FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR FULL COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JULY 2016

PRESENT
Cllrs: T Nevei (Deputy Mayor), B Duffy, T Harris, T O’Neill, G Stockton, C Smith, M Rigley, A Chesters and J Sinnott

IN ATTENDANCE
Stephen Platt - Town Clerk
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald (PRESS)
SC Cllr Dakin
Nicki Young – Shropshire Council
x6 members of public (2 candidates for co-option)

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr T Neville at 7.15pm

1. APOLOGIES
   Cllr L Stones – Illness
   Cllr J Ebbs – Out of area
   Cllr Slater – Work commitment
   Cllr M McDonald – Out of area

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES
   It was proposed by Cllr Neville to confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16th June 2016 and the Ex-Full Council meeting held on 24th JUNE 2016 be signed as a true and accurate record thereof of the meeting; this was seconded by Cllr Stockton. It was WTC/45/1617 RESOLVED to accept the Full Council and the Ex-Full Council meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING
   Cllr Sinnott expressed a concern over item 1 on the 16th June 2016 minutes; these minutes as pointed out by Cllr Rigley had just been agreed and signed off. The issue over a “resignation” had been raised again, where the Clerk read out from law Part IV of LGA 1985 that “a person elected or appointed to an office may at any time resign his office by written notice delivered to the proper officer of the authority......”

   It was proposed by Cllr Rigley that we attain legal representation to have this situation satisfied, as this is just going on for too long now; this was seconded by Cllr O’Neill. It was WTC/46/1617 RESOLVED.
Cllr Sinnott also raised the fact that the count for co-option in June stated 6-4 against, however Cllr Sinnott stated that there were 5 who voted in favour, so how could there be an incorrect count!? The Clerk informed Councillors that the vote was a paper vote, and therefore secret; so how could anyone know who voted whichever way. Cllr Harris backed up this statement by asking how a secret vote can and could be known, and that it is time we move on from such trivial things when it was a paper based vote and all slips have been destroyed.

After further discussions on this matter on who voted for whom; and other matters related to it, Cllr Neville closed any further debate on this discussion under item 4 to move on.

5. MEN IN SHEDS
Cllr Stockton explained that a recent meeting with representatives from Men In Sheds had taken place, Full Council in the June meeting had resolved to support the project. The representatives were shown the garages at the back of the Sports Hall, and in particular the top end of the garage where a workshop is already in operation was offered for this purpose. There could also be a working relationship to benefit both parties in respect of jobs needed to be done for WTC, then Men In Sheds could help out in return for not paying rent.

It was proposed by Cllr Stockton that whilst the numbers of the Men In Sheds were small they could use the rear of the garage, until their numbers got too large they would look for an alternative location.

Cllr Chesters asked a few questions regarding the insurance, health & safety aspect of the Men In Sheds and the use of tools. At this juncture Nicki Young (SC) further explained the project having its own insurance.

This was seconded Cllr Rigley. It was WTC/47/1617 RESOLVED to allow Men In Sheds to occupy the rear section of the right hand side garage, until they have outgrown the facilities.

6. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

7. OUTSTANDING FULL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
(a) The Clerk informed Councillors that after numerous emails to SC, March 2016 and a further email July 2016, we are still awaiting the legal paperwork to be drawn up, for WTC to then take the drawn up legal freehold document to our solicitors for their approval.
(b) The Clerk informed Councillors that after the failed funding request through Sport for England, it was attempting to attain the relevant funding through Veolia who have a landfill tax levy that supports schemes in the vicinity of refuse sites.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
After a proposal by Cllr Neville and seconded by Cllr O’Neill; it was WTC/48/1617 RESOLVED to suspend standing orders.

James Conner addressed Councillors regarding the past events he has held within the Civic Centre during 2014-15, but due to problems with staff and not Cllrs, James had to walk away to maintain his reputation and integrity. James Conner informed Cllrs of an event recently held in Crewe which was a great success and he would like the opportunity to return to Whitchurch to run a similar event in the town.
It was proposed by Cllr Rigley that the TCM (Town Centre Manager) and James Conner work together over the coming 4 week period to look into possible dates for events being put on within Whitchurch by James Conner.

9. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT
Cllr Dakin informed WTC about the Transfer of Services deadline had been put back to September 2017 for informing SC of any intention for WTC to take on local services.

Cllr Sinnott asked Cllr Dakin about the noise level on the new AD site at Grocott’s and questioned the extent of the plans, as the application has been amended but works are going on. Cllr Dakin will look into this.

Cllr Harris thanked Shropshire Council via Cllr Dakin on their efforts to getting a bus service reinstated for Whitchurch so quickly for the residents.

Cllr Smith thanked SC for their extension of the timeline for the transfer of services.

10. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR
There were two interested parties wishing to become Co-Opted Councillors on Whitchurch Town Council. They were Jessica Mcauley and Jacob Bache.

Jessica Mcauley presented herself with a brief presentation, local businesswoman.

Cllr Smith asked how long had Jessica lived in Whitchurch; the answer, being for approx 30 years.

Jacob Bache presented himself with a brief presentation.

Cllr Rigley asked Jacob if he was involved in any other organisation; to which no was the reply.

After a proposed by Cllr Neville and seconded by Cllr O’Neill; it was WTC/49/1617 RESOLVED to reinstate standing orders.

Voting slips of paper were handed out to all Cllrs to vote on the two prospective co-opted applicants.

Cllr Dakin was asked, and accepted, to be the independent judicator for counting of the votes.

The results were 9-0 in favour of co-option for each applicant.

Jessie Mcauley and Jacob Bache duly signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took their respective place at the Council meeting.

11. CIVIC FREEHOLD
This item was covered under item 7a.
12. PROVIDE SUITABLE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Cllr Rigley explained the background to the proposal of having investment training. The reasoning behind it is that it will require the investment of funds and resources to the individual benefit of members of the Finance and Resources Committee, and as such in order to be transparent it is in the whole Council’s interest that the decision to go forward with this or not is a decision taken by the whole Council, rather than the Finance and Resources Committee who should not be open to an accusation of spending money on themselves.

WTC Finance Committee and Council in the past have been commented on by our external auditors on our management of financial risk.

The report of the external auditors on the WTC accounts for FY 2014/2015 that was circulated to all members on 10th September 2015 highlighted 3 areas for attention.

One issue was that the Finance Committee and accordingly the WTC had no minuted evidence of conducting a financial risk review in the past financial year and that the annual financial risk review should be minuted by full Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Rigley that a training development for all Cllrs on the Finance & Resources Committee be undertaken, and those Cllrs who do not undertake the training then are removed from the Finance & Resources Committee; it was asked for 3 quotes to be sought for this training. This was seconded by Cllr Stockton. It was **WTC/50/1617 RESOLVED** to undertake the relevant training for Cllrs on the Finance & Resources Committee; the vote was 5 for and 4 against.

13. TRANSFERRING OF CODED ALLOCATION
Cllr Chesters (Chairman of Finance & Resources Committee) explained and proposed that a grant received from SC was for a specific play area, however, WTC have other parks that could utilise this money but the coding for this is not applicable; hence the proposal for the deferred liability be transferred to incorporate all parks. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. It was **WTC/51/1617 RESOLVED** to alter the code to be altered for the money to be applied to all WTC parks.

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS
The following Cllrs had items to report:

- Cllr O’Neill – meeting at Beechtree
- Cllr Stockton – meeting of Shropshire Housing Group at Neenton
- Cllr Duffy – (1) meeting of LJC (2) meeting of the Whitchurch Chamber of Trade (3) Town Team
- Cllr Smith – meeting of LJC
- Cllr Sinnott – meeting of (1) Scottish Power (2) LJECB

15. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES
Cllr Duffy read out the 16th June 2016 Heritage Committee minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr Duffy for Full Council to receive the Heritage minutes; this was seconded by Cllr O’Neill. It was **WTC/52/1617 RESOLVED** to receive the Heritage Committee minutes.

Cllr Chesters read out the 4th July 2016 Finance & Resources Committee minutes.
Cllr O’Neill read out the 14th July 2016 Parks & Open Spaces Committee minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr O’Neill for Full Council to receive the Parks & Open Spaces minutes; this was seconded Cllr Bache. It was WTC/53/1617 RESOLVED to receive the Parks & Open Spaces Committee minutes.

16. CORRESPONDENCE
The Clerk read out correspondence received from (1) Barbers (2) SP Energy Networks (3) Heritage Lottery Fund (4) North Salop Wheelers (5) Barbers second letter (6) Vincent Hanlon (7) Steph Jackson SC (8) Railway Yard development and (9) Red Lyon and the painting competition.

17. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
None

There being further business the meeting closed at 9:09pm

Chairman ..............................  Date ..............................

13th September 2016