MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th April 2014

PRESENT
Councillors: R Hewson (Mayor), M McDonald, A Chesters, T O’Neill, J Sinnott, B Slater, B Duffy and F Stubbs

IN ATTENDANCE
M Wilson (Town Clerk) Cllr Dakin

1. APOLOGIES
The following apologies and reasons for absence were received:
Cllr C Hitchiner Illness
Cllr J Ebbs On Holiday
Cllr Rigley Work
Cllr T Neville another meeting
Cllr P Lea Working
Cllr T Harris Family issues

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No interests were declared.

3. MINUTES
After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Slater
WTC/161/1314 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2014 be agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING
No matters arising.

5. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS
No Announcements

6. OUTSTANDING ITEMS
The Minutes of previous meetings still requiring action were noted.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None

8. Minutes from Committees
To receive the Minutes of the following committees as presented by the Chairman and to consider any recommendations contained therein.
- Parks Committee: Parks Chairman O’Neill informed councillors the planter were being painted and hanging basket bracket being purchased for the shops that either need replacement or new one which should give a good show for the town. WTC/162/1314 RESOLVED That Minutes of the Parks Committee held on 7th April 2014 be received and the recommendations approved
- Civic & Markets Civic and Markets Chairman Cllr Sinnott reported that there had been a misunderstanding of the sports hall windows and it was intended they should be covered but they have been sprayed with a covering which let light into the hall. Also reported that with the new doors going into the hall the lady who sells the cheese will have to move as she is in the way of the fire exit. Other items to be discussed in confidential. WTC/163/1314 RESOLVED That Minutes of the Civic & Markets Committee held on 7th April 2014 be received and the recommendations approved
• Planning WTC/164/1314 RESOLVED That Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7th April 2014 be received and the recommendations approved.

9. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR’S REPORT
Cllr Dakin had nothing to report; he did express concern that Whitchurch does not have enough electricity. Cllr Stubbins made comment about the solar panels planning application and that it would not bring anything into Whitchurch as the electricity would end up in the grid. As the application is not in Whitchurch’s wards representations would have to be made directly to Shropshire Council.

10. REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS
• Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended the Whitchurch Patient Group AGM.
• Cllr Slater attended the Blackberry Fair meeting and raised a concern as to the fair continuing in the town.

11. REQUEST FROM GRINDLEY BROOK READING ROOM
Cllr Hewson volunteered to assist in the trustee of the committee to wind down the accounts.

12. Nominations for the committees
Agreed to wait for next month when nominations are requested at the AGM.

13. Official Opening of the Civic
9th May 2014 to be opened by Own Paterson; the protocol will be circulated.

14. Skate Park
The clerk informed councillors that there had been a meeting with Shropshire Council Councillor Dakin, Nicki Young (Community Action Officer) Sean McCarthy, Positive Activities Co-ordinator Miriam Turner and chair of the Parks Committee Terry O’Neill. The meeting agreed that the youth would be canvassed as to the type of skate park they would like and companies would be approached as to the possible cost of the design. At the meeting Cllr Dakin suggested that funds should be sought from CIL money and grants. The clerk wanted to ask councillors for their support as RAC/8/1314 states matched funding. Cllr Chester’s reminded councillors that it was an agreement in principle after consulting with companies for the skate park.

15. Signs around the town
Cllr Sinnott explained the need for the signs around the town; market users are complaining that there are no signs on the outskirts of the town stating that it is a market town and there is a market on a Friday. It was agreed to obtain some quotes and ask Shropshire Council if planning is required. It was also discussed that a sign over the entrance to the Civic stating Market Entrance is needed to encourage residents in the high street to walk through to the market. Cllr Hewson will source this from one of the market users. After a proposal by Cllr Sinnott and Cllr Hewson WTC/165/1314 RESOLVED to seek prices for the signs around the town and order a banner for the market entrance.

16. Old Cookers
Previous resolution to sell the cookers to Cllr Peter Lea was reviewed as Cllr Lea has obtained prices for converting the cookers into LPG which is more expensive than originally anticipated. The clerk had sort other prices one was from a local firm who offered £175 if other items were purchased and Councillor Duffy sent pictures to a contact who said he would not be interested but we should manage to sell them for £200. After a proposal by Cllr Hewson and Cllr McDonald WTC/166/1314 RESOLVED to sell the old cookers for £200 each.

17. Flag poles
Cllr Sinnott informed Councillors that the existing flag poles cannot be reinstated and new ones would have to be purchased at a cost of around £250 each. After a proposal from Cllr Mike McDonald Seconded Cllr Hewson WTC/167/1314 RESOLVED to purchase new flag poles.

18. Grants for 2014/2015
After a proposal from Cllr Mike McDonald Seconded Cllr Hewson WTC/168/1314 RESOLVED the awards for grants would be as below.

- KSLI Memorial £240
- St Johns Methodist £300
- Town Twinning £400
- Air Cadets £450
- Friends of Whitchurch £1,000 (from Harry Richards funds)
- Age Concern £170
- Party in the Park £630
- Cricket Club £250
- Queensway Play area £500
- Blackberry Fair £1,500
- Inner Wheel £350

It was agreed that the PIC group would have to submit their accounts before an award is given. The Mayor announced that the accountant had visited and informed him that there was an underspend and the Mayor has suggested that £750 will be put into the mayors allowance and £1,000 into council reserves. After a proposal from Cllr Mike McDonald and Seconded Cllr O'Neill WTC/169/1314 RESOLVED the funds should be so allocated.

19. CORRESPONDANCE
1. We are McMillan thanking the Town Council for selling flapjacks.
2. Two letters from residents complaining about planning application

20. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
The accountant was unable to attend to produce the accounts. The clerk informed councillors that another internal auditor is being sort.

25. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor O'Neill, WTC/170/1314 RESOLVED: That, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information or staff matters.

Cllr Sinnott explained that Shropshire Council offered a sum for the SLA. A discussion around the offer was considered and the clerk to write and seek more funds as it was thought to be insufficient for the services that will be used and was not a realistic proposal.

Cllr Sinnott also discussed the Markets Policy that had been circulated and sought agreement to publish it and implement. Cllr Duffy and Cllr Hewson WTC/171/1314 RESOLVED to publish the Market Rights and the policy to be implemented.

(The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.)

Chairman ........................................ Dated .................. 15/5/14