



Much Wenlock Town Council

Town Council Meeting

11th April 2024

Supporting Papers

Broseley and Much Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Update to Much Wenlock Town Council: From 03/03/2024 – 04/04/2024

Update on Police and SNT activity in the area. In addition to the Officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Team, there is a team of Response Officers based in Bridgnorth Police Station who attend incidents in the area. Currently, we only have a PC and a PCSO on the team. West Mercia Police are currently recruiting PCSOs, however, no time frame can currently be given for the arrival of a replacement for the PCSO who left the team in September 2022.

Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is an online messaging service operated by West Mercia Police. SNT Officers are sending Crime Alerts and other locally relevant information out to all those who join the service. Please encourage everyone to check out the service by following the link - <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

West Mercia Police has signed up to the Local Policing Community Charter. The Council has outlined its three main Policing Priorities as:

Theft (from outbuildings). A Kubota Mule (larger quad) was stolen from a farm, a dog transport cage was stolen from a residential address and there was damage caused to two locks at a property undergoing renovation, entry was gained, but nothing stolen. West Mercia Police and Dyfed-Powys Police conducted a number of warrants at the addresses of suspects believed to be involved in rural burglary offences. Four addresses were raided in Broseley and a number of arrests made. Three stolen trailers and a quadbike were recovered by Police after a sighting and pursuit in the Morville area.

Drugs. SNT continue to patrol areas where there have been previous reports of incidents linked to drug related activity & submit reports when necessary.

Speeding. SNT Officers will continue to conduct speed surveys in relevant areas when other commitments allow.

Burglaries. Details above. In addition, a stolen dumper truck and stolen quad bike were recovered from locations in the Broseley area as part of ongoing Police operations regarding rural burglaries.

Anti-social Behaviour. There was a report of a pair of youths on unregistered motorcycles riding them on the road close to the garage. The witness was not able to identify the riders. There was also a neighbour dispute reported, both are tenants of Shropshire Town and Rural (STaR) Housing and the matter is being dealt with by that agency.

There were two reports of malicious communications where people who had shared intimate photos online were then threatened by unknown offenders that the images would be shared unless payment was made. Practical advice has been given to both of the victims and no payments were made.

There was an arrest request made by another Force for a person living in Tasley, as well as a search of a linked property. This was conducted successfully.

Domestic Incident. There were eight incidents reported, which were dealt with in an appropriate manner by Officers and referrals have been made to our partner agencies.

Concern for Safety. There were three reports, all involving mental health, Police were deployed to all three and then left paramedics and partner agencies to deal with the matter identified.

Road Traffic Issues.

There was a single vehicle Road Traffic Collision in Muckley Cross and another in Wyke. Police deployed to the Wyke RTC as the road was blocked. There was a two vehicle RTC on the Stretton Road. Thankfully there were no reported injuries from any of these RTCs.

There was an obstruction on the B4371 caused by a large branch, sheep were seen on the Ludlow Road but had departed by the time Officers deployed, a lamb was on the B4378 in Brockton and removed to a field by the caller, a tree fell on the road in Linley Brook, a deer was reported on the A458 between Much Wenlock and Harley and a lorry broke down in the Muckley Cross area but was able to self-repair.

There were two reports of vehicles being driven by suspected drink drivers, one was stopped by Police and blew 0 in a breath test, the details of the other vehicle were added to the Police Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system.

A vehicle was stopped on the A458 in the Muckley Cross area and seized by Police for being driven without insurance.

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 7 pm on Thursday, 7th March 2024

Present: Councillors William Benbow, Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick (in the chair), Wilfred Grainger, John O'Dowd, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon, Chris Tyler.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, one member of the public remotely.

1. Mayor's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the following report:

This month the Neighbourhood Plan review enablement committee have held two meetings, with Councillors and community members taking part, ably chaired by Dan Thomas, our County Councillor. There is a Plan presentation drop-in event being held this Saturday in the Priory Hall from 10 am until 4.00 pm when people in the town are invited to examine the proposals on display and offer their comments. Councillors and members of the Planning Committee are cordially invited to make an appearance and assist during the day if they can.

The Guildhall is opening for its summer season on the same Saturday, 9th March and further information is available on the Council's website.

There is another HSBC pop up banking session in the church tomorrow.

Another date for your diaries is Monday, 11th March at 7.00 pm when the Priory Hall is holding its AGM. If you have any questions for the committee, this is your opportunity.

Last Friday afternoon the police Safer Neighbourhood team were on call at the Priory car park to answer questions. I was unable to be there due to a prior commitment, but maybe we will hear from the police how successful that was. Finally, some councillors may be aware that a local resident, at my request, has taken on the task of coordinating work to tidy up the town where needed. The first job he has identified is to replant the flower bed at the rear of the Guildhall. Green fingered Councillors and others are invited to make a start on this worthwhile endeavour tomorrow morning.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Duncan White – away, Councillor Linda West – unwell.

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. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

6. Policing

- a. Members noted with thanks the written report provided by PCSO Mal Goddard. Councillor Tyler stated that a complaint of racial abuse had been reported to the police a few weeks ago. The police had attended the incident. The individual now wanted to pursue the complaint but no response had been received from the police. The Clerk was asked to press the local policing team for a response.
- b. Councillors reviewed the policing priorities for the parish. They noted it was difficult to compartmentalise the priorities due to the mixed urban and rural nature of the parish. **It was RESOLVED that the revised policing priorities should be theft from dwellings and farms, speeding and drugs.**

7. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas, presented the following report:

Talks with Rail Minister Huw Merriman: Stuart Anderson MP, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Shropshire, invited the Rail Minister Huw Merriman MP to Shropshire, so that he could find out more about plans to ensure that the Ironbridge Power Plant redevelopment is well served with strong transport links. Together, alongside Cabinet Member for Highways Councillor Dan Morris and Severn Valley Councillor Claire Wild, we explored options for Revolution Very Light Rail (RVLR) to serve as a passenger line for residents travelling in the area. RVLR is a joint collaboration between Eversholt Rail and Transport Design International. They are working in partnership to bring a first-of-a-kind product to the market that provides a high-quality passenger experience.

I was keen to discuss what impact a Rail Park & Ride would have on Much Wenlock, as vehicles would travel specifically to the site rather than the other travel route they would have used instead. I will update you all as this progresses.

Flood meeting with Philip Dunne MP: last week, our MP Philip Dunne chaired a meeting about flooding in Wenlock. Representatives from the Town Council, Much Wenlock's Flood Action Group, the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council and Severn Trent were there. There were frank discussions about the lack of progress in some areas whilst acknowledging the successes that have happened and are planned for this year.

Swimming Pool: the Leisure Centre pool contractors have now taken delivery of the new pool filters, and work has started to remove the old ones and fit the new one. This work is scheduled to take approximately a week to complete, and then a further week will be required to get the pool back up and running. Therefore, the pool should be open by the end of the month, which I think all of us would welcome.

Wenlock Olympian Live Arts: the much anticipated Wenlock Olympian Live Arts starts this weekend, including Music, Dance and Drama at Holy Trinity Church and William Brookes School. Attendance is free, and people are encouraged to attend. The complete list of events and times is on their website and social media.

Neighbourhood Plan drop-in: as everyone in this Council Chamber will know, the review of Much Wenlock's Neighbourhood Plan launches on Saturday. I chaired a meeting of Town Councillors, Representatives from the Civic Society and the Refresh Group, and our external Consultant Alison Eardley, where we planned out the day. Alison was impressive, and I feel confident she can support this Council whilst making the most of the expertise in the town.

Budget Update: the financial pressures on councils across the country are immense and are only getting worse, with many struggling to balance their budgets. Demand for many services, particularly social care, continues to soar. This is made harder by rising prices from high levels of inflation over a long period of time. The situation is even more acute for reasons unique to our county:

- 25.7% of Shropshire's population is aged 65 and over. In England, the average is only 18.6%. By 2043, this gap is forecast to grow.
- We have seen a growth in the number of children looked after which has increased by more than 80% since 2020.
- Shropshire is the largest inland county in England and is sparsely populated. We have less than one person per hectare compared to a national average of more than four. Travel and fuel costs make services more expensive to deliver.
- For comparison, Nottingham has a population (c. 330k) similar to Shropshire's (c. 324k). Shropshire is 1,234 sq miles, Nottingham is 29 sq miles. A vastly different service delivery model.

In February's Shropshire Council meeting, we approved a budget that builds on the savings we made last year while exploring less-than-ideal options. These include putting 300 staff members at risk of redundancy, charging for green waste, and selling unrequired council assets.

6th Form Closure: as a former pupil of William Brookes School and its 6th form, I am saddened to learn that a consultation is in place to formally close its 6th form. This means the existing Year 12 students will be allowed to finish their studies there, but no new students will be admitted in September. This is on the agenda for later and in Councillors Christian Toon and Linda West we have school governors on the council so I won't say much more, other than that I have spoken to the Business Manager at the school and passed over my concerns.

Surgery Change: due to an unforeseen circumstance, I need to postpone the Advice Surgery for Saturday, 16th March. Therefore, my next advice surgery will be Saturday, 13th April, between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon at Much Wenlock Museum. No appointment is necessary. I'll be joined by Town Councillor Linda West and a representative from the Police.

Councillors raised the following matters with Councillor Thomas:

Q: How hard would we be hit by Shropshire Council's cuts?

A: Councillor Thomas had reservations about charging for green waste, as this would increase fly tipping in the countryside. Last year Shropshire Council had saved c. £34m but the impact had probably not been noticed outside of that council. Cuts would be felt this time with redundancy of 300 staff expected. This was unlikely to affect those working in highways or planning as Shropshire Council had recently received £136m from central government for highways. However, if a section 114 notice were to be issued due to bankruptcy, Shropshire Council would deliver only statutory services.

Q: When would the green waste charge be introduced and how would this operate?

A: This would probably be in 2025. Arrangements for operation had not been finalised yet.

It was noted that similar schemes operated in other areas, such as Cornwall.

Councillor Thomas stated that the measures needed would be very challenging but Shropshire Council should manage with the savings expected. He noted that it had been helpful to have external consultants to address some matters with objectivity and independence.

8. Minutes

- a. **It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8th February 2024.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th January 2024.**
- c. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 14th December 2023.**

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the written and verbal report from the Town Clerk. She explained that a cash payment option had been re-installed in the right hand unit of the toilets at St Mary's car park and an update was awaited from Healthmatic regarding the left-hand unit. The Clerk had attended a webinar on 'Martyn's Law' but did not envisage that this would be applicable to the Town Council's premises.

10. Nominations for Mayor 2024/2025

Councillor Wilf Grainger proposed the nomination of Councillor Marcus Themans as Mayor. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Christian Toon.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Marcus Themans as Mayor for the civic year May 2024 to May 2025.

11. Nominations for Deputy Mayor 2024/2025

Councillor Chris Tyler proposed the nomination of Councillor Daniel Thomas as Deputy Mayor. It was noted that Councillor Thomas had been Mayor previously, during Covid. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Wilf Grainger.

It was unanimously RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Daniel Thomas as Deputy Mayor for the civic year May 2024 to May 2025.

12. Annual Town Meeting – 18th April 2024

Members noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Thursday, 18th April at the Priory Hall.

It was RESOLVED that the format of the Annual Town Meeting would follow that of previous years and that the meeting would include a report from the Mayor (Councillor Fenwick), a report on Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan (Councillor Benbow), a County Councillor's Report (Councillor Thomas), to include flooding and the Local Plan, and a Gaskell Ground report (Councillor Themans). The police would also be invited to attend and give a report.

It was noted that 2024 was an Olympic year. Councillor Thomas would liaise with Wenlock Olympians regarding any local plans to mark this.

13. The Guildhall Project

Councillors noted an update on the Guildhall project. The Mayor and Clerk had met with a storyteller from Get a Word in Edgeways to discuss a proposal to create an online access trail starting and ending at the Guildhall and including information about the Guildhall and the town. This would be a lasting resource for use by the Guildhall. It was also proposed to hold a storytelling activity day at the Guildhall and to engage with older people at a local residential home and Carers Café. This activity and engagement programme would be funded from the National Lottery grant.

The latest National Lottery Heritage Fund grant payment request had been submitted and Greenwoods were helping with the report required.

14. Flower Bed at the Rear of the Guildhall

The Mayor reported that a small group of people had been set up to help improve the appearance of the town. The first project was to tidy up the flower bed at the rear of the Guildhall. Harley Nursery had provided a planting scheme and agreed to provide plants for the bed free of charge in return for a notice and acknowledgement of the donation. The initial work on the flower bed would commence the following day. It was noted that the plants might need to be lifted when work commenced on the Guildhall.

15. Neighbourhood Plan Review

- a. Councillor Thomas had chaired the meeting held to plan the launch event. The Council's consultant, Alison Eardley, had wide experience of creating and reviewing neighbourhood plans and Councillors were confident that she could support the Council whilst making the most of the expertise in the town. Preparations for the launch event on 9th March were in hand. There would be a mix of posters and rolling Powerpoint presentations to cover the objectives of the current Neighbourhood Plan and to stimulate discussion and gather ideas. The key questions the event would cover were:
- Do you agree with the existing vision and objectives?
 - Is there anything missing that we should add?
 - Have any new challenges arisen that we need to include here?
- For people who were not able to attend, there would be plenty of opportunities to contribute their views and join the steering group or one of the working groups.
- b. Next steps would be considered following the launch event.

16. Shropshire Local Plan Review

Members received an update on the Shropshire Local Plan Review. A letter from Shropshire Council responding to the Inspectors questions had been posted on the Local Plan Examination website. There was likely to be a further 6-week consultation, forming part of Stage 1 of the Examination, in relation to key documents and the Inspectors concerns about sufficient space for the 1500 homes and 30 hectares of employment land being provided for Black Country. It now seemed unlikely that the Local Plan would be in place until at least 2025.

17. Windmill Hill – Local Nature Reserve Designation

- a. **It was RESOLVED to formally declare Windmill Hill a Local Nature Reserve and to sign the declaration:**
In pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the above-mentioned Act, and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, Much Wenlock Town Council hereby declares that the land containing 2.83 hectares or thereabouts situated in the Parish of Much Wenlock in the County of Shropshire and shown edged red on the attached plan is the subject of a Nature Reserve Agreement entered into with the Council under Section 21 of the above-mentioned Act, AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the above-mentioned Act and all other powers aforesaid the Town Council hereby further declares that the said land is being managed as a Nature Reserve.
- b. **It was RESOLVED to issue the public notice of the formal declaration of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.**
- c. **It was RESOLVED to liaise with the Windmill Trust to make arrangements for a celebratory event in the summer.**

18. D-Day Commemoration – 6th June 2024

Members received a report from the D-Day working group regarding arrangements to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June 2024. The working group had met and appointed Councillor Crooke-Williams as Chairperson. It was proposed to hold a short, half hour service in the grounds of the Priory on 6th June, starting at 8.45pm, with a beacon to be lit at 9.15pm. It was hoped that the church bells could be rung at 6.30pm, but this was dependent on the date scheduled for the planned restoration of the bells. The working group would be contacting local cafés in the hope that they would offer light meals before the event. A commemorative flag and 'lamp light of peace' would be purchased to mark the event and a further meeting of the working group was planned.

19. Bowling Club Matchroom Floor

Members noted that the refurbishment of the Bowling Club matchroom floor had been completed, satisfactory invoices had been provided and the Council's agreed financial contribution had been transferred. A letter of thanks had been received from the Bowling Club.

20. William Brookes School Sixth Form

Members received correspondence and a consultation document concerning the proposed closure of William Brookes School sixth form at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Councillor Toon, as a school governor, explained that it was no longer economical to run the Sixth Form and that it would not meet the current criteria for operation of a sixth form. The closure was disappointing but necessary.

Councillors raised concerns about the opportunity for local pupils wishing to go on to Sixth Form study and the lack of public transport. What would the options be?

It was noted that the serious behavioural issues in the school had impacted on the sixth form and on the school in general. This year many children due to go up to secondary school from Much Wenlock and Broseley had applied to Bridgnorth schools, rather than William Brookes, but the Bridgnorth schools had been oversubscribed.

Members noted that the sixth forms in both Bridgnorth schools had closed and that this was indicative of financial problems and a trend towards pupils moving to sixth form colleges for their 16-18 education. It was not known whether any alternative sixth form provision would be made for local residents and Councillors were disappointed for those living in Much Wenlock and nearby.

Members discussed the £4.4m contribution allocated to William Brookes School from the Ironbridge Power Station development, which would be paid when building work began. The closure of the sixth form could be seen as a premature decision with more pupils expected from this development and from the additional housing planned for Much Wenlock. It was noted that the loss of sixth form pupils would free up space within the school. Members queried whether it might be possible to use some of the Power Station funding contribution to support the leisure centre at the school, which could be under threat due to Shropshire Council cuts.

Councillor Toon offered to raise the matter of the financial contribution from the Power Station with school governors.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to William Brookes School expressing dismay and disappointment at the proposed closure of the sixth form. Councillors expected to see a plan outlining how it was intended to address transport and educational opportunity for pupils aged 16-18 from Much Wenlock and Broseley. Councillors also wished to query whether the school had considered that the intake of pupils was likely to increase in the coming years with the housing developments planned for the area.

21. Correspondence

Members noted the following items, which they had received by email between meetings:

- a. SALC information bulletins and other information.
- b. NALC newsletters and other information
- c. Press releases from Shropshire Council
- d. Rural Bulletins from the Rural Services Network
- e. Information from the RSN Rural Market Town Group
- f. VCSA newsletters
- g. News from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- h. Listing of events at The Edge Arts Centre
- i. Notification of Priory Hall AGM on 11th March 2024.
- j. Information from Homes Plus about rent increases 2024/25.
- k. South Shropshire Climate Action Newsletters January and February 2024
- l. Lezley's Leader's Update 1st March 2024
- m. Friendly Transport Service March 2024 newsletter
- n. March edition of Our News, the newsletter for Neighbourhood Watch supporters
- o. Shropshire Spring/Easter Holiday Activities & Food Programme
- p. Information on support available for May 2024 Police & Crime Commissioner elections.
- q. Zero Carbon Shropshire Green News
- r. Invitation to Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Retrofit Event at Shirehall on Monday, 25th March 2-4pm

22. Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

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

23. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 11th April 2024 at 7.00pm at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

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

24. 10 High Street

Members received an update on progress with letting 10 High Street to a commercial tenant.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed

Mayor

Date

Page 8

34/23

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th February 2024 at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors William Benbow, David Fenwick (in the chair), Wilf Grainger, Dan Thomas, Chris Tyler, Linda West

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, two members of the Bridgnorth branch of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust

1. Apologies

None – all Councillors 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

There had been no requests to speak.

5. Nature Recovery – Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Bridgnorth Branch

Councillors received a presentation from members of the Bridgnorth Branch of Shropshire Wildlife Trust on the subject of Nature Recovery and possible partnership working with the Town Council.

The branch was exploring how they could work with local groups within the area. They hoped to identify nature recovery goals and where the Wildlife Trust could help. They would like to liaise with a named Councillor who could help with communication with other groups in the town. They were keen to have use of a notice board to promote the work of the Wildlife Trust and provide information about a possible wildflower trail around the green spaces in the town. It was suggested that progress with nature recovery could be shared in Council minutes and the Wenlock Herald. This would help to promote Wenlock and engender a sense of pride for residents and visitors.

It was RESOLVED that the Town Council would support the initiative in principle.

Relevant notices could be displayed on the Town Council's notice board under the Corn Exchange in the first instance.

The visitors were advised that the Town Council did not currently have nature recovery goals and had direct control over only a small amount of land. However, a review of the Neighbourhood Plan was underway and matters relating to nature recovery could be incorporated into the Plan. This would also help to provide tools to direct and influence measures for nature recovery in the town. It was suggested that members of the Wildlife Trust could become involved in this element of the Neighbourhood Plan review.

Initiatives to improve roadside verges were raised and Councillors explained the difficulty experienced in engaging with Shropshire Council and that Council's contractor in this regard.

The visitors were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

6. Minutes

Following a minor amendment, **it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 9th January 2024 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.**

7. Planning Applications

Members considered a response to the following planning applications:

<p>23/05505/FUL Wheatland Garage, Bridgnorth Road And 17 St Marys Road, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Partial demolition of the existing retail convenience store and construction of extensions, revision to car parking facilities, provision of four electric vehicle charging points, installation of solar panels on extension roof and change of use of the ground floor of 17 St Marys Road to a coffee shop (re-submission).</p>
--	---

35/23

	<p>It was RESOLVED to object to the application. Councillors did not consider that the position had changed since the previous application and wished to repeat their former comments. Councillors objected particularly to the change of use for 17 St Mary's Lane and the loss of a three bedroomed residential property, especially when the Draft Local Plan indicates that Much Wenlock should deliver around 200 additional dwellings.</p> <p>Councillors were also concerned about the impact of noise and disturbance from the proposed café on the adjacent properties. The applicant was at pains to highlight that cafés existed in residential areas, however, they would not normally be of this nature, catering for the expected market, with opening hours of 6am to 10pm. The proposed café was not in keeping with the character of a residential street.</p> <p>Councillors noted that drainage proposals were not included with the application and wished to see a SUDS plan.</p>
24/00120/TPO 5 Foresters Gardens, Much Wenlock	To reduce crowns by 1.5 metres and lift crowns by 1.5 metres of 2no. Sycamores (T1 & T2) protected by the Bridgnorth District Council (Farley Road, Much Wenlock) TPO 1995 (BR/TPO/95). It was RESOLVED no objection.
24/00331/TCA 2 Wheatland Grove, Station Road, Much Wenlock	Reduce by 20% 1no Larch within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was RESOLVED no objection.

8. Planning Decisions

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following planning decisions:

23/05201/TCA 1B Chapel Close, Much Wenlock	Fell 1no Ash within Much Wenlock Conservation Area Decision: No Objection
23/05212/FUL and 23/05213/LBC 48 High Street, Much Wenlock	Alterations to gates and boundary wall Decision: Grant Permission
23/05114/LBC 54 High Street, Much Wenlock	Alterations to an existing window to create a new doorway to the side of the property. Decision: Grant Permission
23/05081/FUL and 23/05082/LBC 24 Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey extension to side elevation, replacement roof, replacement doors and works to facilitate same. Decision: Grant Permission
23/05388/TPO Lime Grove, Smithfield Road, Much Wenlock	Pollard down to a 7 metre pole 1no Lime (T1) protected by the Bridgnorth District Council (Smithfield Road, Much Wenlock, Salop) TPO 1978 (Ref: BR/TPO/28). Decision: Grant Permission

9. Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement Protocol

Members noted correspondence from Shropshire Council regarding the Town Council's role in the planning enforcement process and the updated Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement Protocol.

10. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

Members noted that a letter from the Inspectors was posted in the Examination library on 18th January responding to questions posed by Shropshire Council. The letter stated that the sustainability appraisal still needed work and further clarification. This could further delay the timetable for the examination.

11. Neighbourhood Plan

- a. It was noted that a meeting had been held between members of the Planning & Environment Committee and the consultant on 2nd February.
- b. Members noted that comments from Councillors and the Council's consultant on the draft AECOM Design Guidelines had been collated and sent to AECOM.

36/23

- c. Members reviewed arrangements for the meeting with representatives of the Civic Society and 'Refresh' Group on 7th February.
- d. Members agreed to provisionally set a date of 9th March for a public launch of the Neighbourhood Plan review, subject to confirmation by full Council.

12. Telford & Wrekin Draft Local Plan

It was noted that, following approval from Councillors, an objection to elements of the Telford & Wrekin Draft Local Plan consultation had been submitted on 29th January 2024.

13. Wah Lai Chinese Takeaway

Members noted that the Clerk had received notification that the former Wah Lai Chinese Takeaway premises had been let to a new tenant. Nothing further was known at this stage.

14. Flooding Matters

- a. Members of the Strategic Flood Working Group reported that a meeting would be held on 23rd February with Philip Dunne MP and representatives of relevant agencies to discuss flooding matters in Much Wenlock. Updates on actions agreed at the previous meeting were awaited.
- b. Shropshire Council had advised that the major drainage work planned for Stretton Road would now be undertaken between mid-July and mid-September. This would allow more time to make diversion arrangements and allow longer working days due to the longer daylight hours. The possibility of a temporary one-way system was being explored.
It was RESOLVED to support the proposal for an informal, temporary one-way system via Easthope and Bourton (as per the map provided) and to request that provision be made for reinstatement of the highway if any damage were caused by HGV traffic.
- c. Members considered the response from Severn Trent Water to correspondence regarding flood risk from a possible breach at Shadwell Quarry and contingency plans for Quality Liquid Feeds. Severn Trent had responded that they had very little influence over commercial companies within the catchment. The Drainage & Flood Risk Manager at Shropshire Council had passed the Town Council's correspondence to the Emergency Planning team, and a response from that department was awaited.
- d. The Flood Action Group had been contacted with regard to a report to the Health & Safety Executive about risks from the potential collapse of the boundary wall at Shadwell Quarry and a reply was awaited. The Clerk was asked to follow up the enquiry.
- e. There were no other flooding matters arising.

15. Transport and Highways Matters

Members considered a report from the Transport Working Group. An enquiry had been sent to WSP and Shropshire Council regarding progress with the Gaskell corner proposals and the crossing on the A458 Bridgnorth Road. A response was awaited. There had been no progress with the parking proposals for the town.

It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue past 9.00pm.

16. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies*

- a. Councillor Linda West had attended the Buglife online launch event on 24th January 2024 and provided a brief overview of the session.
- b. It was agreed that Councillor West should be the nominated contact for the Bridgnorth Branch of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
- c. It was noted that Plastic Free Wenlock had been accredited by Surfers against Sewage for 2023 and continued to spread the word in 2024 to stop the use of single use plastic. Members were pleased to note that Baker & Cook had become Business Champions for Plastic Free Wenlock.

17. Consultation*

Members agreed that there was no need for this item to regularly appear on future agendas.

18. Street Lighting

Members noted that a street light would be reinstated outside 9 High Causeway on 9th February 2024.

Members noted that the fault with the light outside 42 Barrow Street had not been remedied despite frequent reports to Shropshire Council.

19. Street Naming *

20. Footpath Issues*

21. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*

22. Footpath Diversion Orders*

23. Road Closures*

Members noted the following road closures:

- a. Location: Callaughton Lane, Much Wenlock
 Date/Time: 14th to 16th February 2024, 08.00 – 17.00
 Purpose: Modifications to highways furniture
 Agency: Shropshire Council

- b. Location: High Street, Much Wenlock
 Date/Time: 15th January to 9th February 2024 (extended dates), all the time
 Purpose: Major electrical work
 Agency: National Grid

- c. Location: Bourton Road, Much Wenlock
 Date/Time: 12th May 2024, 09.30 – 15.30
 Purpose: Poling work
 Agency: Openreach

24. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)*

25. Stopping Up Orders*

26. Speed Limit Orders*

27. Prohibition Orders*

28. Date of next meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 5th March 2024 at 7pm at the Guildhall or Corn Exchange (tbc), Much Wenlock.

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.

27. Planning Enforcement

There was nothing to report on enforcement issues 23/09704/ENF, 22/09018/ENF and 23/09619/ENF. Further information was awaited on closed case 23/09833/ENF.

Members agreed to pursue enforcement matter 22/08783/ENF with the Principal Enforcement Officer.

Members considered correspondence from the responsible enforcement officer regarding 23/09704/ENF and agreed to provide clarification.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....

16/23

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
FINANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
 meeting held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
 at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 23rd January 2024

Present: David Fenwick, John O'Dowd, Marcus Themans, Christian Toon and Duncan White.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, Diane Barlow – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

1. Apologies

Cllr. Susan Crooke-Williams – other commitment.

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 held on 7th December 2023 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.

5. Town Clerk's report

Members noted the Clerk's written and verbal report on action taken since the last meeting.

6. Finance

- a. The RFO presented a written and verbal report. She reported that the interim audit for the 2023/24 financial year had gone well, with no concerns raised by the auditor. Income to 31st December 2023 was £68,933 (excluding precept, income from grant awards, and proceeds from property sales) which was 60.1% above budget for the time of year. This income figure also included the refund from SSE Swalec for street light electricity charges. Expenditure to 31 December 2023 was £239,388 (excluding NHLF and AHF expenditure) which was 2.1% below budget for the time of year, with a large invoice for the Library Service expected soon.
- b. Members noted the balance sheet as at 31st December 2023.
- c. Members noted the income and expenditure to 31st December 2023.
- d. Members reviewed the bank reconciliations to 31st December 2023. **It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 31st December 2023.**
- e. **It was RESOLVED to approve payments from 22nd November 2023 to date.**

7. Internal Audit

Members reviewed the report from the interim internal audit carried out on 18th January 2024 by DM Payroll Services. The auditor had raised no concerns and Councillors expressed thanks to the RFO.

8. The Guildhall Project

- a. Members noted that a meeting with Greenwood Projects was scheduled for 25th January. A tile had recently slipped from the roof of the Guildhall and this was being checked.
- b. Members considered the Structural Engineer's Report on the Guildhall, carried out as part of the viability appraisal for the Guildhall project. It was noted that many of the matters identified would be addressed as part of the wider Guildhall project.
 With regard to the oak posts at the front of the building, advice had been received from an Historic Building Consultant that it would not be advisable to inject the timber with an insecticide without dealing with the underlying causes of the problem.
It was RESOLVED to seek further advice from the Historic Building Consultant on the best way to address the problems with the condition of the oak support posts on the Guildhall.

17/23

- c. Members considered the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer's Report on the Guildhall, carried out as part of the viability appraisal for the Guildhall project. No safety concerns were raised in the report and other work would be addressed as part of the larger Guildhall project.

9. Public Toilets

- a. Members noted an update on outstanding work to the public toilets at St Mary's car park. Healthmatic had been asked to arrange the (re)installation of a cash payment facility and were seeking a solution. The Clerk was obtaining quotations for maintenance work to the building and for the repair of the damaged railings at the front of the building.
- b. Members noted that the upgrade to the electrical installation at Queen Street public toilets was scheduled for the week beginning 29th January. The toilets would need to be closed for the duration of the work and up to five days would be allowed.
- There had been recent vandalism in the toilets with signs of a small fire in the gents' as well as a pink liquid having been sprayed on almost every surface in the gents' toilets. After a delay of several days, Healthmatic cleaners had attended and a deep clean would also be undertaken.
- It was noted that the condition of the facilities at Queen Street was very poor. Contact would be made to seek sponsorship from a local company once the draft letter had been received from Cllr Toon.

10. Car Park at the rear of the Corn Exchange

Members reviewed operation of the car park at the rear of the Corn Exchange following changes to the restricted parking hours. Letters had been sent to Spar staff and Blakemore advising of the revised arrangements, although the new signage was still awaited. The matter would be considered again when the new signs had been installed.

11. Part-night Street Lighting

Members noted that the renewal date for the street lighting energy contract was March not January, as previously stated. The review of part-night lighting would therefore be included on the agenda of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting in March.

12. Christmas Lights

Members reviewed the 2023 Christmas lights display. The service from the contractor, Potters Electrical, had been very good and an attractive display had been provided. The following matters had arisen:

- After removal of the lights, the contractor had reported that the decorations at the front of the Corn Exchange were covered in bird mess, especially in the centre of the building, as the spikes were not deterring the pigeons. The RFO was asked to discuss options for addressing this matter with the pest control contractor.
- The wiring to the lights on the tree in the Square had been vandalised. The contractor would try to effect a repair.
- Some replacement and additional trees for display on shop fronts would be needed for the 2024 display and this could be considered when costs had been obtained.
- During the display period the Christmas trees in planters at end of the High Street had slipped to the side. Options to improve stability were being investigated.
- It might be possible to reconfigure the Merry Christmas banner across the High Street to make the lettering clearer and this would be pursued with the contractor.

13. Walkers are Welcome

Members considered correspondence from the Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome group about the winding up of the local committee and the requests for financial support for continued affiliation to the national body 'Walkers are Welcome' and website hosting. Councillors were sorry to hear about the closure of the group but pleased that the volunteers would continue to operate informally.

It was RESOLVED that the Council would pay the annual subscription for affiliation to the national body 'Walkers are Welcome' from 2025 and for hosting of the Much Wenlock Walkers are Welcome website on an ongoing basis.

14. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 19th March 2024 at 7.00pm at the Corn Exchange.

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.

15. Lighting for TBC Office in Corn Exchange

Members considered quotations for replacement lighting in the TBC office at the Corn Exchange.

It was RESOLVED to commission JC Electrical to replace the 10 existing suspended light fittings in the TBC office with 6 new LED suspended light fittings.

16. Rental of 10 High Street

Members considered an update on the rental of 10 High Street. The lease was now ready for signature by Councillors and the rental was due to commence on 1st February 2024.

17. Gaskell Recreation Ground

Members noted the response from Shropshire Council regarding land adjacent to the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

18. Much Wenlock Museum

Members considered further information received from Shropshire Council regarding Much Wenlock Museum.

It was RESOLVED that, on the basis of opening hours for the museum being reduced to 1,000 per year, the Town Council's preferred opening days for May to September were Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10.00am to 4.30pm with a half hour break for lunch.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed.....
Chairperson

Date.....

MONTH	MINUTE NUMBER	RESOLUTION	TASK COMPLETE	COMMENT
June 2022	13	Continue to check the Local Plan EiP website for updates.	Ongoing	Councillors and associates also requested to check EIP website themselves, in case of delay with Clerk checking.
Oct 2022	6b	Mayor and Clerk to draft a procedure for making CCTV footage available to the police.	Pending	
Dec 2023	19	Take out silver membership of Visit Shropshire for the next financial year at a cost of £1,500.	Yes	Arranged for 2024/25.
Mar 2024	6a	Press the policing team for a response regarding a complaint of racial abuse.	Yes	Matter resolved.
	6b	Revised policing priorities should be theft from dwellings and farms, speeding and drugs.	Yes	Local policing team advised.
	17a	Formally declare Windmill Hill a Local Nature Reserve and sign the declaration.	Yes	
	b	Issue the public notice of the formal declaration of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.	Yes	
	c	Liaise with the Windmill Trust to make arrangements for a celebratory event in the summer.	In progress	
	20	Send a letter to William Brookes School expressing dismay and disappointment at the closure of the sixth form....	Yes	Comments submitted online.

Other activities:

- Liaison regarding Neighbourhood Plan review
- Piece for the Wenlock Herald
- Liaison with 'Get a Word in Edgeways' and Greenwoods re Guildhall Story Trail and engagement event
- Attendance at market town clerks' catch-up meeting on 22nd March

From: Lezley Picton <Lezley.Picton@shropshire.gov.uk>
Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2024 at 10:28
To: Trudi Barrett <townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Much Wenlock - Proposal to increase car parking charges

Dear Trudi

Thank you for your email. I can confirm that Cabinet will be considering revised proposals at its meeting on the 17 April. Clearly we are having to consider these proposals within a very challenging budget backdrop. Please understand that the decision to increase car parking charges was taken after detailed consideration of a range of issues, but regrettably we have had to consider this action to reflect that charges have not changed for some time and we need to ensure that all 83 of the councils car parks across the county are appropriately managed, repaired and maintained. The proposals have been considered by the Councils Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee who have also made some recommendations for us to consider.

I have forwarded your letter to officers dealing with the review for their reference.

Regards.

Lezley Picton
Leader
Shropshire Council

lezley.picton@shropshire.gov.uk

Executive Assistant: jo.hardie@shropshire.gov.uk

Thanks.

Jo Hardie
PA to Leader of the Council | PA to Executive Director Place | PA to Assistant Director Commercial Services
Place Directorate

jo.hardie@shropshire.gov.uk

Our organisation is working flexibly, so if you've received this email 'out of hours', whilst it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your working hours

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 16:05:19 British Summer Time

Subject: RE: Southfield Road - Proposed EV - On Street Charging Points
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2024 at 10:44:36 Greenwich Mean Time
From: Dan Thomas
To: Zoe Mortimer, Town Clerk
Attachments: Southfield Road .jpg

Hi Zoe,

The Town Council will look at this next month in their meetings, my comments as Shropshire Councillor are below:

I do have some concerns with this. I've attached a photo of Southfield road, on the right of Bridge Road we do have a parking spaces which could accommodate the charging points, however, if you look to the left side, there is no parking or layby. Parking is a nightmare on Southfield road and these electric charging points will displace nonelectric cars, which will make the situation worse.

You would have my full support if funds could be freed up to create a layby on the other side of Southfield road when this goes in. It would tackle the parking issue and be ready for more EV charging points in the next wave 😊

Best Regards,
Dan

From: Zoe Mortimer <zoe.mortimer@shropshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 March 2024 16:56
To: Dan Thomas <Dan.Thomas@shropshire.gov.uk>; Town Clerk <townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Southfield Road - Proposed EV - On Street Charging Points

Dear Both

We are about to go out to traffic regulation order consultation on the following EV Charging Points On Street that we have become involved with to help the project team with the consultation process

I am just making sure you are all aware, as there has been many varying stages of EV consultation and site visits. The grant funding is aimed at residents with no off-street charging.

We are hoping to get this out next week so would appreciate it if you could drop me a line by return and hoping that you are in favour of us consulting the public on this amenity on the highway.

Kind Regards
Zoe

Miss Zoe Mortimer
Engineering and Contracts Manager
Transport and Environment
Parking Team

Tel: 01743 253787



Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 11:24:59 Greenwich Mean Time

Subject: FW: CONSULTATION: Shropshire Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2025 - 2028
Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2024 at 11:04:53 Greenwich Mean Time
From: Gail Power on behalf of ALC

Forwarded to Shropshire Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings on behalf of Shropshire Council.
cc: SALC Executive Committee

From: Jessica Moores <Jessica.Moores@Shropshire.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Licensing
Sent: 18 March 2024 16:20
To: ALC <ALC@shropshire.gov.uk>
Subject: CONSULTATION: Shropshire Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2025 - 2028

Dear All

Under the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act"), Shropshire Council is the licensing authority and is responsible for licensing and overseeing local gambling establishments and activities. Part of this responsibility is the duty to prepare and publish a statement of the principles (a policy) that the Council proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Act. The Council's current Gambling Act policy came into effect on 31 January 2022 and will cease to have effect on 30 January 2025. The Council must be in a position to formally adopt a revised policy with effect from 31 January 2025.

The Council has taken the opportunity to revise the content of the policy to reflect the latest guidance issued to licensing authorities by the Gambling Commission, to provide practical clarity to existing and potential licence holders and to assist Council officers to correctly apply the legal provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. The revision has led to minor amendments that update guidance references and the Local Area Profile has also been refreshed.

The Council welcomes and encourages all interested parties to provide feedback in relation to the content and format of the draft policy, which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/gambling-act-policy-consultation-2024/>

The consultation period commences on Monday 18 March 2024 and closes on Sunday 9 June 2024. Representations should be made to, and further advice may be sought from, the Licensing Team on licensing@shropshire.gov.uk.

ENDS

Kind regards

Jessica Moores
Public Protection Officer - Professional
Transactional Management & Licensing Team
Business & Consumer Protection Service

☎ 0345 678 9026