

24/08

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, MUCH WENLOCK ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2008 AT
7.00 PM**

Present: Councillor E W Humphries, in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs A Dugdale, Mrs L Durbin, D M J Gibbon JP, M Grace, M Green, B Harper, N Mitchell, T Pinches, P M Whiteman OBE.

In attendance: The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes.

District Councillor J Yeats.

Prior to the official agenda for the meeting, the Mayor welcomed Mr H Millward who had given notice to speak on the Much Wenlock Festival. He said that he is Treasurer and Trustee representing the Festival Society which is a registered charity that has been organising a biannual Festival in the town since 1980. The Festival begins on 21 May and includes concerts, open air play, fun days, Church services, concerts, lectures and films and there are events for all ages. Much trade is brought to the town and many venues are used. Money has to be raised through sponsorship to stage the Festival and grants are received from local authorities and an application for funding has been made to Awards for All. The Town Council supports the Christmas Fair and the Festival Committee is looking for their blessing and financial support.

Mr P M Whiteman had given notice to speak on the closure of Harley Hill for five weeks for stabilising works to be carried out. This would affect many people - farmers need to use this road especially in July/August when it is harvest time, and all traffic would have to be diverted via Sheinton Street/Buildwas/Cressage. It will affect trade in the town at what is a very busy time. The work obviously has to be carried out but he suggested this should be done in November/December or January/February; or the work could be done at night or one lane on the Hill could be kept open during the day.

75 Apologies: No apologies had been received.

76 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council (District Councillor), a prejudicial interest in the item concerning the closure of Harley Hill, a personal interest in Joint Use (member of the Joint Use Committee).

Councillor Gibbon declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Shropshire County Council (County Councillor), in the Joint Use (Chairman of Joint Use Committee), in the Windmill Hill (Trustee), in any item concerning William Brookes School (Governor) and a prejudicial interest in the financial statement (account of Wenlock Fencing).

Councillor Pinches declared a personal interest in Joint Use (Vice-Chairman of the Joint Use Committee and member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club) and in planning application FUL/08/235 (fellow member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club).

Councillor Grace declared a personal interest in Joint Use (member of the Joint Use Committee, member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club and Governor of William

25/08

Brookes School) and in the closure of Harley Hill and in planning application FUL/08/235 (fellow member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club).

Councillor Green declared a personal interest in Joint Use (member of the Joint Use Management Committee, member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club) and in planning application FUL/08/235 (fellow member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club).

Councillor Humphries declared a personal interest in the item on the Royal British Legion Club (member of the Club) and a prejudicial interest in LBC/08/230 (contractor working with applicant).

All Town Councillors present declared a personal interest in the Gaskell Recreation Ground as members of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management.

77 Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported additional business in correspondence (Harley Hill - letter from Mouchel, dog fouling - letter from A Bradley, SALC - nomination of chairman/vice-chairman, Post Office closures - letter from Bridgnorth District Council, Catholic Church - letter from Mr and Mrs Preedy, concerns about Much Wenlock - letter from Mrs S Hatton, Unitary Preparations - dates of events around the county) and in Planning (LBC/08/230 and FUL/08/235).

78 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of 6 March and 27 March 2008, having been circulated, were approved and signed.

79 Matters arising from the minutes:

Affordable Housing: Mr Trevor Tarran of Bridgnorth District Council had indicated his willingness to meet with the Town Council but as Fiona Stewart and Karen Sinclair had attended a recent meeting, considered this should be left until September/October when more information had been collated. He will be thanked and informed that Town Councillors wish to discuss with him how assistance can be given to Bridgnorth District Council to collect and collate information on affordable housing and empty properties etc.

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

Cash	50.00
H Horsley	49.35
JDM Accord	1269.85
MNA	573.40
D J Creece	140.00
Oce	6.76
B L Corfield	308.00
N B Camber	162.15
M MacIntyre Read	30.00
Salaries and wages	2024.20
Arbor Vitae	412.28
R O Sandbrook	70.50
Upright Scaffolding	417.13
Norvid	35.25
Quick Skips	76.37
Oce	35.59

26/08

Cash	50.00
Holy Trinity Church	496.00
H Horsley	81.60
G Banks	184.00
D Oakley and sons	141.00
Mrs A Downes	39.57
D J Creece	295.00
Npower	445.15
Balfours	75.64
Inland Revenue	530.70
Shropshire CC	1603.26
B L Corfield	308.00
B L Corfield	742.00
Viking Direct	75.73
British Gas	898.12
Wenlock Fencing	1319.47

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be approved and signed and expenditure to the value of £12946.07 be approved.

Much Wenlock Festival: A letter from the Chairman of the Festival Committee expressing disappointment that the Town Council had decided not to make a financial contribution towards the running costs of the Festival. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Festival Committee have the free use of the Guildhall to stage the Art Exhibition during June, and are also given access to the Guildhall for electricity for the family day activities. It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council underwrite any loss up to a limit of £250 which may arise from the staging of the Much Wenlock Festival 2008.

81 Correspondence:

Locations for signage for dog control orders: Communication from Bridgnorth District Council concerning the necessary enforcement signage for dog control orders, some of which will be placed on lamp standards in the ownership of the Town Council. Bridgnorth will be advised to contact the Church direct concerning signage at the entrance to the churchyard.

Bridgnorth District Play Strategy - Children's and Young People's Version 2007-2010 - circulated for information of Town Councillors.

Closure of Harley Bank - letter from Mouchel and email from Wenlockeye. Works are to be carried out to stabilise the rock face and the A458 will need to be closed for approximately five weeks. A public exhibition to show and discuss the plans will be held on Tuesday 8 April 2008 at 6.00 pm at Priory Hall. It is understood that traffic will be diverted via the A4169 to Buildwas and Cressage. Lorry diversions are also to be put in place at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms and Shrewsbury and Shropshire County Council is to monitor traffic during the closure to establish the difference in lorry traffic passing through Much Wenlock and also to ensure that lorries are taking notice of the diversion signs.

Concern was expressed about the disruption to bus services. Councillor Gibbon will liaise with Wenlockeye to keep them informed of diversion routes etc.

(Councillor Whiteman, having declared a prejudicial interest in this item, left the room whilst it was discussed).

27/08

Wenlock Herald - an email had been received from a resident expressing concern at 'misleading' reports contained within the Town Council Report in the Wenlock Herald particularly on affordable housing. Town Councillors agreed that the notes were to inform residents of the town of what had taken place at the Town Council Meeting, particularly those residents who are elderly or housebound, and those who do not have access to the internet. It was agreed that Bridgnorth District Council will be asked to clarify the number of people and households in the Much Wenlock Parish who are in need of affordable housing and in housing need.

Closure of Wilmore Street (pavement outside the Guildhall) to enable works to the Guildhall to take place.

Electoral Review of Shropshire Unitary Authority - views on the review must be submitted by 21 April 2008 and draft recommendations for Shropshire will be published on 1 July 2008 for an eight weeks consultation period. It was reported that it is proposed that there will be 75 Councillors and Much Wenlock will have one Councillor to cover Much Wenlock, Shipton and Barrow.

Training Sessions - 'Being a Good Councillor' 1/2/8/15 and 23 April and 'Unitary Preparation Events' on 21/29 April and 12/21/22 May 2008.

Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee: Councillor Humphries will take nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

Post Office Closures: A letter from Bridgnorth District Council. No post offices within the Much Wenlock Town Council area are proposed for closure.

Catholic Church Site: A letter from Mr and Mrs Preedy expressing concern that affordable housing may be built on the site of the now closed Catholic Church and Presbytery in Forester Avenue. They will be informed that the Town Council has no information about firm proposals for the site.

Concerns about Much Wenlock: A letter from Mrs S Hattan expressing concern about the future of Much Wenlock. It was

RESOLVED: Mrs Hattan be informed that the Town Council has taken a positive stance over the provision of affordable housing for local families and has been active in supporting the enhancement of the play area. The Town Council is currently seeking an improvement to leisure facilities at the Joint Use Centre and whilst there is always room for improvement, we remain positive about facilities in the town for all ages.

82 Planning:

LBC/08/230 (25 Barrow Street) - The Town Council has no objection; (Councillor Humphries, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this application was discussed and voted upon). Councillor Mitchell took the chair.

FUL/08/235 (Oakdale, Farley Road) - The Town Council has no objection (Councillors Grace, Green and Pinches, having declared a personal interest, left the room whilst this application was discussed and voted upon).

Notification that appeal in respect of land at Lady Forester Nursing Home has been withdrawn. It is probable that a further appeal into refusal to grant planning permission at this site will take place in the Autumn and Councillor Green is willing to appear on behalf of the Town Council (along with Councillor Grace and Mr Tuer and Mrs E Thomas).

Notification that appeal by Wenlock Estates concerning field adjoining Much Wenlock Primary School has been dismissed.

Notification that appeal against refusal to grant planning permission at 13 Victoria Road, Much Wenlock, has been dismissed.

83 Use of Plastic Bags: Councillor Mrs Durbin is concerned at the amount of plastic bags being discarded in the countryside and it was

RESOLVED: This Town Council encourages all shop and market traders in Much Wenlock to seriously consider alternatives to the plastic carrier bag in order to reduce the amount of litter in our surrounding countryside.

All businesses in the centre of the town will be asked to support the Town Council by using biodegradable bags and promoting the town at the same time.

84 Flooding: Councillor Gibbon reported that the working party is continuing work on the preparation of a Community Emergency Plan.

85 Gaskell Recreation Ground: The draft minutes of the recent meeting of the Board of Management were circulated at which dog fouling had been discussed. A letter from a resident of Much Wenlock was reported objecting to the enforcement of the law that dogs be kept on a lead at all times. It was pointed out that a sign that all dogs must be kept on a lead had been erected at the entrance to the Gaskell Ground for some twenty years. The Town Clerk reported that the new Dog Control Orders and Fixed Penalty Notices for Litter came into effect on 3 April 2008 under which all dogs must be kept on a lead and not allowed to foul any public areas. Enforcement is carried out by the Community Support Officers who can issue fixed penalty notices for fouling and litter.

86 Joint Use Centre: It was imperative that all future negotiations concerning Joint Use must be held between all three signatories to the agreement (Much Wenlock Town Council/Bridgnorth District Council/Shropshire County Council). It was also vital that the Town Council fully participates in discussion on the school, its future, community use, relationship between the school and the Gaskell Recreation Ground. It was

RESOLVED: (1) The Town Council write to Shropshire County Council that as trustees of the Gaskell Recreation Ground, we are concerned about the effect of Unitary status and the rebuild of William Brookes School and would urge that negotiations be commenced on a new Joint Use Agreement.

(2) The Town Council write to the One School Project that we wish to work closely with them concerning community aspirations for the One School Project at William Brookes School.

87 Royal British Legion Hall: Councillor Pinches reported that the Royal British Legion Club had now closed. The site is in the ownership of Wenlock Estates. It was

RESOLVED: A letter be sent to Wenlock Estates urging them to consider using the site and building for community use, possibly a village hall.

29/08

88 William Penny Brookes Award: This will be considered at the June meeting of the Town Council.

89 2012 Olympics and Benefits for Much Wenlock: A meeting will not be held until 30 April 2008 and a report made to the May meeting.

90 Employment in Much Wenlock: Councillor Harper reported that Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan had drawn attention to the lack of premises and small units and workshops in Much Wenlock. The quarries have closed but no new employment opportunities have been promoted by Shropshire County Council or Advantage West Midlands. It was decided to consider this item at the May meeting of the Town Council.

91 Children's Play Area: Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that the existing fencing between the children's play area and Station Road was old and it was hoped to provide more attractive fencing (green powder coated, round topped steel) and an application is being made for an amenity grant from Bridgnorth District Council. It was

RESOLVED: This application be supported, subject to the approval of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management and the Joint Use Management Committee.

92 Adjournment: It was

RESOLVED: The remainder of the business (other than confidential business) be adjourned to a future meeting.

93 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.

94 Town Clerk: It was confirmed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Mrs Durbin, D M J Gibbon and P M Whiteman, having been given authority by the Town Council, had appointed Mr R D May as Town Clerk to commence duties on 1 May 2008.

95 Quotations for work at Corn Exchange: The Town Clerk reported that the rear windows and door at the rear of the Corn Exchange needed urgent attention and quotations had been obtained by Mr Sandbrook. It was

RESOLVED: The quotation of Unity Maintenance Services in the sum of £2435.00 for works to the door and windows at the rear of the Corn Exchange be accepted.

Signed Chairman
1 May 2008