

07/08

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Much Wenlock Town Council held in the Guildhall on Thursday 7 February 2008 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, M Grace, M Green, B Harper, N Mitchell, T Pinches, P M Whiteman OBE
The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes
The Revd S Lowe

At 6.30 pm the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly a gentleman from Cornwall previously from Rhodesia.

He then introduced Fiona Stewart, Housing and Enabling Officer and Helen Palin, Affordable Housing Officer of Bridgnorth District Council to talk to Town Councillors about the results of the Housing Survey for Much Wenlock carried out by Bridgnorth District Council in 2007.

Ms Stewart explained how the survey had been carried out and the response and conclusions regarding the need for affordable housing in the town. Town Councillors sought answers on what affordable meant in Much Wenlock, how shared ownership and shared equity would work, on vacant houses in the town and their use for social housing.

Ms Stewart explained that partnership working was essential to assist in identifying suitable sites in the town for affordable housing.

Ms Stewart and Ms Palin were thanked for attending the meeting and informed that the Town Council wishes to work with the District Council and the local community to secure sites in the town for the construction of affordable homes.

The Revd S Lowe said prayers.

Written notice had been given under Standing Orders that Mr J Orves wished to speak. He spoke on the Referendum which had taken place in December and on the planning application for affordable homes at Sytche Lane.

18. Apologies: There were apologies for absence from Councillor S Ross (business commitments).

19. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor D M J Gibbon declared a personal interest as a Shropshire County Councillor, the Chairman of the Much Wenlock Joint Use Committee, a Governor of William Brookes School and a trustee of the Windmill Trust.

Councillor Grace declared a prejudicial interest as Vice-Chairman of the Much Wenlock Cricket Club (FUL/07/1051), and a personal interest as a member of the Much Wenlock Joint Use Committee, a Governor of the William Brookes School.

Councillor Green declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/07/1051 being the agent submitting the plans.

Councillor Harper declared a prejudicial interest in the planning appeals submitted in respect of FUL/07/383 and FUL/07/1012 (being a neighbour to both sites).

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Councillor Pinches declared a personal interest as a member of the cricket club (FuL/07/1051) , and as the Vice-Chairman of the Much Wenlock Joint Use Committee.

Councillor Whiteman declared a personal interest as a member of the Joint Use Committee and as a Bridgnorth District Councillor.

All Town Councillors declared a personal interest in planning application FUL/07/1051 as the Town Council is the owner/trustee of the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

20. Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported additional business in correspondence (invitation to meeting at Cressage Surgery) and in planning (FUL/08/88 and notification of appeal).

21. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 3 January 2008, having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

22. Matters arising from the minutes:

(a) Letters of thanks for donations to Hope House Children's Hospice, Relate and Much Wenlock Live Arts Festival.

(b) Dog Control Orders - the Town Clerk reported that a Dog Control Order would be introduced by Bridgnorth District Council to cover the whole area under the control of Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council and Town and Parish Councils. In Much Wenlock, the area of the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church was also included - permission had been given by the Vicar.

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

Eon Energy	58.20
Cash	50.00
B L Corfield	360.00
SLCC	161.00
AJ's	69.14
Wenlock Herald	20.00
N B Camber	335.91
Balfours	75.64
Salaries and wages	1526.13
Inland Revenue	413.39
Shropshire County Council	1631.59
Cash	50.00
Severn Trent Water	401.86
Gaskell Arms Hotel	25.00
Norvid	23.50
Eon Energy	840.30
Taylors	249.10
Oce	21.35
Bridgnorth District Council	2023.00
Npower	1195.05
It was	

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RESOLVED: The financial statement be signed and expenditure to the value of £9530.16 be approved.

Rents of offices at Corn Exchange: It was

RESOLVED: The District Valuer be asked to assess the rents to be charged for the three offices at the Corn Exchange.

Stall Charges: This would be taken in committee.

External Auditor: The Audit Commission had appointed Mazars LLP as the Town Council audit for five years commencing with 2007-8.

Membership of CPRE: It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council do not renew its membership of the CPRE.

24. Correspondence: The following correspondence was reported:

Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan: A letter from the Acting Chair. The Plan Committee are preparing a final report to be distributed to all households in Much Wenlock and would like to present this to the Town Council. It was agreed that the Town and Parish Plan Committee would be asked to give a presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on 10 April 2007.

Tatton Park Show - It was regretted that there were no Town Councillors who had sufficient time available to assist Mrs Grieve in her very commendable efforts to publicise Much Wenlock at the Tatton Park Show.

SALC Training - details of training sessions had been circulated. Any Town Councillor interested in training should contact the Town Clerk.

Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England - there were available to see at the Town Clerk's office.

Comments to be made by 15 February 2008.

Better Welcome for Market Town Visitors - information for the Town Council about the Action Planning Event to be held in Much Wenlock on 12 February 2008. All Town Councillors are welcome to attend.

Proposed accident remedial measures on the A4169 between Much Wenlock and Buildwas - details from Shropshire County Council. Councillor Gibbon reported that he was consulting with residents with properties on this road and it was decided to bring this item back to the March meeting of the Town Council.

Shropshire Olympian Welcome Host Day - 22 February 2008 - 10 - 4 at the Guildhall - invitation to send a representative.

'Keep Shropshire Warm' - grants are available to undertake work to keep the homes of the over-70's warm in winter.

Medical Practice at Much Wenlock - a meeting has been arranged at Cressage Surgery on 26 February 2008 at 2 pm to discuss the provision of a new medical practice at Much Wenlock.

25 Planning: The following planning applications were dealt with as follows:

FUL/08/54 (2 Homer) - The Town Council supports this application.

FUL/08/59 (3 Stretton Road) - The Town Council has no objection.

FUL/08/88 (Manor House Close) - the Town Council objects to this application - the extensions would be too large and prominent, out of scale and character with the existing dwelling, and would have a detrimental impact on neighbouring properties.

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FUL/07/1051 (Gaskell Recreation Ground) - As owners of the site, the Town Council makes no response to this planning application at this time . (copy of letters received were reported). Councillors Pinches, Green and Grace left the room whilst this application was considered.

It was suggested that if planning permission is granted for a new cricket pavilion, a public meeting should be organised. Members of the public who have written into the Town Council or the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management will be advised to direct their comments to the Planning Department at Bridgnorth District Council.

FUL/07/1029 - amended (24 Bourton) - The Town Council objects to this amended application - the scale of the development is inappropriate considering the size of the existing building.

Notification that FUL/07/936 had been withdrawn.

Notification of Appeals:

(1) FUL/07/383 - Erection of 33 dwellings and new vehicular access at Lady Forester Nursing Home, Much Wenlock (copy of letters received were reported);

(2) FUL/07/198 - Erection of dwelling and installation of septic tank on land adjoining Rock House Inn, Farley, Much Wenlock.

Councillor Green offered to represent the Town Council at these appeals. His offer was gratefully accepted.

It was also

RESOLVED: To ask the Planning Inspector if the Town Council could be treated as a Rule 6 party in appeal FUL/07/383 in order that our representative may cross-examine the appellants.

A copy of the letter of objection sent by the Town Council to Bridgnorth District Council concerning this application will be sent to the Planning Inspector.

Town Councillors were concerned to hear that it is likely Bridgnorth District Council will permit planning application FUL/07/951 for the Lady Forester Nursing Home Site and it was decided to send a copy of the Town Council's letter of objection to the Chair and every member of the Planning Committee.

FUL/07/1012 (erection of 12 shared equity houses at Sytche Lane) - a letter from Mr R Weston and others to the Mayor). FUL/07/1012 and FUL/07/1051 - letter from Mr R Weston. Copies of all letters had been circulated to Town Councillors.

(3) TPO/142 - Felling of sycamore tree at 2 High Causeway, Much Wenlock. The Town Council's comments on this application will be sent to the Government Office for the West Midlands.

26 Bridgnorth District Council Housing Survey: Following the discussion before the commencement of the meeting, the Town Council decided to write to Bridgnorth District Council and request that they move forward with the proposals contained within the report. One of the proposals was that an audit be carried out of available land throughout the District - has any land been identified in Much Wenlock. The District Council will also be requested to carry out a survey of empty properties in Much Wenlock to ascertain how many properties would fall into the category to be considered under an Empty Properties Management Order. It was

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RESOLVED: Mr Trevor Tarran of Bridgnorth District Council be asked to convene a meeting of the Town Council and other interested parties to discuss the Housing Survey and Report and how the proposals will be implemented in Much Wenlock.

(a copy of this letter will be sent to Councillor Robert Tindall, Chair of the Housing and Environmental Health Committee, Bridgnorth District Council).

27 Town Council interaction with the Community: A letter from Mr R Weston to Councillor Mrs Durbin concerning standing orders had been circulated to all Town Councillors. It was

RESOLVED: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor meet with Mr Weston to discuss the issues he has raised in letters sent to the Town Council.

28 Dates: Annual Town Meeting - 10 April 2008, Mayormaking Ceremony 15 May 2008 and Civic Sunday 18 May 2008.

29 Adjournment: In view of the time, and that there were items to be considered in committee, it was

RESOLVED: The remainder of the agenda be adjourned to be considered on Monday 11 February 2008 at 7.00 pm in the Guildhall.

30 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.

31 Works to Prevent Flooding at the Cemetery: Mr R Sandbrook had prepared a report and obtained quotations for works at the cemetery. His advice was that as remedial works had already been carried out to the hedge and fence between the cemetery car park and the garden of 16 Oakfield Park, he should monitor the run-off from the site during 2008. It was decided to take this course of action - Mr Sandbrook to be asked for his charge for doing this and the owner of 16 Oakfield Park to be asked to let the Town Council know if a problem arose with flooding in the future.

32 Cemetery Wall: A quotation had been received for this work and it was RESOLVED: That necessary works to the cemetery wall amounting to £827 be carried out as soon as possible.

The contractor will be advised that lime mortar must be used to repoint the wall. The tenant of the field adjoining the cemetery will be asked to erect a stockproof fence if he intends to put stock into his field.

Signed Chairman

6 March 2008

12/08

Minutes of the adjourned monthly meeting of the Town Council held in the Guildhall on Monday 11 February 2008 at 7.00 pm

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

Councillors: Mrs A Dugdale, Mrs L Durbin, M Grace, B Harper, N Mitchell, T Pinches, S Ross, P M Whiteman OBE.

The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

33 Town Council interaction with the Community: A letter from Mr R Weston had been circulated to Town Councillors and responses to four questions asked in the letter were agreed.

34 Much Wenlock Archive: The Honorary Archivists for Much Wenlock and Wenlock Olympian Society had prepared a report to the Town Council. A grant of £6000 has been obtained from national sources through the Museums, Libraries and Archives which will enable the short term appointment of a degree qualified Archivist to examine everything held in the Archive and also update the index system and complete the digitalisation of important documents. She will also report on the future conservation and protection of the Archive. Town Councillors supported the appointment and said it was important that the archive is preserved and conserved in an appropriate manner. Town Councillors were also invited to visit the Archive. It was

RESOLVED: The newly appointed Archivist be issued with keys to enable her to work in the Archive at the Corn Exchange.

35 Much Wenlock Catholic Church: A letter from the Bishop of Shrewsbury had been received, stating that as a Priest is no longer available to celebrate Mass Sunday by Sunday, the Catholic Church in Much Wenlock could no longer be maintained. This decision was both necessary and final. The last Mass was celebrated on 3 February 2008.

A letter from Mr G Bowden seeking the Town Council's views and support on a suggestion that the Cemetery Chapel be used to store and display artefacts from the Catholic Church that belong in Much Wenlock. It was

RESOLVED: Mr Bowden be asked to formally approach the Town Council with firm proposals for the storage and display of artefacts at the Cemetery Chapel in order that it can be considered by the Town Council.

There is no information available as to the future of the Church and Presbytery and it was

RESOLVED: The Bishop of Shrewsbury be approached with a suggestion that the Catholic Church make the site available for affordable housing in the town.

(a copy to be sent to Fiona Stewart, Housing Enabling Officer, Bridgnorth District Council).

36 William Penny Brookes Award: Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that she was willing to undertake fundraising on behalf of the Town Council among the businesses in the town to raise funds to enable a prize to be given for endeavour in the world of sport or art to a resident of Much Wenlock, and to provide additional facilities on the children's playground on the Gaskell Recreation Ground, both to commemorate 200th anniversary of William Penny Brookes' birth in 2009.

The Town Clerk will ascertain the procedure for achieving this and report to the next meeting.

37 2012 Olympics: Councillor Grace reported on the meetings of the 2012 Legacy Group, minutes of which has been circulated to Town Councillors for information. He had also attended a meeting of the STW Group at which Much Wenlock featured highly in their activities.

It had been recommended at the 2012 Legacy Group meeting that Much Wenlock must have long term improvements to facilities and an ongoing development of the ideas put forward to form a lasting legacy for the town. The whole country will benefit from the 2012 Olympic Games and it is inevitable that there will be a great increase in interest in and visitors to Much Wenlock resulting in increased traffic (including coaches), and demand for hospitality and public facilities. A further meeting will be held on 13 March 2008.

Also discussed at the meeting was the promotion and creation of an Olympian legacy for the One School Project at William Brookes School. Desired facilities include a swimming pool and improved sporting facilities and it is important that the wider community be involved in prioritising ideas.

Town Councillors welcomed the proposals and it was

RESOLVED: The Town Council invite representatives from the One School Project, the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management and the 2012 Legacy Group to discuss the wider community benefits and aspirations for a permanent Physical Legacy.

38 The Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management: The draft minutes of the meeting held 29 January 2008 had been circulated to Town Councillors. Mr John Yeats had posed questions to the Town Council in the public session of the meeting of 3 January 2008.

The Service Level Agreement created in 2004 to help clarify the responsibilities of the parties to the agreement of maintenance and management was rejected by the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management at its meeting in July 2007 because it contained insufficient detail. The Manager was unable to give details of how the budget is set each year for the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

It had been agreed the legal and insurance responsibilities of all parties to the agreements needed to be clarified and Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council and the NALC had been asked to clarify the Town Council's and the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management's responsibilities. To date, no information had been received from Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council or the legal section at the NALC. Councillor David Gibbon, Chair of the Joint Use Management Committee, was organising a meeting of the three parties to sort out the responsibilities of each and to set down the legal roles and framework of how the Joint Use operates.

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It was

RESOLVED: The Manager will be asked to give figures for the maintenance and management of the Gaskell Recreation Ground, and Bridgnorth District Council be asked for a copy of the most recent tree survey of the trees on the railway line and whose responsibility it is to survey and carry out work to all trees to the right of Linden Walk (from Linden Lodge), and Shropshire County Council for a copy of the most recent tree survey of the trees on the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

When all this information has been received, a formal response can be made to Mr Yeats.

39 Flooding: Philip Dunne MP had organised a joint meeting of representatives of the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, Shropshire County Council, Bridgnorth District Council and Much Wenlock Town Council where it had been confirmed that a survey is being carried out into the culvert in the town. The Environment Agency is looking at a number of issues and all agencies are working together to formulate plans to alleviate the flooding in the town. It had been agreed at the meeting that following collation of all information and proposals for the future, Philip Dunne MP would organise a public meeting in the town.

It was considered that that a Strategic Water Management Plan and Critical Drainage Area Plan should be put in place. A Flood Plan for Much Wenlock should be put in place.

Two letters from Bridgnorth District Council were reported. It was confirmed that the Town Council will continue to be consulted on individual planning applications and any comments made will be taken into consideration, together with comments received from their technical consultees. It was also confirmed that a Level One Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is to be placed on the Bridgnorth District Council's website.

A letter concerning flooding had also been received from a resident of Hunter's Gate who had been advised by the Town Clerk to contact the Flooding Technician at Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency.

It was

RESOLVED: Bridgnorth District Council be asked for a copy of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and maps, and Mr Crossland of Shropshire County Council be asked for a progress report, what information had been collated and how meetings are progressing.

40 Children's Play Area: Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that confirmation of the £250,000 lottery money had still not been received by Bridgnorth District Council. However, funding has been made available for the disability access path and bench and both should be installed shortly. The full cost of the disability access path is being met by a grant by Bridgnorth District Council and it was

RESOLVED: The money allocated towards the cost of this be used to provide an approved security gate from the play area to Station Road.

Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that the trees and hedges are to be planted on Saturday 16 February 2008 and invited everyone along to help.

41 Reports of Representatives on Shropshire County Council and Bridgnorth District Council: Councillor Whiteman reported that there would be a 2.95% increase in the Bridgnorth District Council council tax for 2008-9. It has been confirmed that two new toilets on the St Marys Lane Car Park are to be provided and that the toilets at Queen Street are to be retained and improved.

42 Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies: Councillor Pinches reported that the youth club now has a paid leader for a Wednesday evening session. The store room at the youth club is being converted into a lounge and numbers of youngsters attending on a Wednesday evening are increasing.

43 Items for next Agenda:

1. Flooding
2. Trees
3. Legal Advice.

Signed Chairman
6 March 2008