

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
7 pm on Thursday 1 March 2018

Present:

Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning (Chairman), Cllr. Adam Davy, Cllr. Herbert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Marcus Themans, and Cllr. Allan Walter.

Town Clerk:

Sharon Clayton

In attendance:

1 member of the public.

1) Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that his next Mayoral engagement would be the Annual Town Meeting on 8 March and he welcomed Members' support. He also informed Members that the rear office at the Corn Exchange had been decorated although it had been problematical due to damp but the overall finish was quite acceptable.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins who had a work commitment and Cllr. Milner Whiteman who was recovering from a broken ankle.

These apologies were CONFIRMED and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

Apologies were also received from Cllr. David Turner who was not able to attend due to heavy snow.

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.

None declared.

4) Dispensations

None requested.

5) Shropshire Council Report

There was no report from Cllr. David Turner, due to his absence, although he had asked the Town Clerk to remind Members that his next surgery would take place on Saturday 3 March in Much Wenlock museum and that the forthcoming litter pick had been cancelled due to the weather.

NOTED.

6) Public session

There were no requests to speak.

7) Minutes

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 1 February 2018 were considered for approval. Following minor agreed amendments;
it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 30 January 2018 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- c) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9 January 2018 were **NOTED and ADOPTED.**

8) 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 AGREED that the Town Clerk's report be NOTED.

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

9) Planning matters

Due to councillor resignations and apologies for absence the Planning & Environment Committee had been unable to hold its regular monthly meeting on 27 February 2018 and, therefore, the following planning applications were considered by the Town Council.

Planning applications

17/05851/FUL 24 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Erection of external steps and retaining wall and formation of parking space following demolition of garage and boundary wall WITHDRAWN
18/00469/FUL 34 Stretton Westwood, Much Wenlock	Erection of part two storey and part single storey extensions; lean to, and covered porch It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, due to insufficient information about the location of the new access, the Council was not able to comment until more details were available in relation to question 5 on the application.
18/00500/FUL 5/6 Old Cottages Much Wenlock Road, Farley, Much Wenlock	Erection of front extension to main dwelling; demolition of existing garage; erection of detached annex; alterations to access It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, due to insufficient information concerning the annex, the Council should object. Furthermore, an environmental permit would be required, and the development should also conform to policies RF1 and RF2 in the Neighbourhood Plan.
18/00537/TCA 5 Stretton Road, Much Wenlock	To remove one Norway Spruce within Much Wenlock Conservation Area It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the tree was a landmark feature and was not adversely affecting the wall and, as such, the decision should be referred to the Tree Officer to decide the best course of action.
18/00549/FUL Fire Station, Smithfield Road, Much Wenlock	Refurbishment of existing fire station building to include the erection of a single storey extension It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support the application.
18/00631/TPO Oil Storage Much Wenlock Road, Farley, Much Wenlock	To carry out various works to trees protected by the Bridgnorth District Council (B Radley Quarry) TPO 1983 It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that clearer information was required because there was insufficient detail in the application.
18/00745/FUL Priory Tea Rooms, 5 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Change of Use from A3 Restaurant to B1 Office Space It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.
18/00775/TCA 3 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock	Re-shape and reduce one Holly by 20% and remove one Plum within Much Wenlock Conservation Area It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no objection.

To **NOTE** the following:

Planning decisions

17/05666/OUT 1 Sytche Close, Much Wenlock	Outline application for the erection of a dwelling to include access Permission REFUSED 9 February 2018
17/05722/FUL 17 Homer, Much Wenlock	Erection of a 1.8m high garden wall facing the highway following removal of existing fence Permission GRANTED 5 February 2017

10) Street naming

Members considered for approval whether a residential development site of five plots at Bourton Road, Much Wenlock should be named "Ashworth Court".

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the street name of "Ashworth Court" be SUPPORTED.

11) Membership of Committees and Task and Finish Group

Due to the recent resignation of two councillors nominations were sought for election to the following.

- a) Finance & Resources Management Committee.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. Mary Hill and Cllr Yvonne Holyoak be appointed to the Finance & Resources Management Committee.

- b) Planning & Environment Committee.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. Adam Davy and Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning be appointed to the Planning & Environment Committee.

- c) The Battle's Over Task & Finish Group.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Cllr. Allan Walter be appointed to the Battle's Over Task & Finish Group.

12) Internal audit

Members considered for approval the second part of the interim internal audit.

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

13) Investment Strategy

Members considered for approval a draft Investment Strategy as recommended as part of the Internal Audit Report.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that, following an approved amendment, the Investment Strategy be ADOPTED.

14) Banking

Members considered for approval a recommendation from the Finance & Resources Management Committee that, in order to spread the risk, the Town Council should invest £25,000 of its unallocated reserves in the CCLA Property Fund.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Finance & Resources Management Committee should explore alternative savings accounts in which to invest some of the Council's unallocated reserves.

15) Freedom of Information

In accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders Members received a written report from the Town Clerk concerning the conclusion of a Freedom of Information request.

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

16) Disused toilets on the Gaskell Recreation Ground

Members considered a letter from a local resident concerned that there may be rats in the disused toilet block on the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a professional pest controller should be engaged to inspect the disused toilet block and act upon any recommendations.

17) Silent Soldier Campaign

Members considered for approval participating in the Royal British Legion's Silent Soldier Campaign to mark the sacrifice of those who fell during WW1. The "Silent Soldier" was a black silhouette of a First World War "tommy" which could be displayed and fixed in suitable locations.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **A budget of up to £1,000 be APPROVED to purchase "Silent Soldier(s)".**

- b) **The number and siting of the "Silent Soldier(s)" should be delegated to the Battle's Over Task & Finish Group.**

18) Communications Strategy

Members considered for approval a revised Communications Strategy.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:

- a) **The document be adopted as a living document.**

- b) **A Task and Finish Group be established to make recommendations for improvements whose members would be Cllr. Graham Edgcumbe Venning, Cllr. Marcus Themans and Cllr. Herbert Harper.**

19) Exhibitions at the Guildhall

Members considered for approval whether exhibitors at the Guildhall should be charged for displaying their exhibits if none were sold. Currently the Town Council was receiving 20% commission from sales but nothing from exhibitors who did not make a sale.

Entry to the Guildhall was free although visitors often made voluntary donations. During the 2017 season £1,334.95 was received in donations and £465.03 in commission from exhibitors. However, revenue costs from April to December 2017 were £14,640.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that exhibitors should not be charged because the exhibitions attracted visitors.

20) Consultation

There was no consultation for consideration.

21) Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information sent to Members via email.
- b) Notes from a Market Town Clerks meeting held on 30 January 2018.
- c) Police report.

NOTED.

22) Agenda items for the next town council meeting

It was **AGREED** that Members should inform the Town Clerk of any items for inclusion on the next agenda.

23) Date of next meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 5 April 2018.

The meeting closed at 20:37.

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....