

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
 7 pm on Thursday 2 April 2015

## PRESENT:

Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak (Chairman), Cllr. Mike Grace, Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Paul Laming, Cllr. Robert Toft, Cllr. David Turner, and Milner Whiteman OBE.

## TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

## IN ATTENDANCE:

5 members of the public

### 1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak chaired the meeting. She gave a special welcome to the newly elected councillor Mike Grace, and welcomed Cllr. Milner Whiteman back from his long holiday. She also welcomed everyone else and thanked them for their attendance.

### 2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following councillors:

COUNCILLOR	REASON FOR ABSENCE
Robin Bennett	Holiday
Mary Hill	Holiday
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitments

These apologies were accepted as **APPROVED** absence.

Cllr. Joffrey Watson was **ABSENT**.

### 3) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

As a Shropshire Councillor Cllr. David Turner declared an interest in any matters relating to Shropshire Council, and as a Member of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Management Board, in any matters relating to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### 4) DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

### 5) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 6 March 2015 were considered for approval. Following minor amendments, correction of spelling errors, and to add the words "amended and" before the word "created" at minute no: 22,  
**It was RESOLVED that the amended minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 3 March 2015 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 24 February 2015 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- d) The minutes of a Personnel Committee meeting held on 23 February 2015 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

## 6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public asked to speak concerning agenda item no: 13, the Gaskell Recreation Ground. He said that he found some of the decisions that had been made very strange. He referred to the 1936 Conveyance which states that a Board of Management must be appointed, it must have a Constitution, and membership must be Ward Councillors and four representatives of Wenlock Estates. He said that the Town Council was the sole trustee of the Charity and not the Town Council and the four representatives of Wenlock Estates. He also expressed concern that the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management had been dissolved. He suggested that what the Council had done may be wrong.

*(Cllr. Robert Toft arrived at this point in the meeting.)*

The member of the public questioned the length of service of trustees as outlined in the Charity's Constitution and its reference to selling property which he felt should be clarified since the Ground itself cannot be sold. He suggested that legal advice should be sought so that the Council could be assured that its actions were legal.

Another member of the public spoke in response to concerns raised earlier. He said that the Town Council does not have an exit strategy concerning the termination of the Joint Use Agreement and that, until that was resolved, the Town Council should proceed with caution.

It was **AGREED** that matters concerning the new management structure of the Gaskell Recreation Ground should be discussed further at the next Town Council meeting.

## 7) TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

- a) Members received a written report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting.

The Town Clerk also gave the following verbal report:

- The Town Clerk's office would be closed over the Easter break.
- The Wenlock Olympian Society was moving towards becoming a Limited by Guarantee organisation so that individual members would not be individually responsible.

**It was AGREED that the Town Clerk's report be NOTED.**

- b) Members received the minutes from a Market Town Clerks meeting held on 17 March 2015.  
**It was AGREED that the minutes be NOTED.**

## 8) ACTION PLAN

Members considered the monthly review of the Council's Action Plan.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that actions to date be NOTED.**

## 9) DATE OF ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the Annual Town Council meeting could not take place on 7 May 2015 because this was the date of the general election, and the Priory Hall would not be available for the Civic Reception.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the date for the Annual Town Council meeting (Mayor Making Ceremony only) should be changed to Tuesday 5 May 2015.**

## 10) ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Members considered whether there were any actions required following the Annual Town Meeting held on 12 March 2015.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that no further action was required.**

## 11) INDUCTION GUIDE FOR COUNCILLORS

Members considered for approval an addition to the 'Induction Guide for Councillors' to include a reference to Town Councillor's responsibilities as trustees of the charities for which the Town Council is responsible.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that other comments were invited and amendments were necessary and these should be considered further at the next meeting.**

## 12) FINANCE

- a) Members received income and expenditure to the end of December 2014.  
**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that income and expenditure to the end of December 2014 be NOTED.**
- b) Members received information detailing the Council's projected reserves in the 2015-2016 approved budget.  
**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that this be considered further at the next meeting.**

## 13) GASKELL RECREATION GROUND

- a) Members considered for approval a Statement for publication concerning current changes to the Constitution and future management of the Gaskell Recreation Ground.  
**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, following concerns expressed earlier during the public session, this should be deferred for further consideration at the next meeting.**
- b) Members considered for approval a "Frequently asked questions and answer" statement for publication about the management of the Gaskell Recreation Ground.  
**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, due to the concerns expressed earlier during the public session, this should be deferred for further consideration at the next meeting.**

## 14) NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Members received information concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund, notification of requirements.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that:**

- i. **The information be NOTED.**
- ii. **Shropshire Council should be asked if it is contributing 90% towards local infrastructure.**

## 15) POST OFFICE RE-LOCATION

Members considered how to respond to the consultation concerning proposals to re-locate the Post Office in the High Street, Much Wenlock.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that:**

- i. **The Town Council supports the Post Office being re-located to the Spar Stores at 67 High Street, Much Wenlock.**
- ii. **Members of the public should be encouraged to respond and support the re-location to the Spar Stores.**

## 16) LAND EAST OF BRIDGNORTH ROAD, MUCH WENLOCK

Members considered a letter from RPS in response to questions from the Town Council concerning development proposals for land east of Bridgnorth Road, Much Wenlock.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that the Town Council should write to Shropshire Council and ask that, when RPS submits a planning application for development at land east of Bridgnorth Road, Much Wenlock, Shropshire Council should be invited to discuss the proposals with the Town Council. The council was disappointed that the letter did not address the council's concerns.**

## 17) MEMORIAL DIMENSIONS

Members considered for approval a recommendation from the Finance & Resources Committee to amend the Town Council's current policy for memorial dimensions to read 12" where it reads 10".

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the policy be amended so that where the dimensions read 10" they should read 12".**

## 18) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. David Turner presented a verbal report as follows:

- His next advice surgery would take place on 9 May 2015 at Much Wenlock museum where he hoped to be joined by a member of the Town Council and the police. His advice surgery dates for the remainder of the year had been scheduled.

**It was AGREED that the report be NOTED.**

## 19) CONSULTATION

There was no consultation for consideration.

## 20) OLYMPIAN TRAIL

- a) Members considered the Olympian Trail leaflet for approval which had been revised by the Wenlock Olympian Society.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the leaflet should include that it is sponsored by the Town Council.**

- b) Members considered for approval the cost of printing for the revised Olympian Trail leaflet.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the leaflets should be printed within a budget of £1,000.**

## 21) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information.  
b) Email from Shropshire Council in response to the Town Council's enquiry concerning exception sites and affordable homes.

**It was AGREED that Nick Wood, Shropshire Council, should be invited to the next Town Council meeting, and that he should be urged to seek an outcome for the delivery of affordable housing.**

- c) Letter from Philip Dunne MP concerning Hunter's Gate.  
d) Police update on incidents reported for Much Wenlock since February 2015 including:
  - Theft of cattle
  - Theft of an externally fitted spare wheel from a van
  - Youths involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB), including ASB outside Much Wenlock library
  - Fly tipping along Wenlock Edge

**It was AGREED that the correspondence be NOTED.**

## 22) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING

Members considered for approval which two members of the community who had expressed an interest should join the Panel to monitor the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock. Each had given reasons why they wished to join the Panel.

**After being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that Mrs Lesley Durbin be appointed because of her knowledge of housing, and Howard Horsley because of his knowledge in planning.**

*At this point in the meeting it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED to revoke Standing Order no: 3w and continue with the meeting.*

## 23) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred by the Planning & Environment Committee to the Town Council for consideration.

**NOTED.**

- b) There were no updates from the Planning and Environment Committee.

**NOTED.**

## 24) VOLUNTEER POLICING

Members considered how the Town Council could help with voluntary policing in Much Wenlock.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that this be deferred to a future meeting.**

## 25) FLOOD REPORT

There was no report from the Community Flood Action Group.

*(Cllr. David Turner left at this point in the meeting.)*

## 26) SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S OFFER CONCERNING THE YOUTH CLUB BUILDING

- a) Members considered for approval what the cost of hire should be for the Youth Club building.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that this be deferred until the building had been refurbished.**

- b) Members considered for approval the Heads of Terms concerning Shropshire Council's offer.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Heads of Terms be NOTED.**

- c) Members considered for approval the appointment of a solicitor to deal with the transfer of property from Shropshire Council to the Town Council.  
**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, as a matter of urgency and having dealt with them before, Lanyon Bowdler should be appointed.**

**27) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

It was **AGREED** to inform the Town Clerk of any items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

**28) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be the Annual Town Council meeting (Mayor Making Ceremony) and would take place on Tuesday 5 May 2015 commencing 7 pm at the Guildhall. The re-convened meeting would take place on 14 May 2015.

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

**29) DRAINAGE SURVEY**

Members considered for approval quotes for a drainage survey on the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that:

- i. Keith Pope be appointed to carry out a drainage survey on the Gaskell Recreation Ground.
- ii. Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Mary Hill, and the Town Clerk should liaise with Mr. Pope to negotiate the work required.

The meeting closed at 21:40.

Signed.....  
Town Mayor

Date.....