



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2022

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2022

PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall C. Doyle G. Ebbs A. Hall (Chair)
A. Jackson P. Lea M. Phipps P. Sample
P. Tew

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: G. Dakin – Shropshire County Councillor (Whitchurch South)
D. Newman – Whitchurch Herald 3 Members of the public present

Councillor A Hall opened the meeting at 7.15pm

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from: Cllrs R. Hall (work commitment), Hotchkiss (illness), Purt (holiday), Ridgeway (prior appointment), Sullivan (work commitment), Thornton (undefined)

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Councillors' Disclosure of Ordinary or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in relation to the agenda items in this meeting were received

3. Mayor and Member Update

The Mayor outlined activity since the previous meeting:

Visit to Whitchurch Whippets as grantee from WTC Small Community Grants Programme 2022

Engagement with Nightingale Hospice re new shop on High Street

Whitchurch Business Group (WBG) Meeting on 16th August 2022 with Proper Officer and Helen Morgan MP

Member Updates of recent activity:

Cllr Ebbs, who also attended the WBG Meeting informed councillors of a forthcoming parliamentary survey from our local MP

No further updates were received

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 21st July 2022 were agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall

5. Public Participation

Standing Orders were suspended by the Mayor, whilst members of the public were invited to make representations, ask questions and give evidence in respect of business being transacted at the meeting and about any other matter for which the Council has a responsibility.

Beryl Fletcher (Friday Market)

Represented Market Traders and said that they were happy with the immanent move back to the Market Hall. Concerns about signage and future promotion, stall layouts, incentives for traders and activity to attract new traders.

WTC Response

Cllr A Hall assured Ms Fletcher that several items were in hand in relation to the Market and that the Culture & Civic Committee will have oversight on future development, including incentives. The new Market layout was not 'set in stone' and would be reviewed after a short period in the new location, via the Culture & Civic Committee and Proper Officer, with Stallholder engagement.

David Pritchard (Resident)

Having previously raised Cemetery matters, Mr Pritchard wanted to note that the Cemetery grounds had improved recently. Raised questions about gravedigging 'standards', in relation to 'post burial' reinstatement. He offered assistance in this regard.

WTC Response

Cllr Lea advised Mr Pritchard that whilst there were no specific codes of practice, he had recently spoken to gravediggers about standards. Cllr A Hall suggested Mr Pritchard contact the Proper Officer to discuss how he may be involved in Cemetery matters going forward and thanked him for his offer.

Stella Ashbrook (Moo & Boom)

Asked about revitalised signage on arterial routes into town, particularly in relation to heritage and business attractions, as discussed at the WBG Meeting on 16th August 2022.

WTC Response

Cllr A Hall reminded Ms Ashbrook that he informed WBG that the Council resolved some time ago to revisit and refresh signage throughout the town and would defer the matter to the forthcoming Parks & Public Realm Committee Meeting. He added that a new WBG Representative for the Council would be the conduit for liaison with WBG to shape a solution and timeline. Cllr Jackson noted work recently completed by "We Are Whitchurch" volunteers to tidy planters at roadside entry points into the town.

Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin was pleased to inform Council that, having secured funding, the new Whitchurch Pool/Leisure Centre would be presented as a final Business Case to Shropshire Council Cabinet on 7th September and was very positive about the matter. He will forward a final copy once available. Cllr A Hall also reminded Cllr Dakin of a recent presentation to WTC by Shropshire Council about the development.

Cllr Ebbs asked about support for Ukrainian refugees by Shropshire Council. Cllr Dakin spoke of help on several levels and would feed back separately; Cllr A Hall also congratulated Shropshire Council on their support for refugees through extension of the "Holiday Activities and Food" (HAF) activity.

There being no further items, Standing Orders were reinstated.

6. Advisory Group Chair Reports

- a) Heritage Advisory Group: Cllr Ebbs presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2022, which were noted.
- b) It was noted that the Cemetery Advisory Group had not yet met.

7. External Body Representation: Whitchurch Business Group

After a proposal by Cllr A. Hall, seconded by Cllr Phipps it was **UNANIMOUSLY** resolved that Cllr Tew serve as WTC Representative at Whitchurch Business Group meetings, supported by Cllr Hotchkiss for the 2022/23 Civic Year. **WTC/FC/27/2223**

8. Financial Management Information

A verbal report was received from the Proper Officer, and it was noted that Auditors PKF Littlejohn have extended the submission date for our Annual Statements to the end of August, with the public inspection process to follow thereafter. This is due to Cllr R Hall and the Proper Officer instructing Derek Kemp of DCK Beavers to correct prior year anomalies, which will allow accurate Management Information to be produced for the current financial year alongside addressing difficulties experienced in the in the 2021/22 year-end process.

9. Friday Market

A representation (with accompanying public petition) was received from Mr Chris Bilsborough, fruit and vegetable trader at the weekly Friday Market. Cllr A. Hall introduced the item giving support to the request but invited further observation.

Cllr Phipps asked the Market Trader (Beryl Fletcher) for her thoughts, who indicated that her concern centred around attracting new traders going forward. Cllr Ebbs further noted that outside stalls create public interest.

After discussion and proposal by Cllr A. Hall, seconded by Cllr Jackson, it was **UNANIMOUSLY** resolved that the stalls on the Civic frontage remain untouched in the forthcoming re-location of the Friday Market from the Main Hall to the Market/Sports Hall. The Proper Officer to inform Stallholders accordingly. **WTC/FC/28/2223**

10. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

To resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of private and confidential information or staff matters. For this section, the Council resolves itself into Committee, per s1 (6) of the Act.

11. Confidential Session Notes – 21st July 2022

12. Ground Maintenance Contract – Update

13. Blackberry Fair 2022 - Update

There are no additional confidential items for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____