

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
 held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
 7 pm on Thursday 6 October 2016

## PRESENT:

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

## TOWN CLERK:

Sharon Clayton

## IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public

## 1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then requested one minute's silence in memory of Richard Isaac, who had worked for the town council as a Guildhall Custodian since 2001 until his death on 25 September 2016.

The Chairman informed Members of his Mayoral engagements as follows:

- 7 September 2016: attended licensing and installation of Revd Sarah Hare as Team Vicar
- 15 September 2016: attended William Brookes Academy Presentation Evening
- 25 September 2016: attended Wem Civic Service
- 6 October 2016: attended the funeral of Richard Isaac, Guildhall Custodian.

## 2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COUNCILLOR	REASON
Mary Hill	Holiday
Dafydd Jenkins	Work commitment
Paul Laming	Personal commitment
Joffrey Watson	Family commitment

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 1 September 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 2 August 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.
- c) The minutes of Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 26 July and 30 August 2016 were **NOTED** and **ADOPTED**.

#### **7) TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

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 **RESOLVED** that:

- i. The Town Clerk's report be **NOTED**.
- ii. Posters to promote becoming a councillor should be placed on the notice boards in Homer and Bourton.
- iii. Cllr. David Turner be thanked for organising the meeting between the Planning & Environment Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Working Group.

#### **8) EXTERNAL AUDIT**

Members received a copy of the audited Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 and a copy of the external auditor's report.

It was **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** and **RESOLVED** that the auditor's comments be **NOTED**.

#### **9) DEVOLVED SERVICES**

Members received a written update on discussions between Shropshire Council and the Devolved Services Working Group.

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

#### **10) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**

Members received a written report from the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Working Group which proposed the following for approval:

1. Review housing delivery and needs in the context of our monitoring work and the Assessor's report on the Neighbourhood Plan, with a view to reporting to the Town Council in January or February 2017 with a view to making a report to the Annual Town Meeting in March.
2. Amend the terms of reference and responsibilities of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Working Group to enable it to lead the review process and to advise the Town Council on changes to the Plan.
3. The Monitoring (and review) Working Group should begin to engage with the community and other organisations to discuss aspects of the Plan which they consider should be a priority for the review process.
4. A bid should be submitted to Locality or other DCLG-funded groups to fund any work and community engagement required to review the Plan in 2017 and 2018.

It was **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** and **AGREED** that all of the proposals be **APPROVED**.

#### **11) LADY FORESTER NURSING HOME**

Members received a written update from Cllr. David Turner concerning the threat to 4 GP beds at the Lady Forester Nursing Home.

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

#### **12) 2018 BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Members received a written report from Cllr. David Turner concerning the 2018 Boundary Review.

It was **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** and **AGREED** that this be considered further at the December meeting.

#### **13) BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY IN MUCH WENLOCK**

Members received a written report from Cllr. David Turner, supported by Cllr. Paul Laming, which set out concerns about the perception that trade in the town was under pressure. Members were asked to approve a proposal that the town council should consider how it might act as a catalyst to bring parties together to work up a vision and deliver it.

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

- i. The report be **NOTED**.
- ii. The town council's copy of the TRS market survey should be loaned to 2020 Gallery.

#### **14) DISABLED ACCESS TO THE GASKELL RECREATION GROUND**

Cllr. Robin Bennett expressed concern about the way the town council dealt with those with mobility issues accessing the Bowling Club via the Linden Gate and suggested that the Gaskell Recreation Ground policy nos: 14 and 15 allows motor vehicles onto the ground provided they had good reason.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the town council should make the following public statement – “Much Wenlock Town Council welcomes all visitors to the town and its amenities, including those with reduced mobility”.

Cllr. David Turner left at this point in the meeting.

Cllr. Robin Bennett was thanked for the time he had taken to look through the Gaskell Recreation Ground policies which prompted his proposal.

#### **15) REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

There was no report since Cllr. David Turner had left the meeting earlier.

#### **16) PLANNING**

- a) There were no planning applications referred to the Town Council for consideration.
- b) The Deputy Chairman of the Planning & Environment Committee informed members that the Committee had had a long discussion concerning the planning application at the Withies campsite at Stretton Road, which the Committee had unanimously objected to, and had also urged Shropshire Council to take out the enforcement action which they had so far failed to do.

**NOTED.**

#### **17) CONSULTATION**

The following consultation was considered.

- a) DCLG - Technical consultation on implementation of neighbourhood planning provisions in the Neighbourhood Planning Bill.

Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak left at this point in the meeting.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following response should be made:

- i. Clarity should be sought concerning when exceptional circumstances should apply.
- ii. The Regulations should set out a limited time period for the assessment to take place after the Plan has been formally published by the local authority.
- iii. There should be a duty to consult or collaborate with other local authorities.
- iv. Town and parish councils should be statutory consultees and, as such, have the same right to attend site visits as members of principal authority planning committees.

- b) The DCLG 2017/2018 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Paper.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the following response be made:

**Due to services being devolved, and the fear of setting a precept, Shropshire Council was not engaging with town and parish councils and therefore, rather than having a referendum, there should be more engagement with the community so that a community based budget could be set.**

- c) Shropshire Council (Prohibition and restriction of waiting and parking places)(Consolidation) Order 2009 (Various roads, Much Wenlock)(Amendment) Order – no waiting at any time and no loading 10am – 4pm.

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

- i. The restrictions be supported.
- ii. Shropshire Council should be asked why Arriva was not consulted about the proposals.

#### **18) CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received:

- a) Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) information bulletins and other information sent to Members via email.
- b) Notes from a meeting of the Shropshire Council and Shropshire Association of Local Councils Town and Parish Council Forum (Working Group) held on 21 July 2016.

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

#### **19) 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.

#### **20) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 3 November 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.

**21) RECOGNITION OF SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY**

Members considered for approval whether anyone should be acknowledged for their services to the community.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Eric Humphries should be presented with a civic gift in recognition of having served 30 years as a town councillor and 4 times as Town Mayor.

The meeting closed at 20:54.

Signed.....

Date.....

Cllr. Herbert Harper  
Town Mayor