MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th May 2014

PRESENT
Councillors: R Hewson (Mayor), M McDonald (left at 7:40 pm), A Chesters, T Harris, Cllr J Ebbs T O’Neill, J Sinnott, B Slater and B Duffy.

IN ATTENDANCE
M Wilson (Town Clerk), Cllr G Dakin (Shropshire Councillor), Miss Z Dean (Town Centre Manager/Assistant town clerk), Mrs N Gresty (Accounts/Admin Assistant), Mr M Clive (Facilities Manager) and Mr D Whitehead (Facilities Assistant).

1. To elect the Town Mayor
The retiring Mayor gave thanks to the Councillors and all their hard work throughout the year and also gave presentations to the staff and thanked them for their hard work. He went on to give cheques from his funds to various organisations for all the work they complete for the youth of the town.
After nomination from Cllr M McDonald and seconded by Cllr Sinnott it was RESOLVED WTC/1/1415 that Cllr R Hewson continue in the post of Mayor for Whitchurch Town Council.

2. To elect the Deputy Town Mayor
After nomination from Cllr J Sinnott and seconded by Cllr Hewson it was RESOLVED WTC/2/1415 that Cllr M McDonald continue in the post of Deputy Mayor for Whitchurch Town Council.

3. APOLOGIES
The following apologies and reasons for absence were received:
  Cllr C Hitchiner - Illness
  Cllr Rigley – none given
  Cllr T Neville another engagement
  Cllr P Lea - Unwell
  Cllr Stubbs another – engagement

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No interests were declared.

5. MINUTES
After a proposal by Councillor O’Neill and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/3/1415 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2014 be agreed.

6. MATTERS ARISING
To deal with matters arising from those minutes not otherwise on the agenda.
WTC/169/1314 to rescind the resolution as the funds were not available. After a proposal from Mayor Hewson and seconded by Cllr McDonald it was RESOLVED WTC/4/1415 to rescind the WTC/169/1314 as there were no funds available as the account had made a mistake.

7. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Mayor announced that when the flag poles are erected that the flag will fly at half-mast for the two recently departed Mayors; Doris Ankers and Marion Windwood as a mark of respect.

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

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Standing orders were suspended to allow public participation. PC Stuart LeClare spoke to Councillors about the Stopwatch in the Town and how successful it is and it is working well. He explained that the mobile police station only attracted a couple of residents and it will not be used in this area again as it not cost effective. He explained that item 20 on the agenda that the Town Council could not survey the town for anti-social behaviour; residents should be encouraged to phone the police on 101 or Crime stoppers in order that the Police can collect all the evidence to proceed with any convictions. He then gave out the crime figures for the whole of Whitchurch Area including the rural areas.
Sue McKeon then gave a small presentation on the PIC (Parish Plan Implementation Committee) and asked for an audience with councillors to explain all that has been completed on the plan to date and any outstanding items.

10. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
Cllr Dakin spoke about the anabolic digester and explained that it is going to full planning committee. He expressed concern that the town needs electricity. Cllr Harris made presentation about the planning application and that there were a number of issues that needed addressing the fact that the Environmental report states that an anabolic digester should not be within 200 meters of people and there are two places where food is being prepared and a nursery, other issues where raise which included the carbon footprint and vehicles. Cllr Dakin stated that Whitchurch Rural have asked for the planning to be delayed and that Grocontinental have agreed to put on a demonstration to explain to residents which will probably be completed in July

11. REPORT FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS
- Cllr O'Neill reported on CAP, he reported that the funding had finished but they will be still functioning in some form. They had funded the artists in Party in the Park and over the summer months a session for the Centre North East youth Club. He also reported on the PIC group meeting and they have made residents aware that the town is accessible to walkers and have their logo on the town website. He went on to talk about the Local Joint Committee which will continue but will have no funds available, there is a questionnaire online for residents to complete if they have questions to be answered.

- Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended the Whitchurch Patient Group and they welcomed views of the health service. Their major concerns were around mental health care and discharge from hospital. The online booking for appointments at doctors surgeries were also increasing and working well

12. Appointment to Committees and Working Groups
List was circulated to councillors.
Finance
Cllrs Ebbs, Duffy, Chesters, Sinnott, Slater, Stubbs and McDonald

Parks
Cllrs O'Neill, Sinnott, Slater, Harris, McDonald, Hewson and Lea

Civic and Markets
Cllrs Neville, Duffy, Chesters, Sinnott, Slater, Rigley and Hitchiner

Heritage
Cllrs Neville, O'Neill, Ebbs, Duffy, Stubbs, Hitchiner and Lea

Personnel
Cllrs Chesters, Sinnott, Stubbs, Harris and McDonald.

SamDev
Cllrs O'Neill and Duffy

Planning
All Councillors

CCTV and Christmas Lights
Cllrs Neville, Ebbs, Duffy, Slater, Stubbs, Hewson and Lea.

13. Appointment of representative to outside bodies.
List was circulated to councillors.

Town Twinning Cllr Rigley
Whitchurch Waterways Trust Cllr Stubbs and Cllr Harris
Whitchurch Farmers’ Market Cllr Duffy and Cllr Rigley
Whitchurch Chamber of Trade Cllr Hewson and Cllr McDonald
Fair Trade Cllr Hewson
Queensway Playing Fields Cllr O’Neill
Beechtree Community Centre Cllr O’Neill and Cllr Duffy
Higginson’s Church of England Cllr Harris
Samuel Higginson Almshouse Cllr Harris
+ Mr J Bates (4 year term)

Elizabeth Langford Almshouse Trust Cllr Harris
Parish Plan (PIC group) Cllr Lea
Whitchurch Relief in Need Cllr O’Neill
Local Joint Committee Cllr Chesters and Cllr Lea
Joint Cemetery Board Cllr Harris and Cllr Stubbs
Planning in the Community Cllr O’Neill and Cllr Slater
Community Alcohol Partnership Cllr Slater and Cllr Hewson
Youth Steering Group Cllr Neville and Cllr Slater
Tourism Group Cllr Ebbs
Joint Economic Board Cllr Chesters
Whitchurch and district Patients group Cllr Duffy
Heritage Cllr Neville, Cllr O’Neill, Cllr Duffy, Cllr Slater, Cllr Hitchiner and Cllr Lea.

14. Annual Calendar of Meetings
A list was circulated and Cllr Chesters mentioned that the Council agreed to have no meetings in August and the start times for committees should be 7:15 pm. The Clerk agreed to change the timetable and it was then agreed by councillors to start committee meetings at 7:00 pm. Full Council would remain at 7:15. The new dates would be circulated again.

15. Correspondence
Beacon Church open air request was approved

St Johns Methodist Church Thank you letter

Age UK Thank you letter
KSI Thank you letter
Royal Air Force Cadets Thank you letter
Queensway Playing Fields Thank you letter
Shropshire Gundog Society Thanking caretaker for giving support to the show

16. Grant application from PIC group
Cllr O’Neill informed councillors that the accounts had been produced and although there are funds in the account the only money available to the PIC was £383.55 as the rest is being held for other organisations. After a proposal by Councillor O’Neill and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/5/1415 RESOLVED: that when the Harry Richards fund matures that they will be awarded £1,000 taken from interest of that fund.

17. Street Light at Thomson Drive and Highfield Avenue
The clerk informed councillors that she was waiting for a price from Scottish Power to complete the electric on these two lights. Cllr Chesters reminded councillors that the light on Thompson Drive was agreed not to be replaced and therefore should be removed as long as it was the cheaper option. After proposal from Cllr Chesters and seconded by Cllr Hewson it was RESOLVED WTC/6/1415 that the light in Thompson Drive should be removed if this was the cheaper option.

Cllr Slater made representation that the light in Highfields (that came down in high winds) should be replaced as it was needed. The clerk was in After pr

18. Market Rights
Cllr Sinnott reminded councillors of the policy that had been circulated and the need to address any payment for a licence for those organisations that have a market or car boot within 6 ¾ miles of the Market Hall in Whitchurch. After discussion it was agreed to charge a nominal fee of £5 per annum. After a proposal by Councillor O’Neill and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/7/1415 RESOLVED: that a fee of £5 per annum for organisations within 6¾ miles of the Civic Centre.

19. Farmers Market
Cllr Sinnott informed councillors that next week Cllr O’Neill and the Farmers market organiser will look at the problem, they will take some gazebos into the Bullring and assess the situation. Cllr Harris informed councillors that the planters were removed without Full Councils permission and should be reinstated. Mayor Hewson reminded Councillors that a resolution had been made and has to be rescinded; Councillor Sinnott stated that there was a need to identify the problem first before finding a solution.

20. Complaint from Resident
The Police Officer had already spoken at the public session about surveys and that intelligence was needed more than a survey. It was agreed not to pursue this request. It was agreed to provide on the Town Council website telephone numbers of Crimestopper and the police.

21. Heritage Centre Surplus Stock
The clerk asked councillors to write off the stock in the Heritage Centre as it could not be sold in the Civic Centre as there is no place to keep them. After a proposal by Councillor Sinnott and seconded by Councillor Hewson it was RESOLVED WTC/7/1415 that the stock would be written off.

22. SALC membership
The Clerk had circulated the new subscription to councillors and asked if they would want to continue the membership. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Harris. It was RESOLVED WTC/8/1415 that the membership would not be renewed this year.
23. Annual Accounts 2013/2014
Accountant had not returned the accounts.

24. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 12 and 1
Cllr Chesters complained that the accounts show an overspend again and we should be more frugal. Cllr Harris suggested that the committees be more involved and should decide the spend. He also suggested dividing the accounts into 12 equal amounts and that's all that could be spent in that month. Cllr Ebbs explained that bills do not come in 12 equal parts. The Clerk informed councillors that the accountant had not moved the earmarked reserved and having spoken to the new accounts assistant it would appear that the allocation of funds had not been changed either. The clerk said she would make sure that this was altered to reflect the changes that she and Cllr Chesters had agreed.

25. Internal Auditor appointment
Councillors had circulated the quotes from auditors. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Hewson. It was RESOLVED WTC/10/1415 to instruct Morris Cook Accountants to complete the internal audit.

26. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
Councillor Sinnott gave an update on the Civic.

(The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.)

Chairman ........................................ Dated 19/6/14