FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT
Cllrs: M. McDonald (Mayor), A. Chesters, R. Hewson, J. McAuley, T. O’Neill, B. Slater and C Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE
Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk
Cllr Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Council
Nicki Young – Shropshire Council
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald
Katrina Gilman – West Mercia Police

1. Apologies
   Cllr J. Bache – No reason given
   Cllr B. Duffy – Another commitment
   Cllr Harris – Another commitment
   Cllr Neville – Unwell
   Cllr Sinnott – Unwell
   Cllr Rigley – No reason given

2. Declarations of Interest
   There were none.

3. Minutes
   After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Smith.
   It was WTC/99/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 20th October 2016 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising
   There were none.

5. Mayor’s Announcements
   The Mayor had attended the opening of the new Claypit Street Medical Practice, Leonard Brothers’ Funday, the U3A Open Day and the Remembrance Sunday Parade and service.

6. Public Participation
   After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr O’Neill,
   It was WTC/100/1617 RESOLVED to suspend standing orders.

   Community Enablement Officer Nicki Young noted a new group and website had been formed “Shropshire Choices” Offering information and advice about Adult Social Care, Housing and Health. The first meeting is to be held on 21st February 2017.

7. Shropshire Councillor’s Report
Cllr Dakin noted that the new Claypit Street doctors surgery was settling down well, the phones had been sorted. Cllr Dakin noted that parking had been a problem and a car park was being sought for staff. Cllr Dakin to meet with the ShropDoc. Cllr Dakin had sent objections to the estates manager appertaining to the proposed change of usage to Tesco car park. The lease can be interpreted in a number of ways however, Tesco does possess a 125 year lease. Plans are to stop people parking in Tesco all day.

After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson, It was WTC/101/1617 RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

8. Correspondence
Letters received from Notification of Designation Application – War Memorial and Whitchurch Relief in Need Charity were noted.

9. Outstanding Council Resolutions
(a) Civic Centre Freehold – ongoing, documentation with the Council’s solicitor.
(b) Skateboard Park – funding application ongoing.
(c) Training for Finance & Resources Committee – ongoing.
(d) Increased Town Centre Signage – ongoing with Whitchurch Town Team.
(e) Letting Heritage Craft Units – largest unit in the process of being let.

10. Future Medical Provision
The Mayor noted that this is to be a new standing item on every Council agenda going forward.

11. Accounts
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Slater, It was WTC/102/1617 RESOLVED to accept the accounts as presented.

12. Budget 2017/2018
All committees are working on budgets and a reminder is to be sent to all Chairmen of committees.

13. Correspondence regarding VAT
The Chairman of Finance, Cllr Chesters, noted that the Council had exceeded its VAT allowance in the last two years. VAT would need to be charged on room hire going forward. The Council’s accountants were investigating and more would be revealed when the VAT training takes place on 23rd November 2016.

14. Whitchurch Cemetery Board
Whitchurch Cemetery Board requires a £500 increase in their precept for next year. After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, It was WTC/103/1617 RESOLVED to accept the Cemetery Board’s precept increase.

15. Bank Charges
Cllr Chesters noted that the Council’s bank account had been moved two years ago to avoid bank charges and now the Council’s current provider has introduced charges. Cllr Chesters noted these fees to be in the region of £75 per quarter which is to be budgeted for.

16. Whitchurch Youth Club Request
The Council had been approached to fund a colour TV Licence for Centre North East Youth Club. After a proposal from Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was WTC/104/16/17 RESOLVED to pay for the licence
17. Minutes from Committees
Heritage Committee 17/11/16 – a small number of amendments to the minutes were required then the minutes would be recirculated.
Planning Committee 14/11/16 – After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson it was WTC/105/1617 RESOLVED to check the legality of the planning minutes but accept as a report of the meeting.

18. Co-Option of a Councillors
A request for co-option had been received from Mr D. Wiles for the vacancy in South Ward. After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Slater, It was WTC/106/1617 RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow Mr Wiles the opportunity to address the meeting.
Mr Wiles gave a short speech detailing that he was the landlord for The Wheatsheaf and had lived and worked in the town for eighteen months.
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson, It was WTC/107/1617 RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

The result of the closed vote was as follows: 5 votes for / 1 vote against / 1 abstention.

After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, It was WTC/108/1617 RESOLVED to accept Mr David Wiles as a councillor.

19. Report from members on outside organisations
Cllr Smith noted that Whitchurch Rotary Club would be handing out free lunches on Christmas Day and helpers are always welcomed.

20. Council committees
Cllr McDonald noted that two recent Council Committees had not been quorate and pressed members to remember to apologise if unable to attend meetings.
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson, It was WTC/109/1617 RESOLVED to place the named councillors on the following committees/organisations:
Cllr Hewson – Parks & Open Spaces, Planning and Heritage.
Cllr McAuley – Whitchurch Chamber of Trade

21. Elections 2017
Cllr McDonald noted that members can now request a copy of the register of electors, details for how to do so had been previously circulated by the Acting Town Clerk.

22. Phone Boxes
The Town Council noted that it did not endorse the removal of any public amenity in the town. After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson, It was WTC/110/1617 RESOLVED to object to Wayland Road (Whitchurch railway station) phone box being removed.

23. The Place Plan
Nicki Young addressed the meeting and noted that the Town Team is refreshing the Town Plan. Neighbourhood Fund can be spent as desired however it cannot be used for pre-arranged projects. CIL projects must be linked to developments. Shropshire Council is accountable for all funds. There are further restrictions on the CIL Local Fund. There is currently £16,324.30 in the Neighbourhood Fund. Only deliverable projects would be considered, not aspirational projects.
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr O’Neill,
It was **WTC/111/1617 RESOLVED** to circulate all information and send to the next Estates, Markets & Public Realm Committee to discuss project ideas and invite Nicki Young to attend.

24. Gambrell Avenue  
Cllr O’Neill updated Full Council on the current situation at Gambrell Avenue Park; the area had been fenced off due to dangerous equipment. A number of parents had complained. The Council’s contractors had submitted a quote in order to complete the repairs in the winter work schedule. 
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was **WTC/112/1617 RESOLVED** to invite three quotations for the repairs.

After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Hewson,  
It was **WTC/113/1617 RESOLVED** to defer to the Parks Committee for investigations into which other parks needed work.

25. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS  
After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was **WTC/114/1617 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 8.45pm

Chairman...........................................

Date.............................................