

Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held in the Guildhall, Much Wenlock on Thursday 5 October 2006 at 7.00 pm

Present: The Deputy Mayor, Councillor E W Humphries, in the Chair

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

Mrs A Downes Town Clerk

The Revd Stephen Lowe said prayers.

242 Apologies: There were apologies for absence from Councillor D M J Gibbon JP (holiday) and Councillor Mrs E Thomas (personal reasons).

243 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to the Joint Use Centre (member of the committee) and Bridgnorth District Council (District Councillor).

Councillor Hill declared a personal interest in an item concerning Virtual Shropshire as an advertiser on that site.

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

Councillor Humphries and Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in TR/06/82 (contractors working for the applicant).

244 Additional Business: The Town Clerk advised that there would be items of urgent business in correspondence (letter from Shropshire County Council concerning double yellow lines) and notification of the AGM of the Bridgnorth Citizens Advice Bureau; in planning (FUL/06/757 and LBC/06/758 and copy of letter from Much Wenlock Civic Society to Bridgnorth District Council) and in committee (quotation for hedge at cemetery and cost of setting out grave spaces).

245 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2006 were approved and signed as a true record subject to minute 237 – replacement of ‘*restructuring*’ with ‘*appointments*’.

246 Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) Lighting in High Street: A letter from Shropshire County Council that if the columns were reduced in height, more columns would be needed, resulting in increased scheme costs, higher energy bills and more street clutter. This view had been confirmed by the Conservation Officer at Bridgnorth District Council. It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council support the provision of 10 new columns at 8m high, 2 replacement wall brackets, with traditional equipment to improve lighting in High Street, Much Wenlock.

(b) Congestion in St Mary’s Road: Shropshire County Council had looked at the Town Council’s concerns over parked cars in St Mary’s Road resulting in service buses being unable to navigate through but considered there was no problem occurring especially since the introduction of additional double yellow lines. The real problem on St Mary’s Road occurred outside the entrances to the petrol station, where the double yellow lines should be extended further up St Mary’s Road to prevent congestion at the junction with the A458 Road.

(c) Age Concern Lunches: The Town Clerk reported that efforts were being made by Age Concern at Shrewsbury to find a new co-ordinator for the Age Concern Lunch Club in Much Wenlock.

(d) The Gaskell Corner Improvements: Councillor Whiteman said he was very concerned about the increased length of time this work had taken – from the estimated three weeks to five weeks. At a meeting held earlier this year, members of the Town Council had expressed their concerns about the design and

whether the scheme provided proper access for lorries turning from the junction into Smithfield Road and improved pedestrian safety as requested, and had been assured that the scheme provided ample turning space and improved pedestrian safety. However, doubts were now expressed as to whether the scheme improved pedestrian safety at all and whether lorries could get through the junction without mounting the pavements. It was

RESOLVED: Shropshire County Council be informed of the concerns of the Town Council and asked to take this matter for scrutiny before the relevant committee of the County Council.

(a copy of the letter to be sent to County Councillor D M J Gibbon).

These concerns will also be referred to the meeting of the Joint Working Group on 12 October 2006.

AGM SALC: Councillor Hill wished to attend the AGM and it was

RESOLVED: Lunch at £10.50 be provided for Councillor Hill.

247 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	454.48
Cash	50.00
Mrs D Whitfield	273.53
Mrs B Merrywether	120.37
SALC	15.00
ABBA	82.00
Mrs A Downs (Morrisons)	82.27
SALC	15.00
Balfours	75.64
Npower	356.61
Mrs A Downes	1526.20
Mrs S Everett	205.03
Mrs M MacIntyre Read	268.07
Mr R Isaac	182.52
Mrs V Bellamy	141.96
Shropshire CC	596.11
SALC	31.50
Inland Revenue	875.26
British Gas	42.94
Eon Energy	965.53
Norvid	30.55
Tracey Stone	221.24
Think Graphic	209.35
Nick Tart	352.50
Oce Imagistics	14.89
M MacIntyre Read	19.80
Viking Direct	50.36
Bridgnorth DC	2165.75

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be approved and signed.

248 Correspondence:

(a) Feral Pigeons: Following complaints from shopkeepers and members of the public, the Town Clerk had written to Bridgnorth District Council asking them to cull the feral pigeons in the town as the birds are causing a great deal of mess on buildings and pavements in the town. Bridgnorth District

Council are unable to cull the pigeons but can offer advice to property owners on measures that can be taken to deter them.

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- (b) Housing Needs Survey – letter from Bridgnorth District Council. A new Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer at Bridgnorth District Council has been appointed. The Town Clerk had expressed the Town Council's interest in being involved in the Housing Needs Study.
- (c) Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007-8 – Consultation by Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. This document is available at the Town Clerk's office for perusal and comment.
- (d) Bridgnorth District Council Local Development Framework Statement of Community Involvement – Submission 2006. This document is available at the Town Clerk's office for perusal and comment.
- (e) Progress on Shropshire County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Framework, a copy of which had been sent to the three people who had responded to the SCI on behalf of the Town Council.
- (f) Double Yellow Lines: Two objections had been received by Shropshire County Council to the double yellow lines at the Priory and in Queen Street but no further comment was required from the Town Council.
- (g) Notification of the AGM of the Bridgnorth and District Citizens Advice Bureau on Thursday 12 October 2006 at 7.00 pm at Bridgnorth Library. Councillor Hill will be attending.
Items circulated: Annual Review of Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; ITF Newsletter September; Public Transport News October; BDC Members Bulletins for September and October (Councillor Whiteman drew Town Councillors' attention to the list of planning decisions contained within these documents).

249 Planning:

FUL/06/683 (33 Barrow Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/06/701 (6 Callaughton) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/06/727 (The Dingle, Southfield Road) – This application has the support of the Town Council;

FUL/06/757&LBC/06/758 (8 Barrow Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

TRE/TCA/06/74 (3 St Owen's Drive) – The Town Council has no objection;

TRE/TCA/06/80 (8 King Street) – The Town Council has no objection;

TRE/TCA/06/81 (Abbey Walled Garden) – The Town Council has no objection;

TRE/TCA/06/82 (Wheatland House) – The Town Council has no objection

(Councillors Humphries and Jones, having declared personal interests took no part in discussion or voting on TRE/TCFA/06/82).

IS/DR/TRE/3/15 (Maryway House) – Notification that an ash tree had been felled (dead, dying or dangerous).

Planning Application by Bennett Homes (FUL/05/1047) – copy of a letter from the Much Wenlock Civic Society to Bridgnorth District Council concerning report to be made to the Development Control Committee at Bridgnorth District Council on 9 October 2006, which was noted by Town Councillors.

250 Much Wenlock Website: The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk had met with Paul Hutchinson of Virtual Shropshire to discuss Much Wenlock Town Council's inclusion on the Virtual Shropshire Website. A letter setting out the terms of reference had been received and circulated to Town Councillors. It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council accepts the offer of Virtual Shropshire to produce an official website for Much Wenlock Town Council to be included in the Virtual Shropshire Website and the official seal of the Town Council be included within the dedicated website space for the Town Council.

It was agreed the Mayor would send an official letter to Paul Hutchinson thanking him for his generous offer and assistance.

251 Gaskell Recreation Ground: The draft minutes of the recent meeting of the Board of Management had been circulated. It had been agreed the cricket club would move the fencing back to the base of the hedge around the bowling green. The Town Clerk reported that Bridgnorth District Council would be paying for necessary repairs to the children play equipment. Councillor Whiteman reported that the

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financial contribution from a developer to offset a planning policy requirement on a housing site in Much Wenlock would be paid in January/February 2007.

The Town Clerk reported that an urgent decision had been required to respond to a request from the Manager of the Much Wenlock Leisure Centre that the Town Council make a contribution of half the cost of providing new signs for the children's play area (approximately £70), to which she had agreed. It was **RESOLVED:** The Town Council ratifies the decision of the Town Clerk to contribute half the cost of the provision of new signs for the children's play area.

252 Youth: Councillor Mrs Palmer reported that a small group of interested people had met to discuss the provision of facilities for the youth of the town. A representative of The Princes Trust was present and had indicated that a grant of £2000 would be made towards facilities for the youth. Proposals on the Joint Use Site would be placed before the next meeting of the Joint Use Management Committee.

253 2012 Olympics: Joint meetings continue to be held. It was felt there is a need for more co-operation between the Wenlock Olympian Society and the Town Council and it was **RESOLVED:** The Town Council invites members of the Wenlock Olympian Society to meet and discuss co-operation between the two organizations on the way forward to 2012 and the Olympics. It was suggested refreshments be provided at such a meeting.

254 The Guildhall: The Town Clerk gave a brief outline of necessary works at the Guildhall. It was **RESOLVED:** The Town Clerk obtain the names and charges of suitable surveyors who could be employed to prepare specifications and oversee works at the Guildhall.

It is essential that the Conservation Officer at Bridgnorth District Council and English Heritage be kept fully informed of works to be undertaken on the building.

255 Linden Lodge: Following a health and safety report, a detailed survey had been carried out on Linden Lodge and this was reported. A cover is required on the chimney to prevent water egress and it was

RESOLVED: A suitable cover be provided on the chimney of Linden Lodge.

The Town Clerk confirmed that instructions had been given for the roof and guttering to receive an annual inspection.

256 Repairs and Refurbishments: A Joint Working Group meeting is to be held on 12 October 2006 and Councillor Bowden had prepared a list of outstanding works to report to that group and also a list of tasks for the new street cleansing officer when appointed.

It was reported that problems are occurring when disabled people in wheelchairs and mothers with pushchairs try to get past shops where articles for sale are displayed or 'A' boards displayed on the footpath, or plants in pots are placed outside households. An article will be placed in the Wenlock Herald warning shopkeepers and householders that if these items are not removed, action may be taken and the offending articles will be removed by Shropshire County Council.

257 Reports of Representatives on Shropshire County Council and Bridgnorth District Council: Councillor Whiteman reported that decriminalization will be introduced and come into immediate effect on 20 November 2006.

Residents permits are to be introduced on New Road Car Park costing £96 per year.

It has been recommended that some services (public conveniences, pest control, concessionary bus fares) be considered as lower priority than other services by Bridgnorth District Council.

258 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies: Councillor Humphries had attended a meeting at Bridgnorth District Council to consider the Big Lottery Play Partnership.

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259 Items for next Agenda:

1. Feral Pigeons.

260 Any Other Business: The Council Dinner would be on Friday 8 December 2006 at The Gaskell Arms. Menus to be circulated.

261 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.

262 Bull Ring Junction: This matter had been dealt with under 256 above.

263 Gaskell Recreation Ground: The Town Clerk reported that legal advice from a solicitor as to the legalities of giving a lease on part of the Gaskell Ground would cost £300. It was

RESOLVED: The opinion of a solicitor costing £300 be obtained by the Town Council.
Councillor Hill abstained from voting.

264 The Cemetery: The Town Clerk had obtained a quotation for cutting the recently laid hedge at the Cemetery. It was

RESOLVED: A quotation for £45 to cut the hedge at the Cemetery be approved by the Town Council.

It is now necessary to set out the grave spaces in the new section at the cemetery and it was

RESOLVED: The services of the local funeral director be employed to assist in the setting out of grave spaces in the new section at the cemetery.

Signed Chairman

2 November 2006

