

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
 7 pm on Thursday 4 February 2016

## PRESENT:

Cllr. Robin Bennett, Cllr. Graham Edgcombe Venning, Cllr. Mike Grace, Cllr. Bert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Joffrey Watson, and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

## TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

## IN ATTENDANCE:

There were no members of the public present.

### 1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Cllr. Bert Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that he and Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak had attended a meeting in Oswestry on 27 January to receive a presentation on the 'Big Conversation' from Clive Wright, Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. Attendees were told that Shropshire Council had to reduce its budget significantly and that, as a result, certain services may be lost.

### 2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies were received:

COUNCILLOR	REASON FOR ABSENCE
Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak	Ill health
Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitments
Cllr. Paul Laming	Prior engagement
Cllr. David Turner	Ill health

These apologies were **CONFIRMED** 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.

### 4) DISPENSATIONS

None requested.

### 5) POLICE UPDATE

CSO Watkins was not able to attend but he provided a written update as follows:

- There have only been 9 incidents recorded since the last meeting.
- The young males involved in the Anti Social Behaviour at the Corn Exchange are being dealt with.
- Football under the Corn Exchange is still an issue. Local residents are not happy about this and may contact the Town Council.

Cllr. Robin Bennett informed Members that he had met with the Special Recruitment Team and spoken to PCC candidates who stressed that Special Constables are important. The police were happy to talk to the Council if invited to do so. There would be a recruitment event at the same time as the April Food Fair.

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

## 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 14 January 2016 were considered for approval 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 Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 22 December 2015 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:

- She had attended a Market Town Clerk's meeting on 28 January 2016 and the minutes from that meeting would be presented at the next Town Council meeting.
- She attended another clerk's meeting with Shropshire Council on 2 February 2016, chaired by George Candler, Director of Commissioning at Shropshire Council. Notes from that meeting would also be presented at the next Town Council meeting.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Good Councillor Guide had been emailed to all councillors and was also available to view on the Town Council's website.

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

- b) Members received the minutes from a meeting of the Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee of Shropshire Association of Local Councils held on 21 September 2015.  
**NOTED.**
- c) Members received the minutes from a Market Town Clerk's meeting held on 18 November 2015.  
**NOTED.**
- d) Members received the Town Clerk's notes from a meeting with Shropshire Council held on 2 November 2015.  
**NOTED.**

## 9) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

In his absence members received a written report from Cllr. David Turner as follows:

- "**Planning** - Much Wenlock has an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan and is thus not affected by SAMDev. Nonetheless, the adoption of SAMDev by Shropshire Council in December means that the saved policies from Bridgnorth District Council days are now completely obsolete.

The Town Council, prompted by a member of the public, has made enquiries about S106 monies in respect of the housing development at the former presbytery.

E & P Developments Ltd signed the Section 106 Agreement on 22nd December 2012. Under the terms of the Agreement an Open Space Contribution of £18,444 is to be paid to the Council "on the occupation for residential purposes of the second dwelling to be constructed on the Land. To be used by the Council to facilitate the provision and/or maintenance of Open Space and Play Equipment in the vicinity of the land". Shropshire Council has continued to chase these monies and welcomed the developers recent move in reinstructing solicitors. An ultimatum has been issued by the Council and I'll keep you apprised of developments.

- The second public consultation on the affordable housing project proposed for Callaughton Lane has taken place and it's gratifying to see so many local residents taking the interest to attend and to comment. Inevitably there are challenges – some on matters which the development team feel are already addressed and some on new matters, which demonstrates the value of such exercises. Equally there are some unqualified supportive statements. With the Town Council's support, I am sure the project group will consider the comments carefully before taking the next steps in delivering a key aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Your Shropshire Councillor** - At Tuesday's meeting of the South Planning Committee I was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

- **Advice surgery** - My next advice surgery will be held Saturday 13th March at Shipton Village Hall when hope to be accompanied by a Much Wenlock Town Councillor and a representative of the police. Any volunteers...? “

**At was AGREED that the report be NOTED.**

#### **10) ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

- a) Members considered for approval what items should be included on the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting that would take place at the Priory Hall on Thursday 17 March 2016.

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

- i. **Clive Wright, Shropshire Council's Chief Executive, or a senior officer, should be invited to attend the meeting to discuss the impact of devolved services in Much Wenlock.**
- ii. **The police should be invited to attend.**
- iii. **The agenda should include a report from the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Panel.**
- iv. **Someone from the Shropshire Housing Group should be invited to answer questions on the proposals for affordable housing off Callaughton Lane.**
- v. **The agenda should include the future of the Gaskell Recreation Ground, including an open forum so that members of the public could ask questions.**
- vi. **The Chairman should give feedback on what had happened since the last meeting.**

- b) Members received the draft minutes from the last Annual Town Meeting held on 12 March 2015.

**NOTED.**

#### **11) TRAFFIC ISSUES**

Members considered a proposal by Cllr. David Turner that the Town Council develops a comprehensive plan to identify traffic issues which sets out what it wants to achieve and identify any knock-on-effects. The proposal was first considered by the Town Council in November 2015 and the Town Council agreed that Cllr. Turner would ask Shropshire Council how it was progressing with the Town Council's priorities previously submitted. Cllr. Turner had met with Shropshire Council's highways team who said that Shropshire Council can't do much without a clear indication from the Town Council about the outcomes it hopes for.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the following priorities should be included in the Traffic Management Plan:**

- i. **Measures to enable the bus services to turn at Queen Street bus stop.**
- ii. **A review and improvements for traffic management and traffic calming on the Bridgnorth Road/off Callaughton Lane (should the Callaughton Lane development be approved).**
- iii. **Installation of proper signage preventing HGVs travelling down the High Street.**
- iv. **Barrow Street should have pull in points to allow traffic to pass, "Keep Clear" markings enforced, with double yellow lines to create passing places along the road.**
- v. **Traffic management to reduce speeds on all entrances to the town. The Town Council would be willing to listen to all suggestions.**
- vi. **Installation of central white lines at the junction of Wilmore Street, High Street, and Barrow Street.**

#### **12) TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered draft Terms of Reference for the recently established Devolved Services Working Group.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference be ADOPTED.**

#### **13) QUEEN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Members considered how the Town Council could mark the occasion of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and a discussion ensued to determine whether to buy mugs or a commemorative £5 coin. It was PROPOSED that Wenlock Pottery should be asked to make and sponsor a special commemorative mug.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Town Clerk should have delegated authority, in liaison with Cllr. Robin Bennett, to purchase 200 commemorative mugs within a budget of £800.**

#### **14) ELECTIONS 2017**

At a meeting of the Town Council held in October 2015 it was agreed that the Council should devise a communication strategy to raise awareness of the role of the local councillor as a community leader to encourage interest for the 2017 elections. The Town Council had previously approved two newsletters which the Town Clerk had since updated for Council approval.

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

- i. It was too soon to promote becoming a councillor at this time.
- ii. The process should start from September 2016 with written publications that give examples of what the council has achieved. This process should continue up until the deadline for nominations.

**15) FLOOD REPORT**

There was no report from the Community Flood Action Group.

**NOTED.**

**16) PLANNING**

- a) There were no planning applications referred by the Planning & Environment Committee to the Town Council or to Shropshire Councillor David Turner.

**NOTED.**

- b) The Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee, Cllr. Mary Hill, informed Members how, at its last meeting, the Committee had considered a request from Shropshire Council to comment on the sale of a small piece of land to a homeowner at High Causeway. The Committee could not support this because it may set a precedent and the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Much Wenlock states that open space should be preserved.

The Committee had also objected to a Lawful Development Certificate for static caravans to be sited at Presthope Caravan Park because the site had always been used for touring caravans.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that this information be **NOTED.**

**17) CONSULTATION**

There was no consultation for consideration.

**NOTED.**

**18) CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received:

- a) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) information bulletins and other information sent to Members via email.

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

**19) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that the progress of the Affordable Housing project, and monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan should be included on the next agenda.

**20) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- a) It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 3 March 2016.
- b) It was **NOTED** that the Annual Town Meeting would take place on Thursday 17 March 2016 commencing at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 20:32.

Signed.....

Date.....

Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak  
Town Mayor