

FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2015

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr McDonald (Mayor), A Chesters, J Ebbs, Duffy, T O'Neill, , T Neville, M Rigley, J Sinnott, B Slater, G Stockton and L Stones (arrived 10 mins late)

IN ATTENDANCE

M. Wilson Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr Hewson - unwell
Cllr Leverton – work commitment
Cllr Harris – family commitment
Cllr Salton - No reason given

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

After a proposal by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Slater It was **WTC/21/1516 RESOLVED** To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on **21st May 2014** including confidential and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that he had attended:-

24th May National Arboretum Staffordshire Unveil of KSLI Memorial
30th May Food and Drink festival launch
4th July Nightingale House Hospice 20th Anniversary celebration
6th July Party in the Park official opening
12th June Whitchurch Hospital Therapeutic Garden opening
13th June Rally for Life Promotional photo call
16th June Rotary Club Annual club assembly
17th June LJC meeting

6. Outstanding Actions

None

7. Public Participation

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/22/1516 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.

Nicky Young informed councillors of a celebration of youth workers over 40 years an event taking place at CentreNorthEast on 11th July 2015. Nicky asked for councillors to contribute to crowd funding as they need £1292 and presently have pleaded £786 making a shortfall of £506. Mayor

McDonald assured Nicki Young that the Town Council would look to cover the shortfall but it would be discussed in confidential.

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/23/1516 RESOLVED** to return to standing orders.

8. Report from Members on Outside Organisations.

- Cllr Slater reported attending meetings for the youth group who have been involved in the CentreNorthEast celebration of youth workers.
- Cllr Duffy attended the patients group and explained there was two surgeries amalgamating and possible problems with the numbers of houses being built with no consultation with the surgeries from the planning department.
- Cllr Rigley went to Town Twinning and the visit to France will be in Sept 2015. He also attended a training session with Cllr Ebbs at Heritage Lottery funds and both found it interesting and 'Heritage' is a wide definition. Cllr Rigley gave some slides to the clerk for anyone to view.
- Cllr Ebbs attended Joint Economic Board properties are discussed and some are off the list but more seem to be added.
- Cllr Stockton attended the Queensway Playing fields and reported that they are trying to promote the wildlife and partnerships with Meres and Mosses and GroContinental. He reported that their accounts were healthy.
- Cllr O'Neill attended the Beechtree Community Centre and they are struggling for funds applying for grants to maintain a presence. He also reported on the Food and Drink fair which was well supported and the Party in the Park which was also a success.
- Cllr Neville reported attending the Local Joint Committee where 20 members of the public attended. He reported that parking problems at Clay pit street had been resolved and pavements were being addressed. The local police office is being replaced as he is moving onto traffic. They had a presentation on the Care Act and if anyone has any topics of interest to include for the next meeting to contact Nicki Young.

9. Minutes from Committees

Copies of the minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Chesters had nothing to report of significance from the Finance committee.

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Sinnott It was **WTC/24/1516 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes.

Cllr Duffy explained that the Town Council owns the Heritage Centre which needs some work on the building and it is essential that these are carried out.

After a proposal by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Neville It was **WTC/25/1516 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes

10. Appointment to Committees and Working Groups.

Town Twinning	Cllr Rigley
Whitchurch Waterways Trust	Cllrs Harris and O'Neill
Whitchurch Chamber of Trade	Cllrs O'Neill and Stockton
Whitchurch Farmers' Market	Cllrs Hewson and Rigley
Social Enterprise	
Fair Trade	Cllr O'Neill
Queensway Playing Fields	Cllr Stockton

Beechtree Community Centre	Cllr O'Neill
Higginson's Church of England School Trust	Cllr Harris
Samuel Higginson Almshouse	Cllr Harris
Elizabeth Langford Almshouse Trust	Cllr Harris
Town Team	Cllrs Rigley and Stones
Whitchurch Relief in Need	Cllr O'Neill
Local Joint Committee	Cllr Neville and Deputy is Cllr Stockton.
Joint Cemetery Board	Cllr Rigley and Stockton
Community Alcohol Partnership	Cllr O'Neill and Salton
Youth Steering Group	Cllr Slater
Joint Economic Board	Cllr Ebbs
Whitchurch and district Patients group	Cllr Duffy
Markets and Events	Cllr O'Neill
Finance	Cllrs Chesters, Duffy, Ebbs, O'Neil, Sinnott, Slater and Stones
Parks	Cllrs Duffy, Harris, O'Neill, Sinnott and Slater
Civic and Markets With CCTV and Christmas Lights	Cllrs Chesters, Duffy, Ebbs, Hewson, Neville, O'Neill, Sinnott and Stones
Heritage	Cllrs Duffy, Neville, O'Neill, stones and Stockton
Personnel	Cllrs Chesters, Harris, Rigley, Sinnott and Stones.
Planning SamDev	Cllrs Duffy, Harris, O'Neill, Sinnott and Stockton.

After a proposal by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor Neville It was **WTC/26/1516 RESOLVED** that the committee structures are as above.

11. Correspondence

Letters

1. From Lightsource and offering community benefit for solar farm.
2. Appeal from family to put William Murhall on the war memorial.

Thank you letters from

- Cystic fibrosis
- Air Ambulance
- Rotary Club
- Queensway
- Queensway
- Citizens Advice
- Whitchurch Cricket Club
- NW Wheelers
- Beechtree
- Waterways Trust

12. Heritage Committee request

Cllr Duffy asked councillors to support the removal of the partition wall between upstairs and downstairs.

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/27/1516 RESOLVED** to proceed if the cost to remove it was reasonable.

13. Business Rates for the Heritage Centre

The clerk explained that a reputable company had contacted her conserving seeking reductions in the rates for the Heritage Centre. The offer was to reduce the rates by 30% and any savings would pay for the fees 20% of the savings made.

After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor Rigley It was **WTC/28/1516 RESOLVED** that this offer would not be pursued.

14. Whitchurch (Hampshire) Festival

The clerk reported that groups had been contacted but the uptake was too small to hire a vehicle.

After a proposal by Councillor Ebbs and seconded by Councillor Rigley It was **WTC/29/1516 RESOLVED** that if individuals would like to attend they would have to make their own arrangements.

15. Offer on Land on Edward German Drive

The clerk reported that she had spoken with the estate agent and the offer is still the same; it was agreed that the announcement would not take place until the buyer agreed to purchase.

16. To receive the Statement of Accounts for month 2

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/30/1516 RESOLVED** to agree the statement subject to further scrutiny by the clerk and Cllr Chesters who both have been away and not had the opportunity.

17. Moveable cabinet in foyer

Cllr Ebbs requested that the area by the WW1 cabinet near to toilets and will cover the Shropshire Council one of the phones. The cost is £450 of which £300 will be covered by the lottery grant. Cllr Ebbs sought permission for erecting the cabinet and the extra funds of £150. The handyman to complete the task.

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor O'Neill It was **WTC/31/1516 RESOLVED** to agree to purchase the glass and fund the over spend from the lottery grant.

18. Planning document

The clerk explained that the planning committee had discussed this but in the absence of a neighbourhood plan Shropshire Council would not consider the planning document. However should they in the future change the planning process then the document may be given to them. It was agreed to note the planning document.

19. Noticeboard and banner locations study

Deferred to the Civic Committee.

20. Summary of forthcoming Civic Centre Activity

Cllr Sinnott reported his personal views to members than were not aware of the details surrounding the cost of the refurbishment after a report in the Herald newspaper had not been accurate:-

Whitchurch Town Council	£140,000
Section 106 – Sainsbury Unilateral	£219,735 (budget increase by £14,735)
Market Town Revitalisation	£314,146
Revenue R&M	£65,000
Revenue Contribution re Desk	£910
Section 106 Whitchurch Parking	£5,000
Total	£744,791

Cllr Sinnott went on to say "The redecoration of the Theatre was at the cost of Whitchurch Town Council and cost less than £25,000 which included new flooring, new curtains and new chairs to accommodate the 400 seater venue. He also expressed that an unfounded complaint concerning the front of the Civic is not welcoming as it has cars parked, not the piazza as originally planned. The original plans submitted for planning show four car parking spaces so any complaint should have been made at that time. WTC have recently put up flower boxes along the balcony, which we hope will brighten up the building.

With regard to the complaints about the kitchen, WTC would agree with all the complaints as we are well aware that we lost a very good kitchen and got an empty room in return. However, it is not our building and we had no control over the changes made.

Whitchurch Town Council are not theatrical agents nor theatre producers. If we were to go down that road we could end up losing a great deal of money paid by the taxpayers of Whitchurch. We did organise the Elvis tribute but have had to cancel as only a potential 32 tickets (14 actual tickets were sold) were sold so the TC lost money. A disco was organised and the organisers also lost money as no one turned up.

The turnout for the Michael Bublé and Michael English concerts were also disappointing. It will become difficult to arrange entertainment in the theatre if the people of Whitchurch do not support them.

Detractors will suggest that it is a lack of advertising that is the problem but this is not the case. Whilst you can never have too much advertising there is a limit and advertising is not the responsibility of WTC if we are not the promoter."

Cllr McDonald thanked Cllr Sinnott for his views however, as the item was related to the future marketing of the both Civic and Whitchurch Civic Theatre Cllr McDonald proposed that this item be referred to the civic and markets committee to consider an appropriate marketing strategy. (both paid and pro bono) and report back the proposal to full council for consideration .

Continued meeting in confidential.

Meeting closed at 8:50

Signed Dated 16th July 2015.