

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
7:15 pm on Thursday 4 September 2014

**PRESENT:**

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

**TOWN CLERK:**

Sharon Clayton

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cllr. David Turner – Shropshire Council

**1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said it had been fairly quiet but she had attended two events. She had met Princess Alexandra at Tickwood Hall and the event had been a very interesting occasion. She had also attended the Wenlock Olympian Games which had been a very nice event too.

The Mayor hoped that everyone had enjoyed a good holiday since the last Council meeting in July.

**2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Robin Bennett who had work commitments.

Cllr. Richard Kitchen was absent.

**3) DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Town Clerk informed Members that the newly elected Town Councillor, Robert Toft, had already made his declaration. The Chairman gave him a warm welcome to the Town Council.

**4) 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.

**5) DISPENSATIONS**

None requested.

**6) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

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

- Following the meeting Cllr. Turner called on 22 July 2014, at which Shropshire Council advised how it would use the Neighbourhood Plan to respond to planning applications, the interest shown in the delivery of affordable housing had led to one exploratory meeting with Shropshire Council. Shropshire Housing Group would be making a presentation on 8 September 2014 to discuss how affordable housing could be delivered in Much Wenlock and anyone interested would be welcome to attend.
- Shropshire Council has submitted its Site Allocation and Management of Development (SAMDev) proposal to the Secretary of State for examination. Shropshire Council now has a pipeline of around 5½ years of house building land. A number of the site allocation proposals are still controversial and, until the Inspector has determined the SAMDev, the National Planning Policy Framework will continue to have significant weight – especially on sites at the edge of the development boundary. It is entirely possible that a planning application for a development, that is large in Wenlock terms, will be submitted before this matter is settled.

- It is vital that the town has an up to date Place Plan that fully reflects the aspirations of our community. There are already a number of consultation documents which the Town Council can use, such as the Gaskell Recreation Ground Consultation 2009, the Town and Parish Plan, and the Neighbourhood Plan, including a number of important issues that were not planning-related that emerged from the Neighbourhood Plan consultations. The Place Plan prioritises local need to identify where Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies should be spent. Cllr. Turner offered to help in whatever way he could and asked to be invited to any meetings where the Place Plan was to be considered.
- The owners of Landowner Liquid Fertilisers had appealed against an Anti-Pollution Works Notice and, following the Hearing, it was anticipated that the Inspector would issue his decision in the early part of September 2014.
- Whilst some facilities at Much Wenlock Leisure Centre are well used, for example the swimming pool, there are others that aren't – for instance the tennis courts. Cllr. Turner asked the Town Council to draw attention to these fantastic facilities.
- The long-awaited kerb triangle in the High Street would be installed between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October when the street would be closed for some time. Cllr. Turner said that, following studying some highways information, he would come back to the Town Council with some thoughts about how we can engage residents, the police, parking enforcement, and the Chamber of Trade etc. in highways and parking issues.
- The part-night lighting programmes was to commence at the end of September 2014 and the key Town Councils had been consulted to determine which lights needed to be retained as all night lighting.
- Cllr. Turner had been working with the three festivals to help them develop, and to draw more visitors to the town. The Poetry Festival no longer has premises from which it can sell tickets etc., in the run-up to its annual event and Cllr. Turner said he was to write to the Town Council to ask if it is willing to vary the lease by way of a side letter to enable the Poetry Festival to use space in the museum. The museum service are keen for this to happen because a key part of its Heritage Lottery Fund grant was that it should facilitate this kind of activity.
- Ironbridge Power Station has provided employment to many of our residents and it is planned to close at the end of 2015. Neighbouring communities are showing an interest in the legacy of this site and the destination of many of the historic artifacts in the offices that have a link to the local area, and also in the ultimate use of the site. Cllr. Turner suggested that the Town Council may want to engage with the owners of the site and he offered his assistance.
- In August 2014, the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 amended the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 Act to provide that, although a person may not orally report or comment about a meeting as it takes place, if present at meetings of a parish council or its committees, people may:
  - a) film, photograph or make an audio recording of a meeting;
  - b) use any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later;
  - c) report or comment on the proceedings in writing during or after a meeting or orally report or comment after the meeting.
- Cllr. Turner's next advice surgery would be at Much Wenlock museum on Saturday 25 October when he would be joined by Cllr. Robin Bennett and, hopefully, a police representative.

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

In accordance with Standing Order 10(a)(vi) it was **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** and **RESOLVED** to change the order of business and discuss the revision to Standing Orders following Cllr. Turner's reference to the amendment to the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960.

## 7) STANDING ORDERS

Members considered for approval a revision to Standing Orders, as recommended by NALC, following an amendment to the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 which allows the proceedings of council meetings to be recorded and filmed. Members also considered adopting a policy to warn members of the public that legislation now makes provision for all those who attend public meetings of the Council to be filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise reported about, unless they make it clear that they do not wish to be recorded.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- i. **The Council's Standing Orders be revised to conform with the changes in legislation.**
- ii. **A Policy for the filming and recording of Council meetings be ADOPTED.**

## 8) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

## 9) MINUTES

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 3 July 2014 were APPROVED.  
**It was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 3 June and 1 July 2014 were NOTED and ADOPTED.
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 24 June 2014 were NOTED and ADOPTED.
- d) The minutes of a Personnel Committee meeting held on 23 June 2014 were NOTED and ADOPTED.

## 10) 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 informed Members that:

- She was to attend a meeting in Shrewsbury on Friday 5 September 2014 where she and other Shropshire Clerks had been invited to discuss planning matters with Ian Kilby (Head of Planning) and Cllr. Malcolm Price (Cabinet Portfolio Holder for planning).
- She was to attend a Market Town Clerks meeting on Friday 12 September 2014.
- She was attending a SLCC Regional Conference on Wednesday 17 September and SLCC Branch training on Contracts and Tendering on Friday 19 September 2014.

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

- b) Members received a written report from the NALC Conference in Harrogate which the Town Clerk had attended to give a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning.

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

## 11) FINANCE

Members received financial information showing income and expenditure to the end of June 2014, previously approved by the Finance & Resources Committee.

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

## 12) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Members considered the appointment of Cllr. Robert Toft to the Finance & Resources Committee following the resignation of Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE from the Committee.

**It was RESOLVED that Cllr. Robert Toft be appointed to the Finance & Resources Committee.**

## 13) APPOINTMENT OF WW1 WORKING GROUP MEMBER

Members considered the appointment of a representative on the WW1 Working Group following the resignation of Cllr. Richard Kitchen.

There were no expressions of interest.

**It was RESOLVED that there would be no further appointment.**

## 14) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

In pursuance of LGA 1972 S139 (Acceptance of gifts and property) Members considered for approval an offer of funding from the 'Much Wenlock lights fund' sufficient for the purchase of Christmas lights for the High Street.

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

- i. The sum of £3,516 be accepted.
- ii. The new Christmas lights would become the property and responsibility of the Town Council and would be stored in a secure environment.
- iii. The Council would not dispose of the lights without first consulting the 'Much Wenlock lights fund'.
- iv. 'Much Wenlock lights fund' should be thanked for its kind offer and that the Council's thanks and gratitude be published in the local press.

## 15) APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE

Members considered the appointment of a representative on the Priory Hall Management Committee. The representative would also become a trustee.

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that Cllr. Robert Toft be appointed.

**It was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Robert Toft be appointed.**

#### 16) MUCH WENLOCK LEISURE CENTRE

Members received a written report and information on activities at Much Wenlock Leisure Centre.

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

#### 17) MUCH WENLOCK PLACE PLAN

Members considered how best to carry out the annual review of the Place Plan for Much Wenlock.

It was **PROPOSED** and **SECONDED** that the Planning & Environment Committee be granted delegated authority to review the Place Plan.

After being put to the vote it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Planning & Environment Committee be granted delegated authority to review the Place Plan for Much Wenlock.

Cllrs. Paul Laming and Robert Toft abstained from voting.

#### 18) FLOOD REPORT

Members received a written report from the Community Flood Action Group. It outlined how discussions on land purchase and attenuation pond design are continuing. Although Severn Trent maintain that only a couple of houses suffered flooding through their toilets in the 2007 floods there is strong anecdotal evidence that this was significantly higher. The Group is pleased that Shropshire Council noted that the final proposal for Bradley Farm development had to take the flooding policies from the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan into account.

The report also explained that Paul Weeden, who had been the Chairman of the Group, had moved out of the area and was no longer part of the Group.

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

- i. The report be **NOTED**.
- ii. On behalf of the Council the Mayor should write to Paul Weeden and thank him for his active involvement in raising awareness of flooding issues in Much Wenlock and for seeking ways to address these.

#### 19) CONSULTATION

Members considered the following consultation:

- a) Shropshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy update.

It was **RESOLVED** that Shropshire Council be asked to acknowledge the policies relevant to flooding in the Neighbourhood Plan for Much Wenlock.

- b) Shropshire Council - re-tendering of local bus service contracts.

It was **RESOLVED** that Shropshire Council should be asked that the 88 service be retained and that a direct route to Telford, including to the train station and to the Princess Royal hospital, should be introduced.

#### 20) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information.

- b) Connecting Shropshire Broadband programme update.

It was **AGREED** to invite Ben Walker from Connecting Shropshire to the next Town Council meeting.

- c) Letter from Philip Dunne MP concerning Landowner Liquid Fertiliser Ltd.

It was **AGREED** to write once more to Philip Dunne MP and ask if he can acquire a copy of the Contingency Plan for Shropshire, and to also write to Clive Wright at Shropshire Council.

#### 21) PLANNING

- a) There were no planning applications referred to the Town Council for consideration.

- b) The Chairman reported that she and other Members of the Planning & Environment Committee had met with the landowner of (Plot 26) 15 High Street to discuss plans for the site. All Members were presented with a copy of the proposals.

It was **AGREED** to write to the landowner and offer the Council's general support for the proposals and inform him that the Council looks forward to considering his formal planning application in due course.

#### 22) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

It was **AGREED** to contact the Town Clerk with any items to be included on the next agenda.

**23) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 2 October 2014 commencing 7 pm at the Guildhall.

**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.

**24) SHROPSHIRE COUNTY PENSION FUND**

In pursuance of LGPS Regulations 1995, SI1995/1019, Reg. B1(1) and Sch. A1, Members were given the required 28 days notice to approve membership to the above scheme of an eligible member of staff.

**NOTED.**

**25) FIRE ALARM AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEMS SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Members considered for approval a quote for the continuation of the annual service agreement for the fire alarm and emergency lighting at the Guildhall and Corn Exchange.

**It was unanimously RESOLVED that the service agreement be renewed with RMW at a cost of £412 + VAT per annum for the Corn Exchange and £175.10 + VAT per annum for the Guildhall.**

The meeting closed at 21.03.

Signed.....  
Town Mayor

Date.....