

**The Guildhall
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Minutes

Meeting of : Full Council
Date : 24 Sep 2018
Meeting held in : The Guildhall
Commencing at : 6:30 pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr M Osment

Vice Chair: Cllr J Walsh

Cllrs: J Baber MBE, S Berry, D Brown OBE, C Corbin, T Corbin, K Daley, M Dean, J Farquhar, A Foster, S Hocking, A Hoque, J Lindley, Dr M McClelland, F Moody, J Nettle, L Sirman and I Tomes.

Officers: Annie Child, David Bradley and Yaroslav Pustarnakov.

834. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Broom, B Dalton, S Jackson and C Rogers OBE.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Tomes back to Full Council as he has been unwell and receiving treatment. Cllr Tomes noted his appreciation of the local NHS services and thanked them for their care.

Note: The Leader of the Council give his report after Item 1 (Apologies) with the agreement of the Chairman.

835. Public Questions/Statement Time:

Statements had been received from Mr Cutland, Mrs Webb and Ms May. These statements are attached to this minutes.

836. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

837. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Full Council held on 4 June 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

838. Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were received.

839. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

840. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- 840.1. The Chairman commended Salisbury's Finance Team for successfully completing the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Salisbury City Council for the year ended 31 March 2018.
- 840.2. The Chairman thanked all the Councillors and the Salisbury City Council staff who assisted with the visit of HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall on 22 June 2018. The event was very successful and received positive media coverage, which helped to show that Salisbury is open for business and getting back to normal.
- 840.3. The Chairman noted the Full Council meeting on 13 June 2018 during which the Councillors awarded the Royal Military Police the Freedom of the City for their service and commitment to the city for more than 100 years.
- 840.4. The Chairman noted his ongoing public engagements as the Mayor of Salisbury including the installation of the new Dean for the Salisbury Cathedral, the PUSH Community Opera and a Mayoral send-off of the Navy Larks.
- 840.5. The Chairman commended the Salisbury City Council staff for organising and coordinating community events throughout the summer some of which include, Salisbury's first Car Fest, Street Food Sunday and the community Fun Days around the City.
- 840.6. Members were reminded about the forthcoming Salisbury Half Marathon on 7 October 2018, as well as the Charter Fair Opening on 14 October 2018 at 4pm.
- 840.7. The Chairman with much regret noted the death of Mrs Cheryl Hill and Mr Andrew Roberts, both of whom were greatly respected Salisbury City Council and Salisbury District Council councillors. Mrs Hill was the Deputy Leader of the City Council and Mr Roberts was the Leader of the Council and the Mayor of the City of Salisbury.

841. Referral of Minutes:

The Councillors reviewed and approved the minutes as listed below.

- 841.1. Planning Committee – 7 June 2018.
- 841.2. Services Committee – 25 June 2018.

- 841.3. Planning Committee- 2 July.
- 841.4. Finance and Governance – 16 July 2018.
- 841.5. Planning Committee– 23 July 2018.
- 841.6. Planning Committee-18 August 2018.
- 841.7. Services Committee- 3 September 2018.
- 841.8. Planning Committee- 17 September 2018.

842. Leaders Report:

The Leader of the Council gave the following report:

- 842.1. Cllr Dean noted that Salisbury is getting back to normal following the novichok incidents in March and June. Furthermore, Cllr Dean said that the Maltings area is fully operational and both the Mill and the Zizzi's have been handed back to their owners, who plan to re-open their businesses.
- 842.2. Cllr Dean noted that the Royal Military Police were awarded the Freedom of the City Award, which received positive media coverage.
- 842.3. Cllr Dean commended Salisbury City Council staff for organising and coordinating community events throughout the summer, which proved to be exceptionally successful and enjoyable.
- 842.4. The Leader of the Council noted that the work on the new cemetery is keeping in line with the schedule, which is due for completion in December 2018.
- 842.5. He noted that the litter enforcement campaign was proceeding as part of the process of keeping the city clean and thanked Councillors Foster, Hoque and Sirman for their work on the water fountain project.
- 842.6. The Leader of the Council then said that following representations from members of the public including residents, Blue Badge Guides and local businesses, the Council has reviewed its decision to relocate the tourist information element of the Information Centre from its current location at the rear of the Guildhall to the front of the Guildhall as well as having a mobile presence and an addition service at the Maltings. As a Council administration, we are of the view that the time is not right to close the tourism information centre in Fish Row following the impact of the Novichok incidents. For the lifetime of this Council administration, we are committed to keeping a manned tourist information service at the rear of the Guildhall open comparable hours to the current service. The Council's plans to have one integrated team providing Shopmobility, Council information and tourist services across a number of sites are developing well and a number of workshops have taken place. There will be an additional staffing cost to providing this manned service at the rear of the Guildhall of and this will be met out of additional savings and drawing upon reserves in future years. Our plans to develop an additional community and tourism offer in the Maltings and to proactively develop mobile welcoming of visitors at the front of the Guildhall remain unchanged. We would like to thank everyone who has engaged in a positive way with the Council regarding the Information Centre and I shall be responding to those people who signed the petition in my capacity as Leader of the Council in due course.

843. International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism:

Cllr Brown introduced his motion, noting the addition of two words (shown in **bold** below): "*In the light of recent damage to the Holocaust Memorial Tree in Churchill Gardens this Council wishes to express its abhorrence of such acts and demonstrate our commitment to antisemitism by adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in full as have 130 UK other local councils, the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the judiciary.*

It states:

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism

"Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits. Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- 1 *Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
- 2 *Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
- 3 *Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
- 4 *Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).*
- 5 *Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.*
- 6 *Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*
- 7 *Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.*
- 8 *Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*
- 9 *Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.*
- 10 *Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.*
- 11 *Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.*

The Council considered this motion and it was unanimously:

Resolved to:

843.1. Adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as shown above.

844. Tourist Information Centre:

Cllr T Corbin introduced his motion; "*This Salisbury City Council supports maintaining the tourist information centre in its current location at the rear of Salisbury Guildhall for the duration of this administration.*" The Council considered this motion and it was:

Resolved to:

844.1. Agree that this Salisbury City Council supports maintaining the tourist information centre in its current location at the rear of Salisbury Guildhall for the duration of this administration.

Cllr Lindley abstained from voting

845. Salisbury Tourist Information Centre Consultation:

Cllr T Corbin introduced his motion; "*The Salisbury tourist information centre consultation will be open to all members of the public by use of an online survey monkey type questionnaire and for written responses*". The Council considered the motion and it was:

Resolved:

845.1. That the motion that the Salisbury tourist information centre consultation will be open to all members of the public by use of an online survey monkey type questionnaire and for written responses was not agreed.

Cllrs C Corbin, T Corbin, Walsh and Tomes voted in favour of the motion.
Cllrs Hoque and Osment abstained.

Cllrs Baber, Berry, Brown, Daley, Dean, Farquhar, Foster, Hocking, Lindley, McClelland, Moody, Nettle and Sirman voted against the motion.

846. New Allotments at St Peter's Place:

The Environmental Services Manager introduced his report outlining the acquisition of two allotment sites at St Peter's Place, each comprising of 32 ten rod allotments. The Councillors discussed the report, and it was:

Resolved to:

846.1. Approve the acquisition of these new allotments by transfer from WC.

846.2. Agree that residents of St Peter's Place will be given the first opportunity to apply for these allotments, before they are allocated to resident living further away

846.3. Note the ongoing maintenance and administration costs and one off payment from WC.

847. Drinking Fountain and Water Bottle Refill Facility:

The Chairman asked upon Mr Dominic Price, Director of the Species Recovery Trust, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Rose Price, to give a presentation on the importance and value of a drinking fountain and water bottle refill facility for Salisbury. The Council thanked Mr Price and Rosie for their presentation. Thereafter, the Council considered the Environmental Services Manager's report and it was:

Resolved to:

- 847.1. Approve the purchase and installation of a Drinking Fountain and Water Bottle Refill Facility.
- 847.2. Delegate the final installation, including location, to the Environmental Services Manager, in consultation with the Environmental Services Working Group if required.
- 847.3. Approve a budget of up to £6,600 for this purchase and installation, to be drawn from the Council contingency fund.
- 847.4. Note the ongoing maintenance.

848. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency

There were 22 members of the public present.

There was 1 member of the press present.

The meeting closed at 20:16 pm.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Mr Cultand

I would like to congratulate Salisbury Council for its pragmatic decision to retain the Information Centre in its present location for the duration of the current administration. Hopefully this decision should lay a foundation for its continued presence for a longer period than one afforded by just one administration. I would also like to congratulate the Services Committee for their clean streets initiative which is clearly making an impact.

In the current recovery situation I believe the ability to present a professional and knowledgeable welcome in the way the current SIC staff do is something the City should be proud of.

Does the Council have any plans which can further support and promote tourism in the city? I am sure that with proper consultation they would find many sensible ideas and considerable support from the public who recognise the economic value of tourism to the City.

Mrs Webb

You may think that now the decision has been made to retain a full Tourist Information Service in Fish Row that this petition is irrelevant

But it should serve as notice to you all, the voice of your constituents cannot and should not be ignored. The key word is consultation, if we had the privilege of dialogue at the beginning of this process the last 3 / 4 months would have been a lot more comfortable and less stressful for you all, ourselves and certainly the staff within the Information Centre.

The loss of Jane Fry, and her experience within the industry will prove hard to replace, if indeed ever. But the remaining staff with good will and their knowledge and expertise, will I'm 100% positive, ensure our tourists and locals alike will get a professional service the city will be proud of.

Cllr Dean has assured me the Tourist Information Centre will remain in Fish Row with an additional service across the city for the length of this administration and we welcome this news.

We would like to work with Salisbury City Council to help develop the service in Fish Row to deliver a profitable service once again, as it has in the past, ensuring its future for visitors, Salisbury City Council and local tax payers.

I can't end without saying a big thank you to everyone who signed the petition whether online or via one of the forms which I am handing over today. Collectively we had 5077 at the last count online and over 1000 on paper many who reside in the SP1 & SP2 areas of the city that you represent.

Also, thank you St Thomas's Church, Fisherton Mill and Coffee Culture for holding the petition forms for us, the Labour, Liberal and Independent Cllrs here this evening plus the numerous people who supported us along the way ensuring we never gave up. Democracy is the winner this evening.

Ms May

“As a long-standing member of Salisbury City Guides, I am delighted to hear that the proposal by Salisbury City Council to change the location of the Salisbury Information Centre, from Fish Row to the Maltings, has been reversed. I would like to put on record my appreciation of the fact that the Leader of the Council and his colleagues have listened to the “voices of reason”. Out of all the people I have spoken to, both locals and visitors, the unanimous comments were how well-located the current office is, central, easy to find, bright and welcoming, fully-accessible offering an excellent range of goods and services. I look forward to greeting people there for many years to come. I would also like to thank the Manager and her staff who have continued to provide superb service, despite the difficulties and uncertainties of recent months.”