

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GUILDHALL MUCH WENLOCK AT 7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: The Mayor, Cllr T Pinches, in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs P Daffurn, Mrs A Dugdale, Mr M Grace, Mr E W Humphries, Mr T Lathe, Mr D R Turner and Mr P M Whiteman OBE.

In attendance: The Town Clerk, Mr R D May.

206 Apologies

Town Clerk reported that he had received an apology from Cllr Durbin (work commitment).

207 Declarations of Interest

Personal

Cllr Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Shropshire Council (as a member of Shropshire Council).

Cllr Grace declared a personal interest as a governor of William Brookes School.

Prejudicial

None

208 Traffic Management Plans for Much Wenlock

The Mayor welcomed Mr Martin Withington, Head of Transportation at Shropshire Council, to the council meeting.

Mr Withington described the consultation exercise that Shropshire County Council had carried out in November 2008 and the related exhibition that provided information on traffic management options and the status of the proposed by-pass. He then referred to a paper that had been issued to councillors that suggested some improvements that could be implemented in the current financial year; they were constrained within a £40,000 budget. He asked for feedback on the proposals and advice on the best form of public communication for the proposals.

Mr Withington mentioned the need to improve signage in the town centre for pedestrians and vehicles and suggested the need to consult on signage priorities to ensure that Shropshire Council understood the main issues.

Mr Withington then stated that the town stretch of the A4169, particularly around Sheinton Street, was being treated as an on-going matter. He suggested that issues outside the town might have to wait for S106 funding opportunities re the proposed Lady Forester development.

Mr Withington then turned to the town stretch of the A458 and said that there were issues re the speed of traffic and pedestrian crossing places. Referring to maps he then described the proposed works on the A458, comprising white-lining and new pedestrian refuges.

Mr Withington said that he would also like to know the council's views on 20mph speed limit areas and whether these should be constrained to the core of the town or have extensions. He pointed out that police did not enforce such limits and expected them to be self-regulating.

Councillors then discussed the A458 proposals and, whilst broadly in favour, stated that they would like to consider any significant objections that emanated from the public consultation, before formally responding.

Mr Withington reported that Shropshire Council was developing a 5-year plan with public consultation over the summer of 2010. However, he added that future budgets were uncertain.

Councillors then discussed the Sheinton Street area and Mr Withington advised that an environmental weight limit was being investigated by another team within the council. He also advised that influencing vehicle satellite navigation systems (via HGV layers) was a possibility for the future and that the Department for Transport was conducting studies into the matter.

The meeting then discussed the need for a lower speed limit on the A4169 from Much Wenlock through Farley – perhaps to Buildwas. Mr Withington advised that this would necessitate the involvement of the neighbouring parish and that a list of A and B roads within Shropshire Council's area that merited consideration of the introduction of speed limits would be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22 September 2009.

Mr Withington said that he would investigate the re-introduction of a weight limit on Sheinton Bridge.

Mr Withington confirmed that dates for the works at Harley Bank had not been finalised.

The Mayor thanked Mr Withington for attending the council meeting. Mr Withington then left.

209. 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.

210 Better Welcome Working Group - Proposals

Cllr Lathe introduced two proposals by providing an update to the council on the orientation boards and interpretation panels sub-project. He said that six invitations had been issued and four quotations returned. He distributed copies of an analysis of the tenders received and described the process by which the sub-group had reviewed and analysed the four tenders received. Folders with the tender information were made available. He advised that the sub-group had rejected one tender on the grounds of cost and the insufficient information provided.

Cllr Lathe then described the three remaining tenders and explained that the sub-group had, after detailed analysis, decided that the quotation from Signs of the Times, although not the lowest tender, offered a higher quality product including a more sophisticated quality of illustration and the ability to individualise the signs uniquely to Much Wenlock. The sub-group therefore recommended that Signs of the Times be chosen by the Town Council as the preferred supplier of the Better Welcome Project orientation boards and interpretation panels. Cllr Lathe pointed out that the quotations were all indicative, as there were some variables that had not been finalised, but that the final quotation would not be too far from the submitted quotation.

76/09

Councillors were also asked to consider whether orientation boards were needed at Station Road / Sheinton Street and the New Road car park.

The council was advised that none of the boards or panels would be illuminated. It was suggested that the orientation boards should be positioned to ensure they were adequately lit by street lighting.

Councillors discussed the recommendations and agreed that the cast headers were an attractive feature for the orientation boards. Councillors agreed to the need for an orientation board at Station Road / Sheinton Street but not one at the New Road car park.

The sub-group was asked to investigate whether or not the warranty for the boards and panels was insurance-backed.

After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: That Signs of the Times be selected as the supplier of the Better Welcome orientation boards and interpretation panels.

Cllr Lathe then asked the council to consider a quotation for the provision of captions, historical information and text and the identification and location of images and photographs for the 6 interpretation panels. After a discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £250 for the provision of text and details for the 6 interpretation panels be accepted.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed Chairman

1 October 2009

Approved