

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

Cllr. Herbert Harper (Chairman), Cllr. Robin Bennett, Graham Edgcumbe Venning, Cllr. Mike Grace, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Paul Laming, Cllr. David Turner, 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.

The Mayoral engagements were as follows:

- 8 February 2017 - Ironbridge Power Station stakeholders meeting at the Shirehall.
- 22 Feb – Much Wenlock and Shipton Local Joint Committee meeting. There were no members of the public present other than Town Councillors.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR	REASON
Joffrey Watson	Work commitment

These apologies were **CONFIRMED** and **AGREED** as **APPROVED** absence.

Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins 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.

4) DISPENSATIONS

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

NOTED.

5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests to speak.

6) MINUTES

- The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 2 February 2017 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- The minutes of Planning & Environment Committee meetings held on 3 and 24 January 2017 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED.**
- The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 21 February 2017 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED.**

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.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the fallen tree that had been blown down by heavy winds at the cemetery on 23 February 2017 had been removed the following day.

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

- i. **The Town Clerk's report be NOTED.**
- ii. **Thanks should be sent to John Tuer from the Tree Forum for helping to clear the branches from the fallen tree, and to Benbow's for clearing the fallen tree so quickly.**

8) NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2017/2018

- a) Nominations were sought for Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Mary Hill and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Milner Whiteman that Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning be nominated as Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was AGREED that Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning be nominated as Mayor for the ensuing year.

- b) Nominations were sought for Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Herbert Harper and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Robin Bennett that Cllr. Milner Whiteman be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was AGREED that Cllr. Milner Whiteman be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

9) INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

- a) Members received a financial report from the Responsible Financial Officer.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.

- b) Members received income and expenditure to 31 December 2016.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to NOTE.

10) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING AND REVIEW

Members received a written report from the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Review Working Group following a meeting with Shropshire Council. One of the senior planning officers was willing to attend a town council meeting following the local elections in May 2016 to brief councillors on how the Neighbourhood Plan should be used when responding to planning applications.

Members also received a Housing Report following the Working Group's review of the Neighbourhood Plan. No revisions were necessary and the Plan was on track in terms of housing delivery.

Concern was expressed that the designated employment land at Stretton Road was being transferred into new ownership for use as a car park. Members were informed that the Working Group had referred the matter to Shropshire Council for explanation.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the Town Council:

- i. **Accepts the offer from Ian Kilby of a discussion and short training session on the application of the Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions.**
- ii. **Agrees the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Housing Review report subject to minor changes as NOTED.**
- iii. **The Town Council publishes the Housing Review report with an executive summary of its main conclusions as outlined.**
- iv. **Welcomes the commitment by Shropshire Council to engage with the Town Council on the Shropshire Local Plan review and agrees the comments on the Local Plan Review as set out in this report or submission to Shropshire Council.**
- v. **Notes the comments in the Housing White Paper as set out in the report and agrees to consider a response to the Department of Communities and Local Government at its next meeting(s).**

11) DEVOLVED SERVICES

- a) Members received notes from a meeting of a Town & Parish Council Forum held on 24 November 2016.
NOTED.

- b) Members received notes from a meeting of "Our Hub" held on 23 January 2017.
NOTED.
- c) Members received notes from a meeting of the Devolved Services Working Group held on 25 January 2017.
NOTED.
- d) Members considered for approval draft Heads of Terms for Much Wenlock library.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Heads of Terms be APPROVED.

Cllr. David Turner did not participate in the discussion or voting on matters concerning Shropshire Council.

- e) There was no update from the Devolved Services Working Group since the last meeting had been cancelled and further information was awaited.
NOTED.

12) CONSULTATION

There was no consultation for consideration.

13) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

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

- The phone box at Homer was to be kept in operation.
- All representations received concerning the Boundary Review had been published and reactions were being sought by 27 March 2017.
- Shropshire Fire & Rescue and the Community First Responders attended the last meeting of the Local Joint Committee. Unfortunately, the meeting was not attended by members of the public.
- A number of posters had been placed around the town to deter dog fouling and Shropshire Council's enforcement team would take action if there was sufficient intelligence to help catch the culprits.
- The construction company contracted to build the affordable houses at Callaughton Lane were advertising for local tradesman.
- A planning application had been submitted at Easthope Cross for emergency services connectivity to provide greater 4G coverage to domestic/commercial users and there were plans to upgrade another mast closer to Much Wenlock.
- The next litter pick would take place on 10 March 2017.
- The next advice surgery would take place on 18 March 2017 in Much Wenlock Museum.

NOTED.

14) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information sent to Members via email.
- b) Letter from the Tree Forum.

NOTED.

15) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred to the Town Council for consideration.
NOTED
- b) The Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee gave Members an update on the last Committee meeting. The Committee had invited the owner of 15 High Street to a meeting to discuss future plans for the site and the invitation had been accepted. The Committee had also written to the Police and Crime Commissioner to express concerns about obstructive parking in the town but had received an unhelpful response.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.

16) COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER & PUBLIC DEFIBRILLATOR

Members received a verbal update from Cllr. Robin Bennett on the Community First Responder and public defibrillator. The First Responder Scheme is a group of volunteers with the Ambulance Service who respond to 999 calls until further assistance is at hand.

The Scheme now had a car which was serviced by Wenlock Motors free of charge, and there were two new sponsors. The Responders had a new radio set, and a new training regime was underway. More fund raising would be necessary. A fund-raising event was held to raise money for the defibrillator and to recruit volunteers to operate the defibrillator in an emergency if First Responders were not available. There have been around 30 call-outs since the apparatus had been installed.

NOTED.

17) MUCH WENLOCK, BARROW AND BROSELEY HGV MEETING

Members received notes from a meeting held on 10 November 2016 with neighbouring councils attended by Cllr. David Turner, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, and Shropshire Council officers.

NOTED.

18) NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND ANNUAL MONITORING

Members considered for approval the annual monitoring form for the Neighbourhood Fund Annual Monitoring which had to be returned to Shropshire Council to demonstrate how the funds had been spent. To date the funds for Much Wenlock had not been spent.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Annual Monitoring Form be APPROVED and returned to Shropshire Council.

19) UPDATE ON MAY 2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Members received an update from the Town Clerk following training she had attended on the election process for the forthcoming May local elections. The report outlined the key dates, basic rules for nominations, contested elections and cost.

The Town Clerk also informed Members that she had set up a page on the town council's website specifically with information on the election process.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.

20) IRONBRIDGE POWER STATION

Cllr. Herbert Harper gave a verbal update following a meeting he had attended to hear about future plans for the now disused Ironbridge Power Station. Uniper was tasked with looking after the gas turbine operations and decommissioning of power stations no longer needed. The power station did not fit in with its plans and it would be demolished with disposal of the site using detonation by the end of 2017. Concern was expressed about the implications of the demolition and agreed it was important that the Town Council was kept informed of and allowed to comment on future plans and to be assured of good risk management.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE.

21) 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.

22) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Employee Handbook should be considered in the public session.

23) STAFFING

- a) Members considered for approval an updated Employee Handbook drafted by Ellis Whittam.

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

A number of questions were asked and amendments suggested.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that councillors should inform the Town Clerk of any queries by midnight on 16 March 2017 to be forwarded to Ellis Whittam for comment and advice.

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.

b) Members considered for approval a recommendation from the Town Clerk concerning staffing.
It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** that the recommendation be approved.

The meeting closed at 21:15.

Signed.....

Cllr. Herbert Harper

Town Mayor

Date.....