



whitchurch town council

NOTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2022

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall C. Doyle A. Hall (Chair) A. Hotchkiss
P. Lea M. Phipps C. Purt M. Ridgway

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: Peggy Mullock – Shropshire County Councillor (Whitchurch North)
D. Newman – Whitchurch Herald 10 Members of the public present

Councillor A Hall opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

It was noted that this agenda contained a number of items carried forward from the meeting of 15th September, which was unable to take place due to the period of national mourning following the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II. The Chair also pointed out that the meeting would not be recorded due to a technical issue, however individuals were free to do so if they wished, but asked that they make it known.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Ebbs, R. Hall, Jackson, Sample, Sullivan and Tew

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:

11 th September	Local Proclamation of King Charles III, St Alkmund's Church
18 th September	Memorial Service, Queen Elizabeth II, St Alkmund's Church
20 th September	BEM Investiture (Simon Griffiths), Anstice Hall, Telford
30 th September	BBC Make a Difference Awards with Cllrs De-Wyrall and Hotchkiss
2 nd October	Harvest Festival, St Alkmund's Church
7 th October	Nightingale Hospice Store Opening, High Street, Whitchurch
14 th October	Meeting with Whitchurch Business Owners (Town Events)

Member Updates of recent activity:

28 th September	Cllrs Hotchkiss and Tew attended Whitchurch Business Group regular meeting. Items included town signage (scheduled for discussion at the next Parks & Public Realm Meeting) and an invitation for WBG to be engaged with Christmas / Lights Switch-on and related activity
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4. Minutes

- a) The minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 18th August 2022 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall
- b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Town Council Meeting held on 25th August 2022 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss

5. Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps – all in favour), 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.

Doug Buckridge

Presented detail of the history and activities of Whitchurch Hockey Club alongside a proposed bid to replace the AstroTurf surfacing at SJT (now 23 years old, indicative cost <£250K). Questioned CiL support from Shropshire Council and noted the involvement of English Hockey in the proposed developments.

WTC Response (Cllr A. Hall)

Referenced a recent meeting, with Proper Officer, with SJT Head Tim Stonall and Gareth, where we confirmed WTC support for any bid to improve their facilities and future community use. [Shropshire Council Peggy Mullock noted the points made].

Ken Tidy (Member of the Public)

Expressed concerns regarding item 7(b) on the agenda in relation to the planning application for land West of Tilstock Road. Concerns relating to public services (health, dentistry, transport and education) to support the increased housing numbers.

Mr Moss (MoP)

As a resident of Beech Avenue, also expressed concerns relating to item 7(b) on the agenda – particularly site drainage, siting of footpaths invading privacy, supporting infrastructure and low percentage of affordable housing stock on the development.

Val Morris (MoP)

In relation to agenda item 7(b) on the agenda, asked about plans relating to the current public footpath

Peggy Mullock (Shropshire CC)

Specifically in answer to this question, Cllr Mullock noted agreement for the footpath to be diverted.

John Morris (MoP)

Highlighted concerns re provision of educational facilities in relation to item 7(b) on the agenda, specifically if a junior school was provided, where would the graduating pupils then attend given pressures on existing establishments.

Peggy Mullock (SCC)

Noted Whitchurch Junior School involvement in the School Street Scheme re ANPR cameras/road safety. Also noted the establishment of a funded 'Social Taskforce' to give support during the current cost of living crisis.

Lucy Young/Stella Ashbrook

As local business owners, requested WTC support to establish a Town Events Collaborative with relevant stakeholders (with a good indicative response for involvement from other town businesses)

WTC Response (Cllr A. Hall)

Confirmed support from WTC for the initiative, referencing the meeting of 14th Oct., and encouraged progression of the initiative.

There being no further items, Standing Orders were reinstated. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss – all in favour

6. Resident Representation: Anti-social Behaviour

Correspondence received from a local resident was discussed. After consideration it was unanimously agreed that the Proper Officer write to the Safer Neighbourhood Team with these specific concerns. Cllr A. Hall assured everyone that Whitchurch Town Council takes these concerns seriously and also pointed to the recent establishment of a local 'Policing Panel' in order to progress residents' concerns on specific crime-related matters.

7. Planning Matters

- a) The Town Council response to Planning Application 22/03708/FUL was noted
- b) After consideration of planning documentation and residents' concerns received, it was unanimously agreed that in response to Planning Application 22/04360/FUL (Residential development of 561 dwellings – land west of Tilstock Road), the Proper Officer would submit a comment to Shropshire Council Planning, to include:
 - An acknowledgment that the development aligned to current SAMDev plans, alongside previous outline planning permission (though for a lesser number of dwellings), however recognition of resident concerns must be noted
 - Resident concerns to include: general support infrastructure/amenities (specifically health, education and highways), sewerage (though believed to be resolved), employment opportunities, privacy issues for existing housing and the percentage of affordable housing included in the proposed development

Cllr A. Hall also stressed the importance of individuals submitting their own, personal, concerns relating to the proposed development, via the Shropshire Council Planning Portal, referencing items raised in item 5 on this agenda

8. Governance Matters: Committee Chair Reports and Minutes

- a) Cllr Phipps gave a brief overview of the CULTURE & CIVIC Committee Meeting of 1st September. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, proposed Cllr Phipps, seconded Cllr Ridgway – all in favour.
- b) Cllr Lea gave a brief overview of the PARKS & PUBLIC REALM Committee Meetings of 8th September and 13th October. The Minutes of the meeting of 8th September were received and noted, proposed Cllr Lea, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss – all in favour. The Minutes of the meeting of 13th October were received and noted, proposed Cllr Lea, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss – all in favour. It was also noted that some items appear later in the agenda for this meeting.
- c) In the absence of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair Cllr Jackson the minutes of the PERSONNEL Committee Meetings of 6th October and 13th October were taken as read. The Minutes of the meeting of 6th October were received and noted, proposed Cllr A. Hall (who had attended), seconded Cllr Phipps. – all in favour The Minutes of the meeting of 13th October were received and noted, proposed Cllr Phipps, seconded Cllr A. Hall – all in favour. It was also noted that some items appear later in the agenda for this meeting.

9. Governance Matters: Civility and Respect Pledge

After discussion and consideration of the information previously circulated, it was unanimously **resolved** that Whitchurch Town Council sign up to the proposed “Civility and Respect Pledge” with the Proper Officer completing formalities. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps **WTC/FC/31/2223**

10. Governance Matters: Risk Management Scheme 2022-23

After consideration, it was unanimously **resolved** that Whitchurch Town Council adopt the proposed Risk Management Scheme as tabled. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps **WTC/FC/32/2223**

11. Governance Matters: Governance & Scrutiny Working Group

It was noted that the Governance & Scrutiny Working Group would present revisions to essential WTC Policy documents to future Full Council meetings in tranches for consideration, with the aim of completing a full review prior to the end of the current civic year.

12. Governance Matters: Health & Social Care Working Group

Cllr Purt delivered an overview of current Health & Social Care Challenges and the recent establishment of the Integrated Care System (Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin). After discussion, it was unanimously **resolved** that Whitchurch Town Council would establish a Working Group to explore Health & Social Care issues with relevant partners. Proposed Cllr Purt, seconded Cllr A. Hall. Cllr Purt to lead the initiative to progress matters, with interest for involvement from Cllrs De-Wyrall, Doyle and Ridgway expressed. **WTC/FC/33/2223**

13. Financial Matters: Annual Accounts 2021-22

The previously circulated Annual Accounts, produced by DCK Accounting Solutions, were received and noted. After consideration, it was unanimously **resolved** that these be accepted and duly signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer. **WTC/FC/34/2223**

14. Financial Matters: 2022-23 Financial Management Information

Year-to-date financial information (Months 1-6 inclusive) from Rialitas was received. The Proper Officer also asked Council to note that these would be scrutinised against current budget information, and as part of the Council’s Internal Control measures, at a Finance Advisory Group meeting to be convened in November, which would also be focussed on preparation of the 2023-24 Budget / Precept Proposal.

15. Parks & Public Realm Matters: Harry Richards Garden

The proposed works within the Harry Richards Garden by Voluntary Group/s was discussed. After consideration it was unanimously **resolved** that, in principle, work by Voluntary Groups was acceptable under the operational control of the Proper Officer and Facilities Manager, with reference to the Parks & Public Realm Committee for specific undertakings, particularly large scale/structural matters. Proposed Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss. **WTC/FC/35/2223**

It was noted that Declarations of Interest were not applicable to Councillors present, notwithstanding their relationship with Voluntary Groups (specifically We Are Whitchurch), since they were not involved in the management of those groups).

16. 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. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall – all in favour.

17. Confidential Notes – 18th August 2022 Full Council Meeting

The Notes of the meeting were received

18. Culture & Civic Committee: Ratification of Recommendation/Chairs Action

The Committee recommendation and subsequent Chairs Action was noted and accepted as outlined. **WTC/CC/04/2223** and item 8(a) on this agenda refers

19. Governance Matters: Committee Chair Reports, Minutes & Recommendations

- a) Updates from both the Parks & Public Realm and Personnel Committee Meetings of 13th October were noted, in tandem
- b) As a), above
- c) After consideration, it was unanimously **resolved** that Whitchurch Town Council adopt the recommendations presented by both the Parks & Public Realm and Personnel Committees, with instructions given to the Proper Officer to proceed. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps. **WTC/FC/36/2223**
- d) The Budget timetable for Committees, and subsequently Full Council, was discussed with a view to budget approval and submission of Precept request once the taxbase has been confirmed by Shropshire Council

There are no additional confidential items for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____