

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald
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1. Apologies

Cllr L Broders – work commitment

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/146/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Thursday 15th February 2018** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising

An explanation on the Harry Richards Fund was given.

5. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor attended the following events representing the Council:

23 rd February 2018	Coffee morning at Clifford's House
25 th February 2018	Whitchurch Lions lunch at Bickley
26 th February 2018	Opening of new stud farm at Twemlows and was introduced to the Princess Royal
4 th March 2018	Civic Service for Chair of Shropshire Council
7 th March 2018	Town & Parish Council Forum, Guildhall, Shrewsbury
10 th March 2018	Purple Tie & Tiara Ball, Shrewsbury Mayor

6. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy it was **WTC/147/1718 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for public participation.

A resident spoke to the Council about disability and pram/pushchair access at Whitchurch Train station. The Access for All Scheme was mentioned and the resident had written to Owen Paterson MP and had received a response from Chris Grayling, Minister for Transport.

He had sent a letter to the Managing Director of Arriva Trains Wales, Tom Joiner and explained that it was his responsibility, along with Rail Track. Rail Track explained that they had no money and that the specific fund for access had closed, but that a further fund was envisaged for 2019 for station improvements. The resident requested that Whitchurch Town Council raised the profile of this issue.

7. Vacancies and Co-option

- a. **Professor Norma Raynes** explained that she has a background in intergenerational work with young people and older people. After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/148/1718 RESOLVED** that Professor Raynes be co-opted as a Councillor onto Whitchurch Town Council.
- b. **Matthew Fewster** explained that his interest was in health and fitness and was currently undertaking the qualification to become a Personal Training. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/149/1718 RESOLVED** that Matthew Fewster be co-opted as a Councillor onto Whitchurch Town Council.

8. Report from West Mercia Police

PC Deb Wheeler, Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), informed Council:

- Vehicle ASB has been reported and Section 59s issued.
- 'Shropcops' Facebook page - new drivers only have 6 points on their license.
- Complaints had been received regarding parking in the Blackmore Grove area. PC Wheeler informed the meeting that Shropshire Council Enforcement Officers need to deal with parking infringements. Police only deal with vehicle obstruction.
- Shoplifting – a prolific shoplifter has been caught. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are working with shops to join Shopwatch. A leaflet has been given to all shops which includes information on citizen's arrest.
- Every day one member of the SNT will be on duty and will be more visible in the town centre and parks.

9. Shropshire Councillor's Report

No Councillor was present.

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/150/1718 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

10. Full Access to Southbound Platform at Whitchurch Railway Station.

Cllr Duffy suggested that a ramp could be put alongside the rail track from Station Road. Whitchurch Town Council need to put pressure on Network Rail, MP, Minister for Transport, Shropshire Council and include the Shropshire Disability Network. A feasibility study to be carried out for the ramp. Alternatively, there could be a level crossing for pedestrians. This is an important part of the towns' future. The Town Clerk was requested to contact Ludlow Town Clerk to understand how Ludlow Town Council installed disabled access at their station.

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 on 11th April 2018.
- (b) **Skateboard Park** – the Town Clerk informed Council that Canvas Spaces had been awarded the contract for the skate park. A further public consultation will take place week commencing 3rd April 2018 to reassess the changes to the original design.

12. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **WTC/151/1718 RESOLVED** to accept Month 11 accounts as presented. It was noted Cllr Chesters concern regarding the cost of wages and Cllr Sinnott noted that the property maintenance was over budget.

13. Minutes from Committees

- **Heritage Committee Minutes** on 22nd February 2018.

The Work of the Committee was reported:

- New boiler
- CIO moving forward well
- Signage for the Heritage Centre and units to be installed

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/152/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the Heritage Committee minutes from 22nd February 2018.

- **Planning Committee Minutes** on 28th February 2018

The Committee discussed the application for digestate lagoons at the AD plant:

- Whitchurch Town Council was against industrialising the site
- Whitchurch Town Council raised the issue of potential pollution of Staggs Brook and Brown Moss from the proposed pipelines

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/153/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the Planning Committee minutes from 28th February 2108.

- **Parks, Public Realm & Civic Centre Committee** on 1st March 2018.

The work of the Committee was reported:

- That most tree work had been completed.
- Wheatsheaf Drive – the Council needed to submit a planning application.
- Sports Hall ladder was being repaired with a view to removing the asbestos.

After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/154/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Parks, Public Realm & Civic Centre committee held on 1st March 2018.

- **Finance & Personnel Committee** – 8th March 2018

The work of the Committee was reported:

- It had been decided not to purchase new chairs, but to purchase clip to join the current chairs together for performances in the Main Hall.
- The inspection for the lift had been agreed.
- Staff TOIL was discussed.

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr O'Neill it was **WTC/155/1718 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance & Personnel Committee held on 8th March 2018.

14. Report from Members on Outside Organisations

Cllr Martin reported that he had attended the Beechtree Community Centre Trustees meeting. The Community Centre has better finances with a good amount of reserves and surplus. The Beechtree continue to fun their youth group and help unemployed people with job searches. The Centre have recently taken on the Community Car Scheme.

Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended:

- 27 February 2018 - Community Led Plan meeting which had agreed the public consultations which would be undertaken by the group.
- 3 March 2018 – Community Led Plan public consultation

- 7 March 2018 – Town & Parish Council Forum and heard presentations from Shropshire Council Highways, Public Open Spaces and Community Led Planning/Neighbourhood Planning.
- 7 March 2018 – Street Scene

It was noted that Whitchurch Town Council have not had Councillor representation attend Whitchurch Chamber of Trade meetings for some months, after a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **WTC/156/1718 RESOLVED** that Cllr Hall will attend Chamber of Trade meetings as the Whitchurch Town Councillor representative.

15. Main Hall Flooring Quote

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/157/1718 RESOLVED** to take the money from the general fund.

16. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Neville, it was **WTC/158/1718 RESOLVED** that a small working group would be set up to meeting in the evenings (not Mondays) and that the following Councillors will be members of the working group:

- Cllr Terry O’Neill
- Cllr Matt Fewster
- Cllr Andy Hall

17. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/159/1718 RESOLVED** to enter Confidential session.

Cllr Sinnott made a statement:

No one Councillor in this Council has the authority to investigate another Councillor. No Councillor can ask another Councillor to make a Declaration of Interest.

18. Bar Franchise

- a. Cllr Martin had a written motion to present to Council. After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/160/1718 RESOLVED** that this item would be deferred back to Committee in accordance with Standing Orders
- b. The discussion on the recommendation from Parks, Public Realm & Civic Centre Committee was invalid due to the previous minute at 18a.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman.....

Date.....