MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT

Councillors: R Hewson (Mayor), A Chesters, B Duffy, G Leveton, M McDonald, O’Neill, T Neville, J Sinnott, B Slater, and L Stones.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Wilson (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

   Cllr Harris – Unwell
   Cllr Hitchiner – None given
   Cllr M Rigley - Another engagement
   Cllr J Ebbs – Holiday

2. Declarations of Interest

   None

3. Minutes

   After a proposal by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Duffy WTC/61/1415
   RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2014 and sign as an
   accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising

   Cllr Duffy asked about item 14 on the minutes; the gutter cleaning and how is progressing. The
   clerk reported that up to today 4 organisations expressed an interest.

5. Mayor’s Announcements

   The mayor announce that he had attended the air cadets presentation evening and praised them
   stating they are a credit to the town. The mayor also announced that the police will be attending
   but may be late and item 27 of the agenda will be bought forward when they arrive.

6. Outstanding Actions

   WTC/94/1314 vacant land is now up for sale.
Public Participation

After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor O’Neill WTC/62/1415 RESOLVED to suspend Standing orders to hear residents questions.

Nicki Young was present and was asked questions concerning the Town Team’s constitution.

A resident asked a question at the September meeting and believed it had not been answered. He asked when Cllr Dakin when was aware that the planning application from Grocontinental had changed from a dry store to a chiller unit. Cllr Dakin (Shropshire Council) replied he did not know until it was mentioned at the September meeting. The resident informed Cllr Dakin that two words were added to the planning application ‘chiller unit’ that was not in the original application. Cllr Dakin went on to read some emails that he had sent and their replies which were explaining at Grocontinental are preparing some noise mitigation and when this is completed the planning Public Protection Unit will visit. Cllr Sinnott asked why Mr Robinson had not been contacted and was informed by Cllr Dakin this would happen after the mitigation work is completed.

Cllr Sinnott informed Cllr Dakin that to date complaints from the residents about the chiller have had no replies.

Another resident complained about the booking procedure for the Civic Centre; she explained that she provisionally booked the venue in May and in August was informed that the booking had been taken by someone else. She explained that she had not completed the booking form as she was waiting to confirm setting up times. She was upset that she had received a letter from the chairman of the Civic and Markets Committee and Cllr Sinnott explained that she only received the letter due to the defamatory comments made on Facebook about the Assistant Town Clerks conduct.

Another resident who was making comments on Facebook stood up and complained that the Assistant Town Clerk had been into her place of work and complained about her conduct; Cllr Sinnott explained that the Assistant Town Clerk has the right to a private life and therefore her complaint to the residents place of work has nothing to do with the town council.

A resident who takes her children to the Whitehouse School came to make representation about the speed limit along the road which is 60 mph and an advisory 30 mph. Sgt Greenaway from the police was present and agreed this was an issue and they had Shropshire Council representatives visit the site and measures are being taken but ultimately to reduce the speed this would be Shropshire Council in agreement with the Town Council under the Safer Roads policy.

The police arrived before the public session finished and were able to speak to the councillors in the session. The police were asked a number of questions by councillors and they were forwarded prior to the meeting to prepare for replies. PC Le Clare answered all the questions for the councillors leaving one to be answered by the Commissioner on his visit in December. Cllr Hewson asked the police to confirm that the CCTV cameras in the town are good quality. Sgt Greenway was complementary of the CCTV cameras and the partnership working to provide them.

Presentation from Hill Valley

Did not attend.

Safer Roads Policy
10. Minutes from Committees

Cllr Hewson read out the events for Christmas lights switch on.

11. Report from Members on Outside Organisations.

Cllr Rigley was not present but councillors had circulated the report he had written concerning the PIC. They would like to be called the 'Town Team' instead of the PIC and would like the Town Council to agree their Constitution. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Sinnott WTC/64/1415 in was RESOLVED that the PIC could change its name to the Town Team.

The constitution would be discussed with the Town Team and Cllr Lester Stones volunteered to join the committee for this purpose.

12. Appeal from resident to remove berberis bushes in Jubilee Park

Councillors discussed the letter from a resident to remove the bushes in the park. The bushes have been in the park for many years and they are not too close to the children's play area to cause any problems. It was agreed that the resolution from the parks committee PC/11/1415 would stand.

13. Skate Park

Nothing to report waiting on feasibility study which is being paid for by Shropshire Council.


Cllr Dakin had nothing to report but was open for questions.

Cllr Hewson asked about the Horse and Jockey pub and Cllr Dakin reported that this was in hand it was thought at one time that it was a listed building but this is not the case and Shropshire Council is in negotiations with the owner to develop the site, however the owner is seeking more grants from the council than they can provide, although it is an ongoing discussion.

Cllr Sinnott asked about the planning application for the anaerobic digester which has been delayed from 1st July to the 16th December and the situation had changed. He asked if Cllr Dakin was prepared to meet up with the public to discuss the application; Cllr Dakin agreed and also suggested that Cllr Mal Price be present too. Cllr Sinnott expressed concern after visiting the Swancote Farm site in Bridgnorth where it was approved for a 0.5 Mw farm digester but is now a 2.2 Mw and had not been back to planning. This digester now supplies electric for the local aluminium plant and uses food waste that smells and is built on a green belt.

15. Standing orders amendment

The clerk sought agreement to the amendments made to Standing Orders which included the filming and recording of meetings. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor O'Neill WTC/65/1415 in was RESOLVED to accept the amendments to Standing orders and adopt the policy on filming and recording meetings.

16. Farmers Market

The farmers market has written to the Town Council to rescind the 'agreement' with them. It was agreed to accept the letter and for the clerk to write to the chairman. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/66/1415 in was RESOLVED to accept the letter with regret but wished to have a continued association for the benefit of the town.
17. Requests from Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre has sought permission for a notice board and bike rack on the car park at the back of the Civic, the Notice board by the railing and the bike rack on the hash markings alongside the railings. After a proposal by Councillor Sinnott and seconded by Councillor Neville WTC/67/1415 in was RESOLVED that the notice board and bike rack could be placed in the area suggested in the car park.

The Heritage Centre has also asked for £3K to run the museum, the Town Council is covering the costs of running the building but the museum needs accreditation materials to run it. It was agreed in principle and was to be left to the chairman of the Finance committee to find the funds meanwhile the Heritage Volunteers to be asked for a copy for their accounts for last year for the £3k they were given.

18. WW1

Newport Road has now a flower bed display for WW1 and there will to be a banner placed on the railings.

There will be more to follow when Cllr Ebbs returns from holiday.

19. Proposal from Blackberry Fair

The councillors discussed the proposal as Cllr Sinnott explained that the walls in the garage are very damp (damp meter was used to test the areas) and the new skylights sweat leaving puddles on the floor. The councillors agree that subject to suitability the Blackberry Fair could use areas of the garage.

20. Street names in Mount Farm planning application

Two further names were supplied and these will be given to Shropshire Council to pass onto the developer.

21. Safe Shropshire

Safe Places initiative from West Mercia police was discussed. Although the Civic Centre could assist during the daytime it may cause problems if a vulnerable adult needed assistance at night time when the Civic Centre has fewer staff. It was agreed to let West Mercia aware that the Town Council building would be unable to assist on this occasion.

22. Name for Theatre

The Clerk reported that only four names were given from the Herald newspaper plea, but users have been asked and there are many more. The closing date for suggestions is the 30 November 2014.

23. Defibrillator training

The defibrillator has now been put up in the Civic and most of the staff trained. The clerk reported that West Midland Ambulance are prepared to give residents free training on defibrillator and the clerk asked if the council would agree to providing the room for free for these events. After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/68/1415 in was RESOLVED that the room would be given for free for this training event.
24. Civic Centre booking procedure

The booking procedure is in place. A letter to be sent to the complainant from the public session regretting any misunderstanding and hoping that working together can still resume.

25. Correspondence

Discussed at item 12.

26. Market Hall Shutters

The market hall requires new shutter doors and the most recent quote is the most reasonable after seeking 4 previous quotations. After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Hewson (Cllr Sinnott and Cllr Duffy did not agree) WTC/68/1415 in was RESOLVED after majority vote that the quotation would be accepted and the company used to replace the shutters.

27. Police report

Completed in Public session.

28. Harry Richards fund/ Berrington and Greaves and Grants

The clerk explained that the funds had been amalgamated and that they need to be deposited where they would be secure and give a better return than the bank. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor O'Neill WTC/69/1415 in was RESOLVED that the funds would be placed in the CCLA deposit account.

29. Statement of Accounts

After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor McDonald WTC/69/1415 it was RESOLVED that to accept the Statement of Accounts for month 7.

30. Confidential Business

Meeting closed at 9:05 pm

Chairman .................................................. Date ............................................

.......................................................... ..................................................