

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held remotely by video conference
at 7 pm on Thursday, 4th February 2021

Present: Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Matthew Park, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr. Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Cllr. Allan Walter, Cllr. Duncan White, Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

Town Clerk: Trudi Barrett

In attendance: Reverend Alison Walker, Shropshire Councillor David Turner, PC Hindley, CSO Dunn-Brown and several members of the public.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It had been a quiet month with lockdown still in force, but the Mayor had been pleased to chat with the Homer & Wigwig Community group who were very happy to hear that the live cables had been disconnected from the telephone box in Homer and their plans for having a tree placed there were in motion.

The funeral of Suzanne Boulos would take place on Tuesday, 9th February with a limit on numbers due to Covid-19, but the funeral cortege would drive down the High Street and Barrow street at 12.25pm for those wishing to come out to pay their respects.

The Mayor advised that the Local Plan consultation into the latest pre-submission version of Shropshire Council's Local Plan had been extended and would close at 5pm on Friday, 26th February.

Finally, the Mayor reminded everyone that Much Wenlock Mutual Aid stood ready should anyone have need of its services; the Covid-19 rate in Shropshire was still high. Vaccinations of people in Wenlock were progressing well and the Mayor thanked the NHS for their hard work in protecting our people.

2. Apologies

It was RESOLVED to accept the following apologies: Cllr Natalie Park – work, Cllr Herbert Harper – family commitment.

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. Shropshire Council report

Shropshire Councillor David Turner gave a verbal report.

Shropshire Council consideration of the planning application for Buildwas was scheduled to take place on 23rd March at a special planning committee meeting. Councillor Turner suggested that the Town Council might wish to consider whether they would like to make representations at that meeting.

Councillor Turner advised of planned changes to the kerbside waste collection day in the town following a review of arrangements. The changes would come into effect from the second half of March 2021 and residents would be notified in advance.

Councillor Turner was asked whether he could provide an update on the Callaughtons Ash application: there were terrible flooding problems on the site and now suggestions of development phases 3 and 4, in addition to 2.

Councillor Turner responded that he knew only what was on the Shropshire Council website and was completely unaware of any phases 3 and 4.

Councillor Turner was thanked for his report.

6. Police Report

The Mayor welcomed PC Jess Hindley and PCSO Stephen Dunn-Brown to the meeting. Members noted the written report which had been submitted by the Local Policing Team and additional information provided verbally. A correction was provided in that the trespassing incident had taken place at Farley Quarry and not Shadwell Quarry. The crime prevention day planned for January had been postponed due to lockdown, but it was hoped to reschedule later in the year. A new Sergeant would be joining the team in March, Sergeant Kate Earne.

PC Hindley was asked about the poor response when contacting 101 with non-emergency matters. PC Hindley advised that crimes needed to be reported via 101 but that the local policing team could be contacted directly for advice and for reporting matters such as suspicious vehicles. Concerns could also be reported on the police website via the 'contact us' option. It was noted that a high number of calls were currently being made to 101 to report Covid related issues.

Thanks were expressed to the police for their attendance and report.

7. Public session

- a. Mr Arthur Hill stated that he was very disappointed with the report from the Transport Working Group which he felt did not address the concerns of Sheinton Street residents. No public consultation had been undertaken in the street or consideration given to transport surveys carried out over last 5 years. The report had not considered issues such as rat running through from Broseley, people parking in the streets with engines running and problems experienced by residents when trying to exit their driveways if cars were parked opposite. Protection of the conservation area covering Sheinton Street and Wilmore Street had not been addressed. The concerns were not just about pedestrians.

Councillor Jenkins responded that the working group was well aware of the problems in Sheinton Street and was considering several solutions. He suggested that residents of Sheinton Street who had off-street parking might park on their driveways rather than on the street.

- b. Mr Paul Hanafin responded to some of the comments made by Mr Hill. He noted that the report had been prepared by members of the Transport Working Group and was in accordance with the group's terms of reference. The group had been set up to respond to questions and requests from the Town Council, not from individual members of the public. Residents of High Street, St Marys Road and Barrow Street had also expressed concerns about the volume and composition of traffic passing their homes so, at item 5 of the report, the working group had asked the Town Council to consider undertaking a survey of residents of the town to gather the opinions of all.

8. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2021 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- b. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 1st December 2020 be ADOPTED.**
- c. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance, Asset Management & HR Committee meeting held on 24th November 2020 be ADOPTED.**

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. Members **NOTED** the report.

10. Financial Risk Assessment

On the recommendation of the Finance, Asset Management & HR Committee, **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to approve the revised Internal Financial Risk and Health & Safety Evaluation.**

11. Transport Matters

Members considered a report from the Transport Working Group:

- a. **Buildwas Power Station application and proposals for a Gaskell corner improvement scheme.**
Members noted the need to keep up pressure to ensure there was a proper assessment of the impact of traffic associated with the proposed development on the Gaskell corner and on the narrow streets in the town. In this respect, Members were pleased to have the assistance of Paul Hanafin and the benefit of his professional knowledge.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to request a meeting with officers from Shropshire Council's highways and planning departments, Shropshire Councillor David Turner and members of the Transport Working Group to consider the production of a scheme for the Gaskell corner that would work.

b. Transport issues associated with proposals for development at Shadwell Quarry.

Members noted that the new owner had applied for a certificate of lawfulness to increase the number of holiday chalets proposed for the site from 53 to 130. Determination of this type of application was based on a legal decision and there was no opportunity for the Town Council to comment, despite the scale of the proposed increase.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to write to Shropshire Council to request that the applicant be asked to quantify what the increase in traffic movements would be and to provide a contribution towards mitigation of the impact.

c. Callaughton Road: road safety upgrade at A458 crossing to the school.

It was noted that the Town Council had already submitted two comments on the application for further development at Callaughtons Ash.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to keep the situation under review and to await the outcome of the current planning application for Callaughtons Ash.

d. Transport problems in Sheinton Street and options for improving pedestrian safety.

Members considered the benefits of installing additional bollards as a low-cost way of reducing traffic speeds and preventing vehicles from mounting the pavement, without obstructing residents' driveways. It was noted that the 'Keep Clear' markings were not legally enforceable and were regularly ignored and that double yellow lines might be considered. The introduction of pedestrian priority could also slow traffic speeds, but such an initiative would need the support of Shropshire Council. It was noted that redirecting traffic from Sheinton Street and Wilmore Street could overload the Gaskell corner and that a whole town solution was needed.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Transport Working Group should formalise their suggestions for Sheinton Street, including the introduction of bollards, to slow the traffic and make the road less appealing for rat running.

It was noted that an analysis of why the proposed solutions would be effective would be required.

e. Resident transport survey

Councillors considered how a transport survey could be managed under the current circumstances and with the constraints of the purdah period before the forthcoming local elections in May.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that whilst a survey was very important to the Council, this would need to be delayed due to the current circumstances and that, in the meantime, the Transport Working Group should consider the format and arrangements for a survey.

Thanks were expressed to the Transport Working Group.

12. Annual Town Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting was scheduled for 11th March 2021 but that current restrictions would not permit a face-to-face public meeting. Members considered postponing the meeting to a later date.

It was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

It was noted that the purdah period would prevent Councillors from expressing opinions after mid-March.

It was RESOLVED to reinvoke standing orders.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to hold the Annual Town Meeting on the scheduled date of 11th March 2021 via Zoom video conference.

13. Consultation

Councillors considered a response to the following consultation:

Consultation under clause 60 of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill as amended in the House of Lords which would close on Friday, 26th February.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to note the consultation but to make no response.

14. Correspondence

Members received and noted the following, which had been emailed to Members:

- a. SALC information bulletin and other information
- b. Shropshire Council Press Releases
- c. Rural Bulletins
- d. Information from Shropshire Council on important changes to carer support provision.
- e. Out of hours palliative care report from Healthwatch Shropshire

15. Agenda items for next town council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:

- a. Plastic Free Towns initiative

16. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 4th March 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed Date

Town Mayor

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