FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2017

PRESENT
Cllrs: A. Chesters (in the chair), B. Duffy, R. Hewson, J. McAuley, T. O'Neill, J. Sinnott, B. Slater, C Smith and D. Wiles

IN ATTENDANCE
Zoë Dean – Acting Town Clerk
Cllr Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Council
Nicki Young – Community Enablement Officer
Peter Cooper – LCS Solutions

In the absence of a Chairman and a deputy chairman,
After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hewson,
It was WTC/131/1617 RESOLVED that Cllr Chesters chair the meeting.

1. Apologies
   Cllr McDonald – Work commitment
   Cllr Neville – Prior commitment
   Cllr Harris – Another commitment
   Cllr Rigley – Prior appointment

2. Declarations of Interest
   Cllr Hewson declared that his son in law worked for Rentokil.

3. Minutes
   After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
   It was WTC/132/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 15th December 2016 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

4. Matters Arising
   There were none.

5. Mayor's Announcements
   There were none.

6. Public Participation
   After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
   It was WTC/133/1617 RESOLVED to suspend standing orders.

   Julia Gallacher seeking help for a litter problem along the length of the bypass and the feeder roads into Whitchurch including Sedgeford, Wrexham Road and Tilstock Road. The litter problems had been reported various times to Shropshire Council.

   It was agreed that the Town Council write to Shropshire Council regarding this matter and highlighting the problem areas.
Janet Miller requested that Rosemary Lane be added to the list of areas affected by speeding motorists.

Nicki Young reaffirmed that Veolia had not awarded Whitchurch any funding for the skateboard park. It was noted that the Community Asset Fund opened on 31st January 2017 for which Nicki would work with Sean McCarthy and the Acting Town Clerk to seek funding. The first “Whitchurch Soup” is to take place on 22/02/2017, in partnership with the Chamber of Trade, a social gathering to raise money for one of the three community groups who are to present on the evening. A request was made to use the Main Hall kitchen in order to prepare the soup. The Acting Town Clerk was to check the availability.

7. Shropshire Councillor’s Report
Cllr Dakin noted that there was to be a partial review of the Local Plan to make fit for the future. The meeting is to take place on 20/02/17 at 7pm, at Edinburgh House in Wem to which Town Councillors were invited. Cllr Dakin is to send the details through to the Acting Town Clerk to be forwarded to members.

After a proposal from Cllr O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Smith, it was WTC/134/1617 RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

8. Correspondence

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, it was WTC/135/1617 RESOLVED to agree in principle, if a suitable site can be found.

9. Outstanding Council Resolutions
(a) Civic Centre Freehold – ongoing, meeting in the process of being arranged with Shropshire Council.
(b) Skateboard Park – covered under previous item.
(c) Increased Town Centre Signage – ongoing with Whitchurch Town Team.

10. Future Medical Provision
No update. Letter had been sent to Shropshire CCG and NHS England and acknowledgement received.

11. Accounts
After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hewson, it was WTC/136/1617 RESOLVED to accept the accounts as presented.

12. Budget 2017/2018
Cllr Chesters noted that there had been a marginal increase in the budget but since more properties had been built in the town there would be a 0% increase in Council Tax to Band D properties, with £7,700 more for Whitchurch.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Smith, it was WTC/137/1617 RESOLVED to accept the 2017/2018 budget in its present form.

After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr McAuley, it was WTC/138/1617 RESOLVED to accept the precept at £455,776.
Cllr Chesters noted that the budget had involved a lot of hard work for which he thanked both the Acting Town Clerk and the Accounts Clerk.
Cllr Hewson thanked Cllr Chesters for his involvement also.

13. Minutes from Committees

Planning Committee 04/01/17 – It was noted that the planning minutes had been updated since the first draft had been circulated. The anaerobic digester was built without planning permission for 2 megawatts.
It was WTC/139/1617 RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Dr Judith Hoyle and the Museum Volunteers.

Parks & Open Spaces Committee 12/01/17 – Cllr O’Neill gave an overview of meeting.
A request to move a badger sett to Jubilee Park was refused.
After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Mcauley,
It was WTC/140/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Committee held on 12th January 2017.

Finance & Resources Committee 12/01/17 – Cllr Chesters gave an overview of meeting which covered the budget as well as the Council’s Pensions Discretionary Policy and bad debtors.
After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Slater.
It was WTC/141/1617 RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 12th January 2017.

Heritage Committee 19/01/17 – minutes still in progress.

14. Report from members on outside organisations
Cllr Duffy had attended the Patients Group meeting on 11/01/17 which focussed on dementia awareness.
Cllr Sinnott had attended the JCEB meeting in which landlords were present.
Cllr O’Neill had attended the Fairtrade Group meeting when they had requested to hold a display in the Civic Centre’s foyer for Fairtrade Fortnight.

15. Vacancies on Outside Organisations
After a proposal from Cllr Slater, seconded by Cllr Duffy,
It was WTC/142/1617 RESOLVED that the following vacancies were filled:

JCEB – Cllr Hewson
Commissioning – Cllr O’Neill
Joint Cemetery Board – Cllr O’Neill
Deputy for LJC – Cllr Smith

16. Land at Sherrymill Hill
It was noted that Scottish Power owns the site which would be useful for car parking. It was agreed to pursue this item once the Town Council is more settled.

17. Men in Sheds
Since the Heritage Courtyard Shops are being advertised the Port-a-cabin option was deemed to be the most appropriate. It was noted that the Men in Sheds would source their own cabin and undertake the necessary refurbishment work once a location had been found.
The Council requested further information as to what is currently being stored and where on Council land. This item was passed to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.
18. Retention of Payphones in Shropshire
   After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr O’Neill.
   It was WTC/143/1617 RESOLVED to find out the cost before proceeding.

19. The Purchase of a Shed
   A request had been received from the Facilities Manager for a storage shed to be
   purchased for use in the Council’s garages to store the Council’s Christmas lights.
   After a proposal from Cllr Hewson, seconded by Cllr Slater
   It was WTC/144/1617 RESOLVED to approve the purchase of a metal shed in the region
   of £300.00.

20. Terms of Reference
   After a proposal from Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Hewson,
   It was WTC/145/1617 RESOLVED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Finance &
   Resources Committee.

21. Pigeons in the Town Centre
   Cllr Hewson noted that he had received complaints regarding the issue of pigeons in the
   Town Centre. The Acting Town Clerk, after seeking advice from Shropshire Council,
   informed members that property owners should contact pest control individually. It was
   agreed that Cllr Mcauley would take this issue to the Chamber of Trade.
   It was noted that the JCEB is aware of the issue had received information from
   Environmental Health.

22. Speeding Motorists
   The report by Cllr Wiles was circulated. It was agreed to bring the matter to the attention
   of the relevant authorities and invite the police to attend the next meeting, as well as
   raising the issue through the Local Joint Committee in a bid to gain increased signage.

23. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
   After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hewson,
   It was WTC/146/1617 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 9.10pm

Chairman: ..............................................

Date: 21/1/7 ..............................................