

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held remotely by video conference at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 4th May 2021

Present: Councillors Mary Hill (in the chair), Yvonne Holyoak, Dafydd Jenkins, Marcus Themans, Allan Walter and Milner Whiteman

In attendance: Cllr Daniel Thomas, Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, Mr C Bowden

1. Apologies

None – all Members were present.

2. 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.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Public Session

None

5. Minutes

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 13th April 2021 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

a. The following planning applications were considered:

21/01617/FUL 11 Oakfield Park, Much Wenlock	Erection of a single storey side and rear extension following removal of existing garage. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to support the application.
21/01729/LBC The Old Vicarage, Victoria Road, Much Wenlock	Update of the mains gas central heating affecting a Grade II Listed Building. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to support the application.
21/01713/FUL Carnewydd, Farley Road, Much Wenlock	Erection of a part single/part two storey rear extension and porch to front and extension to roof to facilitate loft conversion. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED no objection.
21/01799/FUL 42 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock	Erection of a first floor side extension and single storey rear extension together with internal alterations. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to support the application.
21/02200/TCA 18 High Street, Much Wenlock	Reduce by 20% 1no Cherry within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED no objection.
21/02266/TCA 48 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Fell 1no Walnut within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED no objection, providing the Tree Officer was in agreement with the proposal to fell the tree. Councillors requested that a replacement tree of a suitable size for the garden be planted.
21/02267/TPO Willow House, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock	Reduce back to previous pruning points of 1no Weeping Willow protected by the Bridgnorth District Council (Former S Mary Magdalene Church, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock) TPO 2008 (Ref: BR/TPO/152). It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to support the application.

7. Planning Decisions

None notified.

8. Flooding issues

- a. Members received a report from Mr C Bowden on behalf of the Flood Group. He reported that the group was receiving increased assistance from members of the public and now had active input from most parts of the town. Following heavy rain at the weekend, the top end of Sheinton Street had flooded due to a fatberg blocking a sewage pipe. It had now been recognised by Severn Trent Water and other supporting agencies that there was a significant problem in that area due to the lack of separation in the drainage system between sewage and storm drains. It was noted that work had been carried out in the past but there were still remaining problems. An action plan was being put in place to rectify the issues.

The continuing regular drainage clearance in the town was beneficial. The heavy rain had highlighted other problem drains, which had filled with gravel, and emergency clearance had been undertaken.

A drain in St Mary's Road had been crushed by development work and needed repair.

Millions of gallons of water were escaping in the area due to leaks. There were two particularly bad areas where underground leaks needed to be located and capped.

The planning application for the Callaughtons Ash development had been permitted but a suitable drainage solution was still needed and it would be up to the Shropshire Council officers to hold fast and ensure that a workable plan was devised.

Mr Bowden was asked to check whether the schedules of Shropshire Council's sludge gulping and road sweeping teams were co-ordinated.

For the future, the Flood Group was asked to continue to look at Planning applications and advise the Town Council if there would be any impact from/to water courses or flooding. They were also encouraged to be both reactive and proactive on town flooding matters.

On behalf of the Planning & Environment Committee, the Chair thanked Mr Bowden and other members of the Flood Group for their good work. She referenced the good relationship between Councillors and the Flood Group and expressed her hope that the new Councillors would continue that positive relationship.

- b. There were no further flooding issues.

9. Climate Change and Sustainability

It was hoped that the new Council would set up a working group to address issues of climate change and sustainability. The Clerk advised that a single use plastic audit of the Council's direct operations would be carried out the following day.

10. Consultation

None.

11. Street Lighting**12. Street naming *****13. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*****14. Footpath Diversion Orders*****15. Road closures***

Members noted the following road closures:

- a. 1 Cherry Tree House, Back Lane, Much Wenlock
Start date: 1st June 2021
Purpose: Gas works, Cadent Gas
- b. Sheinton Road, Much Wenlock
Date/Time: 21st July 2021, 08.00 – 18.00
Purpose: Underground transfer of plant, BT Openreach

Committee members were concerned that limited parking in the town led workmen to sometimes park on double yellow lines near to the working site. This resulted in parking tickets being issued, even when the vehicles were not causing any obstruction and it was clear where the owners were working. The Clerk was asked to request that parking wardens advise or warn the workmen concerned, rather than immediately issuing fines for such parking.

16. Highways matters *

Members noted an update on the following highways matters:

- a. An enquiry from a member of the public regarding the cycleway at Oakfield Park had now been referred by the Shropshire Council Planning Officer to the Developing Highways Manager for reply. The member of the public had been advised.
- b. The misplaced playground warning sign in Station Road had been turned to face the correct direction but had been left in the same position, on the right-hand side of the road, where it was not clearly visible to traffic entering Station Road.
- c. The Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer covering the south area had visited the cemetery and found that if drivers edged forward as much as they could it was possible to see well enough to exit. He had advised that traffic mirrors could lead motorists into a false sense of security when emerging from junctions and that it could be difficult to judge vehicle speeds using mirrors. He would propose concealed access signs from both directions for motorists on the A458. The scheme had been added to Shropshire Council's list of highways projects and would be prioritised accordingly against other schemes competing for funding. It was noted that trimming the hedge at the exit could improve visibility.
- d. Members noted that visibility at the junction from Southfield Road onto Victoria Road was very poor. It was suggested that the exit from Southfield Road be blocked off. The Clerk was asked to request that the Shropshire Council highways officer also review this junction.
- e. As part of their work, the Transport Working Group could be asked to review the appropriateness of the current speed limits around the town.
- f. On 1st April Shropshire Council had been notified that waste disposal vehicles had been observed visiting Farley Quarry and asked to investigate. Following reminder messages, a response had been received on 28th April. A planning application for the site was still pending and Shropshire Council planning officers were now investigating unauthorised activity at the site.

17. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)***18. Stopping Up Orders*****19. Speed Limit Orders*****20. Prohibition Orders*****21. Date of next meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the provisional date of the next meeting was Tuesday, 1st June, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting on 20th May 2021.

22. Planning Enforcement

There were no enforcement matters to report.

This was the last meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee before the Town Council election and the Mayor thanked the Chair and members of the committee for their commitment and hard work.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....