



website: [www.whitchurchcouncil.uk](http://www.whitchurchcouncil.uk)

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## FULL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING FOR FULL COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

#### PRESENT

Cllrs: M McDonald (Mayor), B Duffy, T Harris, T O'Neill, G Stockton, M Rigley, B Slater, A Chesters, J Ebbs, J Sinnott

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Stephen Platt - Town Clerk  
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald (PRESS)  
CMK Electrical Services Ltd  
Nicki Young (Shropshire Council)  
x4 members of public

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Cllr L Stones – Illness  
Cllr T Neville – Prior engagement

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

#### 3. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Chesters, with the proviso that the statement be mentioned as subsequently being issued afterwards. It was **WTC/85/1516 RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016** be signed as a true and accurate record thereof of the meeting.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

None

#### 5. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2016** - Whitchurch Rural Council: Met with the Chair to discuss any possible future collaboration.

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - ATC 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Salute: Received the salute at the Civic Centre

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - CRUK "Paint the Town Purple": Walk-around to judge best window display

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Tree planting in Jubilee Park: "Whitchurch Oak" planting, Jubilee Park; Meeting with Mr & Mrs Butler (residents) re: Pear Tree Lane development; Rotary Club photo-call re: new "Friends" initiative; presentation to Bella Ivy, Green End re: CRUK "Paint the Town Purple" initiative; Town Team meeting re: "Everybody Active Every Day" NHS Campaign Proposal

**12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Launch LGBT “Look Back in Time” Festival, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Beechtree Community Centre, launch of IT sessions with Cllr O’Neill

## **6. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

None

## **7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

After a proposal by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Harris; it was **WTC/86/1516 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.

Friday Market Trader (Clinton – Pet Supplies) asked for permission from the Council to trade in front of the Civic on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday every week.

## **8. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Dakin informed WTC of the recent SC (Shropshire Council) cabinet meeting to discuss the budget; where this overspend by Social Services will be written off by savings from other departments. However, going forward it is anticipated that there will be substantial deficits in future years concerning Adult Social Care due to demand from a growing and aging population.

Cllr Dakin also informed WTC Councillors that there is an LJC meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7pm in the Civic Centre, Whitchurch, and that Stonham Housing is closing down and that there are concerns for those residents affected by the closure.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Harris; it was **WTC/87/1516 RESOLVED** to return to standing orders.

## **9. TO RECEIVE THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR MONTH 10(Copy already circulated)**

The Accounts for Month 10 were proposed by Cllr Chesters as being in a good state. This was seconded by Cllr Slater. It was **WTC/88/1516 RESOLVED** to accept the Month 10 Finances.

## **10. STALL HOLDER REQUEST**

Cllr Stockton explained the request (as asked under item 7). The position for the stall in front of the Civic Centre would be in front of the library (taking up the first 2 parking spaces) during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

It was proposed by Cllr Stockton to allow the trader for the days mentioned to trade, this was seconded by Cllr Harris with the added proviso from Cllr Ebbs that there should be a timeframe for this trial. It was agreed to have a 3 month trial in principle, subject to conditions being met and checked, during which time a market stall fee would be received by WTC from the trader. It was **WTC/89/1516 RESOLVED** with 9 votes for and 1 no vote to allow a 3 month trial in principle on the days asked for subject to conditions.

## **11. BUS ROUTE AMENDMENT**

Cllr Stockton explained that the request was an idea from the Friday market stallholders in that more of the unable to get there residents of Whitchurch might attend the market if there was a bus stop on a Friday only in front of the Civic Centre.

After a discussion with the SC representatives the motion was deemed Void for further discussion due to the new information.

## **12. REMOVAL OF BALCONY PLANT BOXES**

Cllr Stockton explained that the planters are not in keeping with the new image for the Civic Centre being part of the High Street floral display and that the wooden planters would be put to use at the back of the Civic on the covered walkway around the rear car park; with the frontage having 9 new 22" hanging baskets. Cllr Chesters asked where this money would come from; it was confirmed by Cllrs O'Neill and Stockton that the cost would come from the Parks committee budget.

It was proposed by Cllr Stockton that the balcony based planters be removed for 9 hanging baskets; it was seconded by Cllr Rigley. It was **WTC/90/1516 RESOLVED** to remove the planters for 9 hanging baskets (pending costs to be looked at by the Parks Committee) with 7 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstain.

## **13. TO PUT THE CIVIC COMMITTEE BACK INTO FULL COUNCIL**

Cllr Harris explained that the desire to put the Civic Centre and the subsequent committee back under Full Council is to allow all WTC Councillors a say on the future direction and wellbeing of the Council building (especially in light of the possible acquiring of the Freehold) rather than the control of one councillor.

Cllr Sinnott stated that the daily running of the Civic Centre is the responsibility of the Clerk.

Cllr Rigley added that consideration of the Freehold was a critical element of the Council's strategic debate and should be embraced by Full Council for transparency and to aid decision making.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris to disband the Civic Committee only (not including Markets, Christmas Lights which will be revised to solus "Working Groups" when appropriate) into the remit of Full Council; this was seconded by Cllr Stockton. It was **WTC/91/1516 RESOLVED** to disband the Civic Committee (only) with 6 votes for, 3 against and 1 abstain.

## **14. TO PUT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE UNDER FULL COUNCIL CONTROL**

Cllr McDonald explained and proposed that with the ongoing investigation regarding procedures; it would be prudent to defer this item until a time after the report had been completed; this was seconded by Cllr Rigley. It was **WTC/92/1516 RESOLVED** to accept this deferment with 7 votes for, 2 no votes and 1 abstain.

## **15. TO RECEIVE & DISCUSS THE ELECTRICAL REPORT ON THE CIVIC CENTRE**

The Clerk explained the reason for the recently conducted electrical report being compiled; the report was circulated for this agenda item only.

After a proposal by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Rigley; it was **WTC/93/1516 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.

CMK Electrical Ltd reported elements of the findings, which represented the largest areas of risk to Whitchurch Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Harris; it was **WTC/94/1516 RESOLVED** to return to standing orders.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald to get the costs for the works done that are highlighted in the report and for the Clerk to report back to Full Council for consideration; this was seconded by Cllr Rigley. It was **WTC/95/1516 RESOLVED** to obtain costs for consideration.

#### **16. POLE PLANTERS ON REAR CAR PARK OF CIVIC CENTRE**

Cllr O'Neill explained and showed the new design for the pole planters for the rear Civic car park; the addition of these is to brighten, florally, the rear of the Civic and to create an identity for WTC by having a uniformed style of planter. The cost would only be for the 7 planters as WTC already own the posts they would sit on.

It was proposed by Cllr O'Neill for the addition of 7 pole based planters for the car park at the rear of the Civic; this was seconded by Cllr Stockton. It was **WTC/96/1516 RESOLVED** to get 7 planters made for the rear of the Civic with 9 votes for and 1 abstain.

Replacement of further planters within the Town would take place on a piecemeal basis as and when required.

#### **17. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE TIMETABLE OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald to accept the timetable of meetings with Cllr Duffy asking for Heritage to start at 10am rather than 2pm; this was seconded by Cllr Rigley. It was **WTC/97/1516 RESOLVED** to accept the timetable with the amendment.

#### **18. WHITCHURCH PARTY IN THE PARK**

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald to accept the request from the organisers of "Party in the Park" for WTC to lend them the gazebo's, tables and chairs as well as WTC staff and van to help set up and take down the items for and before the event on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016; it was seconded by Cllr Slater. It was **WTC/98/1516 RESOLVED** to lend out the various asked for items.

#### **19. SALC MEMBERSHIP**

This item was again deferred to the Finance Committee.

#### **20. BULLS IN THE BULLRING**

Cllr Ebbs explained the concept behind the bulls in the bullring.

However, the Bullring is owned by SC (Shropshire Council) and is a thoroughfare hence it being kept clear of street furniture for ease of access.

Cllr Rigley explained that the whole exercise is just see if Cllr Ebbs can find any scope for such statues in the Bullring, so this is just to allow Cllr Ebbs to look into this and see how far he can get with it.

Cllr Ebbs was requested to present solid proposals should we be allowed to progress.

#### **21. NEW RESIDENT WELCOME SCHEME**

Cllr Ebbs hoped that this initiative of giving a letter to every estate agent in Whitchurch would help raise the profile of Whitchurch Town Council amongst new residents moving to Whitchurch. This was proposed by Cllr McDonald seconded by Cllr Rigley. It was **WTC/99/1516 RESOLVED** to get a letter drawn up to distribute to the estate agents in Whitchurch.

#### **22. TO CHANGE THE PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Cllr Ebbs explained that he had already given the Chair of Finance his ideas for changing the layout of the accounts. The idea behind this was to make the accounts when viewed more understandable and clearer in combining the same cost centres over differing departments into one cost centre amount.

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald to ask DK Beevers if the Omega system was able to present a Summary Management Account Report as suggested by Cllr Ebbs and that further discussion should take place with the Finance Committee when appropriate; it was seconded by Cllr Slater. It was **WTC/100/1516 RESOLVED** to look into this.

### **23. REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Cllr Stockton gave the Clerk a resume of recent meetings with outside organisations.

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** – “Everybody Active Every Day”

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Whitchurch Joint Commissioning Economic Board (WJEC)

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Cllr Ebbs attended WJEC with Cllr Stockton

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016** - Cllr O’Neill attended a recent **Beechtree Community Centre** meeting

### **24. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES**

- **Finance**

The draft minutes have been sent to the Chair of Finance, awaiting approval.

### **25. CORRESPONDENCE**

- WT Williams thanking WTC for allowing him to attend Full Council as research for a new book he is writing.

### **26. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Cllr McDonald to go into Private; this was seconded by Cllr Slater. It was **WTC/101/1516 RESOLVED** to go into Private Session.

**There being further business the meeting closed at 8:40pm**

Chairman.....

Date.....