

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT

Cllrs: A Chesters, A Hall, T O'Neill, T Neville, H Vasey, R Shepherd, L Broders, J Martin, J Sinnott

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk
Steve Chapman – Blackberry Fair
Clare Bellingham – Blackberry Fair
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald
Cllr Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Councillor

1. Apologies

Cllr Hamlyn
Cllr Raynes
Cllr Radford

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Duffy, **WTC/175/1819 RESOLVED** to sign the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Cllr Sinnott asked what was happening with the electricity on Jubilee Park. The Clerk informed Council that the fault has been identified and an electrician was request to attend to fix the fault.

Cllr Hall, Item 15, motion from Cllr Hamlyn, has there been any progression on how to move forward with getting a minute-taker. The Clerk reported that the item is on the agenda under Council Resolutions Record.

Cllr Hall requested an update on the request to purchase land at Deermoss Park, and the subsequent request from Council to obtain the deeds. The Clerk reported that the item is on the agenda under Council Resolutions Record and that no information had been obtained to date.

5. Mayor's Announcements

Date	Mayor Appointment
29 th January 2019	Mayor's Meeting, Guildhall, Shrewsbury
2 nd February 2019	Opened Crafty Birds shop in Bredwood Arcade

On behalf of Whitchurch Town Council, Cllr Neville received the following information:

Signed 1

- a. Minutes of the last meeting of Crewe & Shrewsbury Passenger Association dated 28th November 2018.
- b. Minutes of Whitchurch Town Twinning Association dated 8th January 2019.

6. Council's Resolution Record

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey, it was **WTC/176/1819 RESOLVED** that Council receive the record of resolutions agreed in 2019 and those outstanding from the Council Approved Work Schedule, June 2017 – December 2018. Cllr Sinnott queried asked why certain projects were not on the Council Resolutions Record and the Town Clerk informed Council that the Resolutions Record started in January 2019 following the motion from Cllr Radford.

7. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr O'Neill it was **WTC/177/1819 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for public participation.

Pauls Moss Medical Centre Development

Paula Frazier – Planning Minutes, 16th January 2019 – requested to know why Cllr Duffy did not declare an interest in the Pauls Moss medical centre development as she is a member of the Whitchurch Patients Group.

Cllr Duffy confirmed that she is a member of the patients group, a resident of Whitchurch and a patient in Whitchurch and therefore has no more to gain than any other resident or patient in the town and hence has no interest to declare.

Paula Frazier - Inaccurate minutes were submitted to the Shropshire Council planning portal – statements were made in those minutes, which I understand, were not stated at the meeting – “Paul’s Moss building is in a poor repair apart from the entrance hall” – who used those words and why were they put in the minutes?

Cllr Duffy used the words, they were repeated by the Town Clerk and there was a unanimous vote for the resolution. The minutes of the planning committee will need to go back to the next planning committee meeting for agreement.

Cllr Hall confirmed that this was discussed at the meeting, and at the meeting there was a vote that Whitchurch Town Council supported the recommendation, noting the objections of the public and their concerns. Cllr Hall stated that he spoke at the meeting, very clearly, not in favour about the demolition of the building and that we should be mindful to incorporate the building within the new design and we should perhaps put that forward, and that was my position. However we did all vote for the project, because Whitchurch Town Council do all believe that Whitchurch needs the new medical centre, needing the provision, however I was not in support of the demolition of the building. The Planning Committee did not receive professional guidance, nor documentation on the condition of the building nor on whether the building was in poor repair or not and therefore we should not have had a comment on it.

Paula Frazier – can anyone therefore tell me where the report on the poor repair of the building was found.

Town Clerk – all documentation can be found on the planning portal. The resolution was made at the Planning Committee, it is what I have written in the minute book and was agreed at that meeting. No information and no vote was taken with regards to the demolition of the building and therefore it is incorrect to make comment on that.

BID (Business Improvement District) for Whitchurch

Barbara Rainford reported on the meeting that will be taking place in Civic Centre on 20th March 2019, with local businesses, and invited all Councillors to attend.

Residents Parking Permits (Shropshire Council issued)

Residents attended the Council meeting to complain about the increase in resident parking permits for town centre residents. The annual payment has, in some case, been increased by over 400%, how can this be justified.

Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin wished to discuss this increase.

The resident confirmed that an annual permit has increased from £75 per annum to £320 per year, which equates an increase of 400% per annum.

Rosemary James has a second permit that is allocated to the existing parking ticket, so £75 per annum, allowing 2 cars onto permit, but only one car on the car park at any one time. Tonight the resident is unable to park on the car park, therefore surely you should be able to park your vehicle at any one time. Castle Hill and Pepper Street Car Parks increase to £320 pa and Brownlow, Newtown and St John's is £192 – why are the Council increasing the parking charges more on Castle Hill and Pepper Street. Mrs James felt that she is being penalised for living in the town centre.

Can the Town Council register a protest on the increase in parking charges? Shropshire Council should not be able to get away with riding rough shod over the residents of Whitchurch and the person to raise the matter is the Mayor.

The Mayor recommended that residents attended the Shropshire Councillor Surgery on the last Friday of the month to bring the matter up with Shropshire Council.

8. Report from West Mercia Police

No Police were present

9. Vacancies & Co-option

Whitchurch Town Council currently has one vacancy. Mrs Rose Snell and Mr Alan Brooks gave short presentations and Councillors then voted for the person they wished to co-opt onto the Council.

Following a vote and after a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/178/1819 RESOLVED**, 6 votes to 4 votes, that Mrs Rose Snell be co-opted onto Whitchurch Town Council. Cllr Snell was invited to take her place on the Council and read out the Council declaration.

10. Presentation from Blackberry Fair

Steve Chapman and Clare Bellingham (Whitchurch Allotment and Community Orchard organisation) gave a joint presentation on the aims and objectives of Blackberry Fair – “Sustainability Fair with Attitude”. Steve and Clare gave a lively presentation, with planted hecklers, to make the point that Blackberry Fair is inclusive and about the town, not just about the event.

Key roles = shared responsibility

Invest in a new tradition for younger generation.

Blackberry Fair is value to the community and is not about size.

The event in 2018 cost £26,500, including in-kind volunteer time and the Creative Directors were paid a small amount for their time.

The Blackberry Fair CIC are aware that the website needs to be sorted out.

Blackberry Fair would like a home to run workshops, etc.

Blackberry Fair CIC would like to build collaborative relationships, ie, Whitchurch Town Council sponsorship and funding from Twemlows Solar Farm.

A small team run the event, but more support is needed.

The Clerk informed the Council and Blackberry Fair that Shropshire Council have agreed to support Whitchurch to apply for the second round of the Future High Street Fund and that it would be good if the Council and Blackberry Fair work collaboratively on the application.

11. Shropshire Councillors Report

Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin reported on the end of the Financial Year budget, increases are as follows:

3.9% Shropshire Council; 9.93% Police; 2.9% Fire; average of 3.84% Town and Parish Councils.

Local Plan – comments coming back to Whitchurch and Gerald Dakin requested that he be invited to the next Planning Committee meeting.

Residents parking charges have been increased in the north of the County by 400%.

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/179/1819 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

12. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Broders, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/180/1819**

RESOLVED that Month 10 Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure Reports be accepted and duly signed, recording a total equity of £1,022,209 from the Detailed Balance Sheet.

13. Minutes from Committees

- a. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, it was **WTC/181/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 20th November 2018.
- b. After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Vasey, it was **WTC/182/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Parks & Public Realm Committee meeting held on 6th December 2018.
 - i. Committee looking to reinstate Newport Road bed as a mature flower bed.
 - ii. Cllr Hall asked a question about the sale of Deermoss Park, does it fall within the remit of the Committee? Cllr O'Neill explained what part of the park is being requested to be sold. The Clerk explained that the matter has been brought forward from Parks & Public Realm Committee to full Council.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Vasey, it was **WTC/183/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Civic Centre Committee meeting held on 6th December 2018.
- d. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/184/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 10th January 2019.
- e. After a heated discussion regarding the Personnel Committee minutes, Cllr Hall admitted to Council that he had initially heard the Confidential session of this Personnel meeting through the door which was ajar, going on to state that he had inadvertently recorded the Personnel Committee confidential session when he had been asked to leave the room as the Personnel Committee were considering his complaints against the Town Clerk. He stated that the recordings were for his personal use only and that this was lawful.

After a proposal from Cllr Broders, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/185/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the redacted minutes from the Personnel Committee meeting held on 10th January. Majority in favour, with 4 abstentions.

14. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

Cllr Hall reported that he had attended Whitchurch Chamber of Trade meeting with the Town Centre Manager. It was a very positive meeting which discussed the BID and BBF, and the Chamber wished to get involved with the Events & Entertainment Committee.

15. Feedback from Women in Local Government Conference

Cllr Raynes was not present.

16. Interim Internal Audit 2018-2019

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/186/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the Interim Internal Audit 2018-2019.

17. Planning Committee Terms of Reference

The Town Clerk reported that she has been following historic practices in that planning comments are submitted directly to Shropshire Council Planning Portal following the Planning Committee meetings. Nowhere is it written that this is the procedure to follow, therefore the Clerk requests clarity and that full Council amend the Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee to reflect historic practice.

Amend:

First heading paragraph, remove “operates for the majority of the time as a “virtual Committee”, and”, therefore first sentence to read, “Planning Committee only has formal meetings for the major or controversial applications, the Town Clerk may call a meeting in consultation with the Planning Chairman.”

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/187/1819 RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk will share the comments made and agreed at the Planning Committee meeting by Committee members, with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee prior to submitting to the Shropshire Council Planning Portal.

18. Committee Vacancies

- a. After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/188/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the letter from Cllr Mike Barker resigning his places on the following committees:
 - i. Parks & Public Realm Committee
 - ii. Civic Centre Committee
 - iii. Heritage Committee
 - iv. Planning Committee
- b. After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy, it was **WTC/189/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the email from Cllr Norma Raynes resigning her place on the Events & Entertainment Committee.
- c. The Mayor called for members to put themselves forwards to the following vacancies, and the named members volunteered:
 - i. Parks & Public Realm – 2 vacancies: One position filled by Cllr Snell
 - ii. Civic Centre – one vacancy: One position filled by Cllr Shepherd
 - iii. Heritage – one vacancy: still vacant
 - iv. Planning – 2 vacancies: one position filled by Cllr Shepherd
 - v. Entertainment & Events – 2 vacancies: still vacant

19. Charitable Trust Deed

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/190/1819 RESOLVED** to agree to the Charitable Trust Deeds for the following Trusts, making one amendment to paragraph 11, insert the word “not” to read “a Trustee should not hold office”:

- a. Whitchurch Greaves Trust
- b. Whitchurch Berrington Trust

20. Motion 12 from Councillor Hall

Councillor Hall submitted Motion 12 as listed on the Record of Motions Requiring Written Notice:

“Whitchurch Town Council consider equality and diversity training for all Councillors. To include: equality and diversity as outlined in the Equalities Act 2010 and its 9 characteristics, the PREVENT Agenda, British values, bias and discrimination and upholding the Nolan Principles.”

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/191/1819 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council consider equality and diversity training for all Councillors as listed in the Motion from Cllr Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm

Chairman

Date