



QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

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

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015

**PRESENT** Councillors: Cllr McDonald (Mayor), J Ebbs, B Duffy, T Harris, T Neville, T O'Neill, B Slater, G Stockton, J Sinnott and L Stones.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

M. Wilson Town Clerk

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Rigley – Holiday  
Cllr Chesters – Holiday  
Cllr Slaton – Holiday  
Shropshire Cllr Dakin - Holiday

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr O'Neill expressed an interest in item 15

#### **3. Minutes**

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/52/1516 RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015** (Extra Ordinary Meeting) and **24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

None

#### **5. Mayor's Announcements**

None

#### **6. Outstanding Actions**

None

#### **7. Public Participation**

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Harris It was **WTC/53/1516 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.

Resident Rob Hewson asked the Town Council what measures were being taken to make sure the Whitchurch Library is not closed by Shropshire Council. Shropshire Councillor Peggy Mullock informed that all the Libraries are out for consultation but it was unlikely that Whitchurch would be closed.

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Neville It was **WTC/54/1516 RESOLVED** return to standing orders.

#### **8. Councillor vacancy**

Votes taken in confidential.

#### 9. **WW1 names on cenotaph**

After a proposal of William Murhall should be placed on the cenotaph a show of hands vote was taken 6 for 3 against, 1 abstained. The motion was carried to place his name on the Cenotaph.

#### 10. **Shropshire Councillors report**

- Whitchurch Youth Commissioning: Shropshire Council have awarded the contract to run youth services at Centre NE to Shropshire Youth Association. SYA are currently recruiting youth workers and are working to have Centre NE open for youth sessions after October half term. They will be organising a re-opening event, with the aim of running a junior and senior session on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Whitchurch Joint Commissioning & Economic Board:

The JCEB have successfully brought together representatives from the development and utility company to talk with Shropshire Council about resolving issues with bringing electricity to the business park site behind White House School. Shropshire Council officers have successfully worked with landlords to allocate Empty Homes Zone grants **in the town**, to convert premises above commercial buildings into affordable housing. Work is continuing between the Board, Shropshire Council and the owners of the former Horse & Jockey and Rectory buildings to get the best possible outcome for the town. I met with the new owners of Bredwood Arcade and talked about new initiatives to upgrade the area.

- Whitchurch area Local Joint Committee: we had a successful meeting last week, with presentations from the Head of Tilstock Primary School, (Herald front page news) and heard about developments from Arriva Trains Wales. The Committee highlighted the lack of parking at the Whitchurch Railway Station and the Arriva Trains Wales agreed and said that potential new parking arrangements could be discussed. The Arriva Trains Wales representative agreed that the canopy should be retained and is now working with CASPA (Crewe and Shrewsbury Partnerships Association) to see what can be arranged with Network Rail.

- Whitchurch Community Alcohol Partnership:

The Police reported that the summer had been quiet with relatively low underage drinking incidents, especially in Jubilee Park. We had a stand at Blackberry Fair to raise awareness. The Partnership are looking to start an Alcohol Retailers Forum, to share local intelligence, especially regarding proxy purchasing, and the two main supermarkets are supporting the Forum and will provide venues for shared training. The Partnership do need to report on alcohol-related litter, especially that collected at Jubilee Park and would like the Town Council contractors to complete the supplied form if possible.

- Skate Park: A successful consultation was held at Blackberry Fair and young people have selected their preferred design option. Shropshire Council officers are now working with the preferred design company to enable them to meet with young people to hear what they have to say. A meeting of the Skate Park joint working group will be organised before this consultation to discuss the project.
- Hate Crime Awareness Week: This week is hate crime awareness week and I will be 'manning' a stand at the Friday market, tomorrow, to raise awareness of what hate crime is and how it can be reported. This initiative is being coordinate by the Safer Shropshire Partnership and Shropshire Council are working in partnership with the Police.

- Whitchurch Town Team:

Shropshire Rural Community Charity are organising social events for carers in Whitchurch. The first event is being held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2pm in Whitchurch Senior Citizen's Club. I am helping to make sandwiches, etc, for a Christmas afternoon tea and will be serving on at the event. Sport Whitchurch, the forum for representatives of all sports clubs in the town to come together and work in partnership, have now agreed that the area including and surrounding SJT will be the 'sports' hub for the town. SJT have taken over running the Leisure Centre and there are now deals for members. The Town Team receive updates from other partnerships and coordinate the outcomes from Whitchurch Town Plan. The Team are currently discussing a refresh of the Plan, with a view to creating an all-round document for Shropshire Council and Whitchurch Town Council to adopt.

#### **11. Town Clerk appointment announcement.**

The Mayor Mike McDonald announced the new appointment of Stephen Platt as the new town clerk to start on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

#### **12. Outside organisation volunteer**

No volunteers.

#### **13. Report from Members on Outside Organisations.**

Cllr Slater reported 30/09/2015 attending the Whitchurch Business Club Launch held at St John Talbots school. Also reported attending the Blackberry Fair and The LJC meeting.

Cllr Stockton gave members an update on Chamber of Trade meeting and Joint Cemetery Board Cllr O'Neill informed members that the Beechtree failed in their bid for lottery funding but they will be reapplying.

Cllr Neville reported that at the LJC the Fire service will complete free fire risk assessment and fire alarms to pensioners over 60 and the disabled. He also attended on behalf of the Mayor the Harvest Festival at St Alkmunds Church.

#### **14. Minutes from Committees**

- **Civic and Markets**

Cllr Sinnott presented the minutes and informed members that the Chamber of Trade have been contacted regarding a Friday street market but have not responded.; that bollards are now at the front of the Civic Centre and a request for a CCTV camera at Chemistry Car park had been passed back to Shropshire Council as it is their land.

After a proposal by Councillor Sinnott and seconded by Councillor Neville It was **WTC/55/1516 RESOLVED** To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st Oct 2015

- **Heritage**

Cllr Duffy reported no meeting had taken place but wanted to inform members that at the Blackberry Fair the Museum had 250 visitors. She went on to say that there is a need for directional signs to encourage more visitors. She also asked for an acknowledgment from the Council to the curator for all her hard work. Cllr Harris asked for an acknowledgment to Shropshire Councillor Peggy Mullock as she spent a long time finding a suitable curator. After a proposal by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Harris It was **WTC/56/1516 RESOLVED** to send letters of thanks.

- **Parks**

Cllr O'Neill informed members that there had been some vandalism in the park and the committee agreed to extend the Harry Richards garden.

After a proposal by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Duffy It was **WTC/57/1516 RESOLVED** To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015.

- **Finance**

After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/58/1516 RESOLVED** To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015.

**15. Pavement Licence in the Bullring**

A discussion around the decluttering of the Bullring, that the Town Council was asked to remove planters on poles and drinking in the street; it was agreed to object to the pavement licence.

**16. Town Team**

Bring forward to next meeting.

**17. Town Crier**

After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/59/1516 RESOLVED** to put to finance.

**18. Correspondence**

- Shropshire Housing will be attending next month
- Mapping of Whitchurch for district heating would like to the Town Councils involvement.
- Statistics from the police.

**19. To receive the Statement of Accounts for month 6**

After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/60/1516 RESOLVED** agreed to accept accounts for month 6

**20. Confidential Business**

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters.

**21. Continued discussions on The Civic Centre.**

To discuss any further negotiations.

**Meeting closed at 8:08**

**Chairman .....** **Date.....**