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Minutes of the monthly meeting of Much Wenlock Town Council held in the Guildhall on Thursday 4 October 2007 at 7.00 pm

Present: The Mayor, 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, S Ross and P M Whiteman OBE
In Attendance: The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes
District Councillor John Yeats

Prior to the official agenda for the evening, having given written notice to the Town Clerk, Mr R Lane spoke on his planning application (FUL/07/743); and Mr R Weston spoke on the flooding and drainage problems in the town.

210 Apologies: There were no apologies for absence.

211 Declarations of Interest:

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

Councillor Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council (District Councillor).

Councillor Humphries declared a prejudicial interest in Planning Applications LBC/07/769 and FUL/07/787 as an electrical contractor employed by the applicant or working with planning consultant.

Councillors Grace, Green and Pinches declared personal interests in TCA/07/95 (friends of the applicant).

Councillor Green declared a personal interest in the Bridgnorth District Council Housing Survey (planning consultant);

Councillor Mrs Durbin declared a personal interest in the item on The Friendly Bus (member of the Friendly Bus Committee).

212 Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported additional business in agenda item 17 (Flooding) – copy of a letter from Bridgnorth District Council to Severn Trent Water; and in Planning (TCA/07/104, FUL/07/794 and FUL/07/834).

213 Alteration to Agenda: A large number of residents were in attendance, and it was therefore

RESOLVED: That agenda item (17) Flooding of Much Wenlock – be brought forward on the agenda to be taken after item (5) matters arising from the minutes.

214 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 6 September 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed, subject to 196 '*three automatic toilets*' being amended to read '*two automatic toilets*'.

215 Matters arising from the minutes:

Culvert Victoria Road/Merrywell Lane/Bridgnorth Road – letters from Shropshire County Council confirming that works will be completed to the culvert in Victoria

Road in the near future, when agreement is reached with the quarry owners on the contribution to be made works will be programmed for Merrywell Lane and the overhanging hedge and verge will be attended to on Bridgnorth Road. A burst water main in Sheinton Street has been repaired.

216 Flooding of Much Wenlock: There were a number of residents present at the Town Council meeting who had expressed their concerns on flooding and drainage problems at the 'Let's Talk' meeting at Priory Hall on 27 September 2007. District Councillor John Yeats presented a report he had compiled setting out what had happened when the town was flooded on 25 June 2007, why this had occurred and the cost to households affected by the water. Those present were assured that the Town Council is taking all possible action to reduce the impact of future flooding in the town and it was

RESOLVED: A copy of the report prepared by Councillor Yeats be sent to Bridgnorth District Council, Shropshire County Council, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water with a request that they formally consider the findings of the report and urgently address the issues raised; and that in the meantime the Town Council insist that Bridgnorth District Council imposes a moratorium on all significant development in the town until satisfactory responses are received from the above agencies.

217 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
B L Corfield	1229.50
Eon	158.74
Bridgnorth District Council	3198.50
R O Sandbrook	387.75
Spar (telephone card)	10.00
Quick Skips	70.50
Bank charge	2.00
Salaries and wages	2345.58
Inland Revenue	618.47
Shropshire County Council	1563.22
Balfours	75.64
Oce Imagistics	16.18
Viking Direct	48.92
British Gas	110.27
Norvid	30.55
SALC	68.00
Technical Services	77.40
Penny Farthing	82.25

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be signed and expenditure to the value of £10143.47 be approved.

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Christmas Fair: It was

RESOLVED: Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a donation of £350 be made to the Christmas Fair organisation with a request that in future years, the Town Council must receive a copy of their constitution and accounts.

Association of Burial Authorities: It was

RESOLVED: The annual subscription of £86 be paid to the Association of Burial Authorities.

216 Correspondence:

AGM of SALC: This was to be held on 17 November at the Buckatree Hall Hotel, Wellington. All Town Councillors can attend and it was

RESOLVED: Councillor Humphries and one other Town Councillor attend the AGM and that lunch at £12.50 per person be provided.

Training: Details of New Councillor Training Workshops to be held on 30 and 31 October and 8 November 2007. Town Councillors to inform Town Clerk if interested. 'One Council for Shropshire' – invitation from Oswestry Town Council to a meeting on 17 October 2007 at the Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry. Town Councillors to inform Town Clerk if interested in attending.

Consultation on plans by Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust to become a NHS Foundation Trust in 2008.

Road works on A49 and diversion of traffic through Much Wenlock from Monday 17 September for five weeks (between the hours of 21.00 and 6.00).

'Walking for Life' – invitation to Parish and Town Councillors to the launch of 'Walking for Life' walks at Ludlow, Market Drayton, Highley, Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

Items circulated around the table included Public Transport News September, Birthday Honours 2008, BDC Members Bulletins September and October, ITF Newsletter October 2007.

217 Planning: The following applications were considered and dealt with as follows:

LBC/07/769 (25 Barrow Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/07/787 (17 Farley) – The Town Council supports this application – it is in keeping and the extension is sympathetic with the existing building.

Councillor Humphries withdrew from the meeting whilst LBC/07/769 and FUL/07/787 were considered.

FUL/07/794 (31 Sheinton Street) – This retrospective application is for a front porch to a property in the Much Wenlock Conservation Area and must be in stone to match the remainder of the building.

The Town Council also reconsidered FUL/07/743 (Maryway House) – the Town Council now wishes to withdraw its objection to this application.

TPO/07/92 (2 High Causeway) – The Town Council confirms its previous response and objects to this work as it is considered in the interests of health and safety of pedestrians and the occupiers of 2 High Causeway, the tree should be felled.

TCA/07/95 (8 Sheinton Street) – No objection;

TCA/07/99 (2 Kingswood Close) – No objection;

TCA/07/102 (Old Police Station) – No objection;

TCA/07/104 (10 Barrow Street) – No objection;

218 Traffic and Finance Committees: Items for consideration for inclusion in the rate precept figures should be sent to the Town Clerk. The Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 25 October at 7 pm and the Traffic Committee on Monday 29 October 2007 at 7 pm.

219 Unitary Authority – Local Area Committee Scheme: Councillor Mrs Dugdale proposed that representatives from Broseley Town Council be invited to meet with Much Wenlock Town Council to talk about their experiences in taking part in the pilot Local Area Committee Scheme which may be extended to other areas. It was agreed that County Councillor Mrs Jones and the Lead Officer would be invited to attend the next Town Council meeting at 6.30 pm on Thursday 1 November 2007.

220 Much Wenlock Youth Club: Councillor Pinches expressed his concern about the youth club. Following the AGM he had attended the youth club sessions when twelve youngsters had attended but there are few leaders for the club. Ideas have been put forward but funding is required for outside events and activities. He hoped that the Broadplace could be extended to the youth club building to enable youngsters to use this facility. The thanks of the Town Council were extended to those who had kept the youth club operating under very difficult conditions but it is obvious that more volunteer help is required to run the sessions. It was suggested that the youth club could have better links with the new school when constructed and Councillor Grace, as the Town Council representative on Building Schools for the Future, will put this suggestion forward at the seminars due to be held in the near future.

221 Housing Survey: Initial results of the Much Wenlock Housing Needs Survey had been received and circulated to Town Councillors. It was clear from this survey that since the survey undertaken by the Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan there had been a significant increase in the number of people in Much Wenlock in housing need and that affordable housing must be provided in the town. Follow up work is being undertaken at Bridgnorth District Council and when further information is received the housing officer will be invited to attend a Town Council meeting.

222 Town Council Newsletter and letter concerning communications: A copy of the letter had been circulated to Town Councillors. It was agreed that there should be a monthly report of the Town Council meeting and activities in the Wenlock Herald and it was

RESOLVED: Councillor Ross prepare monthly reports for insertion in the Wenlock Herald (these to be sent to and approved by Town Councillors if possible).

223 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.

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224 CCTV Camera: The Town Clerk reported that the new tenant of the property where the cctv camera is sited was still affected by the noise of the motor on the camera and it was decided that it would be left operating but static to cover the High Street for the present as the police could always alter this if required.

Signed Chairman

1 November 2007