

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
 7 pm on Thursday 3 March 2016

PRESENT:

Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Robin Bennett, Cllr. Mike Grace, Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Paul Laming, Cllr. David Turner, and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public.

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND COMMUNICATION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a verbal report of her Mayoral engagements since the last meeting as follows:

- Concert at Church Stretton
- Christmas Fayre briefing
- Traffic consultation concerning Sheinton Street
- Laying of Foundation Stone for new Alms Houses – Shrewsbury
- Pop and reggae concert in Ludlow
- Transfer of assets presentation at Shrewsbury Football Ground
- Day centre to talk to members regarding the role of Town Mayor
- Mayor of Shrewsbury Civic Service
- Visit to Shrewsbury Prison
- Concert at Wenlock Pottery
- Civic Society's planning meeting at the Bear Steps, Shrewsbury
- Mayor of Wellington concert
- Invited to first 'Afternoon Tea Party' in church
- Meeting to discuss Academies

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were received:

COUNCILLOR	REASON FOR ABSENCE
Graham Edgcumbe Venning	Holiday
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitment
Joffrey Watson	Family commitment

These apologies were **CONFIRMED** and **ACCEPTED** 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, 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

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had received a request for a dispensation from Cllr. David Turner who wished to participate in discussions concerning devolved services because he felt he could make a contribution in the interests of persons living in the authority area. The Town Clerk had consequently granted a dispensation.

NOTED.

5) POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Mal Goddard was not able to attend the meeting but provided a written summary of incidents as follows:

- Someone had been identified and had apologised for anti social behaviour in the area in front of the library at the Corn Exchange.
- There had been a diesel theft from a local farm overnight between 29 February and 1 March 2016.
- A new 'Stop Thief Initiative' to prevent rural crime was to be launched soon.
- The 'Big Issue' seller in the town was being asked to leave since he was not there with permission of the Big Issue office.
- West Mercia Police only have three enforcement motorcycles although it was hoped that one of these would be available to conduct enforcement on the Bourton Road coming into Much Wenlock. Some speed monitoring activity had already taken place in the area.

Cllr. David Turner **PROPOSED** that the police should be asked to monitor speeding in Much Wenlock.

It was **AGREED** that:

- i. **The report be NOTED.**
- ii. **The police should be asked to deploy a speed enforcement vehicle in Much Wenlock.**

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

7) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 4 February 2016 were considered for approval and following agreed amendments;
it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the amended minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 5 January 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 26 January 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- d) The minutes of a Personnel Committee meeting held on 5 February 2016 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 also gave the following verbal update:

- The Town Clerk and Cllr. Mike Grace had joined the town archivists at Shropshire Archives where they were able to see the poor condition of the first minute book of the Borough of Wenlock. They had discussed how its conservation project could be moved forward and this would be discussed further at the April Town Council meeting.
- Members were informed that, under delegated authority, Cllr. Robin Bennett had arranged for Wenlock Pottery to make commemorative mugs to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and Members were able to see a 'mock-up' of what the finished product would look like.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk's report be NOTED.

- b) Members received the notes from a meeting of Market Town Clerks held on 28 January 2016.
NOTED.
- c) Members received notes from a meeting of clerks with Shropshire Council held on 2 February 2016.
NOTED.

9) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Although representatives from the Christmas Fayre and Chamber of Trade had been invited to have some input into arrangements for this year's Christmas lights switch-on no one was in attendance.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to defer the matter to a future meeting.

10) NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2016/2017

- a) Nominations were sought for Mayor for the 2016/2017 council year.
Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak PROPOSED and Cllr. Mary Hill SECONDED that Cllr. Bert Harper be nominated for Mayor.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Bert Harper be nominated as Mayor for the 2016/2017 council year.
- b) Nominations were sought for Deputy Mayor for the 2016/2017 council year.
Cllr. David Turner PROPOSED and Cllr. Milner Whiteman SECONDED that Cllr. Robin Bennett be nominated for Deputy Mayor.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Robin Bennett be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the 2016/2017 council year.

11) NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

Members received information concerning the Neighbourhood Fund. Town and parish councils had to produce an Annual Monitoring Form on CIL receipts and expenditure for each financial year following receipt and the Town Council had received the sum of £589 for the 2015/2016 fiscal year which had neither been earmarked nor spent.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that:

- i. **The Town Council's Action Plan should inform where the Neighbourhood Fund should be spent.**
- ii. **The Finance & Resources Committee should consider the contents of the Town Council's Action Plan, what s106 funds and CIL monies were available to spend within the parish, and how these might be allocated.**

12) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MONITORING PANEL

Members received a written update from the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Panel which was to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled to take place on 17 March 2016. The Panel was responsible for monitoring the Plan which was due for review in 2017. Now that the Plan was local policy for Much Wenlock Shropshire Council planning officers were referring to it when making planning decisions for the parish. To date 27 dwellings had been completed in the town and another 9 proposed, which indicated that the town was on target to deliver the required number of dwellings by the first review date. As well as monitoring housing delivery the Panel would review other policies within the Plan and formal indicators had been established.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the report be APPROVED for presentation at the Annual Town Meeting.

13) COMMUNITY LED AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSAL AT CALLAUGHTON LANE

Members received feedback from the last consultation event held on 3 February 2016 which sought views on proposals for the provision of affordable housing at Callaughton Lane. Some members of the public had expressed concern that the housing number of 10 may escalate to more which they thought would not be acceptable.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that:

- i. **The information be NOTED.**
- ii. **All councillors should seek a dispensation from the Town Clerk to enable them to consider the planning application once it was available for consultation.**

14) CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

Members considered a proposal by Cllr. David Turner that the Town Council supports a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty's 90th birthday which was to be officially celebrated in June 2016. Cllr. Turner had arranged for a group of local residents to carry out a litter pick in Much Wenlock on Saturday 5 March 2016 and he sought formal approval from the Town Council and assurance that volunteers would be covered by the Town Council's insurance policy during the litter pick.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Council's insurance offered cover for up to 10 volunteers up to 80 years of age.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the proposal to 'Clean for the Queen' be supported.

In accordance with Standing Order no: 10(a)(vi) the Chairman PROPOSED that the order of business be changed, and after being SECONDED it was RESOLVED that agenda item number 25 be brought forward for consideration at this point in the meeting.

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.

15) STAFFING MATTERS

- a) Members received a written report from the Personnel Committee which outlined the financial impact on the 2016/2017 financial budget following the Committee's recent decisions concerning pay increases for all Town Council employees. Some pay increases were as a result of the compulsory National Living Wage which would be introduced on 1 April 2016. The Finance & Resources Committee had been advised that the pay increases should not yield a negative impact.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the decisions made by the Personnel Committee be APPROVED.

The Town Clerk left the meeting at this point.

- b) Members considered staffing matters referred by the Personnel Committee.

The Town Clerk returned to the meeting.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to spend up to a maximum of £2,000 on professional, independent advice.

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

The meeting continued in open session.

16) SALE OF YOUTH CLUB BUILDING

Members had been invited by Shropshire Council to comment on its proposal to sell the former youth club building at Station Road following the Town Council's refusal to take ownership of it.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that in response to Shropshire Council's request to ask the Town Council's views on the sale of the youth club building, Shropshire Council should be asked to delay the sale of that asset until the Town Council had concluded its conversation with Shropshire Council around devolved services.

Due to the lateness of the hour;

it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that all other items on the agenda be deferred to the next meeting.

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 7 April 2016.

The meeting closed at 21:28.

Signed.....

Date.....

Clr. Yvonne Holyoak
Town Mayor