

66/07

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Town Council held in the Guildhall,
Much Wenlock on Thursday 6 December 2007 at 6.30 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, 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 Philip Crossland, Assistant Director Transport and Highways, Shropshire County Council, to talk to Town Councillors about the introduction of a 20 mph speed restriction zone on streets in Much Wenlock.

Mr Crossland informed Town Councillors that Shropshire County Council has consulted all councils and organisations on rural and urban speed strategies. 20 mph zones may be appropriate in the centres of market towns and outside schools as part of the Safer Routes to School project. They are looking at introducing a 20 mph zone in the centre of Much Wenlock and outside William Brookes School on the A4169. Consultation will be held with the Town Council but it may be introduced in Sheinton Street (lower), High Street, St Mary's Lane (part) and St Mary's Road. He explained that the 20 mph speed restriction outside the William Brookes School may be introduced in consultation with the school. Shropshire County Council receives 600 requests per quarter for traffic calming, speed restriction zones etc. and these have to be prioritised by the Task and Finish Group as there is insufficient funding for all schemes. Much Wenlock will be considered along with these other requests, proposals will be prepared and the Town Council will then be consulted. Mr Crossland was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

The Mayor then introduced Mr Christopher Hill who, having given notice to the Town Clerk, spoke on his application for a quad bike trail at Walton Grange, Much Wenlock.

240 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Green and S Ross (business commitments).

241 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor D M J Gibbon declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Shropshire County Council (County Councillor) and a prejudicial interest in the applications for funding by the Much Wenlock & Bourton OAPs (wife is a member of the committee) and The Windmill Trust (member of the Trust).

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

Councillor Harper declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/07/951 (owner of property adjoining the site).

Councillor Humphries declared a personal interest in planning application FUL/07/936 (contractor carrying out electrical work for the applicant).

Councillor Mrs Durbin declared a personal interest in the application for funding by the Friendly Bus (nominated representative of the Town Council on that committee).

242 Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported that there would be additional items of business in Correspondence (invitation to Community Carol Service, street collections from Bridgnorth District Council, Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 Revisions, Parish Pump November 2007, request by West Midlands Ghost Club, Primary School Education) and in confidential business (quote for cutting hedges at the Cemetery).

243 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 1 November 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

244 Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) West Midlands Regional Strategy Phase Two Revision – response to the Town Council’s comments, which had been circulated to Town Councillors.

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

Norman Shuker	515.00
Cash	50.00
Bridgnorth District Council	20.00
Earl Haig Fund	100.00 S137
Salaries and wages	2063.24
B L Corfield	644.00
SALC	25.00
Viking Direct	62.29
Wilfred Owen Society	5.58
Eric Midwinter	10.58
V Bellamy	218.44
K Milner	43.20
Housman Society	188.41
G Taylor	1.80
K Jones	17.95
V Roberts	9.45
M Palmer	5.40
British Telecom	213.07
Zurich Insurance	210.00
Balfours	75.64
Safetyshop	329.93
Inland Revenue	485.83
Shropshire County Council	1813.64
Security Wise	102.81
Bridgnorth District Council	419.00
Eon Energy	89.32
R O Sandbrook	387.75
Viking Direct	63.12
Northwoods	312.65

Norvid	23.50
Oce Imagistics	26.46
Penny Farthing	245.93

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be signed and expenditure to the value of £8778.99 be approved.

Requests for donations: It was

RESOLVED: Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Town Council had made or would make the following donations:

(1) Bridgnorth Crucial Crew	£100
(2) Earl Haig Fund	£100
(3) Hope House Children's Hospices	£100
(4) WOS Live Arts Festival	£200
(5) Much Wenlock & Bourton OAP Fund	£100
(6) Much Wenlock Christmas Fair	£350
(7) Relate	£50
(8) The Wenlock Herald	£150.

Councillor Gibbon left the room and did not discuss or vote on the applications from Much Wenlock & Bourton OAP Fund and the Windmill Trust.

Requests from Bridgnorth and District Crime Prevention Panel, Cuan House Wildlife Rescue, Hallmark Awards, Severn Hospice, Shropshire Playing Fields Association and Vitalise were noted. The application by the Windmill Trust was postponed and information obtained concerning grants they obtain and on their accounts. The Christmas Fair Committee will also be asked if the Town Council could be furnished with a copy of their accounts.

246 Correspondence:

(a) Bridgnorth District Council - Foundations for the Future – Housing Strategy. 2007-12;

(b) Housing Needs Survey – a letter to Bridgnorth District Council expressing concerns of Much Wenlock Civic Society concerning the Survey recently carried out in Much Wenlock. The Town Clerk reported that the Housing Strategy Officer of Bridgnorth District Council would be attending the February meeting of the Town Council to talk about the results of the Housing Needs Survey.

(c) Waste Requirements from 1 October 2007 – information from Bridgnorth District Council on the new arrangements for waste and recycling collections.

(d) Traffic Proposal – an interested resident of Much Wenlock had sent proposals for improving the junction at the Gaskell Arms. It was felt these proposals were worthy of further consideration and County Councillor Gibbon said they had been passed on to the appropriate officers at Shropshire County Council for them to consider.

(e) Dog Control Orders – a letter from Bridgnorth District Council had been circulated. Plans are in place to introduce orders and Bridgnorth District Council wishes to know details of locations, signage and dog bins required and confirmation that the land is not owned by a third party. The police have confirmed that Community Support Officers will enforce the issue of fixed penalty notices for litter and dog fouling (but not other control of dogs). A meeting will be arranged with the

Street Scene Officer and all Town Councillors will be asked to make suggestions for location, signage etc.

(f) Various matters: A resident of the town had written to the Town Council seeking clarification on a number of issues. The Town Clerk had answered these and he will be given further information on the flooding issues raised.

(g) Invitation to attend the Community Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday 16 December 2007 at 6.30 pm .

(h) West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Three Revision Draft Project Plan (to be seen at Town Clerk's Office) –comments to be submitted by 18 January 2008.

(i) Street Collections 2008 – a list of applications for 2008. There would be no objection to The Poppy Appeal, RAF Wings Appeal, RNLI, British Red Cross, Leukaemia Research and Arthritis Research holding collections but objection to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Child.

(j) 'Parish Pump' for November 2007.

(k) Primary Education Vision and School Organisation – the proposal for schools is to be presented to the full Council on 14 December 2007.

(l) Guildhall – a request from West Midlands Ghost Club to carry out an overnight investigation at the Guildhall. It was

RESOLVED: This request not be agreed because of health and safety and security issues.

247 Planning: It was resolved that planning applications be dealt with as follows:
FUL/07/909 (57 High Street) – The Town Council has no objection to what is a retrospective planning application.

FUL/07/936 (Walton Grange) – The Town Council supports this application but considers the tranquillity of the area and quality of the environment and landscape must be protected and safeguarded. Concern was expressed that every effort must be taken to restrict noise emissions and pollution.

LBC/07/944 (42 High Street) – The Town Council has no objection.

FUL/07/951 (Lady Forester Nursing Home Site) – As very little change has been made in this application, the Town Council make the same comment to this as to the previous application.

TCA/07/119 (48 Sheinton Street) – The Town Council has no objection.

248 Public Participation in Town Council Meetings: A copy of a letter from a resident concerning public participation in Town Council meetings had been circulated to Town Councillors, together with advice from the SALC which was that the three minute rule for members of the public is considered adequate but could be extended if appropriate. The Town Clerk suggested that the agenda for the Town Council meeting should be included on the website and this was agreed. It was RESOLVED: The Town Council acknowledge the points made in the letter and that a small group of Town Councillors discuss and bring forward proposals on how the Town Council can improve interaction with the community.

249 William Penny Brookes Award: Councillor Mrs Durbin will report to the next meeting.

250 2012 Olympics: Councillor Grace reported that the first meeting of the Group will be meeting on 10 December 2007.

251 Town Meeting : Flooding: The Town Clerk reported that at the Town Meeting held on 29 November 2007, it had been resolved that a referendum be held and this had now been arranged for Tuesday 18 December 2007 at Priory Hall from 4 – 9 pm. Mr Philip Dunne MP had arranged a joint meeting of interested parties on flooding to be held on 11 January 2008 at 10 am in the Guildhall.

252 The Friendly Bus: Councillor Mrs Durbin had circulated a report on the running and administration of the Friendly Bus. Consideration of a financial contribution towards this would be made in committee when considering the rate precept.

253 Adjournment: It was

RESOLVED: In view of the amount of business to be transacted in confidential business, that the remainder of the agenda be adjourned.

254 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.

255 Rate Precept 2008-9: The minutes and recommendations of the Finance Committee had been circulated to Town Councillors. These were considered along with the draft estimates and recommendations made as follows:

1. From April 2008 the salary for the Administration Assistant in the Town Council Offices be based on Scale 2 spinal column points 11-13 (for 2007-8 £14197 - £14882).
2. £300 be included under Part 1 as Contingency.
3. Christmas lighting be reduced from £2000 to £1500.
4. The balance in 'Much Wenlock Initiative/Enhancement' for 2007-8 (at present £3660) be carried forward and £1340 be put in for 2008-9 making a total available of £5000.
5. To include a grant of £300 to the Friendly Bus.
6. To ask local agents to value the offices at the Corn Exchange.
7. Stalls: It was decided that Much Wenlock Country Markets be increased to £22 per half day. Charity Stalls charges remain at £22 per half day. The fruit and vegetable trader be charged £50 per session (£150 for three sessions per week) and he be instructed that the area between the railings and the wall on the Corn Exchange forecourt, which is a public thoroughfare and also access to the Corn Exchange, must not be used, and that no storage facilities be provided in the store at the rear of the Corn Exchange. (Councillors Grace and Pinches declared a personal interest in the item concerning the fruit and vegetable trader and did not vote). The Farmers Market be charged £10 per half day. The Commercial Stalls at the Guildhall be charged £20 per day, £10 per half day.

8. The Cemetery – it was decided to set up a working group to look at the ways in which the cemetery maintenance and other works around the town can be carried out.
9. The Charity Commission will be asked if there is any reason why money in the Gaskell Recreation Ground Charity Account should not be used to offset the amount the Town Council contributes to Joint Use.
10. It was decided to transfer £500 from the Gaskell Recreation Ground Charity Account to the Town Council accounts to set up a Repair and Renewal Fund for the children’s play area, subject to no objection from the Charity Commission.

These amendments will be included in the rate estimates for 2008-9 and placed before the Town Council at the next meeting.

256 Quotation: The Town Clerk had obtained a quotation for the trimming of two short lengths of hedge at the Cemetery. It was

RESOLVED: Two short lengths of hedge at the Cemetery be trimmed at a cost of £52.00.

Signed Chairman

3 January 2008