

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Much Wenlock Town Council held in the Guildhall on Thursday 26 April 2007 at 7.00 pm**

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**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor D M J Gibbon JP, in the Chair.  
Councillors: G D A Bowden, D N Hill JP, E W Humphries, W J Jones, N Mitchell, Mrs M E Thomas, Mrs B Ward, P M Whiteman OBE, Mrs A Williamson  
Mrs A Downes Town Clerk

The Revd S Lowe said prayers.

**107 Apologies:** There were no apologies for absence.

**108 Declarations of Interest:**

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

Councillor Gibbon declared a personal interest in all matters relating to Bridgnorth District Council and Shropshire County Council (District and County Councillor).

Councillor Hill declared a prejudicial interest in the Friendly Bus (member of committee).

**109 Additional Business:** The Town Clerk reported additional items in correspondence (Parish Pump April, SALC Annual Report 2005-6 and invitation to attend mountain biking event on 19/20 May 2007 at The Edge), in Finance (subscription to ITF of £25) and in Planning (TPO/07/39).

**110 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of 5 April 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read subject to an amendment to minute 94 launching the '*Cultural Olympiad*'.

**111 Matters arising:** Councillor Bowden drew attention to the need for the kerbline at the top of High Street to be realigned to allow free movement of traffic. Remedial works to the Gaskell junction are to be carried out in June 2007.

Councillor Bowden considered that until such time as the land adjacent to Lady Forester Nursing Home was developed, there should be no works to trees on the site.

Councillor Gibbon confirmed that no planning application had been submitted in respect of land at Gas Works Corner.

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

Cash	50.00
Wenlock Herald (Parish Plan)	40.00
Bridgnorth District Council	2496.00
Oce Imagistics	13.12
NALC	13.50
Car Phone Warehouse	29.95
Mrs D Whitfield	303.15

Mr A Firmstone	366.30
Balfours	75.64
Mrs A Downes	650.21
Ms V Taylor	200.38
Mrs M MacIntyre Read	220.46
Mrs V Bellamy	147.85
Mr R Isaac	147.85
Inland Revenue	549.94
Shropshire County Council	1499.74
SALC	645.76
Eon Energy	26.20
Viking Direct	24.44
Npower	1356.49
Bridgnorth District Council	478.00
Cash	50.00

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be approved and signed.

Improvements to Footpath: Councillor Mrs Williamson reported that works to improve the public footpath from the Priory Car Park to Station Road had been carried out and an account had been submitted. It was

RESOLVED: The Town Council make a contribution of £340.00 plus vat (the cost of the stone) under Section 43 of the Highways Act 1980.

Councillor Humphries abstained from voting.

Audit: The Town Clerk reported a communication from JDH Business Services confirming continuing independence. The internal audit would be carried out on 1 June 2007 and the external audit on 29 June 2007.

Subscription: It was

RESOLVED: That the annual subscription to the International Tree Foundation of £25 be paid.

### **113 Correspondence:**

Bridgnorth District Council Draft Housing Strategy 2007 – Councillor Mrs Thomas offered to prepare comments on this document. It was confirmed that a Parish Housing Needs Survey of all parishes in the Bridgnorth District is to be carried out – a letter will be sent to Bridgnorth District Council asking that the survey of Much Wenlock be carried out as soon as possible.

Conversion of Public Telephone Boxes: Notification from Bridgnorth District Council that British Telecom propose to convert 32 public call boxes in the Bridgnorth District to cashless operation, including one at Homer and one at Bourton.

Shropshire & Herefordshire Housing Officers Group – a letter of introduction from the Affordable Housing Officer (Ms Helen Palin) based at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury who is working on a number of projects across Shropshire to increase the amount of affordable housing.

Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 which will be circulated to new Councillors and confirmed at the Annual Meeting.

An invitation for Town Councillors to attend a mountain biking event at The Edge on Bridgnorth Road on 19 and 20 May 2007. When received, this invitation will be passed on to new Town Councillors.

24/07

Parish Pump April 2007 which had been circulated to Town Councillors. Items circulated included: AGM of CPRE on 10 May, Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter 16.4.07; BDC Funding Bulletin; Annual Report SALC 2005-6.

**114 Planning:** Planning applications were dealt with as follows:  
FUL/07/293 (14A High Street) – The Town Council has no objection provided the opening hours are no later than those of the other takeaway in High Street.  
TCA/07/38 (Priory Cottage) – The Town Council has no objection.  
TCA/07/39 (Lady Forester Nursing Home) – The Town Council has no objection and suggests the works be carried out at an appropriate time of year.

**115 Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan:**

Councillor Mrs Thomas is now Acting Chairman of the Monitoring Group who are ensuring the Plan is kept up to date. It is hoped the Town Council will continue to support and appoint a representative to the Group. Councillor Mrs Ward will continue to work on health provision in the town and wishes to be involved in any meeting arranged by the Town Council with the Primary Care Trust. Councillor Mrs Thomas confirmed that the Town and Parish Plan was important in forming policies for the Bridgnorth District Local Plan. Interest in tourism will continue and increase up to 2012 and beyond. The Parish Plan will be used as a source of evidence when considering important matters in the town and in the applying for grants. The Group will ensure that a copy is made available to all Town Councillors after the May elections.

Both Town Councillors were thanked for all their work as part of the Parish Plan Group in the production of the Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan and as members of the Monitoring Group.

**116 The Friendly Bus:** A letter from the Project Manager of The Friendly Bus confirmed that the Broseley and Barrow Councils have relinquished their ownership of the minibus. It was

RESOLVED: With reluctance, Much Wenlock Town Council relinquish their ownership of the Friendly Bus.

Councillor Hill, having declared a prejudicial interest, left the room whilst this item was voted on and Councillor Jones abstained from voting.

The Project Manager will be asked to place an informative article about the Friendly Bus and its services in The Wenlock Herald.

**117 Traffic Study and Survey of Much Wenlock:** Councillor Gibbon confirmed this was being carried out and a full report would be submitted to the Town Council.

**118 The Guildhall:** Quotations were awaited.

**119 Linden Lodge:** To be taken in committee.

**120 The Cemetery:** A section of the hedge adjoining the Cemetery Car Park had been lopped off and a fence erected in the garden of the adjacent bungalow. This had left the hedge line very untidy. The Town Clerk will send an appropriate letter to the owner of the bungalow asking that the hedge line be reinstated.

25/07

**121 Unitary Authority for Shropshire:** It was reported that parish councils are not statutory consultees in the new round of consultations taking place.

**122 Avenue of Trees:** It was suggested that the trees could be planted alongside the footpath from Priory Car Park to the Gaskell Field (forming part of the Olympian Trail).

**123 2012 Olympics:** Councillor Mrs Thomas reported that she and the Wenlock Olympian Society Archivist had been invited to London to meet the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Culture, Media and Sports to speak on the William Penny Brookes and the Olympian Movement. All businesses in the town are to be invited to a meeting organised by Tourism West Midlands on 23 May 2007. It is hoped that Town Councillors will be invited.

**124 Olympian Trail:** Councillor Gibbon will contact Bridgnorth District Council to deal with the remains of a burnt shed at Station Road, Much Wenlock.

**125 Memorial to William Penny Brookes:** Nothing new to report.

**126 Town Repairs and Refurbishment:** Town Councillors wish to place on record their thanks for all the work undertaken by Councillor Bowden to keep the town free of problems.

**127 Reports of Representatives on Shropshire County Council and Bridgnorth District Council:** Councillor Whiteman reported that Mr Tom Clark would be leaving Bridgnorth District Council on 4 May and a replacement solicitor would commence work on 8 May 2007.

Councillor Gibbon reported that a review of double yellow lines will be undertaken in the town. The double yellow lines in St Mary's Road at the junction with the A458 are to be extended as far as Hodgecroft. A yellow box is to be painted in front of the dropped kerb off the Square into Barrow Street to prevent parking. County Councillor Gibbon thanked all Town Councillors for their support.

**128 Any Other Business:** Councillor Mrs Ward said that she would be continuing as Chairman of the Christmas Fair and Much Wenlock Festival and Councillor Jones said he would be continuing as a committee member of the Priory Hall Management Committee.

Councillor Whiteman spoke of the long service as Town Councillors of Councillor Hill and Councillor Bowden and the other four Town Councillors who would be retiring from 3 May 2007. All had contributed and worked hard for the town and parish of Much Wenlock. His sentiments were supported by Councillor Humphries and other Town Councillors.

Councillor Hill thanked every for their support and kind words and said he regretted the ever decreasing power and influence the Town Council had experienced over the years since 1956 when he first became a Councillor.

**26/07**

**129 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.

**130 Quotations:** The following quotations were dealt with:

Linden Lodge: A quotation to carry out internal decorating and repairs was received and it was

RESOLVED: The quotation of A Marlow in the sum of £323 be accepted.

Corn Exchange: A quotation to carry out painting of the Corn Exchange forecourt ceiling, beams, passageway, shed and rear doors to the Library was received and it was

RESOLVED: The quotation of A Marlow in the sum of £474 be accepted.

Signed ..... Chairman

7 June 2007

27/07

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held in the Guildhall on Thursday  
17 May 2007 at 7.00 pm**

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**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor D M J Gibbon JP, in the Chair.

Councillors: Mrs A Dugdale, Mrs I Durbin, M Grace, M Green, E W Humphries, N Mitchell,  
T Pinches, S Ross and P M Whiteman OBE

Dr T Hill representing the Mayor's Chaplain Revd S Lowe

The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes

Dr Hill said prayers.

**131 Town Mayor:** It was proposed by Councillor D M J Gibbon, seconded by Councillor P  
M Whiteman and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Eric Walter Humphries be elected Town Mayor of Much  
Wenlock for the ensuing Council year.

Councillor Humphries then made and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and  
was enrobed and invested with the Chain of Office. He then took the Chair.

**132 Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Harper.

**133 Deputy Mayor:** It was proposed by Councillor P M Whiteman, seconded by Councillor  
T Pinches and unanimously

RESOLVED: That Councillor Nicholas Mitchell be elected as Deputy Town Mayor of Much  
Wenlock for the ensuing Council year.

Councillor Mitchell was invested with the Chain of Office.

**134 Mayor's Chaplain:** The Mayor announced that the Revd Stephen Lowe had agreed to  
act as his Chaplain and handed written confirmation to the Town Clerk.

**135 Adjournment:** Councillor D M J Gibbon proposed, Councillor Mrs Durbin seconded  
and it was

RESOLVED: That the remaining business of the Annual Meeting be deferred for  
consideration to Thursday 7 June 2007.

Signed ..... Chairman

Dated 7 June 2007

