

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 7 pm on Thursday, 7th October 2021

Present: Cllr. Michael Atherton, Cllr. David Fenwick, Cllr Mike Grace, Cllr Wilfred Grainger, Cllr. John O'Dowd, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr Robert Toft, Cllr Chris Tyler, Cllr. Duncan White (in the Chair)

Town Clerk: Trudi Barrett

In attendance: Four members of the public

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the following report, which had been prepared by the Mayor:

"September saw the Wenlock Olympian games of 2021, which was very well attended, despite the circumstances, and a great success. It was special for me to give out medals to competitors after receiving medals from the Mayor when I competed; Gold in under 15 boys 100m if anyone's wondering!

On items regarding the Gaskell field, it's great to have the hedges cut. My dad cut them using his tractor and hedge cutter with myself, Cllr Themans and White on hand to keep an eye on members of the public, ensuring they were out of harm's way.

The October exhibition in the Guildhall is from the Victory Painting Group with mixed artwork by local artists for sale at affordable prices.

Last month saw a Wenlock business win an award from 'Surfers Against Sewage' due to the near non-existence of single-use plastic in her shop. Again, I'd like to congratulate Sam Beech on the award and thank her for adding such an essential shop to our high street.

Last weekend marked the end of an era for Much Wenlock, with Catherine's Bakery closed down at such short notice. I believe I speak for all in this Council chamber in saying that our town is poorer without a bakery and we hope that in future one will return, which allows an opportunity for a new entrepreneur or business. Our thoughts are with the staff and we hope they can find work soon.

On a happier note, last month saw the retirement of a Wenlock great in John Cumberland, who retired from his ministry. John began his time in Wenlock as a spiritual seeker, and a contented, quiet, reflective member of the congregation, before God called him first as a Lay Reader and then an Associate Priest. Much Wenlock and its outlying villages have valued his ministry greatly and, on behalf of the Town Council, we thank him and wish him well.

Finally, as the Town Council enjoys promoting local books: Sacrum Obumbratio, a Pilgrim's Spiritual Companion to the Sacred Shadows of Wenlock Priory by Reverend Matthew Stafford, is on sale from Wednesday 13th October. You can purchase a copy from Croft Design or the Linden Tree."

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Daniel Thomas, Mayor – Wife went into labour, Cllr Sam Neal - work

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

The following report was presented on behalf of Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas:

"At our last meeting, I expressed the pleasure of a great result at August's Southern Planning Committee and my dismay that the application was back on the agenda. I am somewhat at a loss for words to describe the meeting in September; the debate was fraught with inaccuracies on the Gaskell Corner. One Councillor left the meeting and came back but still voted, and the crucial transport document around the Gaskell corner was only uploaded to the portal AFTER the meeting. Credit to Councillor White for making this point during the meeting.

I focussed my speech again on the Gaskell corner and the inaccurate transport modelling and concentrated some ire on the shambles of the affordable housing provision. Much Wenlock was just 3 miles away; many in housing need could have taken up these homes.

Overall, it's much better than we had initially with an extra £100,000 for our transport study and an additional 5% affordable homes. We have reasons to be positive, but there is much to consider when we reach this item on the agenda.

Closer to home, the town has had extensive cleaning of its drains over the last two weeks, which are vital in its flooding mitigation, and the National Flood Forum were in town yesterday where they held a meeting with residents. The highway repairs to potholes are set to continue, anything that is marked with white is on the work log. If it's not on there, then please use 'Fix my Street' which is slowly replacing the now defunct 'My Shropshire'.

As it affects Much Wenlock and potentially items on this agenda, it's important to note the changes in Shropshire Council's cabinet due to the sad resignation of Steve Charmley. He will be replaced as deputy leader by Loton Councillor Ed Potter, who will remain portfolio holder for economic growth, regeneration and planning. Battlefield Councillor Dean Carroll will now take charge of Councillor Charmley's portfolio, which also includes physical infrastructure and housing.

The draft of the Local Plan was submitted on 3rd September and the Secretary of State has appointed Planning Inspectors Louise Crosby and Carole Dillon to carry out an independent examination which assesses whether the draft local plan meets the tests of soundness defined in the national planning policy framework.

Last thing to note is that there will be a road closure on 24th October for anchor bolt testing affecting the High Street, Wilmore Street and Barrow Street and the road will be closed in Brockton on 26th October due to works on the Bridge."

6. Police Report

Members of the local policing team had sent their apologies.

- a. Members noted that PC Jess Hindley had moved to the Youth Engagement Team in Shrewsbury and was no longer part of the Much Wenlock policing team.

Councillors RESOLVED to pass on their thanks to PC Hindley.

- b. Councillors noted the written report from the Local Policing Team.

7. Public Session

A member of the public from Crosshouses expressed his concern at the handling of the application for the Ironbridge Power Station at the Shropshire Council Southern Planning Committee meeting. He noted that some Councillors who had previously voted against the application had this time voted in favour, despite there being no material change to the application. He also made the point that some of the affordable homes proposed were now for older people, so there was less opportunity for younger people to obtain. He was interested in what action Much Wenlock Town Council might decide to take following the decision to approve the application. He noted that the Prime Minister had made a recent statement about reducing the amount of greenfield development in favour of brownfield and that as only one third of the land at the Power Station was brownfield, this might provide an extra angle for further opposition to the application.

8. Minutes

- a. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd September 2021.**
- b. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 27th July 2021.**
- c. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 20th July 2021.**

9. Town Clerk's Report

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

10. External Audit

Members noted that the external audit had been completed and the auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, had confirmed that the information contained within Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

Members expressed their thanks to the RFO and Town Clerk.

11. Welcome Back Fund

Members noted that Shropshire Council had given agreement in principle for funding for Christmas lighting and that quotations were being obtained by officers. It was noted that the new lights would not be ready for this year's display and that it was intended to place the order early next year, when availability and pricing was expected to be better.

12. Ironbridge Power Station Planning Application (ref. 19/05560/OUT)

- a. Members noted that the planning application for the Ironbridge Power Station had been approved by Shropshire Council's Southern Planning Committee on 20th September 2021.
- b. Members considered whether to take any further action regarding this application. They noted the following points:
 - The highways report had been issued too late for consideration
 - Harworth had allocated an additional £100,000 for highways measures to address issues at the Gaskell corner, making the total amount £350,000, with £50,000 intended for a feasibility study. However, Harworth was not providing any of the additional money. The funding allocated was insignificant to the potential overall cost of the required scheme, which could be anything between £3 and £5 million.
 - The Town Council could go to the ombudsman and make a complaint of maladministration, but this would probably have no effect on the actions taken by Shropshire Council.
 - The Power Station was a strategic site in the Local Plan with a wide, cross-boundary impact, including highways and affordable housing.
 - One of the Shropshire Councillors did leave the room during the discussion but even without his vote the decision would still have gone in favour of approval of the application.
 - The statement made by the Prime Minister with regard to brownfield development was not in legislation and would take considerable time to come through.
 - The proposal pre-empted the public examination of the Local Plan, where strategic proposals would be considered.
 - The Secretary of State would not consider procedural matters. Should the application be called in, the Secretary of State would appoint an inspector to run the enquiry.

It was RESOLVED to compose a letter containing additional representations for submission to the Secretary of State supporting the request already made to 'call in' the application.

It was RESOLVED to contact other parishes affected, to provide details of actions being taken by Much Wenlock Town Council and urge them to write to the Secretary of State.

It was RESOLVED to write to Philip Dunne MP again as well as to Daniel Kawczynski MP and Lucy Allan MP inviting them to support the call-in request.

It was RESOLVED to write to Shropshire Council expressing concern about procedural issues and asking for an explanation; why was information not available as it should have been?

13. Shropshire Council Local Plan Review

- a. Members considered a report and recommendations from the meeting held with Shropshire Council's Planning Policy & Strategy Manager on 15th September 2021. It was noted that the discussion had been useful and that the officer had been open and honest and had acknowledged the traffic problems. Councillor Grace was thanked for chairing the meeting and preparing the report.

It was RESOLVED to write to Shropshire Council to ask why Shropshire Council did not change its mind and alter the Draft Local Plan when requested by the newly elected Town Council in June this year.

- b. It was noted that the Planning & Environment had considered preparations for the Examination in Public and agreed a list of groups to invite to the consultation event planned for 3rd November. The format of the meeting was to be agreed.

14. Terms of Reference for Shropshire Local Plan Review Working Group

It was RESOLVED to approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Shropshire Local Plan Review Working Group, with the following addition under Responsibilities: "Via the Town Clerk, to incur minor administrative costs such as room hire, refreshments and printing."

15. Guildhall

- a. Members noted that work to the Guildhall cupola was scheduled to begin on 6th October and was expected to take 4 – 6 weeks.
- b. Members noted that the Guildhall would be closing to the public for the winter at the end of October.

16. Made in Shropshire Markets

Members considered a proposal from Councillor White to hold 'Made in Shropshire' markets in the town. It was suggested that there could be three trial markets in the High Street on the third Saturdays of April, June and August. The Town Council would apply for the required road closure and appoint a liaison person. 'Made in Shropshire' would handle all other arrangements including licencing, insurance, stalls and set up. The matching stalls would be located on the George & Dragon side of the road in the parking spaces. It was noted that emergency access would need to be maintained. There would be around 20 high quality stalls, all businesses based in Shropshire.

Members noted that additional public toilets and parking would be required. Local landowners could be approached with regard to parking and some charities were prepared to provide volunteers to marshall parking if they could make a collection.

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

The member of the public advised that if fields were to be used for parking, wet weather, livestock movement and co-ordination with other local events would need to be considered.

It was RESOLVED to reinvoke standing orders.

It was RESOLVED to approve the outline plan to trial three markets in 2022, subject to confirmation of all necessary arrangements, and for the Communications, Markets and Tourism Working Group to take the project forward.

17. Remembrance Services

- a. **It was RESOLVED to approve the holding of a short service of remembrance at the Corn Exchange on Thursday, 11th November.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED to approve the holding of a remembrance service for primary school children in the Cemetery on Friday, 12th November.**

18. Arrangements for Christmas Lights Switch-on

It was RESOLVED to hold a Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Thursday, 25th November at 6pm with low-key entertainment. Arrangements should be made for a road closure for the High Street and for first aid cover.

19. Arrangements for Christmas Closure of Office

It was RESOLVED that the Council office would be closed for the festive period between 23rd December 2021 and 3rd January 2022, re-opening on 4th January 2022.

20. Consultation

Members noted the following consultation and considered a response from the Town Council:

- a. West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-2025 – closing date 1st November 2021. **It was RESOLVED to approve and submit the response prepared by Councillor Toft.**
- b. Shropshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy refresh 2022-2027 – closing date 8th November 2021. Councillors were invited to make individual responses.

21. Correspondence

Members noted the following items:

- a. SALC information bulletin and other information
- b. Friendly Bus Newsletter October 2021
- c. Rural Bulletins from the Rural Services Network
- d. Community Reassurance update 24.09.21
- e. Press release from Healthwatch Shropshire 09.09.21: Healthwatch Shropshire finds people across the county are struggling to get treatment from a local NHS dentist
- f. Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership newsletter September 2021
- g. The Forum – Shropshire Seniors Magazine September 2021
- h. South Shropshire Youth Network – Final Report on Youth Consultation May/June 2021
- i. SALC Members and Community Survey Results and Feedback Report June 2021

22. Agenda Items for Next Town Council Meeting

Members suggested the following item for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:

Report back from consultation meeting on 3rd November

23. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 4th November 2021 at the Guildhall.

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.

24. Complaint

Councillors considered progress with a complaint from a member of the public.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed
Town Mayor

Date

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14/21

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 31st August 2021 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors David Fenwick, Mike Grace, Wilfred Grainger, Chris Tyler, Duncan White (in the chair)

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, Cllr Dan Thomas, several members of the public

1. Apologies

None – all Committee 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

Members of the public were invited to speak on agenda items at the relevant point during the meeting.

5. Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 27th July 2021 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

21/03774/LBC Nailers Cottage, Back Lane, Much Wenlock	Installation of 2No replacement casement windows at ground floor and front door and 1No window at first floor affecting a Grade II Listed Building. It was RESOLVED to support the application.
21/04156/TCA Priory Cottage, 5 Bull Ring, Much Wenlock	Crown reduce by 10% 1 no. Mulberry (see schedule) within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was RESOLVED to submit no objections.
21/03873/FUL Withies Campsite, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock	Proposed siting of 5 glamping pods and 2 log cabins and installation of grass grid access track at existing caravan and camping site. It was RESOLVED to defer consideration of this application due to the late notice and to request an extension to the deadline for response.

7. Planning Decisions

It was RESOLVED to note the following planning decisions:

21/01895/FUL The Cavalier Centre, Bradeley Farm, Farley, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey extension to existing indoor riding facility Decision: Grant Permission
21/02774/FUL 8 Walton Avenue, Much Wenlock	Replace garage door with upvc bow window as part of a garage conversion, replace a flat upvc lounge window with a bow upvc window and replace two flat roofs with pitch tiled roofs Decision: Grant Permission
21/02489/FUL The Wheatlands Residential Home, Southfield Road, Much Wenlock	The proposal is to replace some areas of the existing block paved hardstanding with tarmac. Decision: Grant Permission

21/02523/FUL 7 St Milburgha Row, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock	Erection of an oak framed, open-sided gazebo to rear decking area Decision: Grant Permission
21/02608/FUL Presthope Caravan Park, Presthope, Much Wenlock	Erection of storage and workshop building Decision: Grant Permission
21/02986/FUL Brook House Farm, 1 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Works to facilitate the installation of 1No electric car charger and replace a broken metal gate with a solid wooden low gate affecting a Grade II Listed Building Decision: Grant Permission
21/02590/FUL and 21/02591/LBC 17 High Street, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey rear extension Decision: Grant Permission
21/03095/TPO Mary Way House, 7 St Marys Lane, Much Wenlock	To fell 1no Sycamore tree and replace with a more smaller variety of Acer protected by Shropshire Council (Mary Way House, St Marys Lane, Much Wenlock) TPO 2014 Decision: Grant Permission
20/00684/FUL Appeal ref: APP/L3245/W/20/3261877 Land adjoining Middlemarch, Homer, Shropshire	Erection of a detached dwelling Decision: Appeal dismissed

8. Local Plan Review

Members considered a report and recommendations on the next steps and preparation for Examination in Public of Shropshire Council's Draft Local Plan. It was noted that the date for the Examination was not yet known.

Councillor Grace was thanked for the report. Councillors considered approaches to consultation and the importance of including groups in the town which might not have engaged previously with the Local Plan.

It was RESOLVED to recommend to full Council approval of the following three recommendations:

1. That the Town Council agrees to undertake community consultation to prepare its case for the Examination in Public.
2. That a combination of options for engagement be used.
3. That the Town Council establishes a working group under the Planning & Environment Committee to invite community members to help it organise the consultation and prepare a case for agreement by the Town Council.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted that a meeting had been arranged with the Planning Policy & Strategy Manager at Shropshire Council on 15th September to discuss the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan.

It was RESOLVED that all members of the Planning & Environment Committee be invited to attend the meeting, along with Councillor Daniel Thomas, and that the following items be on the agenda for discussion:

- a. To review the success of the current Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. To consider the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan.
- c. To consider the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan if the Local Plan is adopted as it stands.

Members were urged to familiarise themselves with the Neighbourhood Plan prior to the meeting.

10. Flooding issues

- a. Members considered a report and recommendations arising from the meeting with Shropshire Council's Drainage and Flood Risk Manager on 11th August regarding a whole catchment based drainage approach for Much Wenlock.

Members agreed that the meeting had been positive and useful although some questions had not been addressed or remained unanswered. The Clerk was asked to request another meeting before the end of September.

Members of the Flood Group highlighted issues arising from the meeting with the Drainage and Flood Risk Manager, including the following:

16/21

- The drainage system in Much Wenlock was at full capacity and ways to slow the flow before the water reached the drains must be explored
- The 2011 Mouchel report was the most indicative, although the storm events were now more severe
- An additional water measurement bucket would be useful
- Concerns about the drainage proposals for Hunters Gate and surrounding area
- Previous funding for house resilience provided flood gates for individual houses, which did not last or could not be fitted in time
- The early warning system at the Pound was not always used or effective, but did provide historic data to show peaks and troughs. It should be retained.

A member of the public outlined the advantages of involving Shropshire Wildlife Trust in discussions around flood mitigation: the Trust has considerable experience and data on slowing the flow and has undertaken a complete programme of work in the Corvedale, including planting trees along contour lines. The Trust's expertise would be invaluable.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Work collaboratively with the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council, Much Wenlock Flood Group and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust to establish effective means of collaboration and communicating flood risk information across the community.**
2. **Write to both Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency to seek responses to the questions identified in the report 'Update on Flood Risk Management in Much Wenlock'.**

- b. Members received an update from the Flood Group. Members were advised that the current Flood Group consisted of five residents of Much Wenlock who were completely independent of any organisation and had no vested interests other than trying to prevent flooding in the town. They had experience, knowledge and technical expertise in this area. The Flood Group had a good working relationship with the Environment Agency, National Flood Forum, Shropshire Council, Severn Trent water and DEFRA.

The Flood Group believed they had identified the source of the pollution in the water course but were seeking additional evidence.

Severn Trent had undertaken a further survey for the overflow for the Shyte brook.

- c. It was noted that drainage plans for application 21/01098/FUL at Scoltocks Yard, Station Road had been requested from Shropshire Council and a response was awaited.
- d. It was reported that a steel drain in Walton Hills had lifted and moved down the road during the last flash flood. This indicated that there could be a blockage, which might have arisen due to the separation of the sewer and storm drains.

Members referenced a drainage report by McCloy which, it was understood, had been a private report for Severn Trent. The Clerk was asked to try to obtain a copy of the report. The Flood Group would also raise the matter at the next meeting of the National Flood Forum, which Severn Trent were legally obliged to attend.

11. Climate Change and Sustainability

- a. Members considered information regarding the 'Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project' and its relevance to Much Wenlock.

Members considered this a positive initiative which could enhance the appearance of the town and promote biodiversity. However, the implementation would need to be managed to ensure that there were no road safety issues arising, such as road signs being obscured. The risk of ragwort to livestock was noted.

A member of the public promoted a proposal for management of the grounds of the old cemetery to encourage wildlife, with less frequent grass cutting and additional tree planting.

It was RESOLVED to support the 'Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project' and to ask Shropshire Council what steps were being taken with regard to the management of verges in and around Much Wenlock.

- b. Members noted that Councillor Toft would be attending a SALC training course entitled 'Sustainability and Climate Change – Adaptation Measures for your Local Council' on 28th October 2021.

Agenda item 18a was taken next.

17/21

12. Highways Matters – update on discussions with Shropshire Council regarding the cycleway at Oakfield Park

Members noted a written report from the Developing Highways Manager at Shropshire Council following a meeting on site. The member of the public who had raised concerns noted that there were some discrepancies between the report and his recollection of the meeting. With regard to the 30mph signs, the officer had confirmed that these would go ahead, although it might take a couple of months. It was noted that although the pavement did not comply with the approved specification, it was within the permitted tolerance levels.

Connexus were obliged to maintain the verges and pathways until these were adopted by Shropshire Council. However, this maintenance was not being carried out and the Shropshire Council officer was unable to confirm when adoption of the verges and pathways would take place, despite the houses having been occupied for three years. There were ongoing concerns about ineffective drainage and the height of the pavement, which was too low and flooded during heavy rain.

The Clerk was asked to follow up the outstanding concerns with Shropshire Council.

13. Consultation

- a. Members noted Shropshire Council consultation on the draft Broseley Neighbourhood Plan between 23rd July and 17th September. It was noted that the Plan included green routes but did not reference the travel of pupils from Broseley to William Brookes School in Much Wenlock.

It was RESOLVED to submit the following comment: Councillors welcome the Broseley Neighbourhood Plan and suggest consideration of stronger proposals for active travel between Much Wenlock and Broseley, especially in relation to the attendance of pupils at William Brookes School.

- b. Members noted that Shropshire Council was consulting on various experimental restrictions in Shrewsbury Town Centre between 9th July and 9th January 2022.

It was RESOLVED to endorse the need for a trial, to support the principle of restricting traffic in town centres and reducing pollution and to await the outcome of the trial with interest.

14. Street Lighting**15. Street naming *****16. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*****17. Footpath Diversion Orders*****18. Road closures*****19. Highways matters ***

- a. Members noted the response from the Shropshire Council Highways Officer regarding a review of the junction of Southfield Road and Victoria Road and proposed a meeting date of Tuesday, 14th September at 4.30pm. It was agreed that Councillors White and Tyler would attend the meeting along with Mr Hanafin, if available.
- b. A response was awaited from the local policing team with regard to a meeting to discuss parking on pavements in the town.
- c. Members noted a further communication from Shropshire Council regarding the planned closure of Bridgnorth and Hodnet highways depots. **It was RESOLVED to respond that Members had noted the comments and hoped that the depots would be re-opened should a need be demonstrated.**

20. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)***21. Stopping Up Orders*****22. Speed Limit Orders*****23. Prohibition Orders*****24. Date of next meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 5th October 2021 at 7.00pm at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock.

It was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 9pm.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it was RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present.

25. Planning Enforcement

Members noted enforcement issues 21/08000/ENF and 21/08067/ENF.

The Clerk was asked to request an update on progress with this matter and to be advised in all cases if and when enforcement notices were issued.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

04/21

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
FINANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
meeting held at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 7.25 pm on Tuesday, 21st September 2021

Present:

Cllrs. Mike Atherton (from minute 10), John O’Dowd, Robert Toft, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas

In attendance:

Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, Diane Barlow –Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Cllr David Fenwick

1) Apologies

It was RESOLVED to approve the following apologies: Councillor Sam Neal – work

Councillors Daniel Thomas and Mike Atherton had advised that they would be late to the meeting, hence the later start time.

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) Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Asset Management Committee meeting held on 20th July 2021 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.

5) Town Clerk’s report

Members received a written and verbal report from the Town Clerk on action taken since the last meeting.

Members **NOTED** the report.

6) Finance

- a. The RFO presented a written and verbal report. She advised that the grant awards process was under way, with a deadline of 30th September for applications from not-for-profit or voluntary organisations. The annual budget was underspent by 20.84% or £22,625.50 as at 31st August 2021 although some large invoices such as the library rental, anchor bolt testing and Christmas lights installation were to come. Income was higher than anticipated due to the rebate on public toilets and the buoyant performance of the markets.

The RFO advised that the earmarked reserve for property covered all of the Council’s properties.

Members **NOTED** the report.

- b. Members **NOTED** the balance sheet as at 31st August 2021.
- c. Members **NOTED** the income and expenditure to 31st August 2021.
- d. Members reviewed the bank reconciliations to 31st August 2021. **It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 31st August 2021.**
- e. **It was RESOLVED to retrospectively approve payments from 21st July 2021 to date.**

7) Arrangements for Budget Setting

Members agreed that the Clerk and RFO should work on a first draft of the budget to be presented to the October meeting of the Finance & Asset Management Committee.

8) Guildhall Cupola

- a. Members noted that Listed Building Consent had been granted by Shropshire Council for work to the cupola.

05/21

- b. Members noted that the contractor had been advised of the above and had submitted an application to Shropshire Council to erect scaffold on the pavement at the front of the building. Scaffold would also be required at the rear of the building but access would be maintained to the building and market. It was expected that the scaffold would be in place for between four and six weeks, depending on the work required to the cupola. Guildhall custodians, neighbours and the general public would be advised of the work when details were known. The Clerk was asked to request that shops on the opposite side of the road to the Guildhall kept the pavement clear while the scaffold was in place.

9) Yew Hedge at Guildhall

It was noted that an order had been placed for cutting back the yew hedge at the rear of the Guildhall and that the work would be carried out between 20th and 30th September. Officers were asked to arrange for the contractor to also remove the ivy on the rear wall.

Councillor Mike Atherton joined the meeting.

10) Insurance for Buskers

Members noted that the Council's insurer had advised that cover could not be provided for buskers. Those acting under the auspices of other organisations such as the U3A, would be covered by that organisation's public liability insurance. Musicians were able to obtain their own insurance, including via organisations such as the Musicians' Union, but this was really only suitable for regular performers.

Officers were asked to continue to explore other options.

11) Requests to display A Boards in The Square

Councillors considered approaches from local businesses regarding the display of A boards in The Square to advertise their businesses. Members noted that such boards might present a hazard and could proliferate.

It was RESOLVED not to allow A boards in The Square, however, Councillors would be supportive of sales or promotional events in The Square. Promotion only stalls would incur no charge; sales events would be charged at the usual rates.

12) Street Lighting

- a. The RFO advised that the Council was in year two of a three-year programme to replace all of the Council's SOX or SON lights with LED lighting. Lights with asbestos seals in Station Road were due to be replaced the following year, which could incur an additional charge.

A telephone pole in Queen Street had recently fallen and been removed as it had rotted near the base. A Town Council owned street light was fitted on the pole and this had been disposed of without the Council's knowledge. The Council's street lighting contractor had carried out a site visit and a quote for a replacement light would be presented to the next meeting.

- b. Members noted that the Council's fixed contract for street lighting energy had expired and was now on a rolling basis. **Given the rapidly changing nature of energy prices, it was RESOLVED to delegate authority to officers in conjunction with the Deputy Mayor to select a supplier and make arrangements for a new contract.**

13) Cemetery Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk reported that she and members of the Friends of the Old Cemetery had met the grounds maintenance contractor at the cemetery to discuss possible changes to the maintenance regime to encourage greater biodiversity. The contractor would review the suggestions and provide costings and operational information. Separate quotes had been requested for removal of ivy on the boundary walls and cutting back hedges, work outside the regular maintenance contract.

It was noted that cemetery fees would be reviewed as part of the budgeting process.

14) Property Working Group Terms of Reference

It was RESOLVED to approve the draft Terms of Reference for the Property Working Group.

15) Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Finance & Asset Management Committee would be held on Tuesday, 19th October 2021 at 7.00pm.

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.

06/21

16) Bus Shelter in Queen Street

Members considered quotations for repair of the roof of the bus shelter in Queen Street.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from SL Coldicott Ltd in the amount of £695 + VAT.

17) Public Toilets

Members noted that the current maintenance and cleaning contract for the public toilets at Queen Street and St Mary's Car Park would expire at the end of September and considered the renewal quotation.

It was RESOLVED to renew the contract with Healthmatic for a further 12 months at a cost of £14,350 for both facilities.

18) Replacement Windows for Intermediate Office in Corn Exchange

Members considered quotations for two replacement windows for the intermediate office in the Corn Exchange.

It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Morris Joinery in the amount of £1,700.60 and £1,894.20 + VAT, to include supply, fit, full paint finish, draught seal and slimline double glazing.

It was noted that Listed Building Consent would need to be obtained before the work could go ahead and the Clerk would make the necessary application.

19) Mary Webb Room

Members considered arrangements for letting the Mary Webb Room to a tenant.

It was RESOLVED to approve the rental as outlined in the officer report and for officers to make the necessary arrangements.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

MONTH	MINUTE NUMBER	RESOLUTION	TASK COMPLETE	COMMENT
May 2021	22	Defer consideration of the Council's policies relating to data protection to a future meeting.	In progress	
24 th June 2021	18	Support the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative, raise public awareness and ask relevant committees to consider where trees might be planted	Ongoing	
July 2021	10	Arrange a workshop of all Councillors to brainstorm ideas and start the process before the summer break	Pending	Not possible before the summer break. Date and arrangements to be agreed
	14	Finance & Asset Management Committee to consider the practicalities of flying the Union flag at the Guildhall	In progress	Advice obtained from Holy Trinity Church team
Sept 2021	10	Approve the Document Retention Policy, subject to the production of and agreement to operational guidelines.	In progress	Operational guidelines to be drawn up
	15	Invite community activities to an introductory workshop in order to explore a Council and community-wide approach.	Pending	
Oct 2021	6a	Pass on thanks to PC Hindley	Yes	
	12b	Compose a letter containing additional representations for submission to the Secretary of State supporting the request to call in the Ironbridge Power Station application	Yes	Request refused
	12b	Contact other parishes affected by the Power Station application seeking support for the call in request	Yes	Subsequently advised of refusal
	12c	Write to local MPs inviting them to support the call in request	Yes	
	12d	Write to SC expressing concern about procedural issues connected with the Ironbridge Power Station application		
	13a	Write to SC asking why the Council did not change its mind and alter the Draft Local Plan when requested by the newly elected TC in June	Yes	
	20	Submit the response to the PCC's draft Safer West Mercia Plan 2021-25	Yes	

Other Activities

- Meeting with booking secretary of Methodist Church Hall to view facilities
- Carried out staff appraisals
- Meeting with Grange Fencing re possible open day scheduled for 4th November



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Grahame French
Principal Planner
Shropshire Council
graham.french@shropshire.gov.uk

Please ask for: Astrid Chaplin
Tel: 0303 444 8032
Email: astrid.chaplin@communities.gov.uk

Your ref: 19/05560/OUT

Our ref: PCU/RTI/L3245/3276859

Date: 21 October 2021

Dear Grahame French

**Outline application by Harworth Group Plc for the development of (up to) 1,000 dwellings; retirement village; employment land and retail and other uses; allotments, sports pitches, a railway link, leisure uses, primary/nursery school, a park and ride facility, walking and cycling routes at Ironbridge Power Station, Buildwas Road, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7BL
Application number: 19/05560/OUT)**

I refer to the above application which has been the subject of third party requests to call in for determination by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered this case against call-in policy, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement by Nick Boles on 26 October 2012. The policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively.

The Government is committed to give more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues and believes planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible.

In deciding whether to call in this application, the Secretary of State has considered his policy on calling in planning applications. This policy gives examples of the types of issues which may lead him to conclude, in his opinion that the application should be called in. The Secretary of State has decided not to call in this application. He is content that it should be determined by the local planning authority.

In considering whether to exercise the discretion to call in this application, the Secretary of State has not considered the matter of whether this application is EIA Development for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental

Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The local planning authority responsible for determining this application remains the relevant authority responsible for considering whether these Regulations apply to this proposed development and, if so, for ensuring that the requirements of the Regulations are complied with.

Yours sincerely

D Moseley

Dave Moseley
Senior Planning Casework Manager
Planning Casework Unit

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State, and signed on his behalf

Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 6:46:37 PM British Summer Time

Subject: RE: Call-in Request - Ironbridge Power Station, Shropshire
Date: Thursday, 21 October 2021 at 17:47:48 British Summer Time
From: Astrid Chaplin
To: Town Clerk
Attachments: image002.jpg, image003.jpg, image004.jpg, image005.jpg, image006.jpg, image007.png, image008.jpg, image009.png, image027.jpg, 211021 Decision letter to LPA- Ironbridge Power Station.pdf

Dear Trudi Barrett

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

**Outline application by Harworth Group Plc for the development of (up to) 1,000 dwellings; retirement village; employment land and retail and other uses; allotments, sports pitches, a railway link, leisure uses, primary/nursery school, a park and ride facility, walking and cycling routes at Ironbridge Power Station, Buildwas Road, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire TF8 7BL
Application no: 19/05560/OUT**

The Government remains committed to giving more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues and believe that planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible. The call-in policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively.

The Secretary of State has decided, having had regard to this policy, not to call in this application. He is satisfied that the application should be determined at a local level.

I appreciate that this is not the preferred outcome for you, and I understand that there will be great disappointment as a result. It is however, now for the Shropshire Council to determine this application and a copy of our letter to the council is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely

D Moseley

Dave Moseley
Senior Planning Casework Manager

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State under delegated powers.

From: Town Clerk <townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2021 17:15
To: Astrid Chaplin <Astrid.Chaplin@communities.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Call-in Request - Ironbridge Power Station, Shropshire

Dear Astrid

Please find attached further representations from Much Wenlock Town Council in support of the call-in request for the planning application for the Ironbridge Power Station.

Bridgnorth Future Connectivity Plan

Introduction and overview

We're engaging with the community on a number of forward-thinking transport, public space and connectivity proposals for Bridgnorth. We're inviting local residents to comment on which of the ideas they'd like to see come forward. Proposals for Bridgnorth include a new town centre multi-storey car park, a new junction from the A458 to provide direct access to the Oldbury Wells schools, and improvements to the public realm (ie any space that's free and open to anyone), and specifically the environment on the High Street.

The proposals have been prepared following extensive data analysis, site assessments and engagement with council officers, local councillors and town councils. Proposals that will improve local transport, enhance quality of place, support local health and wellbeing, and strengthen the local and wider regional economy, are being considered.

The proposals are being launched as part of a public engagement exercise, the outcomes of which will be critical in helping to develop a 'future connectivity plan' for Bridgnorth. Whilst there's currently no budget available to take the identified schemes forward, the final future connectivity plans will assist us in trying to secure external scheme funding from The Marches LEP, government and the private sector to help make Shropshire a better place to live, work and visit. To secure funding, any proposals first need to have public backing. We're therefore asking you for your thoughts before any further development work is carried out, and before possible sources of scheme funding are explored.

Why is investment needed?

From a transport, access and connectivity perspective, key challenges facing Bridgnorth now, and in the future, include the following:

- There's significant through traffic travelling through the town centre causing congestion and poor air quality
- There's limited green space infrastructure and facilities around the town centre, and existing assets such as Castle Grounds feel hidden
- The town's River Severn waterside frontage is an underused asset
- Current bus infrastructure and waiting facilities are dated and need to be improved to enhance passenger experience when travelling by bus
- The High Street is dominated by car parking and bus layover throughout the day, preventing increased animation of space
- Existing active travel infrastructure needs to be upgraded to support sustainable travel movements and high-quality pedestrian circuits around the town centre

Vision and objectives

Key challenges identified for Bridgnorth have been used to inform a holistic, long term vision and series of objectives for transport in Bridgnorth over the next ten years. These also reflect the strategic themes of local and regional transport and planning policy. The vision for Bridgnorth is as follows:

Bridgnorth is an attractive and charming market town with significant potential for change. The aspiration is to build on the town's unique assets and deliver a series of transport interventions and public realm improvements over the next ten years to establish Bridgnorth as the destination of choice in Shropshire.

To achieve this vision, the following objectives have been identified:

1. **Creating public spaces:** elevate a sense of place and create a destination experience at the heart of Bridgnorth town centre by creating a pedestrian-led environment supported by a series of pedestrianised public spaces, enhanced public realm and attractive green spaces.
2. **Improving active travel:** improve the attractiveness and safety of walking and cycling in Bridgnorth to improve access to employment, education and services, and assist in meeting air quality and public health targets.
3. **Enhancing public transport:** enhance Bridgnorth's public transport provision to provide convenient, regular and accessible services which permeate the town centre without detracting from overall quality of the environment.
4. **Consolidating car parking:** re-evaluate the relationship between Bridgnorth town centre and car parking provision.
5. **Improving air quality:** reduce levels of through traffic and congestion in Bridgnorth town centre to support improved air quality and public health.

Developing solutions

A draft long list of schemes has been identified, with early design work taking place on a number of these schemes to articulate how the schemes could come forward. Proposed investments are split over a number of key themes as follows:

- Road network
- Public space and movement
- Car parking
- Active travel
- Public transport

The following sections summarise the details of some of the key schemes and opportunities identified. Full versions of the scheme plans shown below are available via the links at the bottom of this page.

[New A458 junction](#)

[High Street public realm and pedestrianisation](#)

[Car parking](#)

[Active travel enhancements](#)

[Public transport](#)

The next steps in the process are as follows:

- We'll review all the comments and suggestions submitted as part of the public consultation once it has closed.
- We'll incorporate your feedback and prepare a final Bridgnorth Future Connectivity Plan, which will then be released into the public domain.