

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
7.05 p.m. on Thursday 3 April 2014

## PRESENT:

Cllr. Milner Whiteman (Chairman), Cllr. Robin Bennett, Cllr. Sally Chapman, Cllr. Kevin Hadley, Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Richard Kitchen and Cllr. Joffrey Watson.

## TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. David Turner – Shropshire Council  
Paul Weeden – Community Flood Action Group

### 1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked councillors for their commitment at the recent Annual Town Meeting which he said had led to a very helpful outcome.

### 2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

| COUNCILLOR     | REASON           |
|----------------|------------------|
| Phil Hipkiss   | Family illness   |
| Dafydd Jenkins | Work commitments |

These apologies were ACCEPTED.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. Kevin Hadley who would be late.

### 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.

| COUNCILLOR   | INTEREST                    | MINUTE NO: |
|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Kevin Hadley | Resident at Sheinton Street | 10(a)      |

### 4) DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

### 5) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. David Turner thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting and presented a brief verbal report as follows:

- Shropshire Council has agreed the Independent Examiner's recommended modifications for the Neighbourhood Plan and agreed that it should proceed to referendum on that basis. Subject to confirmation the Referendum was to take place on Thursday 22 May 2014 alongside the European Parliamentary Election.  
**It was AGREED that (through publicity) the Town Council should remind residents that they would not be able to vote if they were not registered to vote.**
- Following consultation Shropshire Council intended to install double yellow lines at Foresters Gardens but, because of an objection from one resident, the lines would not be extended as far as some residents would have wanted because it would deny visitor parking outside some houses.
- Shropshire Council intends to site two 'Narrow Street' signs at the end of Sheinton Street, where it joins New Road, to deter large vehicles from travelling through the narrow street which makes their presence hazardous for drivers and pedestrians.

- Following a request from a local resident the Town Council asked Shropshire Council to extend the 30 mph speed limit at Bourton. However, Cllr. Turner recommended that the Town Council should progress this by asking Shropshire Council to include it as a priority in the Road Safety Policy in the next round of submissions.
- The 'No Entry' signs at the bottom of the High Street have been swivelled slightly to make them more visible to drivers approaching along Barrow Street and Wilmore Street and to deter them from driving the wrong way up the High Street.
- Resurfacing and new signage works at Newton Bank, on the A458, had been postponed and, although the signage works were due to be carried out this spring, the resurfacing would take place after the summer period because of the disruption a road closure would cause and the impact it may have on the local economy.
- Sheinton Street (between New Road and Wilmore street) would be closed briefly on Sunday 18 May 2014 for the replacement of three manhole covers.
- Cllr. Turner encouraged the Town Council to take advantage of the opportunities available by working in conjunction with the Gaskell Recreation Ground, William Brookes School and others. He said that grant funding could be sourced and Shropshire Council officered support and advise to the Town Council if it accepted Shropshire Council's offer.
- Cllr. Turner would be holding his next surgery at the Museum on 5 April 2014 with the police and Cllr Holyoak.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. Turner for his report.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- i. **The report be NOTED.**
- ii. **Shropshire Council should be asked to include an extension of the 30 mph speed limit at Bourton as a priority in the next round of submissions for the Road Safety Policy.**

## 6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

## 7) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 6 March 2014 were **APPROVED** following a minor amendment to delete the words "to satisfy" and replace with "but" at minute no: 7 – 'Public Participation'.  
**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 4 February 2014 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 11 February 2014 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

## 8) 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 informed Members that she had received information that Severn Trent Water would be commencing investigations of sewers serving the Hunters Gate development and residents would be notified.

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

Cllr. Mary Hill added that the recent training for Councillors held at the Guildhall on 8 March 2014 was extremely beneficial and she recommended that it be repeated for those councillors who were not able to attend. Cllr. Milner Whiteman and Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak also added their agreement of Cllr. Hill's comments.

**It was AGREED to NOTE the benefits of training.**

- b) Members received a written report from the Town Clerk following her attendance at the 8<sup>th</sup> SLCC Practitioners' Conference.  
**It was RESOLVED that the report be NOTED.**
- c) Members received a written report from a presentation facilitated by Shropshire Council on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).  
**It was RESOLVED that the report be NOTED.**

Cllr. Kevin Hadley arrived at this point in the meeting.

## 9) FLOOD REPORT

- a) Members received a written report from the Community Flood Action Group and the Mayor invited Paul Weeden to address Members concerning the report.

Mr Weeden said that Much Wenlock is on the Environment agency's National Register as a very high-risk rapid response catchment (RRC) because of the limited time between a storm and flooding in the town. The Community Flood Action Group had been attempting to raise awareness, educate and prepare for flooding since the floods of 2007. A public meeting took place recently which was very lively due to residents' concerns about flooding issues, especially at Hunters Gate. Mr Weeden explained what actions can be taken to reduce flood risk.

Mr Weeden thanked the Council for allowing the Community Action Flood Group to keep the Council updated and he asked if the Council would give some financial support. Mr Weeden also made Members aware that the risks for flooding would be increased with any new development built in and around the town and the Flood Group urged the Town Council to implement a moratorium on development until the risk from flooding was reduced.

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

- i. **The report be NOTED.**
- ii. **Mr Weeden would make a presentation to the Town Council at a date to be arranged.**
- iii. **The Town Council would consider giving financial aid.**

- b) Members were asked to approve the installation of flood gauge equipment at the Pound, Much Wenlock. The equipment would alert the town should the town be in danger from flooding. The equipment would be paid for by the Environment Agency and the Community Flood Action Group would pay for the installation. The Town Council would have to allow an engineer regular safe access to the equipment and agree not to return the site to its original condition within 20 years.

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

- i. **Installation of the equipment be APPROVED.**
- ii. **Regular safe access would be allowed for servicing the equipment.**
- iii. **The Council would honour the Agreement for 20 years.**

The Chairman thanked Mr Weeden for his presentation and Mr Weeden left the meeting.

## 10) TRAFFIC ISSUES

- a) Cllr. Sally Chapman asked Members to consider how to deal with residents' concerns about heavy traffic along Sheinton Street. Traffic often mounted the pavement causing danger to buildings mainly due to parked vehicles restricting movement. Vehicles were also driving too fast. It was recommended that the Town Clerk should acquire a copy of the September 2011 Traffic Risk Assessment on the A4169. Cllr. Chapman urged the Council to consider how these issues could be addressed.

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

- i. **The Town Clerk should obtain a copy of the September 2011 Traffic Survey undertaken by Shropshire Council.**
- ii. **Concerns raised should be submitted to Shropshire Council as a priority to be addressed in accordance with its the Road Safety Policy.**
- iii. **The Town Council should write to PC Cowen and ask for the police to deal with illegal parking in the town which poses a safety issue to pedestrians.**

- b) Members considered supporting the provision of disabled parking bays in the High Street.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that Shropshire Council should be asked to install two disabled parking bays in the High Street opposite the Spar.**

- c) Members considered whether to support a road closure during this year's Much Wenlock Festival. Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak informed the meeting that, following consultation with the traders, no objection had been expressed, and they had already applied for a road closure for the High Street and Barrow Street.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the road closure be supported.**

## 11) GREAT WAR COMMEMORATION UPDATE

Cllr. Richard Kitchen informed Members that there would be an event on 28 June 2014 which was to be considered by the Finance & Resources Committee.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED to NOTE the information.**

**12) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- a) Members considered for approval a draft Flyer to be distributed to promote the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. The Town Clerk informed Members that the cost of promoting the referendum was restricted to limited expenditure which, in Much Wenlock's case, was £2,498.76.

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

- i. **The Flyer be APPROVED following additional information detailing the housing target and the consequences of a 'NO' vote.**
  - ii. **The Flyer be distributed as an insert within the next edition of the Wenlock Herald.**
  - iii. **A donation of £100 should be given to the Wenlock Herald as a gesture of good will.**
- b) Members were informed that Nick Boles MP had accepted an invitation from the Town Council to visit the town and the Council needed to make arrangements for the occasion. The Town Clerk had recommended that a civic reception be held at the Guildhall and that Mr Boles should be taken for a drive round the parish during his visit.

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

- i. **A buffet lunch should be provided for a reception at the Guildhall.**
- ii. **Reserved parking should be arranged at the Corn Exchange car park if necessary.**
- iii. **The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk should agree an agenda/programme for the day.**
- iv. **All those who had worked on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan should be invited to the reception.**

**13) PLANNING**

There were no planning applications referred by the Planning & Environment Committee for consideration.

**14) GASKELL RECREATION GROUND**

- a) Members considered for approval recommendations from the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management concerning the future management of the Ground.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the following be APPROVED:**

- i. **The Policy for the Gaskell Recreation Ground be implemented as from 1 April 2014.**
- ii. **For the first 12 months, beginning from 1 April 2014, the Ground should be managed by a Board of Management (Operational Working Group whose members would be Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Bert Harper, David Gibbon and Chris Bowden. The Group would use the 2014/2015 Town Council budget to maintain the Ground. The Group shall be serviced by the Clerk to the Board who shall be the Town Clerk who shall take instruction from the Operational Working Group which shall be responsible to the Executive Board (the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management). The Group shall work within the estimates of the expenditure plan (budget) approved by the Board. The Group shall meet 4 times per year, January, April, July and October.**
- iii. **Current hire charges should remain unchanged until the Joint Use Agreement is formally terminated after which the charges should be reviewed so as to be competitive with other users.**

Cllr. Sally Chapman left at this point in the meeting.

- b) Members considered for approval that Shropshire Council continues to take bookings and income for organised use of the Gaskell Recreation Ground for the foreseeable future.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that Shropshire Council should continue to take bookings and income until an alternative option was approved.**

**15) CORRESPONDENCE**

Members received the following correspondence:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information.
- b) Email from the Environment Agency confirming that matters are progressing concerning the appeal by Landowner Liquid Fertilisers to an anti-pollution works notice.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the correspondence be NOTED.**

**16) CONSULTATION**

- a) Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan (SAMDev): pre-submission draft (Final Plan) consultation

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock will inform the SAMDev for the Much Wenlock area.**

**17) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TOWN COUNCIL ME**

It was AGREED that the following be included on the agenda at the next meeting:

- The location of a public defibrillator – Cllr. Robin Bennett
- Update on mobile phone coverage and broadband – Cllr. Robin Bennett
- Town markets – Cllr. Richard Kitchen on behalf of the Finance Committee

**18) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was NOTED that the next meeting would be the Annual Town Council meeting and would take place on Thursday 8 May 2014 commencing 7 p.m. at the Guildhall. This meeting would re-convene at 7 p.m. on Thursday 15 May 2014.

**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.

**19) YOUTH CLUB BUILDING**

Members received a written update on negotiations concerning the above. Members also received a verbal update from Cllr. Kevin Hadley and the Town Clerk following their recent meeting with Children’s Services.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that, following a meeting with the School, the Council would consider Shropshire Council’s proposals further.

**20) STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Members considered for approval the maintenance contract for street lighting for the period from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that the contract be renewed at the annual cost of **£4,093.70**.

The meeting closed at 21.16.

Signed.....  
Town Mayor

Date.....