

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GUILDHALL MUCH WENLOCK AT 6.45 PM ON THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2010

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

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

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

Prior to the meeting, PC Stuart Lippitt and Sgt Ram Aston delivered a presentation on the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) scheme. They explained that it was a tool for identifying and resolving community issues and providing reassurance to local communities. The mechanics and participants of the scheme and its links to Local Joint Committees were explained. PC Lippitt stated that there were 43 PACT panels in Shropshire and encouraged the council to participate in the local panel.

The Mayor thanked PC Stuart Lippitt and Sgt Ram Aston for their presentation.

The Revd Jan Ashton said prayers.

33 Apologies: Cllr Mrs P Daffurn

34 Declarations of Interest

Personal

Cllr Whiteman declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Shropshire Council (as a member of Shropshire Council). He also advised that he would not speak or vote on local planning applications as he was a member of Shropshire Council's Regulatory Committee for the south of the county.

Prejudicial

Cllr Whiteman declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 11 (Allotments at Cemetery Field: to approve a revised agreement).

35 Additional Urgent Business: The Town Clerk issued an updated agenda with additional urgent items under Matters Arising, Correspondence and Planning and with additional information under item 17 re working groups.

36 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 7 January 2010 were approved. The minutes of the meeting of 14 January 2010 were approved with the following correction:

- Min 28 – the last sentence to read: "Cllr Grace tabled a report on Advantage West Midlands' 2012 Fund proposals."

37 Matters Arising

a. Recruitment of a Town Clerk (Min 24 – 09/10)

It was reported that, following the advertisement of the vacancy, 40 information packs had been requested and 16 applications had been received. The council's selection panel had met, agreed selection criteria, reviewed the applications and chosen 6 candidates for interview.

b. Youth facilities in the town (Minutes 07e and 10)

Cllr Durbin reported that four councillors had attended the meeting to discuss facilities for youths in the town. The council's coffee bar club idea had been well received by young people at the meeting. It was agreed to form a committee and apply to the Shropshire Council Community Fund to finance the project. It was suggested the council could play an important role by writing to Martin Stephens, the Joint Head of Youth Services stating that Shropshire Council would do the local community a great service by enabling the designated youth building in Station Road to be used as a drop-in coffee bar club on weekdays and weekends and to help the local community to deliver the new service. After a discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to Shropshire Council seeking their support in implementing the proposed coffee bar club facility at the youth building in Station Road.

c. Planning Application 09/03795/FUL – Amended design of dwelling subject to planning permission 05/1047 (Retrospective) at Plot 26 Falcons Count Much Wenlock

Councillors welcomed the decision taken by Shropshire Council's Regulatory Committee in refusing this application. The Town Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council urging engagement with the applicant to ensure an early and satisfactory resolution to the matter.

38 Finance

a. The Town Clerk presented the monthly accounts for approval. Cllr Humphries declared a prejudicial interest in an item in the financial statement. The financial statement, as reported in the cash book, was as follows:

Payee	Description	Amount	S137?
E W Humphries Electrical Contrs	Periodic electr' inspn at Corn Exchange	368.00	
Cash	Petty Cash	50.00	
B L Corfield	Maintenance work at Cemetery	408.00	
AJ's	Cleaning materials etc	127.11	
Shropshire Council	Joint Use contribution	1,068.50	
Lyreco UK Ltd	Stationery	67.67	
L Diggle	Guildhall sales	5.04	
E.ON UK Energy Services Ltd	Street lighting maintenance	945.64	
npower Ltd	Street lighting power	1,383.18	
Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water services	274.53	
Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water services	6.43	
Severn Trent Water Ltd	Water services	152.67	
Quick Skips (Telford) Ltd	Skip hire (Cemetery)	88.13	
Society of Local Council Clerks	Web-site advertisement	120.00	
Mr T Lathe	Provision of tailor's dummy for Guildhall	20.00	
Midland News Association Ltd	Shropshire Star advertisement	376.00	
Wenlock Poetry Festival	Donation	500.00	Y
Security Wise Ltd	CCTV Call-out charge	64.62	
SALC	Training course fee	40.00	
E.ON UK Energy Services Ltd	Street lighting maintenance	32.21	
Midland News Association Ltd	Shropshire Star public notice (re allotments)	146.88	
Mrs D Whitfield	Wages	132.00	
Shropshire Council	SCPF pension contributions	652.74	
HM Revenue and Customs	PAYE and NI contributions	711.02	
Shropshire Council	Corn Exchange non-dom rates	294.00	
Shropshire Council	Guildhall non-domestic rates	346.00	
Balfours	Commission / charges re Linden Lodge	80.78	
Salaries and Wages		2,470.94	
Total		10,932.09	

Approved

b. To receive the updated Monthly Accounts and Balances

The Town Clerk, referring to the Monthly Accounts and Balances report that had previously been distributed to councillors, advised that the report included January 2010 income and expenditure.

c. Precept for 2010/11: public communication

Cllr Turner introduced the item referring to a paper previously issued to councillors. The paper listed the additional allocations that the council agreed to the steady-state budget. Given the relatively significant increase in the budget and precept for 2010/11 it was recognised that a statement explaining the increase was desirable. The statement reads:

“In setting its precept for 2010/11, the Town Council recognises that Much Wenlock will be increasingly in the public eye in the run up to the 2012 London Olympic Games. Modest investment in improving the presentation of the town is therefore planned, the cost of which will be offset by savings elsewhere.

The increase in the precept is driven by the need to invest in the Town Council’s properties, which include the Guildhall and the Corn Exchange. By way of further explanation, limited maintenance over many years has been on a reactive basis resulting in peaks and troughs of expenditure from year to year. In 2009 the Council recognised that a planned maintenance regime was essential to ensure that there was no further deterioration in the condition of the properties. Accordingly, all the properties have been professionally surveyed and a schedule of work over the next five years has been planned.”

The council approved the statement and agreed that it should be used when necessary.

d. Request for a donation from the Wenlock Olympian Society Live Arts Committee

The council discussed a request for a donation towards running a craft workshop at the 31st Live Arts Festival, to be held in March 2010. After discussion it was:

RESOLVED: Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Town Council agreed to make a donation of £200 to the Wenlock Olympian Society Live Arts Committee.

Cllr Dugdale joined the meeting and apologised for her late arrival.

39 Correspondence

a. Request from Much Wenlock Festival re use of Guildhall for Festival events

Cllr Whiteman declared a personal interest in this item, as a Friend of the Festival. The council agreed to the Festival’s use without charge of the Guildhall Court Room and its display cabinets for the Festival Tile Exhibition (from Friday 4 to Monday 28 June inclusive). The council also agreed to the Festival’s use without charge of the Guildhall Court Room for an Informal Reception to be held at 12.15pm on Sunday 6 June 2010 following the Festival Church Service. The council also agreed to the positioning of a temporary notice board with event information on the Guildhall railings. However, the council did not agree to the Festival’s use of the Guildhall Buttermarket on Saturday 5 June as the area will be used by the regular bric-a-brac stallholders.

b. Invitation from Shropshire Council to contribute to a review of Public Conveniences

Councillors discussed the invitation from Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Service and an associated questionnaire. Councillors agreed that the automatic toilets in St Mary's Lane appeared to be more reliable than when first installed, that they were in favour of extended rather than reduced hours for public conveniences, that local traders could provide useful additional facilities and that a urinal block should be added to the St Mary's Lane facility. Councillors agreed that a note about the review should be included in the council's notes in the next Wenlock Herald. The Town Clerk was asked to provide a copy of the letter and questionnaire to the local Chamber of Trade.

c. Invitation from Shropshire Council to comment on proposed changes to waiting restrictions on Bridgnorth Road and Racecourse Lane

Councillors agreed to support the proposed changes.

d. Invitation from Shropshire Council to comment on Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Management of Development documents

Councillors agreed that the working group comprising Cllrs Durbin, Grace, Stuart and Turner that reviewed the previous Core Strategy documents should review the consultation documents and bring recommendations to the next council meeting.

e Letter seeking council representation on the Helicopter Noise Group

Councillors discussed a letter from a local resident highlighting the noise nuisance suffered by some local residents caused by military helicopters flying in the area and asking for town council representation on the Helicopter Noise Group. No councillor volunteered to be the representative. However, the Town Clerk was asked to reply to the resident stating that the council would like to be kept informed of the progress of the group.

f. Invitation from SALC to nominate the current Chairman and his partner for a ballot for the Buckingham House Garden Party to be held on Thursday 22 July 2010

Councillors agreed that the current Mayor and his partner should be nominated for the ballot.

40 Planning

Proposed changes to the speed limit on the A4169 Much Wenlock to Buildwas Road

Councillors agreed to support Shropshire Council's proposed changes to the speed limit on the A4169 Much Wenlock to Buildwas Road.

09/03055/FUL: Conversion of existing Methodist Chapel to holiday let; formation of vehicular access at Former Methodist Chapel, Stretton Westwood, Much Wenlock

09/03056/FUL: Conversion of existing Methodist Chapel to office accommodation; formation of vehicular access at Former Methodist Chapel, Stretton Westwood, Much Wenlock

The Town Council agreed to support the above applications.

10/00198/FUL: Erection of a rear two-storey extension and conservatory; erection of a detached garage with gymnasium and studio over at Yew Tree Cottage, Stretton Westwood, Much Wenlock

The Town Council agreed it had concerns about the scale and massing of this application and its impact on the conservation area. The Town Council agreed to ask of Shropshire Council that if it is minded to approve the application then a condition should be imposed that the new building should only be used for purposes ancillary to the main dwelling.

10/00236/AGR: Erection of an extension to an existing agricultural building at Coates Farm, Stretton Westwood, Much Wenlock.

The Town Council agreed it had no objection to this application.

10/00271/COU: Change of use of upper floor of existing garage used for storage to annex with the installation of a roof light at the Old Shoppe, 22 Bourton, Much Wenlock.

The Town Council agreed to ask of Shropshire Council that if it is minded to approve the application then a condition should be imposed that the new building should only be used for purposes ancillary to the main dwelling. In addition, the Town Clerk was asked to suggest to Shropshire Council that "change of use" is incorrect for this application.

10/00090/TCA: To crown reduce by 2ft 1 x Mulberry Tree within Much Wenlock Conservation Area at Priory Cottage, 5 Bull Ring, Much Wenlock
The Town Council agreed that it had no objection to this application.

41 Appointment of a town council representative on the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) scheme

The Mayor and Cllr Durbin agreed to share the town council representation on PACT.

42 Litter in Much Wenlock – a proposal

Cllr Lathe introduced this item, referring to a paper that had previously been issued to councillors. He stated that litter was a problem affecting many of the public areas in the town, that children of school age were the main culprits and that it was felt that action should be taken – particularly if the council was promoting the town in readiness for 2012. A number of courses of action were suggested: addressing schools at assembly, prizes for essays on the subject, additional litter bins and notices – and an organised litter-picking event.

Councillors discussed the proposals and agreed that the Town Clerk should write to William Brookes School asking for the school's involvement in helping to address the problem.

Councillors agreed to an offer from Cllr Durbin to create posters and that the Town Clerk should write to Shropshire Council to ask for a local litter-picking event to be organised.

Cllr Whiteman left the room.

43 Allotments at Cemetery Field: to approve a revised agreement

The Town Clerk introduced the item referring to a paper previously issued to councillors. He reminded councillors that at the meeting on 7 January 2010 he had reported that, as requested by the council, he had sought and received legal advice on the draft lease agreement. The advice had suggested changes to the existing text and the inclusion of a number of additional clauses. Councillors agreed at that meeting that they would like to review a revised draft at the following council meeting. A re-drafted agreement document was issued for comment to Cllrs Dugdale and Turner and Ron Skelley (Much Wenlock Allotments Society). After minor revisions, a draft agreement (dated 28 January 2010) was issued to councillors for review. After a discussion it was

RESOLVED

- That the council approves the draft agreement between Much Wenlock Town Council and Much Wenlock Allotments Society.
- That the Mayor and Town Clerk sign the agreement on behalf of the Town Council.
- That the agreement should be with effect from 1 March 2010.

Cllr Humphries asked that his abstention be recorded.

Cllr Whiteman rejoined the meeting.

44 Review of the proposed Charter for Shropshire Councils

Councillors briefly discussed the proposed Charter but agreed to defer further discussion and a response until the next council meeting.

45 Guildhall Development Working Group: Proposal for the use of the Town Seal to be reproduced for Guildhall giftware

Councillors agreed to defer discussion until legal advice had been received on the matter.

46 Pedestrian, Traffic and Street Scene Working Group – Christmas Lights

Cllr Durbin introduced this item, referring to a paper previously issued to councillors. She stated that, following on from the recent Precept meeting when £2,000 had been set aside for new and additional Christmas Lights, the working group felt more funds were needed. Cllr Durbin proposed that the Town Council agree to Cllrs Durbin and Daffurn approaching outside bodies for extra funding for new and additional Christmas Lights. Councillors then discussed the proposal and it was stated that a scheme was needed before funding was sought. After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Durbin and Daffurn investigate and identify potential external sources of funding for new and additional Christmas Lights.

47 Rural Development Programme Projects: a proposal

Cllr Durbin introduced this item, referring to papers previously issued to councillors. She reported that following a meeting with Shropshire Council's Tourism Officer and Shropshire Council's chosen consultants, Katy Foster Associates, the town council had been obliged to put an outline plan forward for the consultants to work on. She advised that the formal bid needs to be confirmed to Shropshire Council by the consultants at end of February at the latest. After a discussion it was

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Durbin and Daffurn forward a 'front-of-house and display development' funding package for the Guildhall as part of Shropshire Council's Rural Development Programme for England bid to Advantage West Midlands.

It was further

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Durbin and Daffurn forward a 'site of Olympian Games development' funding package as part of Shropshire Council's Rural Development Programme for England bid to Advantage West Midlands.

48 Flood Management Working Group update

Cllr Turner introduced this item, referring to a paper previously issued to councillors. He reported on a meeting that the working group had had with Shropshire Council officials and others on 26 January when a draft document produced by a local resident entitled "Much Wenlock and District Flood Information, Prevention and Action Plan" was discussed. Cllr Turner said that the 92-page document would be reviewed by Shropshire Council and the Flood Management Working Group and a summary would be prepared for the next council meeting. Cllr Turner reported that the working group had succeeded in getting the Flood Fair moved to a weekend; the event will be held on Saturday 27 February at William Brookes School in Much Wenlock. Councillors agreed to note the working group's report and approved the periodic publication of progress reports from the working group on the council's website and notice board and elsewhere in the public domain eg the Wenlock Flood Action Group's website. A report for February was approved (with some changes) for publication.

49 Reports from representatives on other working groups, outside bodies and Shropshire Council

a Much Wenlock 2012 Legacy Group update

Cllr Grace introduced this item, referring to papers issued to councillors. He reported that he and Cllrs Pinches and Dugdale had met Adam Walker of Oaks Consultancy on 13 January to have an initial discussion on the way the Foundation might work and Council's relationship with the Foundation. The discussion considered a number of points around the purpose of the Foundation and its likely roles and structure:

- The Articles of the Foundation have yet to be agreed but will need to meet the criteria of the Charities Commission and are likely to have to show a benefit to both the immediate community of the town and other recipients. The advice is that this will be a bigger attraction to potential sponsors too. The Council want to be assured about the Foundation's community focus as it is formed.

- The Foundation will only be able to create sponsorship and funding opportunities if stakeholders such as the Town Council are willing to assign some or all relevant property rights for use by the Foundation; property rights could be anything associated with the William Penny Brookes and Olympian story
- The advantage to the Town Council and its community would be that the Foundation would be able to make significantly better financial advantage from these rights than the Council acting on its own
- A service level agreement between the Town Council and the Foundation will be required to set out the terms for this and the basis on which rights are 'licensed'; the Foundation will not have an absolute right to receive anything but it would, of course, be in the interests of the Council to make them available to achieve financial benefits to the community
- The Foundation is likely to consist of a number of functions, including; one which uses the property rights to generate work with sponsors and creates the profit (this will need investment in staff/expertise to enable action), a second to hold funds earned and invest in the activities/management of the Foundation and a third which would be to invite bids and distribute funding according to its Articles
- The way that property rights are 'licensed' to the Foundation will need to be clarified by Oaks and we debated the need to ensure that there would be no sense of the Town Council giving away these rights, that there would need to be some kind of time limitations attached to their use and also that there probably would need to be assurances around the ethical nature of the organisations the Foundation might engage with (this might need to be the subject of common agreement amongst all stakeholders)
- Any relationship with the Foundation will need to be based on assurances that significant community benefits are likely to accrue from its operations. There would be, however, no guarantees to a level of income nor that any funds could be ring-fenced to particular activities or causes
- Oaks advise that the Town Council will need to decide how it wishes to work with the Foundation quite soon and will need to broadly have this agreed at its March meeting to meet the timetable for setting up the Foundation.

Councillors discussed the points and related proposals and it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agreed that:

- the Council will in principle be willing to offer its relevant property rights to the Foundation,
- the Council asks Cllrs Pinches, Dugdale and Grace to continue to work with Oaks Consultancy to identify the scope of these and other issues, and
- the Council will receive a further report on the Foundation setting out in more detail the type of arrangements identified in this report.

Cllrs Turner and Humphries asked that their abstentions be recorded.

Cllr Grace then, with reference to the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, reported on a recent Legacy Group meeting with Paul Kaynes (West Midlands Creative Programmer for London 2012) when it was agreed that the Town Council and Wenlock Olympian Society would be consulted on the replication of the Olympian Games elsewhere. Mr Kaynes agreed to consult LOCOG on Much Wenlock's place in the Olympic Games' history. Cllr Grace agreed to write to Mr Kaynes asking for Much Wenlock to be included in the route for the 2012 Olympic Torch.

**b Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management
Recommendation from the meeting of the Board held on 21 January 2010**

Cllrs Green, Pinches, Grace and Turner declared personal interests re this item.

The Town Clerk introduced this item, referring to an extract from the draft minutes of the Board of Management meeting held on 21 January 2010. At the meeting the Chairman had reported that funds from AWM might be forthcoming to help accelerate the development of a community pavilion via the production of a business plan. This would involve consultants engaging with local clubs to develop a Business Development Plan for the Gaskell Field, including a community pavilion. The Board had discussed the idea and agreed that a recommendation should go to the Town Council asking the council to:

- approve the proposal that Pleydell Smithyman create a Pavilion and Grounds group comprising local organisation and clubs
- direct Pleydell Smithyman to accelerate the production of a Business Development Plan for the Gaskell Field, including a pavilion for sports and community use
- nominate a Town Council representative to participate in the group
- report back to the Board at its next meeting on 25 March 2010.

The Chairman then referred to an email from Chris Child of the STW 2012 team about the scope of the proposed scheme of work. The Town Clerk was asked to forward the email to all Board members.

Councillors discussed the proposals and, if AWM funding is forthcoming, it was

RESOLVED:

- That Pleydell Smithyman should create a Pavilion and Grounds group comprising local organisation and clubs
- That Pleydell Smithyman be directed to accelerate the production of a Business Development Plan for the Gaskell Field, including a pavilion for sports and community use
- That Cllrs Durbin (with Cllr Dugdale as a back-up) be the Town Council representative to participate in the group

Councillors thanked Cllr Durbin for her work on this matter.

50 Items for the agenda of the next meeting

- 6.45 Presentation to the council from the Much Wenlock and District Chamber of Trade
- Charter for Shropshire Councils
- Use of the Town Seal for Guildhall giftware
- Agenda for Annual Town Meeting (to be held at 7.30pm on 29 April 2010 in Priory Hall)
- Update on Much Wenlock Archives
- Report from the Flood Management Action Group on the draft Much Wenlock and District Flood Information, Prevention and Action Plan
- Nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2010/11

51 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.

52 Much Wenlock Archives

The Town Clerk introduced this item, referring to papers previously issued to councillors that included a report on the recent meeting between representatives of the Town Council and Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS). The meeting had been called to discuss the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) whose aim is to clarify and resolve matters of archive ownership and working relationships between the two parties. The meeting had also discussed past and future commercial exploitation of the archive materials – particularly those related to the Wenlock Olympian Games and the Wenlock Olympian Society – and it was made clear that revenue flowing from the use of town council-owned materials should go through the council's accounts – as the income was council taxpayers' money. The Wenlock Olympian Society representatives said that they felt that the draft MoU needed to better reflect the aims of WOS and its contributions to the archives and archive management over the years. Also, WOS brought benefits to the town in terms of sports and culture and town promotion.

The meeting discussed the matter of archive material ownership – with reference to the minutes of the meeting of the “Old Wenlock Olympian Society” held on 28 February 1950 which state: *“It was moved by Mr Evans, duly seconded and resolved that the visible assets of the Society be transferred to the safe custody of Wenlock District Committee to become the property of the Town in perpetuity.”*

WOS representatives suggested that there needed to be an inventory and that it might be difficult to separate the pre and post 1950 artefacts. Town Council representatives responded by stating that it should not be difficult as a recent exercise meant that nearly all archive materials had been catalogued and that the date issue would relate to dates of accession, and that the MoU could be used to clarify WOS's rights of access to archive material. On the question of whether or not ownership mattered it was stated that MWTC, as a public body, had a responsibility and duty of care for assets that it owned – and could be held accountable for misuse.

WOS representatives then challenged the ownership interpretation that MWTC placed on the 1950 minutes and suggested that MWTC was not necessarily the inheritor of the assets and asked for evidence of such. A researcher with legal training had investigated the Wenlock District Committee and concluded that it was an appointed and unelected committee, not a local authority and doubted whether MWTC was its direct or indirect successor. Town Council representatives suggested that, in the same way that Shropshire Council had inherited the assets of SCC and BDC, so MWTC had inherited assets belonging to the former Rural Borough and the Wenlock Ward of the Borough of Wenlock. WOS asked MWTC to further investigate the issues of asset ownership and associated responsibilities and liabilities.

It has been agreed at the MWTC/WOS meeting that:

- WOS would identify proposed changes to the MoU;
- MWTC would investigate the Wenlock District Committee and its successors / inheritors;
- The WOS artefacts that were “transferred to the safe custody of Wenlock District Committee” should be identified and defined.

WOS were asked to provide their response as soon as possible – preferably for submission to the 4 March 2010 Town Council meeting.

Cllr Whiteman said that he was surprised by the WOS claims re the Wenlock District Committee as he had served on the Borough Council. The Wenlock District Committee was an elected body and an area committee of the old Borough Council. Councillors were confident that the Town Council could claim legal title to the “visible assets” referred to in the 28 February 1950 minutes of the Old Wenlock Olympian Society.

The Town Clerk was asked to seek clarification on the Wenlock District Committee from Legal Services at Shropshire Council and provide a response to the Wenlock Olympian Society.

53 Recruitment of a cleaner for the Guildhall – appointment of recruitment panel

The Town Clerk, referring to a paper previously issued to councillors, advised that the council needed to recruit a cleaner for the Guildhall as the council’s long-serving cleaner had given notice that she no longer wished to clean the Guildhall. She will continue to clean the Corn Exchange (Town Clerk’s office and communal areas). Since giving notice the cleaner has continued to perform ad hoc cleaning at the Guildhall but wished this to stop by the time the Guildhall opens in April.

Councillors discussed the cleaning requirements and agreed that the new cleaner would be employed for c.48 hours a month April to October and c.10 hours a month in the off season.

Councillors discussed a number of recommendations and it was

RESOLVED:

- That, in accordance with the council’s adopted Recruitment Policy, the council appoints a recruitment panel of council members to fill the position of cleaner at the Guildhall.
- That the recruitment panel comprises the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, with the support of the Town Clerk.
- That the recruitment panel’s appointment will be ratified by the council.

The council asked the Town Clerk to send a bouquet of flowers and letter of thanks to the cleaner in recognition for the service she had provided to the council at the Guildhall.

54 Cemetery Field drainage

Cllr Turner referring to a paper previously issued to councillors, reminded councillors that at its December 2009 meeting the council resolved (Min 272c):

That this Town Council notes the recommended drainage works to the Cemetery Field; agrees to the works in principle and that negotiations be opened with Central Networks to establish the cost, if any, of excavating drainage trenches at the same time as it carries out the underground cable work.

That this Town Council asks that estimated costs for the proposed works be brought to the January council meeting for approval.

Cllr Turner advised that it was understood that Central Networks (CN) had intended to carry out their works in January. The latest communication indicates that CN is considering re-scheduling the work to later in the year, although no commitment has been given as to when. As a result, negotiations to combine its trenching works with the drainage works agreed with the Town Council are unlikely to commence soon. Cllr Turner advised the council of the estimated costs for the drainage work and that the drainage work was necessary, regardless of the use to which the field is put. Cllr Turner advised that a French drain, for which costings had not been obtained, might provide a cheaper alternative solution, but this was likely to look less tidy over time.

27/10

Cllr Turner then advised the council to plan for a stand-alone drainage solution that does not involve CN or to which they will make no contribution in either cash or kind. Because the timing of CN's trenching works is uncertain it may now be worthwhile postponing work for a few months. If, however, there is no progress by June the Council may consider it appropriate that the Town Clerk obtains firm quotes for the drainage works to be carried out independently. Councillors then discussed the matter and it was

RESOLVED

- That the Town Council in principle approves funding to create a long-term drainage solution for the Cemetery Field boundary with Oakfield Park.
- That the Town Council instructs the Town Clerk to obtain quotes for the implementation of the drainage works by 30 June 2010 if Central Networks have shown no indication of undertaking its works.

Councillors agreed that the matter should be discussed with the Much Wenlock Allotments Society.

55 Renovation and reuse of old lamp post

The Town Clerk advised councillors that, as a result of the Better Welcome Project, the Guildhall Buttermarket now had new tables, chairs and mats and that revenue had been obtained from the sale of surplus furniture. That left the matter of the old lamp post that resided, on its side, in the Buttermarket. Councillors had previously discussed the merits of refurbishing and re-using the lamp post as street furniture within the town. The Town Clerk reported that he had sought and obtained a quotation for the renovation of the lamp post. He advised that the cost could be assigned to the Better Welcome Project. Councillors then discussed the matter and it was

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £205 plus VAT from A J Smith and Son for the shot-blasting and painting of the lamp post with the addition of brackets or hooks for hanging baskets be accepted.

56 Asset register and insurance valuations

The Town Clerk reported that quotations had been sought from four organisations for the creation of an asset register and the production of insurance valuations. Two quotations had been received, one organisation had declined and one organisation had not responded. Councillors agreed that the item should be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

57 Corn Exchange CCTV system

The Town Clerk reported that he had been asked by one of the Corn Exchange tenants if the council would consider the installation of additional CCTV cameras at the rear on the Corn Exchange as a couple of vehicles had been damaged in the car park. Councillors were advised of the quotation for two additional cameras and associated installation work from the company that maintains the Corn Exchange CCTV system. After a discussion the council agreed not to proceed with the work.

58 Guildhall CCTV system

The Town Clerk reported that the CCTV recorder at the Guildhall had stopped working recently and that the company that maintains the Guildhall CCTV system had put in a temporary replacement at no charge. Councillors discussed two quotations; one for the repair of the recorder and one for a replacement / upgrade. Councillors discussed the options and it was agreed that the replacement option was more sensible. It was

RESOLVED: That the quotation of £641 plus VAT from Technical Services Shropshire Ltd for the supply and installation of a DVR replacement for the Guildhall CCTV system be accepted.

Approved

59 Finance

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be signed and expenditure to the value of £10,932.09 be approved.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm.

Signed Chairman

4 March 2010

Approved