

09/19

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
7 pm on Thursday 7th February 2019

Present:

Cllr. Herbert Harper (in the chair), Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Kate Southan, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr. Daniel Thomas, Cllr. Allan Walter and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

Locum Town Clerk:

Trudi Barrett

In attendance:

Two members of the public

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted recent meetings held as well as the Council surgery on 2nd February. Six members of the public had attended the Council surgery, although only one matter raised could be addressed directly by the Town Council, other matters having being passed on to appropriate agencies. On behalf of the Council, on 24th January Councillors Harper and Hill had joined year 9 students at William Brookes School to view a Holocaust webcast, exploring the experiences of Harry Spiro, a Holocaust survivor. The school event had been very moving for all involved.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Cllr. Adam Davy, who had a family commitment and Cllr Themans, who was working. **These apologies were ACCEPTED 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.

None.

4) Dispensations

None requested. It was noted that in November 2018 all Councillors who held accounts with Barclays Bank had been granted dispensations for a period of up to two years to participate in discussions concerning negotiations with Barclays Bank relating to the purchase of 10 High Street, Much Wenlock.

5) Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, David Turner, gave a verbal report.

He was pleased to report that work had commenced on the site of Pinefield House opposite the Gaskell Arms, which had long been derelict. Much Wenlock Scouts had acquired the tenancy of the former Youth Club building in Station Road, which had been empty for some time. There were continuing concerns about the dangers of public access to Shadwell Quarry and Lea Quarry South. Despite interested parties meeting to consider what could be done, the situation was still unsatisfactory and Councillor Turner was continuing to press for action. The consultation period for the Local Plan Preferred Sites would finish on 8th February and individuals were encouraged to respond. Local residents were keen to see the Town Council use the Neighbourhood Plan to address planning issues. A number of people had met the previous day in an effort to refresh the Neighbourhood Plan and they would welcome involvement from members of the Town Council.

NOTED

6) Public Session

None

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7) Local Policing

Sergeant Chris Thomas and PCSO Mike Watkins were welcomed to the meeting.

Sergeant Thomas introduced himself as the new Sergeant for the area. He had recently moved to the local policing team and had a background in CID. Sergeant Thomas assured Councillors that although the crime rate in the area was relatively low he understood the impact that it could have on people's lives. The police were aware of travelling criminals coming into the area and would do their utmost to deal with this. Sergeant Thomas informed Councillors that there was also a new Police Inspector for the area, Inspector Nicola Roberts. PC Jane Cowan had moved to Telford to take up a new post, so there was currently no Police Constable for the area, although a new appointment was expected.

Councillors asked whether there was a facility to send mobile phone messages with photos to the police if something or somebody suspicious were seen. Sergeant Thomas replied that mobile numbers for the officers were on the website and the officers would respond promptly if they were on duty.

Councillors asked about the police move into the Fire Station and whether this would make officers more accessible to the public. Sergeant Thomas replied that it was not yet clear what facilities would be provided at the Fire Station and what the arrangements would be. He offered to return at a later date to report back to the Council.

The police officers were thanked for their attendance and encouraged to come to further Council meetings when possible.

8) Minutes

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 10th January 2019 were considered for approval. Following an amendment to minute 11, **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and APPROVED as a true record.**
- b) The minutes of an Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 17th January 2019 were considered for approval. It **was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and APPROVED as a true record.**
- c) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th December 2018 were considered for adoption. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be ADOPTED as a true record.**
- d) The minutes of a Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 27th November 2018 were considered for adoption. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be ADOPTED as a true record.**

9) Locum Town Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Locum Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting, as well as a verbal update. It was noted that Councillors wished to hold a small unveiling ceremony for the Back Lane plaque in due course and to invite members of Alderman Davies' family to attend. The Clerk was asked to press on with the potential sponsorship of floral displays.

NOTED

10) Annual Town Meeting

Councillors considered the format of the Annual Town Meeting, which would be held on the evening of Tuesday, 12th March. Councillors agreed the format would be as follows, subject to the availability of outside speakers:

- a. Chairman's Welcome and Report
- b. Reports from Chairs of Finance & Asset Management Committee, Planning & Environment Committee and Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee
- c. Update on Local Policing from Sergeant Thomas
- d. Presentation on Flooding from Environment Agency Representative
- e. Open Forum

It was suggested that a representative from Arrol & Snell might also attend.

The meeting would be advertised in the Wenlock Herald, on the Council website, via social media and the notice board.

11) Housing

Councillors considered how to review housing needs in Much Wenlock and options for meeting those needs. Matters to explore included land availability, exception sites, social housing, the involvement of housing associations, shared ownership, self-build and the requirements of different age groups.

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It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED AND RESOLVED** to set up a **Housing Needs Working Group** comprising **Councillors and a small number of members of the community**. Council representatives would be **Councillors Herbert Harper, Mary Hill and Daniel Thomas**.

The Council representatives would meet to agree which members of the community should be invited to join the group and then report back to full Council with suggestions and a proposal for Terms of Reference for the working group.

12) Future of Local Hospital Services

- a. Councillors **noted** the decision of the Joint Committee of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) regarding the future of hospital services for the people of Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and mid-Wales.
- b. Councillors **noted** the letter from Councillor Shaun Davies, Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care regarding the above.
- c. The Council had no collective view and no agreed position on the matter.

13) Correspondence

Members received and **NOTED** the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information – emailed to Members.
- b) Notification that the successful nominations for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 29th May were Councillor Robert Kynaston – Alberbury with Cardeston Parish Council and Councillor Martyn Edwards – Donnington with Muxton Parish Council.
- c) Notification from the charity SCOPE that house-to-house collections will take place in Much Wenlock from 1st to 21st April 2019 and from 6th to 26th April 2020.
- d) January newsletter from the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly (emailed to Members).
- e) Invitation to attend the Live Arts Festival on 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th March 2019. Members were encouraged to attend the event. It was noted that instrumental classes would be held in Holy Trinity Church. Councillors Herbert Harper and Allan Walter would be assisting with traffic management on the morning of 16th March, when the choirs would arrive.

14) Agenda items for next town council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting. It was noted that nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be considered at the meeting.

15) Date of next meeting

Members **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on **7th March 2019**.

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.

16) Barclays Bank

Councillors noted an update on the Town Council's negotiations with Barclays Bank. The Community Director of Barclays had been invited to visit the town. A structural survey of the premises had been carried out and a report submitted to the Council.

The legalities of the ATM agreement were progressing and Councillors requested feedback on the level of usage of the machine. Problems with parking in the High Street were noted and Councillors raised the idea of a designated loading bay in the street.

17) Recruitment of new Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Councillors noted a report from the Recruitment Panel. The vacancy had been advertised with a deadline for applications of midday on Monday, 25th February.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed.....

Town Mayor

Date.....

DRAFT