



Whitchurch Town Council

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th April 2015

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr M McDonald (Vice Chairman), A Chesters, B Duffy, J Ebbs, T Harris, T O'Neil and T Salton.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Wilson (Town Clerk) and Cllr Gerald Dakin

1. Apologies

Cllr R Hewson	–	another commitment
Cllr G Leverton	-	work commitment
Cllr T Neville	–	Holiday
Cllr M Rigley	–	another commitment
Cllr J Sinnott	-	Holiday
Cllr B Slater	–	another commitment
Cllr L Stones	–	another commitment

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Minutes

After a proposal by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Ebbs **WTC/95/1415**
RESOLVED accept the minutes of the meeting held on **19th March 2015** and the Extra Ordinary meeting of the **26th March 2015**.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Mayor's Announcements

The clerk reported the Mayors announcements in his absence. Two shops in the town; The Vapour (which sells e cigarettes) and Doodle Alley which is a children's centre. He attended the VIP lunch at the Rugby Club and a festival watching Rugby.

6. Outstanding Actions

None

7. Public Participation

After a proposal by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Duffy **WTC/96/1415**
RESOLVED to suspend standing orders for public participation.

A member of the public addressed the council with a question for Scottish Power; she gave the background of her question first then asked them to confirm that there is enough electricity in the

town and the anaerobic digester for GroContinental to supply electric for the town was unnecessary.

Cllr Dakin also asked Scottish Power about the cabling in Whitchurch and whether it is cables of taking the electricity.

Scottish Power answered the questions during their presentation and confirmed that there is enough electric in the town for all SAMDEV developments that they have been made aware of and companies that require electric for their business should approach them to ascertain measures needed to comply with their request. Scottish Power made it clear that if a company asked for 2 MB of electricity and then decided they needed to increase their supply they would have to approach them to find out if the existing infrastructure can accommodate the request, if it cannot the company would be given details of how this can be achieved which may include a cost which would have to be taken into consideration before measures are put in place. The new cabling for the town should be completed by early 2016 which will give more electricity for the town but their main project will increase the electricity will be completed in 2020 /2022

Gerry Johnson gave a presentation to councillors about the oil club which is free membership, which is to prevent fuel poverty. He explained that if those residents that have oil buy all at the same time savings of at least 10%, this can also assist those residents that can only afford to buy oil in smaller amounts due to financial constraints. If bought it bulk the savings can be passed on to all in the club regardless of how much they purchase.. He left the councillors with the details.

After a proposal by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor O'Neill **WTC/97/1415**
RESOLVED to return to standing orders.

8. Presentation from Scottish Power

See public participation.

9. Presentation from Gerry Johnson Oil Buying Club

See Public Participation

10. Casual Vacancy

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Harris **WTC/98/1415**
RESOLVED to co-op Graham Stockton onto the council.

11. Members on Outside Organisations.

- Cllr Harris attended the Jane Higginson's trust meeting
- Cllr Ebbs attended the Joint Commissioning Economic Board. At this meeting the empty buildings around the town were discussed; The Red Lyon's windows have been approved by Shropshire Council after deciding on the design to be in keeping with the rest of the town. Also discussed was the lack of car parking at the railways station and the need to find out if the other side of the track which is full of trees and vegetation can be converted into another parking area. This has the potential to alleviate the problem for people with physical disabilities who currently cannot get to the other side of the track, this will enable them to travel. Cllr Ebbs informed the council that the clerk had been in conversations with Network Rail and the land does belong to them and they would be interested in discussions around this topic.

12. Minutes from Committees

- Heritage Committee

Cllr Duffy reported back to councillors a meeting held with a contractor to discuss the heating in the Heritage Centre. Before any work can commence the asbestos needs to be removed to make it a safe place to work. Cllr Duffy also informed all that the accreditation process for the museum has been submitted and credit is due to Dr Hoyle and Ian Garner for all their work.

13. Skate Park

Cllr Dakin informed councillors that the schools, youth council and centre north east are being approached and consultation as to what they would like this will start in May.

14. Shropshire Councillor's Report.

Cllr Dakin informed councillors that measures had been taken to ensure the compliance of planning requirements on Gro Continental. The original instruction should have been completed in March 2014 and now again in March 2015 it has not been checked yet as staff have been unavailable. Cllr Dakin shared contents of an email with the councillors and the clerk will circulate it to councillors for their information.

Cllr Duffy asked Cllr Dakin if he would investigate the building site in the area of the Firs as the contractor has breached some planning constraints and has now left the site. For example they have gone too close to the trees, footpaths, foundations of one of the houses and currently there is raw sewage leaking from pipes on the site. Cllr Dakin said he would seek some assistance on this matter.

15. Combined Whitchurch Event

The event was discussed; the clerk had obtained some costs for hiring a self-drive van and some with a driver. Councillors requested that the numbers needed to be ascertained and of those whether they were prepared to contribute towards the cost.

16. Local Council Award Scheme

Councillors discussed the scheme; Cllr Harris asked for the work involved what did the council gain. It was agreed that the council would not pursue the local council award scheme at this time.

17. Grants awards for 2015/2016.

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Harris **WTC/99/1415 RESOLVED** Agreed to advertise and make decisions at the May meeting as the grants application had not been advertised.

18. WW1

Cllr Ebbs gave an update; the cabinet in the foyer of the Civic Centre has items displayed and has generated interest. Cllr Chesters enquired as to the insurance of items and the clerk confirmed it is covered by the councils Zurich insurance. Cllr Ebbs said that he had been approached by some students of the local school to be involved in a re-enactment. Cllr Ebbs asked councillors to consider an area in the foyer to display a manikin with WW1 uniform with the money from the Heritage Lottery Fund. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald **WTC/100/1415 RESOLVED** for the chairman of finance Cllr Chesters and the Clerk to cost a glass area in the foyer.

19. Cenotaph

A discussion around one of the names nominated to be placed on the cenotaph that has a war grave but did not die at war. It was agreed to defer the decision to give councillors more time to consider.

20. IT committee

The clerk explained the situation concerning the current website. After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor Duffy **WTC/101/1415 RESOLVED** it was agreed that the council should continue with the new website www.whitchurchcouncil.uk and change the email address to correspond xxx@whitchurchcouncil.uk. Thanks to be given to Ian Garner for the work done on the website.

21. Correspondence

None

22. Precept notification

To confirm the precept notification and that £7,368.39 is Neighbourhood Fund Allocation. Last year's allocation was £63 and is shown on the balance sheet separately and this year's amount will be shown separately too. The first amount should be spent first on projects in the town. It was agreed to discuss where to spend the funds when there is sufficient funds and a project can gain from those funds.

23. External Auditor

The external auditor is Mazars, should the opportunity to change be available then quotes will be sought.

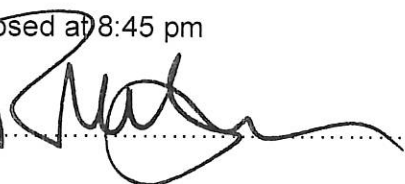
24. Statement of Accounts

The clerk explained that the accountant has been in to complete end of year but this was not possible in the time it has therefore been taken away for completion, the current month 12 and balance sheet is an interim measure. Accruals of income and expenditure are on month 12 accounts. Most of the Debtors have been written off giving a clear picture on the balance sheet. When the accounts have been completed by the accountants a new sheet will be sent to councillors. After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Chesters **WTC/100/1415 RESOLVED** to agree to the interim accounts.

25. Confidential Business

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Chairman



Date

21.5.15