember this was a long-term plan and the Council would need to maintain a relationship with the government and demonstrate there was an emphasis on bringing sites forward. In addition, the Chief Executive explained that the government was reluctant to confirm whether further funding would be available, but the Council had been advised that any additional funding would be performance related, so the Council would be expected to move it forward. He felt it was important to remember that, when achieving something like growth, the pieces of the jigsaw did not always come in the right order but, as particular pieces were important in the wider context, they had to be taken as they were available. There was debate about the possible opportunities that may be lost if the Council delayed a decision on this matter and, in response, the Head of Development Services explained that, if the Council could not demonstrate its commitment to the programme, it would not be able to take part as that was what the government was looking for at this stage. In addition, the Chief Executive advised that one of the issues was that the initial tranche of funding would help set up a programme team and Homes England would expect to see this happening as quickly as possible; if this could not be agreed it would be impossible to put a programme team into place as the Council did not have the internal resources to do so. A Member noted that, whilst the Leader and Deputy Leader had indicated that this was an exciting opportunity, he felt residents who had previously flooded would see it as a worrying and frightening development as it was the water flowing from the east of the town which flooded areas such as Newtown. He also felt the J9 Area Member Reference Group had been presented with the bid rather than having any say in whether or not a bid should have been made. In response, the Leader of the Council asked Members to remember that this was not about plan-making at this stage; however, it was an exciting opportunity to set in place structures to allow plan-making in the right way, in the long-term, to meet the demand for housing. The report was not about planning but was about using the funding effectively to move forward and start the planning process and authorising the correct people to work on the plan. Another Member agreed with this view and indicated that, even though he was a new Member, he did not think the decision was rushed as Councillors and Officers had put a lot of work into this already in terms of the bid. He understood there was a need to develop capacity for the Council to be able to obtain the answers as to whether development in the area was the correct way forward. He felt concerns about flooding gave all the more reason to take the funding and move forward with the investigations.
- 18.8 The Member who had proposed the amendment confirmed that her reason for the amendment was to make it very clear that the current stage was not about delivery but about support for planning for the development. It was generally agreed that a seminar was required for all Members to be brought up to speed on the project and Officers undertook to ensure that was actioned as soon as possible.
- 18.9 It was proposed and seconded that consideration of the report be deferred to allow for Members to attend a seminar and gain a more thorough understanding of the issues. Upon being put to the vote, the proposal was lost. Accordingly, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Lead Member for Built Environment and the S151 Officer, to use the capacity funding to fund resources (including recruitment of key staff) and associated work, to help develop the necessary plans to support the delivery of the Garden Town programme for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch.
2. That it be **NOTED** that Officers will continue work to develop a delivery programme in relation to the Garden Town for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch in discussion with Members (through the established Tewkesbury Borough Council governance structure), along with the relevant key stakeholders including Homes England, the local community, the parishes, Wychavon District Council, the highways authorities, and the relevant landowners/developers.
3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Committee to make all necessary decisions, along with establishing appropriate governance structures (other than those that, as a matter of legislation, are to be made by the Council and those that relate to the determination of any planning applications), to develop the necessary plans to support the delivery of the Garden Town for Tewkesbury at Ashchurch and, if successful, to make all necessary decisions to deliver the West Cheltenham Garden Village and receive further status reports as each project progresses.

CL.19 DOWN HATHERLEY, NORTON & TWIGWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 19.1 The report of the Planning Policy Manager, circulated at Pages No. 18-58, explained that the Down Hatherley, Norton and Twigworth Neighbourhood Development Plan had been the subject of a referendum in the local area and the Council was now asked to resolve that the Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Tewkesbury Borough; and to delegate to the Head of Development Services, in agreement with the Parish Council acting as the Qualifying Body, the correction of any minor errors such as spelling, grammar, typographical errors that did not affect the substantive content of the Plan.
- 19.2 The Head of Development Services explained that the Plan had received the required majority in favour at referendum and it was the Council's duty to agree that the Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Tewkesbury Borough.

- 19.3 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Down Hatherley, Norton & Twigworth Neighbourhood Development Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Tewkesbury Borough.
2. That authority be delegated to Head of Development Services, in agreement with the Parish Council acting as the Qualifying Body, to correct any minor errors such as spelling, grammar, typographical or formatting errors that

do not affect the substantive content of the plan

CL.20 SEPARATE BUSINESS

20.1 The Mayor proposed, and it was

RESOLVED That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion on exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL.21 SEPARATE MINUTES

21.1 The separate Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2019, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm