

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT:

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

TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the public

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed Members of his Mayoral engagements as follows:

- 22 October: Civic gift presentation and meeting with members of Much Wenlock Twinning Association and visitors from Cysoing, France at the Guildhall. A gift of local regional products was received from Cysoing members and, with the agreement of the Twinning Group, this was to be donated to a forthcoming Severn Hospice Support Group event.

The Chairman reminded Members about forthcoming Remembrance events.

Cllr. Joffrey Watson arrived at this point in the meeting.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR	REASON
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitment
Paul Laming	Holiday

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, 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. He also declared an interest as a member of Much Wenlock Bowling Club.

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

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 6 October 2016 were considered for approval. Following minor amendments;

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the amended minutes be signed and ADOPTED.

- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 30 August 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 27 September 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

7) 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.

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

- b) Members received notes from a meeting of a Market Town Clerks meeting held on 22 September 2016.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **The notes be NOTED.**
- ii. **The Town Clerk should ask that the notes be amended to state that the Town Council had informed Shropshire Council that it was not interested in taking over the museum in Much Wenlock.**

- c) Members received notes from a Hub meeting held on 5 October 2016.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the notes be NOTED.

8) LADY FORESTER NURSING HOME

Members considered for approval a formal response to the CCG following the 4 GP beds being saved from closure at the Lady Forester Nursing Home.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **Everyone who fought hard and helped to save the beds should be thanked, especially the Chairman of the League of Friends.**
- ii. **The CCG should be thanked for changing their minds and listening to local concerns.**
- iii. **The CCG should be invited to consult directly with the Town Council in future.**

9) AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME AT CALLAUGHTON LANE

Members considered for approval a formal response following Shropshire Council's approval of the above scheme.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. **A suitable media statement should be issued to the press and released on social media.**
- ii. **The media statement should include the Town Council's dismay that a request to move the 30mph speed limit on the A458 further towards Bridgnorth had not been approved because it was not supported by the police.**
- iii. **The media statement should include the Town Council's recognition that the scheme was not welcomed by some residents and that their concerns were being addressed.**

10) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

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

- He had attended two services at St Chad's, Shrewsbury to remember local people killed in action during WW1.
- Traffic lights had been installed on the A4169 at Sheinton Street to control the flow of HGVs and teething problems were being addressed.
- Re-consultation had taken place on parking restrictions in the town.
- Resurfacing works for patch repairs were to be carried out in the near future at St Mary's Lane, St Mary's Road and St Mary's Lane car park.
- Members of the Town Council had met with Members of Barrow and Broseley councils to discuss HGV issues through the narrow streets and another meeting was scheduled with Shropshire Council's highways officers.
- BT was reviewing decommissioning payphones and the one situated at Homer would be under threat again.
- Litter picks were to take place on 18 November 2016 and 5 December 2016.
- The next Advice Surgery would take place on Saturday 17 December 2016.

NOTED.

11) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred to the Town Council for consideration.
- b) The Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee informed Members that the Committee had recently considered a planning application for Change of Use of ground floor retail space (currently a hardware store) into a tea shop/bistro to which the Committee had objected because the application was not supported by a Viability Statement.

NOTED.

12) CONSULTATION

The following consultation was considered.

- a) Boundary Review

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. Much Wenlock Ward should remain in the Ludlow and Leominster Constituency.
- ii. A copy of the Town Council's response should be given to Cllr David Turner.
- iii. Cllr. Turner would attend a public meeting in Shrewsbury on 7 November 2016 and convey the Town Council's preferred option.

- b) Shropshire Hills AONB proposed change in structure.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Town Council supports the proposals to change the structure of Shropshire Hills AONB.

- c) Shropshire Council, Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal process (Local Plan documents)

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring and Review Working Group should have delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Town Council.

13) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- a) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) information bulletins and other information sent to Members via email.
- b) Response from Shropshire Council concerning yellow lines consultation in Much Wenlock

It was AGREED that the correspondence be NOTED.

14) FINANCE

Members received income and expenditure from 1 April to 30 September 2016.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that income and expenditure to date be NOTED.

15) 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.

16) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 1 December 2016.

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.

17) DEVOLVED SERVICES

Members received an update from the Devolved Services Working Group on progress with regard to asset transfer from Shropshire Council. The following three options were considered:

OPTION 1: The town council to take no action and allow Shropshire Council, if it chose to do so, close the library and, instead, provide a mobile book lending service. Shropshire Council would then pay the town council the required sum to surrender the library lease.

OPTION 2: Shropshire Council to assign the library to the town council with an agreed lease surrender value, with Shropshire Council providing back-up services (IT and book renewal). The library staff salary and pension contributions would be the obligation of the town council, together with all other disbursements and responsibilities for management, sickness and holiday cover.

OPTION 3: Shropshire Council continues to run and manage the library with an annual service payment from the town council to recover staff costs and outgoings. Staffing would remain the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

Library refurbishment (options 2 and 3 only) - to be carried out by Shropshire Council in accordance with submitted proposals before 6 April 2017. The refurbishment would accommodate a Customer Service Point for the town council.

Library salary costs (options 2 and 3 only). There would be a period of grace of 18 months from 6 April 2017 whereby Shropshire Council would pay salary and pension costs.

After being put to the vote it was:

PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- i. Shropshire Council should continue to run and manage the library with an annual service payment from the town council through a Service Level Agreement. The agreement would include library refurbishment to be carried out by Shropshire Council in accordance with submitted proposals before 6 April 2017. The refurbishment would accommodate a Customer Service Point for the town council.**
- ii. Staffing would remain the responsibility of Shropshire Council. There would be a period of grace of 18 months from 6 April 2017 whereby Shropshire Council would pay salary and pension costs.**
- iii. Whilst Members realise this decision leads to an increase in the precept this partnership will support the continuation of a valuable social asset for Much Wenlock and its hinterland.**

Cllr. Turner voted against the decision.

- iv. Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning should be thanked for taking a lead in the discussions with Shropshire Council and paving the way to an equitable outcome.**

The meeting closed at 20:41.

Signed.....

Date.....

Cllr. Herbert Harper
Town Mayor