

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
 7 pm on Thursday 1 June 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning (Chairman), Cllr. Trevor Childs, Cllr. Adam Davy, Cllr. David Gibbon, Cllr. Herbert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Robert Toft, Cllr. Allan Walter, and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. David Turner - Shropshire Council
 3 members of the public

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Mayoral engagements were as follows:

- Mayor's Civic Service at Shrewsbury
- Mayor Making ceremonies at Ludlow and Telford & Wrekin
- Cllr. David Turner's advice surgery

The Chairman said that he would welcome a Town Council surgery to likewise help residents and he proposed to publish a rota and seek further comments from Members. He very much hoped that the Council would be pro-active rather than reactive in calming or solving problems, and that councillors appointed to the various committees would make known their objectives for future service delivery to help improve services and facilities in Much Wenlock. The Council will monitor the achievement or otherwise of these objectives. He concluded with an announcement that the Civic Service would take place on Sunday 2 July 2017 and he hoped all would attend and encourage others to do so.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR	REASON
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitment

This apology was **CONFIRMED** and **AGREED** as **APPROVED** absence.

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.

None declared.

4) DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr. David Turner gave the following verbal report:

- He had attended a WW1 Remembrance Service at St Chad's in Shrewsbury.
- There was substantial white and yellow lining required throughout the town including yellow lines at Queen Street, and road re-surfacing in The Crescent and Farley Road which was imminent.
- The A49 was to be closed for 10 days to replace a level crossing which would include a diversion of 50+ miles that may cause additional traffic through Much Wenlock however Shropshire Council was doing its best to reduce disruption.

- Demolition of Ironbridge power station and the primary route for waste disposal would be along the A4169 and was unlikely to affect Much Wenlock.
- With regards to flood management, work was well advanced with the attenuation ponds with water from the Shylte brook flowing through the pond at Sytche Lane. Shropshire Council was working towards an open day, to which the Town Council would be invited, once work was complete.
- The next advice surgery would take place on 8 July 2017 at Willey village hall.

NOTED.

5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests to speak from members of the public.

6) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 11 May 2017 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- b) The minutes of the re-convened Town Council meeting held on 18 May 2017 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that, following the addition of the word “possible” at minute number 10b, the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

7) TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

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

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Town Clerk’s report be NOTED.

8) COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Members considered for approval a revised Complaints Procedure.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Complaints Procedure be adopted to include agreed amendments.

9) BOREHOLE

Members considered for approval what further action should be carried out to the borehole on the Gaskell Recreation Ground. P Hirons had carried out an inspection which advised that the concrete cap was sound.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **Cllr. David Gibbon JP would contact the Environment Agency to seek a professional opinion in the interests of health and safety.**
- ii. **The safety fence surrounding the borehole could be removed.**
- iii. **The Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee should consider the matter further and report back to the next Town Council meeting.**

10) SOCIAL MEDIA

Members considered for approval who should be responsible for the Town Council’s social media which was being carried out by a contractor.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the matter should be referred to the Finance & Resources Management Committee for consideration.

11) WHEATLAND CARE HOME

Members received a verbal report from Cllr. Mary Hill who had met with the manager of the Wheatlands care home and the chairman of the Allotments Society. The manager was very keen to establish links with the community and wanted them to be involved with care home events. The care home had some green space to the rear of the building that the manager thought could be used for allotments. However, upon further observation, it was agreed that the land would not be suitable as there was no water provision and vehicular access to the site was inadequate. However, the manager was willing to allow people to use the green space for small events for which there would be no charge.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that if anyone had any ideas about how this space could be used they should refer them to Cllr. Mary Hill.

12) INTERNAL/EXTERNAL AUDIT

- a) Members considered for approval the internal audit report 2016/2017 as required as part of the external audit.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the internal auditor’s report be NOTED.

- b) Members considered for approval the Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017 following its review by the internal auditor.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Annual Governance Statement be APPROVED.
- c) Members considered for approval the amended Accounting Statement 2016/2017.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the amended Accounting Statement 2016/2017 be APPROVED.
- d) Members considered for approval an amendment to Section 2 of the Accounting Statement 2016/2017.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the amendment to Section 2 of the Accounting Statement 2016/2017 be APPROVED.

13) FORWARD PLAN

Members received a revised Forward Plan 2017-2018 which outlined its aims and objectives, listed the Town Council's assets, and referred to the Neighbourhood Plan. Members were asked to consider for approval what action was required in terms of headline priorities and the development of a 3-year forecast.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **The Finance & Resources Management Committee should consider future maintenance of St. Mary's Lane public toilets.**
- ii. **The Mayor's ceremonial hat should either be repaired or renewed.**
- iii. **The pressed flowers in the Herbarium and their provenance should be promoted via social media.**

Cllr. Adam Davy left at this point in the meeting.

- iv. **Reference to the Neighbourhood Plan should reflect that it was now being monitored by the Planning & Environment Committee.**
- v. **Under "Headline priorities" – "Recreation" and "Environment and tourism" should be moved from medium to high priority.**
- vi. **A tourism plan and an update on improvements to the cemetery should be considered at the next meeting.**
- vii. **The Town Clerk and the Chairman would talk to William Brookes School to explore whether students might like to design and make an art feature for the Pound.**
- viii. **The management of Linden Lodge should be considered by the Finance & Resources Management Committee.**
- ix. **The revised Forward Plan 2017-2018 should be considered further at the next meeting.**

14) DEVELOPMENT AT CALLAUGHTON LANE

Members received a letter from a member of the public who asked the Town Council to contact Shropshire Council and, assuming the homes at Callaughton Lane were ready for occupation today, enquire how many families on the bronze, silver and gold waiting lists living in the parish of Much Wenlock would be eligible to become tenants and how many properties would be under occupied.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked to provide hard fact details on how people would be allocated an affordable home at Callaughton Lane, and how affordable homes had been allocated at Sytche Lane.

15) CONSULTATION

There was no consultation for consultation.

16) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information sent to Members via email.

NOTED.

17) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred to the Town Council for consideration.
NOTED.
- b) The Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee informed Members that, at its last meeting, the Committee had considered a planning application to improve the site at 15 High Street, which was most welcome. The Committee was taking a lead role on flooding issues and had arranged to meet with Shropshire Council to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Committee had also expressed concern to Shropshire Council about the loss of employment land at Stretton Road which had been allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan.

NOTED.

18) AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was **AGREED** that, following a request from 3 councillors to rescind the decision made at the last meeting, reconsideration should be given to the appointment of Members to committees to enable all Members to have a position on each committee.

19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 6 July 2017.

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.

20) VOLUNTEER ARCHIVE ASSISTANT

Members considered a request from someone interested in becoming a volunteer archive assistant over the summer.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, provided it met with the approval of the volunteer archivists, a volunteer archivist should be appointed to work alongside them over the summer.

21) PERSONNEL MATTERS

Members of the Appeals Panel, Cllrs. David Gibbon, Allan Walter and Mary Hill, left the room and did not participate in the following discussion or decision.

Members considered an email from a former councillor who had been a member of the Personnel Committee. The email had been sent to all Town Councillors and contained personal and privileged information about staff which should remain confidential. The email also contained defamatory comments about a member of staff.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:

- i. As a duty of care £500 should be set aside to pay for the employee to seek legal advice and report back to the Town Council.**
- ii. There would be no further action taken at this stage.**

The meeting closed at 20:53.

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....