

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
7 pm on Thursday 4 December 2014

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mary Hill (Chairman), Cllr. Robin Bennett, Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Paul Laming, Cllr. Robert Toft, Cllr. David Turner, Cllr. Joffrey Watson, and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Marie Monk-Hawksworth – The Friendly Transport Scheme
2 Members of the Much Wenlock Twinning Group

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that she had laid two wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, one at each church in Much Wenlock and Bourton. She had also attended the Christmas lights switch-on.

The Mayor then gave a special welcome to Linda Stevenson, Chairman of the Twinning Group, who presented the Mayor with two cushions and a tea cloth from Cysoing, a town in northern France which is twinned with Much Wenlock. Mrs Stevenson said that, at the end of October, about 40 people from Cysoing visited Much Wenlock and gave gifts to mark 10 years since the two towns were twinned. The cushions show a picture of the obelisk in Cysoing and the tea cloth shows a picture of a chateau which is now owned by the Town Council. During the retreat to Dunkirk, a box of silver bugles were buried in Cysoing and, in the year 2000, some people tried to find them but there is a bungalow built on the site now. It was then that they decided to twin with a town in Shropshire and eventually, in 2004, a group of people in Much Wenlock decided to twin with Cysoing and this year is the tenth anniversary.

The Mayor thanked the Twinning Group for presenting the gifts to the Town Council after which they left the meeting.

Cllr. Paul Laming arrived at this point in the meeting.

2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

Cllr. Richard Kitchen 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, and as a Member of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Management Board declared an interest in any matters relating to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

4) DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

5) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 6 November 2014 were APPROVED following an amendment to remove "Cllr" from the list of those present, add 's' to "streets" at minute no: 10, and remove superfluous words at minute 11 so that it reads: "Members considered a draft Pension Discretions Policy for approval".

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 30 September 2014 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 28 October 2014 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

6) THE FRIENDLY TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Chairman invited Marie Monk-Hawksworth to inform Members about the work of the Friendly Transport Scheme.

Ms Monk-Hawksworth thanked the Town Council for the grant it had recently awarded to help the Friendly Bus with its work. She said they are looking to diversify and grow the service. They had received substantial funding from the Lottery Fund although this had now come to an end. They are part of a consortium of not for profit organisations. They provide transport for those who do not have any other form of transport particularly in areas where bus services are limited. There are around 1,300 members with an office based in Broseley. Around 400 live in and around Much Wenlock and there were around 8,000 journeys during the year from this locality. Most trips are to Telford but the Friendly Bus would like to provide journeys further afield. There is a car scheme for individual journeys and passengers pay a proportion of the fare, the balance of which is subsidised, but buses do go to a specific destination. There are also concessionary fares which are subsidised by Shropshire Council although the subsidy has been reduced so there will be fare charging from January 2015. Three new car drivers have been recruited from Much Wenlock.

The Mayor thanked Marie for enlightening the Town Council about the work of the Friendly Bus after which she left the meeting.

7) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr. David Turner presented a verbal report as follows:

- Shropshire Council has begun the A4169 feasibility study and it is anticipated that some initial findings will be available early in the New Year.
- The number of pupils on roll at Shropshire schools is falling overall and there is not an even spread. Evidence shows that housing developments do not lead to an overall increase in pupil numbers since the trend is for families to move within the county. Falling pupil numbers will impact on funding for schools since the funding is mainly pupil driven.
- Anyone can make additional comments about planning applications up until the point at which the decision is taken and a change in the applicant's proposals will not necessarily trigger a re-consultation. Phil Holden is the AONB manager and has a particular interest in how our Neighbourhood Plan relates to the AONB status and he would like to meet the Town Council to discuss this.
- Cllr. Turner's next advice surgery would be held at Shipton Village Hall on Saturday 13 December 2014.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be **NOTED**.

8) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

9) 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 **AGREED** that:

- i. **The Town Clerk's report be NOTED.**
- ii. **In order to ascertain the need for a skate park, or similar, an invitation for people to show an interest should be published in the next Wenlock Herald. The primary school should also be asked if any pupils are interested.**

10) FINANCE

Members received the income and expenditure from July to September 2014.

It was **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the income and expenditure to the end of September 2014 be **NOTED**.

11) BRIDGNORTH AREA TOURISM ACTION GROUP

- a) Members received the notes from a meeting of the Bridgnorth Area Tourism Action Group held on 9 September 2014.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be **NOTED**.

- b) The Town Council's representative, Cllr. Milner Whiteman, gave an update on the activities of the Bridgnorth Area Tourism Action Group. He had attended a meeting in November and the notes of that meeting would be presented to the Town Council at a future meeting.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Whiteman would keep the Town Council updated.

12) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- a) In order to save on installation costs Members considered whether the new Christmas lights in the High Street should remain in situ on a permanent basis. The lights are designed to stay in situ and are guaranteed for 5 years.

It was unanimously RESOLVED that the lights should remain in situ.

- b) Members considered whether to purchase new lights and a Christmas tree for the Gaskell corner. Members were informed that members of the community had raised sufficient funds to purchase new lights which had now been installed. A Christmas tree was also to be installed.

It was RESOLVED that:

- i. **The people responsible for installing new lights on the Gaskell corner be thanked.**
- ii. **The Finance and Resources Committee should explore options for lighting the other side of the Gaskell corner.**

13) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members considered for approval a proposal that a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock be given to each member of Shropshire Council's South Planning Committee.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan be given to all members of the South Planning Committee.

14) PLACE PLAN REVIEW

Members considered for approval recommendations from the Planning & Environment Committee to update the Place Plan for Much Wenlock.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that the updated Place Plan be submitted to Shropshire Council.

15) FLOOD REPORT

Members were informed that the next report from the Community Flood Action Group would be presented to the next meeting of the Town Council in January 2015.

It was RESOLVED to NOTE.

16) RAPID RESPONSE CATCHMENT AREA

Members received a response from the Environment Agency (EA) following the Town Council's request to inform the Council what the government has been doing since Much Wenlock was designated as a Rapid Response Catchment Area. In partnership with the Community Flood Action Group the EA had installed an independent community flood gauge in the river to alert the community of rising river levels. The EA is also actively working with Shropshire Council on flood alleviation measures.

Members also received a response from Shropshire Council stating that planning officers follow guidance for the management of surface water for any new development and also follows guidance from the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock and the Much Wenlock Integrated Urban Drainage Management Plan. Shropshire Council continues to work with the Environment Agency, the Town Council and the Flood Action Group to raise awareness of flash flooding and how to deal with it should it occur and there are plans to build attenuation ponds upstream of the town to manage flood risk.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to NOTE the response and await a reply from Philip Dunne MP.

17) LANDOWNER LIQUID FERTILISERS LTD.

Following the Town Council's request for assurance that the activities at Landowner Liquid Fertilisers Ltd. pose no environmental risk to the locality Members received a response from Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority. They said that a risk management plan has been developed by a number of partners known as the West Midlands Local Resilience Forum, and that they are aware of the risks posed by the site and are working with the relevant agencies to develop plans and response capabilities to mitigate the impact of the hazards posed.

Members also received a response from the Environment Agency (EA) stating that Landowner Liquid Fertilisers Ltd. had been ordered to empty four specified tanks within two months, clean and test them within seven months, and submit a plan to test the remaining seven tanks within three years and test regularly afterwards, submit a Risk Management Plan and scheme for emergency secondary containment and continue to report stock levels held underground to the EA. The EA therefore had powers to serve notice that the tanks be emptied should the operator not comply.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to NOTE** the response and await a reply from the Health & Safety Executive.

18) ROAD SAFETY PRIORITIES

Members considered which road safety priorities should be put forward for inclusion in Shropshire Council's Road Safety Priorities for Much Wenlock.

It was **PROPOSED** that local residents should inform the Town Council of the transport companies whose HGVs are driving through Wilmore Street so that the Council could write to them and ask them to use the HGV route via Merrywell Lane.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that the following be submitted to Shropshire Council for inclusion in its Road Safety Priorities:

Priority 1	Queen Street
Priority 2	The problems at King Street
Priority 3	Barrow Street
Priority 4	Sheinton Street/Wilmore Street
Priority 5	Wilmore Street junction with High Street
Priority 6	Disabled parking provision

19) FORWARD PLAN

Members considered a Forward Plan for the Town Council. The Town Clerk advised that, if the Council wants to achieve Quality Status, it must have an Action Plan for the current year, and an Action Plan and a related budget responding to community engagement and setting out a timetable for action and review.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that a task and finish group be established whose members would be Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Robin Bennett, and Cllr. David Turner.

Cllr. David Turner left the meeting at this point.

20) SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S OFFER

- a) Members considered for approval whether to accept Shropshire Council's offer and commit to a written agreement/memorandum of understanding that the transfer of the Youth Club building should take place (subject to legal documentation).

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 recorded vote was requested and, after being put to the vote,

it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED, with 7 Members for (Cllrs. Mary Hill, Milner Whiteman, Robin Bennett, Dafydd Jenkins, Joffrey Watson, Paul Laming and Robert Toft) and 2 Members against (Cllrs. Yvonne Holyoak and Bert Harper) to:**

Take on the youth club building, the pavilion, and associated land, but not the footpath and the corner of land to the right of the footpath near to Station Road outside the children's playground.

- b) Members considered for approval that the Joint Use Agreement be rescinded.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED** that the Joint Use Agreement be rescinded.

21) CONSULTATION

There was no consultation for consideration.

22) CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information.
- b) Letter of thanks from Crucial Crew for a grant awarded by the Town Council.
- c) Letter of thanks from the Friendly Bus for a grant awarded by the Town Council.
- d) Letter of thanks from Cuan Wildlife Rescue thanking the Council for allowing a stall on the Square during the night of this year's Christmas lights switch-on.

It was **RESOLVED** that the correspondence be **NOTED**.

23) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred by the Planning & Environment Committee.

- b) The Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee, Cllr. Mary Hill informed Members that she and Cllr. Milner Whiteman would be attending the next meeting of the South Planning Committee where Cllr. Whiteman would reiterate the Council's objections to development proposals at Wenlock Edge Inn and Cllr Hill to reiterate the Council's objections to proposals for Bradley Farm.

24) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the following items should be included for discussion on the next agenda:

- The 2015/2016 precept

It was further **AGREED** that Members should inform the Town Clerk if they wanted any other items included.

25) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 15 January 2015 commencing 7 pm at the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 21:13.

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....