FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT
Cllrs: T. Neville (in the chair), A. Chesters, B. Duffy, R. Hewson, J. McAuley, J. Sinnott, C Smith and D. Wiles

IN ATTENDANCE
Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk
Cllr Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Council

1. Apologies
   Cllr McDonald – Prior engagement
   Cllr Harris – Another commitment
   Cllr Rigley – Prior appointment
   Cllr O’Neill – Unwell
   Cllr Slater – Work commitment

2. Declarations of Interest
   There were none.

3. Minutes
   After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Smith,
   It was WTC/116/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 17th November 2016 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

   After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Smith,
   It was WTC/117/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on the 30th November 2016 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising
   There were none.

5. Mayor’s Announcements
   The Deputy Mayor noted that the Mayor had attended the following events: Whitchurch Lantern Parade, Whitchurch Christmas Lights Switch on and had crowned the Citizen of the Year.

   Cllr Hewson noted that feedback had been received from members of the public noting that the 2016 Christmas Lights were fantastic. The Deputy Mayor congratulated the Acting Town Clerk on a job well done.

6. Public Participation
   No members of the public were present.

7. Shropshire Councillor’s Report
   After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
It was WTC/118/1617 RESOLVED to suspend standing orders.

Cllr Dakin noted that Shropshire Council’s financial strategy was settled for 2017/2018 and also for 2018/2019. Financial balance can be met until then with one-off payments and use of available balances. There would be a lot of money to find after that as there will be a large shortfall for 2019/2020.
Social care for 2017/2018 will increase an estimated £10 million per annum and then continue at approximately £8 million per annum increase. An extra levy as last year will be 1.9% Council Tax plus 2% for social services (ring fenced). There are two years to work on extra savings or cuts to services elsewhere, 1% = 1.25million approximately. Cllr Dakin expressed concern over the plans for Tesco carpark. Tesco has a 125 year which was signed in 1990. Cllr Dakin is to have a meeting with Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP to which Town Councillors are welcome to attend. Cllr Dakin noted that increased car parking was required in the town and the possibility of using the gasworks at Sherrymill Hill could be explored.

After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Hewson, It was WTC/119/1617 RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

8. Correspondence
Letters received from:
- Samuel Higginson Almshouse Charity – Cllr Chris Smith volunteered to fill the vacancy.
- Shrewsbury Armed Forces – After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Neville, It was WTC/120/1617 RESOLVED to allow the Shrewsbury Armed Forces to use part of the Town Council logo in their crest.

9. Outstanding Council Resolutions
- (a) Civic Centre Freehold – ongoing, waiting on further information regarding the library before proceeding.
- (b) Skateboard Park – the bid for Veolia was unsuccessful. Cllr Dakin noted that Sport England grants would be available to be applied for in January 2017. Cllr Dakin to look for funding through Police Commissioner and the proceeds of crime.
- (c) Training for Finance & Resources Committee – this has been completed.
- (d) Increased Town Centre Signage – ongoing with Whitchurch Town Team.

10. Future Medical Provision
No update.
After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was WTC/121/1617 RESOLVED that the Council write to Shropshire CCG and NHS England in order to ascertain will there be continuity with the Whitchurch services in 18 months’ time.

11. Accounts
After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy, It was WTC/122/1617 RESOLVED to accept the accounts as presented.

12. Budget 2017/2018
Budget increased by 1.5%, which has enabled the Council to stay below the 2% threshold. Promotions and advertising budget has been increased, as well as Civic Centre maintenance at the committee’s request.
After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was WTC/123/1617 RESOLVED to accept the budget subject to final scrutiny.
13. Minutes from Committees

Heritage Committee 17/11/16 – the committee meeting focussed on budget setting, installation of a historic pocket watch and rising visitor numbers.
After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hewson,
It was WTC/124/1617 RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Dr Judith Hoyle and the Museum Volunteers.

Strategic Marketing & Events Committee 1/12/16 – A draft programme of 20 shows had been approved.
After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Smith,
It was WTC/125/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Strategic Marketing & Events Committee held on 1st December 2016.

Estates, Markets and Public Realm Committee 1/12/16 – Overspend on Christmas lights was approved, Health & Safety review, work on theatre risk assessment had been approved, asbestos management plan was received. Outstanding resolution were reviewed, including outstanding actions and refurbishment of the Edward German Room within the current year’s budget. The draft business plan was also reviewed. Budgetary inclusions had been made for LED screens in the foyer of the Civic Centre. A quotation had been received for replacement theatre rigging ropes.
After a proposal from Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Chesters,
It was WTC/126/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Estates, Markets & Public Realm Committee meeting held on 1st December 2016.

14. Report from members on outside organisations
Cllr Hewson reported that Queensway Playing Fields had met their target of £10,000 through local sponsorship and fundraising in order to apply for Veolia’s Community Fund for a grant of £50,000.
Cllr Smith reported that the Whitchurch Rotary Club would deliver 120 hot lunches on Christmas Day. Cllr Smith also attended business plan training.
Cllr Sinnott attended the JECB meeting in November, the group is attempting to take action on empty properties in the town including the Horse & Jockey, as well as the standing water at The Manse, Dodington.
Cllr McAuley attended the Chamber of Trade meeting where members had expressed an interest to join next year’s Christmas Lights working group. A request was made not to close Green End until mid-afternoon for the next lights switch on day. The Chamber is attempting to increase its membership. The Chamber also asked when the new Town Clerk would be appointed.

15. Amalgamation of Council Committees
Could not be legally discussed; item fell one day short of 6 month limit.

16. Council committees
After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
It was WTC/127/1617 RESOLVED that the following members were assigned to committees:
Parks & Open Spaces Committee – Cllrs D Wiles & J. McAuley.
Planning – Cllrs J. Sinnott & J. McAuley.

17. Whitchurch Skatepark
Covered under previous item.
18. HMRC Correspondence  
After a proposal from Cllr Neville, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was WTC/128/1617 RESOLVED that Zoë Dean, the Acting Town Clerk, is authorised to sign paperwork for HMRC on behalf of the Town Council.

19. Room Hire Request  
A request was received for reduced room hire for a charity band night.  
After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was WTC/129/1617 RESOLVED that the building currently operates under not for profit room hire fees for hirers therefore no reduction would be offered.

20. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS  
After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr McAuley,  
It was WTC/130/1617 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.

There being further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date 19.1.2017