

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Much Wenlock Town Council held in the Guildhall on Thursday 5 July 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 (arrived 8.20 pm),
M Grace, M Green, B Harper, N Mitchell, T Pinches, S Ross, P M Whiteman OBE
The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes

Wenlock Olympian Society: Prior to the meeting, at 6.30 pm, a presentation on the history, activities and future hopes for the Wenlock Olympian Society was made. Mr Peter Thompson, Secretary, Mr Chris Cannon, Archivist, and Mrs Elizabeth Thomas, representative on the STW 2012 Regional Committee all gave interesting and comprehensive information on the history of Wenlock Olympian Society, the story on the importance of William Penny Brookes and the challenges ahead up to the Olympic Games in 2012 to promote Much Wenlock for the benefit of economy, tourism and access of funding to conserve and preserve the valuable archive of the Society.

Public Session: Mrs Ann Morley spoke for three minutes on the concerns of the residents of Sytche Close about the proposals for development of the grounds of the Lady Forester Nursing Home.

The Revd. Stephen Lowe, Mayor's Chaplain, said prayers.

159 Apologies: None had been received.

160 Declarations of Interest:

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

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

Councillor Green declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/07/461&462.

Councillor Ross declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/07/479 and FUL/07/461&462 (neighbour to both properties).

Councillor Harper declared a prejudicial interest in planning applications FUL/07/383 and FUL/07/542 (being a neighbour of the land subject to the application).

161 Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported additional items for the agenda (correspondence – letter from Shropshire CC concerning registration services) planning (FUL/07/542, FUL/07/547 and TCA/07/64) and quotation to be considered in confidential business.

162 Minutes: The minutes of the meetings of 7 and 14 June 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

163 Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

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

Mrs D Whitfield	266.75
A Firmstone	462.56
SPFA	35.00
Cash	50.00
Quick Skips	76.37
Npower	471.85
Mrs A Downes	766.08
Ms V Taylor	117.00
Mrs M MacIntyre Read	253.38
Ms V Bellamy	139.07
R Isaac	192.23
M MacIntyre Read	31.86
Inland Revenue	614.44
Shropshire County Council	1649.09
D Downes	130.00
Balfours	75.64
Bridgnorth District Council	408.00
British Gas	292.41
R Hall	412.80
M MacIntyre Read	81.25
SALC	34.00
Smiths of Derby	182.13
Lyreco	22.27
Norvid	30.14
Signs and Labels	93.84
Viking Direct	54.27
Cash	50.00

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be approved and signed.

The Friendly Bus: It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council be a member of this committee and pay £6 subscription.

165 Agenda: It was

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended and that Planning be considered at this point of the Agenda followed by Flooding.

166 Planning: The following planning and tree applications were considered:

FUL/07/383 (Lady Forester Nursing Home) - the Town Council objects to this application (Councillors Grace and Green agreed to prepare a response).

(Councillor Harper, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room while this application was discussed and voted upon).

FUL/07/547 (Lady Forester Nursing Home) – The Town Council supports this application as it meets an identifiable need in the local community.

(Councillor Harper, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room while this application was discussed and voted upon).

FUL/07/479 (17 High Street) – The Town Council supports this application. (Councillor Ross, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room while this application was discussed and voted upon).

FUL/07/525 (4 Slade Lane, Homer) – The Town Council objects – the garage is in a significantly detached location from the property and would be too large a scale causing concern of possible conversion into a house at a later date.

FUL/07/542 (13 Victoria Road) – The Town Council objects to this application. The site is outside the development boundary of the town and additional vehicles leaving and entering the site from the very busy A458 road would pose an extreme highway hazard.

TCA/07/61 (Holy Trinity Church) – The Town Council has no objection but hopes that two new trees will be planted in the churchyard which is an open green space in the centre of the town.

TCA/07/64 (3 Stretton Road) – The Town Council has no objection.

FUL/07/437 – The Town Clerk had received further information that a beech hedge would be planted behind the proposed temporary fence and the Town Council has therefore withdrawn their opposition.

TCA/07/43 – The Town Clerk reported that a hedgerow retention notice had been served on this hedgerow and that the removal of the hedgerow is now prohibited.

FUL/07/461&462 (Barclays Bank) – in view of recent events of flooding and information received, further consideration was given to these applications and comment is made about the concerns of Town Councillors that the erection of two new buildings on this historically important site in the centre of the town within the curtilage of a listed building and in the conservation area would lead to over-development and would exacerbate the risk of flooding due to an increase in roof area in an area already prone to flooding in adverse weather conditions.

(Councillors Ross and Green, having declared prejudicial interests, left the room while the above was discussed and voted upon).

167 Flooding: The Town had suffered from severe flooding particularly on Monday 25 June and Tuesday 26 June 2007 when so much rain had fallen (60 mm), the brook and culvert through the town were full and many streets were under water. The consequence of the weather had caused distress and upset to residents and businesses of the town and outlying areas. Councillor Ross reported that at least 53 houses had been flooded and 61 houses threatened with flooding. Much of the water had run off farmland surrounding the town. Sandbags had been provided by Bridgnorth District Council and assistance given by the Fire Service and Shropshire County Council. The Leisure Centre had been put on alert in case any residents had to be evacuated. District Councillor Yeats had visited many of those affected and spoke particularly of the problems of properties at Farley. Philip Dunne MP had visited the town on Friday 29 June 2007 to see the problems first hand. He promised to approach the Environment Agency who is responsible for tributaries of the Severn and also to find funding to minimise the impact of future flooding. It is important that the Town Council formalise a plan in the event of flooding in the future and it was proposed a meeting be arranged for September (Shropshire County Council/Bridgnorth District Council/Environment Agency/Fire Authority). In the meantime, Councillors Ross and Pinches and District Councillor Yeats will meet to co-ordinate a plan for the future.

40/07

Councillor Gibbon agreed to contact Brian Bennett, Shropshire County Council, to meet at Bourton Road, where there is a particularly bad section of drainage (District Councillors and Town Councillors to be invited).

168 Standing Orders: It was
RESOLVED: That Standing Orders as circulated be approved.

169 Planning Committee: Councillor Mrs Dugdale suggested that a planning committee of three or four Town Councillors be set up to meet and formulate responses to planning applications received by the Town Council to be ratified at full Council. However, it was decided that all Town Councillors should be able to consider and make comment on all planning applications received.

170 Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management: Councillor Mrs Dugdale suggested that membership of the Gaskell Ground Board of Management be reduced to five members from the Town Council and two members from Wenlock Estate. However, a codicil to the original conveyance and the Charity Commission's approval would be required. It was generally considered important that each Town Council member should retain their vote on the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management.

171 Adjournment: It now being 9.30 pm, it was
RESOLVED: The remainder of the business of the agenda be adjourned for consideration on 26 July 2007.

Signed Chairman

26 July 2007