

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JANUARY 2018

PRESENT

Cllrs: B. Duffy, J. Martin, T. O'Neill, T. Neville, J. Sinnott, A. Hall, A. Chesters, J. McAuley, L. Broders

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald
Cllr G Dakin, Shropshire Council

1. Apologies

No apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/120/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the **21st December 2017** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Mayor's Announcements

- 25th December 2017 – visited people in the Community Hospital at the invitation of the Hospital League of Friends
- 1st January 2018 – New Year's Day Horse & Carriage Parade – gave out rosettes

6. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr McAuley it was **WTC/121/1718 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for public participation.

7. Presentation from CCG

Mr Steve Ellis, Head of Primary Care and Dr Little, Bridgewater Practice attended to give an update on the proposed joint medical practice at Pauls Moss.

- a. Mr Ellis confirmed that Shropshire Council, Wrekin Housing, NHS England, the CCG and representatives from Whitchurch GP practices had met just before Christmas to discuss the project. At this meeting it was agreed that members would form a shadow board with Shropshire Council taking the lead. The Board are exploring options on how they can increase access and parking on the site.
- b. Governance for the project has been agreed between CCG, Shropshire Council, Wrekin Housing & NHS England.

Signed 1

- c. The NHS Transformation Fund is providing just under £1m as capital investment. The joint Medical Centre will be future-proofed in line with population growth.
- d. At the public consultation towards the end of last year the feedback received is that there is overwhelming support for one Medical Practice in Whitchurch.
- e. Detailed plans will be available at the end of March and Mr Ellis, Head of Primary Care has offered to come back to a Whitchurch Town Council meeting to update Council.
- f. Mr Ellis confirmed that the Bridgewater Practice will permanently manage the Claypit Street GP practice, but in the meantime all GP practices in Whitchurch were committed to working towards a joint Medical Practice for the town.

Q. Cllr Sinnott asked if there was an intention to pull down the Pauls Moss house?

A. Mr Ellis confirmed that Shropshire Council are leading on the planning.

Q. Cllr McAuley asked what the future for Out of Hours care in Whitchurch is, citing an incident with her daughter and granddaughter?

A. Dr Little informed the meeting that the provision of Out of Hours care in Whitchurch continues to be provided by Shropdoc. A GP is based at Shropdoc for Out of Hours care. Shropdoc manage the provision for Shropshire & Powys and the particular issue raised by Cllr McAuley would need to be taken up with Shropdoc directly. Locally, in Whitchurch, there is not usually a GP between 12 midnight and 7am and this is no significant change to the contract.

Q. Cllr Hall asked if having a dispensary at the proposed Medical Practice would adversely impact on town centre chemists?

A. Mr Ellis replied, stating that all chemists are managed by NHS England and it would be up to the chemists to lobby.

Q. Cllr Duffy said that the MIU was closed over Christmas and New Year, which is worrying due to the pressures on A&E departments.

A. Council were informed that the MIU is managed by the NHS Trust.

8. Report from West Mercia Police

None received.

9. Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Dakin reported:

a. Parking Strategy has been by Shropshire Council Cabinet:

- i. After **6pm** free parking will be continued.
- ii. Sunday free parking will continue.
- iii. Continue with 5 minutes pop & shop plus 10 minutes concessionary, still enabling people to park for 15 minutes free.

b. Paul's Moss development update from Tim Smith, Head of Business Enterprise & Commercial Services, Shropshire Council

Project description

The Pauls Moss project in Whitchurch will deliver a unique and innovative scheme that provides the people of Whitchurch with specialist housing accommodation, modern health care facilities that are fully integrated with other community services along with a community hub and state of the art

assistive technologies. This pioneering scheme provides much needed older peoples accommodation and will support community integration, resilience, health and wellbeing.

The project is a collaboration across various partner organisations to deliver a unique and innovative scheme that provides the people of Whitchurch with modern health care that is fully integrated with specialist housing and other support services. The Hub will provide a community facility for social interaction, promotion of wellbeing, and preventative health services to the town of Whitchurch and the rural parish area. This project is one of two in Shropshire which has received funding (£75,000 to fund project management and design work) as part of the Government's One Public Estate Programme which is led by Shropshire Council working closely with Wrekin Housing Trust, Shropshire CCG and local GP practices. To this end it has been endorsed by Government as an innovative project.

Shropshire Council, the NHS and The Wrekin Housing Trust are looking to redevelop a site to provide health and Extra Care facilities. The linkages between Extra Care housing and primary health care presents the opportunity to provide an innovative step-down facility. This will be an exciting model for Shropshire, supporting healthcare in a rural market town with the challenges of long drive times to access secondary health services.

Shropshire CCG's primary care committee has approved the project as the one it most favours for GP service provision in Whitchurch.

Project facts and figures

The capital cost for the whole project is estimated to be £15m. It will create up to 78 new homes and support up to 90 jobs. The project is expected to take 3 years to deliver up to 31 March 2021.

Land ownership and investment

The majority of land and property at Paul's Moss is owned by Wrekin Housing Trust. Shropshire Council is considering investing in the scheme, and particularly in the development of a new health centre with integrated community health services, to help finance the project and receive a sustainable revenue/ return on investment. The Council is also considering the opportunity to acquire adjacent land and property, as an investment, to help widen the scale and benefits of the facilities available to the people of Whitchurch. This may also improve the access into and out of the site which has single access only at present. Some feasibility work is being undertaken at present along with an assessment of value and price being asked for adjacent properties which are currently on the market for sale.

Wrekin Housing Trust can use HCA funds to help deliver the housing and care elements of the scheme. Shropshire CCG can use capital funds allocated to the project for the new health centre subject to the approval of a business case. Shropshire Council can also provide capital to help deliver the new medical practice and potentially other aspects of the scheme subject to its own assessment of the business case and financial due diligence.

Next steps

The Council is meeting with Wrekin Housing Trust next week, having been involved with several meetings with local GPs and Shropshire CCG, to agree the project governance and management structures required to deliver the whole scheme by 2021. More detailed drawings and plans have been commissioned for the scheme and particularly in relation to the health centre which requires further specification. Updates on this will be provided this evening by Steve Ellis from Shropshire

CCG. The CCG's Primary Care Committee will receive and review an outline business case to consider for funding purposes in March 2018 with an update report to be provided next month. Councillor Lee Chapman (who has portfolio holder responsibility for housing, health and care) represents Shropshire Council on the committee.

More information will be made available to local residents as part of a communication plan that will be agreed between the relevant partners. Further information and project updates will be provided for local councillors and at future town council meetings.

c. Budget Strategy

Shropshire Council will be setting their budget on 17th February 2018.

Q. Cllr Sinnott stated that as Pauls Moss is within the conservation area, will Shropshire Council Planning department take that into consideration.

A. As Shropshire Council are the Planning Authority the Conservation will make a report as part of the planning application process.

After a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/122/1718 RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

10. Outstanding Council Resolutions

(a) Civic Centre Freehold – the Town Clerk as sent an email to Steve Law, Strategic Asset Manager, Shropshire Council requesting an update, but no reply had been received.

(b) Skateboard Park – the Tender will go live on Shropshire Council website on 15th January 2018 and the Town Clerk will put a link to the information on Friends of Whitchurch Facebook page to inform people of the town.

(c) Increased Town Centre Signage – no further update.

11. Future Medical Provision

This item was cover under Items 7. and 9.

12. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/123/1718 RESOLVED** to accept Month 9 accounts as presented.

13. Minutes from Committees

- **Finance & Personnel Committee** – After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters it was **WTC/124/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance & Personnel Committee held on 11th January 2018.

14. Report from Members on Outside Organisations

Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended:

9th January 2018 – Community Led Plan meeting, followed by a meeting of Whitchurch Town Team

17th January 2018 – Northern Locality Patients Group and had received a presentation from the GMC on how they operate

17th January 2018 – Local Joint Committee planning meeting for the Whitchurch area Local Joint Committee due to be held on 21st February here in the Civic Centre.

15. Internal Audit Reports

- a. The Internal Auditor, John Henry, has written a report with proposals on the way forward for a Joint Burial Committee. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Martin, it was **WTC/125/1718 RESOLVED** that handover of all contractors, deeds and paperwork from the current Joint Cemetery Board would be done by the end of March 2018.
After a proposal by Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/126/1718 RESOLVED** to commend the current Joint Cemetery Board members for their good work with the cemetery.
- b. The Interim Internal Audit report dated December 2017 was presented to Council. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/127/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the report and comments made.

16. Road Safety Matters

- a. Council received a verbal update on road safety matters following the meeting with Dave Gradwell, Traffic Engineer, Shropshire Council: [Written meeting notes attached to these minutes.]
- b. Council received a letter from a student at SJT regarding student safety crossing Tilstock Road to and from school. The request has been noted within the written meeting notes with the Traffic Engineer [attached].

17. Grants Policy

Councillors received the Grants Policy with suggested amendments from the Town Clerk. After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **WTC/128/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the amendments and change the Grants Policy accordingly.

18. Whitchurch Town Council Statement

After a proposal by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was **WTC/129/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the statement for the press.

19. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

There was no Confidential business.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....