

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Much Wenlock Town Council held in the Guildhall, Much Wenlock on Thursday 6 September 2007 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 (arrived at 8.35 pm), M Grace, B Harper, N Mitchell, T Pinches, S Ross, P M Whiteman
The Town Clerk Mrs A Downes

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

192 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Green (away on business).

193 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 Shropshire County Council (County Councillor).

Councillor Harper declared a prejudicial interest in planning applications relating to the land adjoining the Lady Forester Nursing Home.

Councillor Pinches declared a personal interest in planning application FUL/07/687 (friend of the applicant).

Councillor Grace declared a personal interest in planning application FUL/07/687 (friend of the applicant).

Councillor Ross declared a prejudicial interest in planning application FUL/07/623 (lives close to application site).

Councillor Humphries declared a personal interest in FUL/07/711.

194 Additional Business: The Town Clerk reported additional business would be considered in Planning (TCA/07/88 Maryway House, LBC/07/738 Buildings rear of Barclays Bank), FUL/07/743 Maryway House; in finance (increase in electricity for street lighting); in correspondence (consultation document regarding Enhancement to Rural Bus Services and letter from Bridgnorth District Council on the Unitary Authority), an item on a newsletter in the Wenlock Herald, a quotation for works to the tiled panel of the Olympian Trail.

195 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held 26 July 2007, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

196 Matters arising from the minutes:

186 Public Toilets: Councillor Whiteman reported that the contract for the supply of three automatic toilets in Much Wenlock will now not go ahead unless agreed by the new Unitary 'Authority in April.

Gaskell Recreation Ground: The next meeting will be on 13 September 2007.

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

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Balfours	75.64
Inland Revenue	619.22
Shropshire C. Council	1546.63
Cash	50.00
B Corfield	121.00
Spar (Guildhall)	1.25
Cliveden Conservation	311.38
Inland Revenue	608.71
Shropshire C Council	1546.63
Balfours	75.64
British Telecom	194.91
Technical Services	6585.88
Zurich Municipal	7366.01
B V Donaldson	96.80
E-On	840.30
M MacIntyre Read	1.75
A Marlow	196.00
Norvid	23.50
Oce Imagistics	14.21
Viking Direct	180.23
Bridgnorth D Council	411.00
Salaries and wages	4045.15

It was

RESOLVED: The financial statement be signed and expenditure to the value of £26006.84 be approved.

Street Lighting – Electricity Supply: The Town Clerk reported that the cost of electricity for the unmetered supply for street lighting was to be increased by Npower.

198 Correspondence:

‘Parish Pump’ August 2007 – a copy had been sent to all Town Councillors.

‘Model Code of Conduct’ – Legal Briefing L11-07 – a copy of which had been circulated to Town Councillors.

Gaskell Arms Junction – a copy of a letter sent to all businesses in the town for a response for suitable date for works to be carried out. This was January/February 2008 but Shropshire County Council was concerned that bad weather would delay this work further.

Road Closure Notices – Sheinton Street 5 September 2007, Smithfield Road 9 September 2007, Harley Hill 7 October 2007. The A49 at Marshbrook would be closed for 5 weeks from 17 September with a diversion for vehicles north to south through Much Wenlock.

Consultation Documents in respect of:

Countryside Access Strategy for Shropshire (copy at Town Clerk’s Office).

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (a summary had been circulated). Councillor Grace explained the issues raised and how sustainability is appraised. All comments would be sent to Councillor Ross as soon as possible for collation and submission.

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority – Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan Action Plan 2008-9 Consultation Questionnaire.

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Rural Transport Strategy – Shropshire County Council is developing a RTS with the aim of improving public transport in rural areas, reducing environmental impact, achieving better integration and providing a greater choice for customers, and particularly that rural areas have access to a bus. A Stakeholders Consultation Seminar is being held on 10 October 2007 at 7 pm at Shirehall, Shrewsbury. Anyone interested to contact the Town Clerk.

Dates of Events/Training sessions that had been circulated to Town Councillors. Unitary Local Government: An approach to Implementation. A further consultation document had been issued by the DCLG. A conference (questions and answers) was to be held at Shirehall on Saturday 8 September 2007 concerning responsibilities, powers and funding for Parish Councils.

Items circulated: ITF Newsletters September 2007; 2007-8 Pay Negotiations Update from NALC; Political Speed Dating event 16 October 2007; CPRE Fieldwork September 2007; Shropshire Bus and Transport News; Playing Field Summer 2007; Neighbourhood Watch Newsletters; Shropshire Hills E-Bulletin;

199 Planning:

FUL/07/548 (Callaughton Farm) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/07/623 (9 Falcons Court) – The Town Council objects to this application on the grounds of the impact in the Conservation Area – this and other conservatories etc in UPVC materials is unacceptable and should be refused. The Town Council is particularly concerned about possible proliferation of this type of extension in the conservation area and Bridgnorth District Council needs to be clear on its approach to these from the outset.

This is an opportunity for the planning department to deliver environmental benefits by asking for wood based products rather than UPVC.

As the District Council will recall, Much Wenlock was severely hit by flooding immediately adjacent to this site and increasing the hard standing in this area will exacerbate the problems of flooding in adverse weather conditions.

FUL/07/625 (The Spinney, Homer) – The Town Council has no objection;

FUL/07/631 (10 Hunters Gate) – The Town Council has no objection.

FUL/07/687 (Fox Studios) – This application involves the demolition of a historic stone wall and the new entrance would remove at least three – four parking spaces presently used by patients visiting the medical centre in King Street. The Town Council is concerned that visibility from the proposed new entrance would be very limited in this congested section of King Street where there are already three vehicular accesses, two of which are to commercial properties.

FUL/07/711 (Woodhouse Fields) – The Town Council has no objection.

FUL/07/714 (The Mount) – The Town Council has no objection but due to the environmentally unfriendly nature of UPVC would prefer to see a conservatory constructed with wood based products.

LBC/07/738 (Barclays Bank) – The Town Council objects very strongly to this application. This is an inappropriate conversion of a historic building because the essential features of the barn are being significantly changed or affected by the proposal. The change of ceiling heights and the covering of the cobbled floor would destroy the character of the building and the proposal to hide the manger under kitchen units clearly demonstrates that the conversion is struggling to maintain the

integrity of the listed building. Therefore the Town Council objects on the basis of the impact on the building due to a residential conversion. However, an alternative use may be possible eg commercial or community use.

The Town Council also objects to the construction of two new buildings on this site. There is no need for additional dwellings on this site and also the increased hardstanding would further exacerbate the flooding problems in this area. The District Council may wish to consider how a sympathetic conversion of the barn and adjacent land could be promoted for community or employment use in the middle of the conservation area.

FUL/07/743 (Maryway House) – The Town Council objects to this application which involves the cutting down of mature trees. The access/exit is on to Racecourse Lane which is very narrow and always has parked vehicles on one side, making it virtually one lane. There is a great deal of pedestrian traffic on this road being on the main route from this side of town into the town centre and to and from the Primary School in Racecourse Lane and the pavement is very narrow at this section. Visibility is not good and the Town Council is very concerned for the safety of schoolchildren using this route to school, for mothers with pushchairs and other people walking to and from the town centre.

Amended Plans in respect of planning application for garden land at Lady Forester Nursing Home, Much Wenlock – Councillor Grace had prepared a response and this had been submitted to Bridgnorth District Council.

TPO/07/73 – remove one larch tree at Larch House, Southfield Road – The Town Council wishes to support the Tree Preservation Order and the tree should not be felled.

TPO/07/75 (2 High Causeway) – The Town Council had supported the felling of a sycamore tree.

TPO/07/77 (School House, Bourton) – Permission had already been given for the removal of this spruce tree.

TPO/07/78 (1 Shrewsbury Road) – Permission had already been given for the removal of this larch tree.

TPO/07/84 (Wheatland House) – The Town Council has no objection provided the five trees planted will enhance the conservation area.

TCA/07/88 (Maryway House) – These mature trees should be removed only if absolutely necessary.

Appeal decision in respect of land to the rear of 12 and 14 Stretton Road, Much Wenlock (dismissed).

Notification of appeal in respect of HRN/07/43 – field adjoining Much Wenlock Primary School. It was confirmed that the Town Council's response to this had been passed to the Planning Inspectorate.

200 Children's Play Area on Gaskell Recreation Ground: The Town Council's comments on Bridgnorth District Council's 'Play Strategy' and their response had been circulated to Town Councillors and Councillor Mrs Durbin reported in greater detail on demographic profiles (profile should extend to under 19's) and on signs (children up to 14 should be allowed to play on play areas). Bridgnorth District Council has offered to pay for play area inspection training and it was

RESOLVED: The Town Council will support Councillor Mrs Durbin in her wish to receive training in play area inspection.

The Town Clerk was instructed to ask Bridgnorth District Council if the Manager of the Leisure Centre is trained to carry out play area inspections, and if not, is it intended that he will receive available training from Bridgnorth District Council. Also circulated was 'Much Wenlock Play Area -Action Plan Costings and Table' setting out high, medium and low cost equipment. This should be sent to Bridgnorth District Council to be submitted to the Lottery as part of their bid for funding before 12 September 2007.

It was intended to provide a hard surfaced path from Station Road to the play area for the convenience of users of the play area but especially the disabled, pushchairs and wheelchairs. Two quotations had been obtained and it was anticipated the full cost of the provision of this path could be met with an access grant from Bridgnorth District Council.

Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that a scheme had been drawn up for planting of trees etc as part of the children's play area – this to be approved also by the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management.

Maintenance – Councillor Mrs Durbin reported that the Lottery will accept that the current budget of £630 is adequate for additional maintenance checks and minor repairs. However, the Town Council should start a renewal fund to be added to each year to replace equipment damaged or vandalised.

She confirmed that at this time, no budget had been identified for costs associated with security/cctv/drainage.

It was

RESOLVED: (a) The Town Council approve the Action Plan Costings and Table and that these be submitted to Bridgnorth District Council;
(b) An access grant for the provision of a new pathway be applied for from Bridgnorth District Council.
(c) Authority be given to the Mayor, Town Clerk and Councillor Mrs Durbin to make any necessary amendments.

The Joint Use Management will be asked to confirm that the £630 in the Leisure Centre budget will be ring fenced and carried forward from year to year for maintenance of the play equipment etc.

201 William Penny Brookes Award: The Town Council considered a proposition by Councillor Mrs Durbin "That a working group be set up to consider the establishment of a William Penny Brookes Award for effort and enthusiasm in physical education". It was

RESOLVED: The Finance Committee be asked to consider this.

The Town Clerk will in the meantime establish how this can set up.

202 NHS Dentist in Much Wenlock: Councillor Mrs Dugdale had been contacted by a dentist who wished to set up a NHS practice in Much Wenlock. Information had also been received that another dentist had expressed interest in setting up a practice in the town. Reference was made to the Much Wenlock Town and Parish Plan in which 43% of those who responded wished to have a dental practice in the town. It was

RESOLVED: A letter be sent to the Primary Care Trust informing them that two dentists had expressed an interest in setting up a NHS dental practice in the town and the Town Council wished to fully support this.

203 Flooding in Much Wenlock: Philip Dunne MP was endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, Bridgnorth District Council, Shropshire County Council and the Town Council to discuss the flooding and drainage in the town and emergency contingency plans in the event of future problems.

204 Town Repairs and Refurbishment: Shropshire County Council will be asked to carry out urgent repairs to Merrywell Lane, to carry out the repairs to the culvert in Victoria Road, to cut the hedge and verge from the Gaskell Arms to the Cemetery. Bridgnorth District Council will be asked to cut the hedge in Racecourse Lane.

205 Reports of Representatives on Shropshire County Council and Bridgnorth District Council: County Councillor Gibbon reported that following consultation with local businesses and residents, Shropshire County Council hoped to carry out works at the Gaskell Corner during January/February 2008 but bad weather may delay this. Repair work to the culvert in Victoria Road is on the list. Repairs to Merrywell Lane have been delayed as the clay contractors have reduced their clay output. Problems are being experienced in laying the yellow lines at the junction of the A458 and St Mary's Road. The drains on Bourton Road and Stretton Road are to be investigated and necessary works carried out.

Both Councillor Gibbon and Councillor Whiteman gave information on the formation and setting up of the Unitary Authority.

District Councillor Whiteman said that the Town Council had expressed an interest in the introduction of Dog Control Orders but further consultation was to be carried out on the type of orders and in which areas before introduction in Much Wenlock.

He reported that the grass cutting season is to be extended earlier and later in the year by Bridgnorth District Council.

206 Confidential Business: In view of the time, Standing Orders were invoked and it was

RESOLVED: The press and public leave the room pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

207 CCTV Camera: The Town Clerk outlined the problems experienced with the cctv camera in the High Street. Before any decision is made it was

RESOLVED: Further investigation be made.

208 The Guildhall: The Town Clerk reported that two very similar quotations had been received for necessary works to the Guildhall. The Town Council surveyor had suggested that the works be split over two financial years and the works to be carried out this year were considered. These were for £17,000 plus £5000 for a lightning conductor and £2500 for conservation repairs to the coat of arms in the Court Room (total value £26,800 to include his fee). There will be a grant of £4500

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from Bridgnorth District Council towards this. It has been decided that the cost of repairs to the coat of arms would be met from the Cooke Charity Account.

RESOLVED: That the quotation of Messrs G Banks and Co for £30016.00 plus vat be accepted and the first phase of works to the Guildhall costing £26,800 (including lightning conductor and coat of arms be carried out as soon as possible.

The second phase of work costing in the region of £14,600 will commence in the financial year 2008-9.

209 Olympian Trail: Three firms had been asked to quote for necessary repairs to the Olympian Trail panels on the Museum forecourt. Only one firm had sent a quotation, the others being too busy to quote. It was

RESOLVED: Repairs to the tiled panels on the Museum forecourt in the sum of £345.48 be authorised and carried out as soon as possible.

Signed Chairman

4 October 2007