

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Guildhall, Much Wenlock on Thursday 2 November 2006 at 7.00 pm

Present: The Mayor, Councillor D M J Gibbon JP, in the Chair

Councillors: G D A Bowden, D N Hill JP, E W Humphries, W J Jones, N Mitchell, Mrs M Palmer, Mrs M E Thomas, P M Whiteman OBE, Mrs A Williamson.

Mrs A Downes Town Clerk

The Revd Stephen Lowe said prayers.

265 Apologies: There were apologies for absence from Councillor Mrs Ward (illness).

266 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council (District Councillor) and a personal interest in FUL/06/796 (tenant of the applicant).

Councillor Bowden declared a prejudicial interest in the item concerning the Guildhall.

Councillor Humphries declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/06/796 (contractor working for the applicant) and a personal interest in TCA/06/86.

Councillor Gibbon declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council and Shropshire County Council (District and County Councillor).

Councillor Hill declared a personal interest in the item concerning the Friendly Bus.

Councillor Hill declared a personal interest in planning application FUL/06/796.

267 Additional Business: The Town Clerk advised that there would be items of urgent business in correspondence (Training Sessions; Invitation to meeting for ACF; NHS Strategic Service Plan; Community speed watch; Government White Paper and information from NALC); in Planning (FUL/06/857, LBC/06/873 and TCA/06/93) and circulated Annual Report and budget of the SALC and the Friendly Bus.

268 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 5 October 2006 were confirmed and signed subject to an amendment to the wording of minute 257.

269 Matters arising from the minutes:

Lighting in High Street: Shropshire County Council had not yet consulted with the Conservation Officer at Bridgnorth District Council and the prospect of the improvement to the lighting progressing in the near future is extremely limited. The improvements are necessary for the cctv cameras to produce clear images and it was

RESOLVED: Shropshire County Council be asked to progress this scheme as soon as possible.

The Gaskell Corner: An acknowledgement from Shropshire County Council. Councillor Gibbon reported that the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel at Shropshire County Council will be carrying out investigations into the works carried out and Much Wenlock Town Council will be asked to send representatives to this panel meeting.

Services at Bridgnorth: Councillor Mrs Thomas said she was disappointed to learn that Tourism and The Arts have been reduced to lesser priority by Bridgnorth District Council. Councillor Whiteman said this decision had been taken following public consultation on priority services.

270 Finance: The Town Clerk presented the monthly and petty cash accounts, and the financial statement as reported in the cash book, as follows:

A Firmstone	418.28
Mrs D Whitfield	275.35

B L Corfield	1176.38
Cash	50.00
Mrs A Downes	1396.39
Mrs S Everett	177.35
A Firmstone	369.74
Mrs M MacIntyre Read	422.94
Mr R Isaac	278.18
Ms V Bellamy	210.65
Inland Revenue	779.95
Shropshire CC	564.36
Sabine Hutchinson	36.00
Mrs D Whitfield	405.55
Balfours	75.64
Norvid	23.50
Oce Imagistics	15.44
E-On Energy	909.97
Npower	1237.19
M MacIntyre Read	19.80
Chris Madeley	1295.00
MNA	124.08
Chris Madeley	528.75

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be approved and signed.

Street Lighting: It was

RESOLVED: Maintenance works to lights in Homer to the value of £94.84 be carried out.

Charity Accounts: It was

RESOLVED: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hill and the Town Clerk will consider these accounts and bring a report to the next meeting.

271 Correspondence:

Bridgnorth District Local Development Framework – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Documents for consultation. Town Councillors can send any comments to the Town Clerk. Councillor Mrs Thomas offered to collate and send in comments to Bridgnorth District Council.

Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Development Framework – Submission Core Strategy and Site Allocation Development Plan Documents.

The County Council of Shropshire (Various Roads, Much Wenlock)(Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Order 2006 – Final Notice.

Planning Training for Parish Councils on Thursday 30 November 2006 – Town Councillors to inform Town Clerk of their interest.

Bridgnorth and District Crime Prevention Panel – a letter from the Chairman suggesting that Much Wenlock form its own Crime Prevention Panel. It was considered that sufficient coverage of police action is available at the Police Consultative Committee and PACT meetings and the Crime Prevention Panel will be informed.

Switch on Shropshire/Broadplace in Much Wenlock – a letter from the Community ICT Advisor which had been circulated to Town Councillors. Councillor Mrs Palmer reported that the Launch of Broadplace would be on 9 December from 12 noon to 2 pm at the Fire Station.

‘Parish Pump’ October 2006 with enclosures – Training Events, Shropshire County Council Annual Report, Local Council Involvement in Highway Maintenance, SCC Winter Maintenance Service.

Proposed Furniture Recycling Scheme – a letter from the organizer seeking accommodation etc. It was RESOLVED: The organiser be informed of the Town Council’s support for this project and information be placed in the Wenlock Herald.

Submission of Core Strategy and Mineral Resources Development Plan Documents to the Secretary of State and invitation to make representations – letter and documents received from Shropshire County Council.

Strategic Service Plan – Proposals and Recommendations for formal consultation – document can be seen at the Town Clerk's Office for comment.

Army Cadet Force: An invitation to attend a briefing to raise a Much Wenlock Detachment at William Brookes School on 13 November at 5.00 pm. Also an invitation to attend a Christmas Weekend on Saturday 2 December 2006 at Nesscliffe Training Camp at 10 am.

Community Speed Watch: The local police officer is considering setting up a community speed watch for Much Wenlock. Members of the Town Council would like to view a DVD on this. He has also contacted Shropshire County Council concerning the congestion at the junction of St Mary's Road with the A458. Councillor Gibbon reported that the traffic survey is due to commence in a fortnight's time and this area will be included. However, it is essential that terms of reference are agreed before the survey commences.

Government White Paper: The Town Clerk had circulated the summary and information to all Town Councillors.

Items circulated: SALC Annual Report 2005-6; CPRE Shropshire Landscapes; ITF October Newsletter; Recycle for Shropshire; Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter;

272 Planning:

FUL/06/796 (Walton Farm Barn) – The Town Council is pleased that redundant farm buildings are to be restored and used for residential purposes and has no objection to the proposals; (Councillor Humphries having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room while the above application was considered).

LBC/06/781 (21 High Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/06/840 (21 Oakfield Park) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/06/845 (23/24 Bourton) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/06/857 (The Old Shoppe, Bourton) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL872 & LBC/06/873 (The Old Police Station) – The Town Council has no objection.

TCA/06/86 (The Old Vicarage) – the Town Council has no objection;

TCA/06/90 (14 High Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

TCA/06/93 (Market Garden) – The Town Council has no objection;

Land at Rear of High Street: A copy of a letter from Much Wenlock Civic Society to Bridgnorth District Council concerning the taking down and replacement of trees.

Confirmation from Bridgnorth District Council that the Development Control Committee at Bridgnorth District Council had on 9 October 2006 agreed to the removal and replacement of trees on the site.

273 Christmas Fair: The Christmas Fair was being held on 2 December 2006 and the committee needed to know prior to the Town Council meeting on 7 December 2006 if the Town Council would be making a donation. It was

RESOLVED: That £100 be viaed from the Christmas Lights allocation in the precept to make a donation under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to the Christmas Fair.

(Councillors Hill and Humphries asked that their decision not to vote on this resolution be recorded).

In view of the above, Councillor Whiteman withdrew his resolution.

274 Annual Subscription to the Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils: Councillor

Humphries reported that at the end of the last financial year, the accounts of the Area Committee showed a deficit of £72.44. It had been recommended to increase subscriptions to cover increased expenses and it was

RESOLVED: The Town Council support the proposed recommendations to increase subscriptions.

275 Joint Working Group: The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2006 had been circulated to Town Councillors. Councillor Gibbon agreed to arrange for the street cleansing warden to contact the Town Clerk.

276 Website for Much Wenlock Town Council: The Town Clerk reported that Virtual Shropshire would be including Much Wenlock Town Council as a link on their website and information would be forwarded to them for inclusion.

277 2012 Olympics: Councillor Mrs Thomas reported that the structures for the delivery of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are now in place both nationally and regionally. Wenlock Olympian Society has a place on the subregional group for 2012. This group is formed by Shropshire County Council with Telford and Wrekin (STW) and is co-ordinated by Shropshire County Council. They are working towards a plan with special focus on Much Wenlock, with emphasis on sports development and the conservation of the Olympian heritage.

It is hoped that a feasibility study will be funded through Advantage West Midlands and County and District Councils to carry this forward.

West Midlands Region is promoting the importance of the region because of Much Wenlock and the Olympian story, alongside the others designated important organization, the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford.

Culture West Midlands has also been given the lead by the DCMS to promote the Cultural Olympiad from the handover ceremony in China to the opening ceremony in London. The two cultural icons for the region are again Much Wenlock and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council supports Bridgnorth District Council's bid for the Market Town Initiative 'A Better Welcome'.

Councillor Mrs Thomas agreed to ensure that minutes of relevant meetings are sent to the Town Council for information.

Town Councillors expressed concern that there will be problems with coaches visiting Much Wenlock leading up to 2012 and that a suitable coach park needs to be identified and constructed now. Research must be carried out into potential numbers of visitors.

Much Wenlock Town Council is having an informal meeting with Wenlock Olympian Society on Thursday 9 November 2006 at 6.00 pm at the Guildhall.

278 Youth Projects: Councillor Mrs Palmer reported that investigations are being made into the provision of an all weather sports area on the Gaskell Recreation Ground – a full report is being prepared and will be submitted to all interested parties.

279 Town Repairs and Refurbishments: Shropshire County Council will be informed of a blocked drain outside The Barn in St Mary's Lane. Bridgnorth District Council will be informed that the light over the ladies door of the toilets on St Mary's Lane is out.

280 Reports of Representatives on Bridgnorth District Council and Shropshire County Council: Councillor Gibbon reported on the 'Let's Talk' meeting at Ditton Priors. Appreciation was expressed for the attendance of Sub-Officer A Humphries and Police Constable Lippitt. The meeting had been well attended.

There is to be a special County Council meeting on 17 November 2006 and a meeting on 22 November 2006 at Bridgnorth District Council to discuss the Government White Paper.

Decriminalisation will be introduced on 27 November 2006 and four new traffic and car parking wardens have been appointed in the Bridgnorth Area.

Councillor Whiteman reported that he and Councillor Gibbon had attended the meeting of the Resources and Finance Committee at Bridgnorth District Council when it had been decided to open negotiations with Sainsburys concerning a new supermarket, relief road and redevelopment of the Smithfield Site.

281 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies: Councillor Mrs Thomas reported she had attended a meeting of the Bridgnorth Arts.

Councillor Bowden had attended a meeting of the Live Arts Committee where it had been reported that the piano at William Brookes School requires repair. A 24 hour 'Raise a Grand' sponsored event is to be held at the school.

Councillor Jones reported that there is to be a concert on Friday 17 November 2006 for the J L Edwards Awards Trust at William Brookes School.

282 Items for Next Agenda:

- 1. Donations;

283 Confidential Business: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was

RESOLVED: The press and public be excluded from the meeting pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

284 The Friendly Bus: The Management Committee of the Project had written to inform the Town Council about the funding for the Friendly Bus. Funding from the Countryside Agency had now come to an end and funds are urgently needed to keep the service going.

285 Feral Pigeons: Following a press report, the Town Clerk had been approached by a firm offering to deal with the pigeons. Some uncertainty was expressed as to the effectiveness of trapping the birds and the Town Clerk agreed to contact Wellington Town Council and the Princess Royal Hospital to ascertain if the measures taken at their properties had been successful.

286 Administrative Assistant: The present Administrative Assistant had now left the employment of the Town Council. The vacancy had been advertised and seven applicants were to be interviewed on 14 November 2006.

287 The Guildhall: The Town Clerk reported that she had contacted four firms of architects/surveyors and reported their quotations for inspecting the Guildhall and preparing schedules and specifications and overseeing the works. It was

RESOLVED: Mr R O Sandbrook be appointed to carry out an external and internal inspection of the Guildhall, prepare a schedule of work of necessary repairs (including central heating) and supervision of authorized work, and submit a Listed Building application if required.

(Councillor Hill abstained from voting).

He will submit a further quotation for the submission of applications for grant aid should this be available. It was agreed that Councillor Bowden should be thanked for all the valuable and useful work he had undertaken up to present.

Signed Chairman