

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Tony Neville

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/130/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Thursday 18th January 2018** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Mayor's Announcements

There were no Mayor's Announcements.

6. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott it was **WTC/131/1718 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for public participation.

7. Presentation from Battle Re-enactment Group

Mr Mark Whittle, Chairman of the Battle Re-enactment Group provided some information about the Re-enactment Event in 2017:

- 900 people attended
- Poor attendance on Saturday due to bad weather
- Event made a loss because people did not turn up on Saturday.

Q. Do the group have any wet weather plans for the 2018 event?

A. Yes, the group will use sand where appropriate.

Cllr Hall commended the group for putting the event on.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/132/1718 RESOLVED** to refer the matter to Finance & Personnel Committee on 8th March 2018.

8. **Report from West Mercia Police**

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/133/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the written report from PC Deb Wheeler, Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team.

9. **Shropshire Councillor's Report**

Cllr Dakin reported:

- a. Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting took place on 14th February 2018 and agreed the Council Tax increases:
 - i. Shropshire Council increase 5.99%
 - ii. West Mercia Police increase 3.94%
 - iii. Shropshire Fire Service increase 2.99%
 - iv. Average Town/Parish Council increase 5.88%
- b. Cabinet had called in the new Parking Strategy; Cabinet recommended that parking charges increase and that these would be phased in, firstly in Shrewsbury and Ludlow, then followed by the smaller market towns, with parking increasing in Whitchurch in approximately July or August.
- c. That he has asked for the AD Lagoon Planning Application to be called in.

10. **Vacancies & Co-option**

Mr Mike Barker gave a short presentation on why he would like to become a Whitchurch Town Councillor. Following a unanimous vote and a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/134/1718 RESOLVED** that Mr Mike Barker be co-opted as a Whitchurch Town Councillor.

Public Questions:

- Mrs Julia Gallaher requested to know the amount that Royal British Legion had raised in 2017. **Action:** The Town Clerk would find out and let Mrs Gallaher know.
- Mrs Julia Gallaher asked Whitchurch Town Council how much the plastic lamp-post poppies had cost and were they reusable? **Action:** The Town Clerk will let Mrs Gallaher know the cost of the poppies and informed her that the poppies were reusable.
- Mrs Gallaher raised the issue about excessive litter on Tilstock Road and the by-pass. **Action:** The Town Clerk informed the meeting of the town litter pick taking place on 3rd March and would report this to Shropshire Council.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/135/1718 RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be reinstated.

11. **Outstanding Council Resolutions**

(a) Civic Centre Freehold – the Town Clerk informed the meeting that a paper requesting Whitchurch Town Council take on the Civic Centre freehold would be presented to Cabinet in April 2018.

(b) Skateboard Park – a short-list of two companies had been chosen from applicants: Bendcrete Leisure and Canvas Spaces. An event will take place on 21st February,

where members of the public are invited to meet with company representatives to discuss their proposed designs. Bendcrete Leisure in the morning, 10am to 12 noon, and Canvas Spaces in the afternoon, 1-3pm.

12. Future Medical Provision

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/136/1718 RESOLVED** to receive the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group press release.

13. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Martin, it was **WTC/137/1718 RESOLVED** to accept Month 10 accounts as presented.

14. Minutes from Committees

- **Parks, Public Realm & Civic Centre Committee** – After a proposal from Cllr O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Martin, it was **WTC/138/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Parks, Public Realm & Civic Centre committee held on 1st February 2018.
- **Finance & Personnel Committee** – After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hall it was **WTC/139/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance & Personnel Committee held on 8th February 2018.
- After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, it was **WTC/140/1718 RESOLVED** unanimously to offer a vote of thanks to Cllr Chesters for his diligence chairing the Finance Committee over the years.

15. Report from Members on Outside Organisations

Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended:

Community Led Plan meeting which reviewed the results of the public consultation on green spaces. The Town Team had received over 50 comments and suggestions. The Team were now considering how best to present the proposals. The next set of consultations would be a Design Statement, which will consider the type of houses which could be built, the construction and layout; care homes, retirement villages, homes for first-time buyers, etc. Unfortunately the Town Team are unable to propose locations as Shropshire Council are not issuing the updated SAMDev until summer 2018.

In response Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin reported that Leader of Shropshire Council will be meeting with Welsh Water regarding the sewerage issues in Whitchurch. Shropshire Council are working on a plan and Head of Economic Growth, Gemma Davies, and Planning Policy Officer, Eddie West, will be arranging to meet with Whitchurch Town Council to provide an update.

16. Charitable Trusts

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, it was **WTC/141/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the advice from Hibberts LLP Solicitors and the Harry Richards Trust Fund will remain in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Account, but appear on the accounts as an Ear Marked Reserve.

17. Road Safety Matters

The following road safety matters have been sent to the Shropshire Council Road Safety Partnership:

a. Tilstock Road. There is one stand-out project which has been brought to Whitchurch Town Council's attention by a pupil at Sir John Talbot's School, and also a supporting letter from the Head of SJT. The original student letter requests a crossing on Tilstock Road, and the letter from the Headteacher requests a further zebra crossing on the speed hump near the entrance to Hatton Way. A further request from the Headteacher is for school signage to make drivers aware of the entrance to the school. Whitchurch Town Council support these proposals as a community led concern and wish to add them through the Shropshire Council Road Safety Policy.

b. HGV Weight Limit on Green End and High Street, Whitchurch. At the meeting with Whitchurch on 18th January 2018 you advised Town Councillors that any HGV weight limit within the one-way system in Whitchurch town centre would have to be an Environmental Weight Restriction. You are requested by Whitchurch Town Council to also submit a timed weight limit restriction - this weight restriction will prevent large goods vehicles using the narrow streets of Whitchurch Town Centre during the hours of 10am until 4pm – the time limit is not a directive from Whitchurch Town Council but a suggestion. Can you confirm whether or not the Environmental Weight Limit restrictions apply to vehicles making deliveries?

c. Bargates. Bargates is a narrow road leading from the top of the town centre to the main routes to A41 & A49. The community led concern is the narrowness of the pavements and lack of pavements on parts of the road. At the discussions on 18th January, the narrowness of the pavements was mentioned with regards to the safety of pedestrians, as town buses have wing mirrors which overhang the pavement, due to the narrowness of the road, and could, potentially, hit someone in the head.

d. Pepper Street / Castle Hill mini roundabout junction. At the meeting on 18th January, you said that you will be speaking to Head of Highways North, about removing the mini roundabout at this junction and installing a give way line further out into the junction to give better visibility to drivers leaving Pepper Street.

On 1st February, Area Traffic Engineer for Shropshire Council reports that "items a., b. and c. above will be submitted to the Road Safety Partnership for assessment/prioritisation process for consideration of funding as part of next years' (2019/20) Capital Works Programme". When the Environmental Team know the budget for financial year 2018/19 they will discuss "the possibility of carrying out the scheme to revise the road markings at the junction of Pepper Street/Castle Hill."

18. Road Passenger Transport

Councillors were requested to email the Town Clerk with comments by 21st February 2018.

19. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

After a proposal from Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/142/1718 RESOLVED** to enter Confidential session.

20. Big Things Project

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/143/1718 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council accept, in principle, the installation of a public piece of art in Jubilee Park.

21. Online Payments

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/144/1718 RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk check account numbers and sort codes prior to Councillors authorising online payments.

22. Van Insurance

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/145/1718 RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to check driving licenses of staff who drive Council vehicles.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....