



Whitchurch Town Council

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2015

PRESENT

Councillors: R Hewson (Mayor), A Chesters, B Duffy, J Ebbs, T Harris, T Neville, T O'Neill, J M Rigley, J N Sinnott, B Slater, and L Stones.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Wilson (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr G Leverton – work commitment
Cllr M McDonald – work commitment

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

After a proposal by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor O'Neill **WTC/77 /1415**
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on **18th December 2014** be signed as an accurate record of that meeting

4. Matters Arising

Cllr Rigley asked if Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin had any further involvement with the meeting to discuss the lease. Cllr Dakin was not present and therefore could not be confirmed.

5. Mayor's Announcements

Mayor Hewson reported that he was at Whitchurch Hospital on Christmas Day and thanked councillors who attended the New Year's Day parade. Mayor Hewson informed members that the Army forces had contacted him and they want to take him and his wife out for the day anywhere they would like to go in recognition for the support given to them.

6. Outstanding Actions

None

7. Public Participation

One member of the public asked the Town Council seek assurances that Grocontinental's

Unit 15 12/04083/DIS complies with the planning conditions that includes landscaping and screening and which has not been completed.

Has the acoustic barrier been constructed as per the planning condition attached to application No 11/00806/FUL.

The Anaerobic Digester planning decision notice states, on page 2, that, prior to the commencement date that the developer shall submit to the local planning authority a Construction Management plan. – The resident wanted to know if this document would be available for public scrutiny.

The resident also asked for automatic notification of any changes in the application and that delegated powers not used in any circumstances.

Mayor Hewson informed the resident that all these matters are in the hands of Shropshire Council and the Town Council is not able to insist on any these matters but the clerk will write to Shropshire Council planning and Council Gerald Dakin and ask them for some feedback.

The resident wanted all these queries minuted.

8. Report from Members on Outside Organisations.

- Cllr Stones reported that he had attended the PIC/ Town Team meeting. His report included the Centre North East Youth Centre, the town website www.whitchurch.info and an Easter festival to include the farmers market.
- Cllr Duffy reported that Whitchurch patients group:

Firstly Beechtree are offering tutorials on the computer system that shows how you can get assistance.

Secondly, Remap, a charitable organisation of craftsmen making one off items for disabled people free of charge, are looking for volunteers.

Thirdly that two of the GP practices in the town are considering amalgamating and moving to Beech Ward to have increased and centralised services.

9. Location of Shropshire Council representative

At the December meeting of the Full Council it became apparent that members of the public present did not know that Cllr Dakin was not a Whitchurch Town Councillor. It was agreed that Shropshire Councillors should sit in the public gallery and be invited to the table to give their report at the appropriate time. The clerk is to inform Cllr Dakin.

10. Local Joint Commission representative

After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor Chesters **WTC/78 /1415 RESOLVED** Cllr Neville will be the representative for Whitchurch Town Council.

11. Skate Park

No update, Shropshire Councillor not present, no report

12. Shropshire Councillor's Report.

Shropshire Councillor not present, no report.

13. WW1

Cllr Ebbs informed members that the funding for the cabinet in the Civic and the re-enactment had been approved. Members were informed that a meeting was held with Tern Hill Barracks and the army is prepared to assist in any activities to commemorate WW1, these are yet to be arranged.

14. Correspondence

- Letter from NS Wheelers asking for funding for their community bus – bring forward to April full council for consideration.
- Letter from Gerry Johnson Oil buying club, asking to make a presentations to the Council regarding an oil club that should assist the residents. – Clerk to invite to Full Council.

15. Precept

Cllr Chesters explained that the Town Council would not be receiving the council tax support grant from Shropshire Council which was £43k last year. Cllr Chesters reported that he and the clerk looked through the budgets to make savings to ensure a nil rise.

The precept will increase by 1.1% due to an increase in the tax base. The budget figures have been circulated to members and there have been reductions made to accommodate the lack of funds from Shropshire Council, which will probably result in some maintenance issues not being addressed.

Cllr Hewson thanked Cllr Chesters and the clerk for their calculations on the budget and the precept. Cllr Hewson proposed that, for the 2015/2016 tax year, the precept be increase by 1.1%, a 0% rise to residents.

Cllr Harris reminded members that in the past the Town Council had not put the rates up and this caused a substantial increase last year, he gave a counter proposal of increasing the rates by 0.5 % to 1.6% equivalent to approximately 75p increase for the year.

A recorded vote was taken; Cllr Hewson, Cllr Ebbs and Cllr Duffy voted against the 1.6% (0.5% in true value) increase of the precept. Cllrs Chesters, Harris, O'Neill, Sinnott, Stones, Neville, Rigely and Slater voted for the increase of 1.6% a 0.5% increase to residents

The precept will be set at £433,463.19 making the Band D £148.85 which is an increase of .72p for the year.

After a proposal by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Chesters **WTC/79 /1415**
RESOLVED: the precept would increase by 1.6%, making the precept £433463.19 making the Band D £148.85.

16. Statement of Accounts

After a proposal by Councillor Sinnott and seconded by Councillor Stones **WTC/80/1415**
RESOLVED it was agreed to accept month 9 accounts.

17. Confidential Business

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

Meeting closed at 8:25 pm

Chairman Rob Hewson Date 19/2/2015