

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
 7 pm on Thursday 2 February 2017

PRESENT:

Cllr. Herbert Harper (Chairman), Cllr. Robin Bennett, Graham Edgcumbe Venning, Cllr. Mike Grace, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. David Turner, Joffrey Watson, and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public
 Rev'd Matthew Stafford

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR	REASON
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitment
Paul Laming	Work commitment

These apologies were **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.

As a Shropshire Councillor Cllr. David Turner declared an interest in any matters relating to Shropshire Council.
 Cllr. Mike Grace declared an interest in agenda item 21 as he was known to the person in question.

4) DISPENSATIONS

Dispensation granted to Cllr. David Turner - request to participate in discussions concerning devolved services.

NOTED.

Cllr. David Turner **PROPOSED** that in accordance with Standing Order no: 10(a)(vi) the order of business be changed and agenda item 22 be brought forward. The proposal was not seconded and business proceeded in line with the agenda.

5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests to speak.

6) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 12 January 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 Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 20 December 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

Cllr. Mike Grace **PROPOSED** and after being **SECONDED** it was **AGREED** that in accordance with Standing Order no: 10(a)(vi) the order of business be changed so that agenda item 16 be brought forward and discussed before Rev'd Matthew Stafford left the meeting.

7) BEACON

Members considered for approval participating in some way to mark the end of WW1 in "Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute" on 11 November 2018. Cllr. Mary Hill, who had previously represented the town council on the WW1 Working group and had been actively involved in WW1 commemoration events, informed Members that she had spoken to others who might like to mark the occasion. She PROPOSED that the town council should commemorate the occasion in some way.

Rev'd Matthew Stafford said that the church intended to prepare a 'Book of Remembrance' that would include a list of those who had fallen as written on the War Memorial, and where possible, a photograph of the person and some kind of historical record of where that person was at the time of their death, so that each name on the War Memorial, in some respects, would come to life. Remembrance Day would actually fall on Sunday in 2018 and the Reverend would be very happy to support the town council in its endeavours to mark the occasion. He also said that he would like members of the local British Legion to be honoured for their dedication.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the council would work with partners and hold an event in Much Wenlock to recognise and commemorate the end of WW1.

8) 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:

- i. **The Town Clerk's report be NOTED.**
- ii. **Information received concerning car parking at Jigger's Bank should be passed on to the Wenlock Olympian Society and the Christmas Fayre Organising Committee.**

9) ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Members considered for approval an agenda for the Annual Town Meeting scheduled to take place on Thursday 9 March 2017. The Mayor informed the meeting that a civic gift for Eric Humphries should be presented at the beginning of the meeting, and the Mayor would wear the Chain of Office.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **The following should be included on the agenda:**
 - **A report on the Neighbourhood Plan**
 - **Flooding issues**
 - **Open Forum**
- ii. **Members of the public would be given an opportunity to provide written questions.**
- iii. **A civic gift would be presented to Eric Humphries at the start of the meeting.**
- iv. **The Chain of Office should be displayed for those who had not seen it before.**

10) CEMETERY ACCESS PROJECT

- a) Members received notification that the 'Friends of the old cemetery' had been awarded a grant of £4,410 from 'Tesco Bags of Help'.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE and that 'The Friends of the old cemetery' should be thanked for their endeavours.

- b) Members considered for approval to agree to the Terms and Conditions associated with the above grant.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED:

- i. **To agree to the Terms and Conditions associated with the grant award.**
- ii. **The project would be supported through the Finance & Resources Committee.**

- c) Members considered for approval that the Town Clerk be granted delegated authority to oversee the project.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Town Clerk be granted delegated authority to manage the project which would be overseen by the Finance & Resources Committee.

11) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

Members received a report on housing from the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Review Working Group. The report set out current and future housing needs, an overview of the supply of affordable housing, housing supply development trends from 2013 – 2017, and scale and type of future housing developments.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the document be NOTED and further comments should be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Review Working Group.

12) DEVOLVED SERVICES

- a) Members received notes from a meeting of a Town & Parish Council Forum held on 24 November 2016.
NOTED.
- b) Members considered for approval draft Heads of Terms for various parcels of land.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that further information was required before making a decision.
- c) Members considered for approval to agree an initial expression of interest for the transfer of amenity land.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that further information was required before making a decision.
- d) Members received an update from the Devolved Services Working Group on progress regarding Much Wenlock library, car parks, and asset transfer of open space. The library should be refurbished before April 2017, and it was intended that initiatives concerning reduced car parking charges would be discussed with the Chamber of Trade although, before a proper discussion had been arranged, widespread misinformation had returned a negative response.
NOTED.

Cllr. David Turner did not participate in the discussion or voting on items b, c, and d above.

13) CONSULTATION

There was no consultation for consideration.

14) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Members received the following verbal update from Cllr. David Turner:

- He had attended the weekly WW1 remembrance services at St. Chad's in Shrewsbury.
- Shropshire Choices website had been set up by Adult Social Care to help people make the right choice to be independent and stay well and to provide them with advice about adult social care, housing, and health.
- 40 properties in Bourton were now able to receive superfast broadband.
- Ironbridge power station had closed and was in the process of being decommissioned. It's owner, Uniper, was holding a stakeholder meeting on 8 February 2017 to give a briefing about the future development of the site.
- Shropshire Council had served a Section 215 notice on Pinefields (on the Gaskell corner) setting out minimum works required to bring the property to a reasonable standard. The six months had expired with no sign of progress to the building although the owner had indicated that some repair work was to be undertaken and a new planning application submitted shortly. It was hoped that the works would be undertaken without Shropshire Council having to take further action.
- In spite of the owners of Presthoke Caravan Park having felled most of the trees on the site no action could be taken although Shropshire Council was considering what could be redeemed from the situation.
- Dog fouling continues to be a significant problem around the town and warning notices had been placed at strategic places around the town.
- The next litter pick would take place on 10 February 2017.
- The next advice surgery would be on 18 March 2017 at Much Wenlock Museum.

NOTED.

15) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

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

NOTED.

16) 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 she had tried to communicate with former members of the Community Flood Action Group and had been told that it seemed to be moribund and there had not been a meeting for over 9 months. At its last meeting the Committee had considered the Much Wenlock & District Community Flood Information, Prevention and Action Plan produced in 2010 and had agreed that it needed updating. It had also been agreed to recruit volunteers to become flood wardens in the event of a flood.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.

- c) Cllr. Graham Edgcombe Venning informed the meeting that the Planning & Environment Committee had made a decision on action to be taken concerning tidying the land at 15 High Street and PROPOSED that further discussion be deferred for the time being.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to defer this discussion.

17) BRIDGNORTH AREA COMMITTEE

Members received a verbal update from Cllr. Mary Hill following her attendance at the last Bridgnorth Area Committee meeting which had taken place at Highley. It was well attended and the main speaker was Adrian Cooper, Shropshire Council’s Planning Policy & Strategy Manager, who gave an update on the review of Shropshire’s Local Plan.
NOTED.

18) POLICE STATION

Cllr. Robin Bennett expressed concern about the closure of Much Wenlock Police Station, which was now vacant, and PROPOSED that the town council should write to the Police Commander to give thanks for the support of the local policing team and that the value of the work they do was recognised. Whilst it was understood that the closure was due to financial reasons the town council should continue to support the local policing team with their duties and endeavour to keep the team based in Much Wenlock. This proposal was SECONDED and it was therefore;

AGREED to write to the Police Commander and:

- i. Give thanks for all the work the local policing team had done for the town over the years.
- ii. The town council would continue to support the local policing team with their duties.
- iii. Urge the police to keep the local policing team based in Much Wenlock.

19) AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was **AGREED** to contact the Town Clerk if anyone wanted anything included on the next agenda.

20) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 2 March 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.

Cllr Mike Grace left the meeting room.

21) GUILDHALL

Members considered for approval the appointment of a Guildhall Custodian.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the Town Clerk be granted delegated authority to appoint a Guildhall Custodian as agreed by the town council.

Cllr. Mike Grace returned to the meeting.

Cllr. David Turner declared an interest and left the meeting.

22) COMPLAINT

Members considered legal and professional advice in relation to a complaint previously considered and advised upon.

Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak declared a non-pecuniary interest as a former member of the Personnel Committee.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the complaint should not be taken any further although the town council understands the reason for the complaint and Standing Orders will be reviewed to avoid potential ambiguity arising in the future.

The meeting closed at 21:10.

Signed.....
Cllr. Herbert Harper
Town Mayor

Date.....