



# whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

## MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

---

### PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall A. Hall (Chair) R. Hall A. Jackson  
P. Lea M. Phipps C. Purt M. Ridgway  
G. Sullivan P. Tew

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

**IN ATTENDANCE:** D. Newman – Whitchurch Herald 3 Members of the public present

---

Councillor A Hall opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Doyle, Ebbs, Hotchkiss and Sample

#### 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:

18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nine Lessons & Carols Service – St. Alkmund's Church
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Whitchurch Hospital – patient visits / gifting
4 <sup>th</sup> January	SJT Awards Evening hosted at the Civic Centre

#### Member Updates of recent activity:

Cllr Tew Cllr Tew volunteers to support the SYA delivery of WTC-funded youth group held at the Watergate Centre. He attended volunteer inductions and an initial group session.

#### 4. Minutes

The minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr R. Hall

## 5. Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr R. Hall – 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.

*2 representatives of the Driving Instructors Association (Chair and Secretary) updated the Council on their lobbying to DVSA and others in relation to the Driving Test Centre closure and the WTC offer to house the service at the Civic Centre. The representatives thanked WTC for their ongoing support, alongside that of Shropshire County Councillors and Helen Morgan MP.*

*1 Member of the Public spoke in objection to the planning proposal for the former Horse & Jockey PH site, which was noted as part of the discussions later on this agenda.*

*In the absence of Shropshire County Councillor representation, questions from Councillors were noted, which will be put to them by the Proper Officer and updated in a later meeting. Issues included:*

- *Gritting and Grit Bin replenishment*
- *Clearance of drains/sewers*
- *Activity in relation to the proposed development of the former Horse & Jockey PH site*

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

## 6. Resident Representations: Town Bus Route/s

Correspondence received from a Whitchurch resident was considered and discussed. It was agreed that, whilst this does not fall under the Town Council's remit, the Proper Officer will write to the bus company to outline the resident's concerns.

## 7. Planning Matters

Planning Application 22/05683/FUL (development of the former Horse & Jockey public house site) was considered and discussed. Mindful of public comments received, it was **resolved** that Whitchurch Town Council object to the development on the following grounds:

- Overdevelopment of the site, with incumbent traffic issues
- The 'need' for this residential development, given other planned developments, particularly on the town's periphery
- To dispute assertions within the planning documentation that the town's nightlife is over-subscribed, mindful of recent business development within the town
- Recognition of the historic perspective of the site, particularly bearing in mind its location and heritage comments contained within planning documentation
- A Heritage Assessment Report, contained within planning documentation, provided by a company which confirms that the report was produced without visiting the site
- Concerns with the accuracy of the Heritage Assessment Report, e.g. a "modernised staircase", which is known to cover a Georgian asset – however this is not mentioned
- Sympathetic development of the site, based on original layouts, would be welcomed

Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/FC/43/2223**

The Proper Officer was asked to submit comments on the Council's behalf prior to the deadline for doing so.

#### **8. Governance Matters: Committee Chair Reports and Minutes**

- a) Cllr Lea gave a brief overview of the PARKS & PUBLIC REALM Committee Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Lea, seconded Cllr Jackson – all in favour.
- b) Cllr Phipps gave a brief overview of the CULTURE & CIVIC Committee Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> January. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Phipps, seconded Cllr Jackson – all in favour.

#### **9. Governance Matters: Co-option of Member (West Ward)**

Only one application for the outstanding vacancy had been received. The Proper Officer confirmed that this applicant met the criteria to hold office. Consequently, John Morris was welcomed to the role of Town Councillor for Whitchurch Town Council (West Ward).

The Acceptance of Office was signed by the candidate, who joined the Meeting at that point.

#### **10. Governance Matters: WTC Committee & Advisory Group Amendments**

After consideration, it was unanimously **resolved** that Committee and Advisory Group vacancies shall be filled:

Finance Advisory Group – remain vacant for the time being  
Governance and Scrutiny Advisory Group – Cllr Phipps  
Personnel Committee – Cllr Purt  
Parks & Public Realm Committee – Cllr Morris

Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/FC/44/2223**

#### **11. Finance Matters: Financial Management Information (Month 9)**

Month 9 Financial Information was received and noted.

#### **12. Finance Matters: Budget and Precept 2023/24**

After presentation by Cllr R. Hall, mindful of scrutiny from Standing Committees and the WTC Financial Advisory Group, it was unanimously **resolved** to approve the proposed WTC Budget 2023/24 and related Precept Request. The Proper Officer will now progress matters. Proposed Cllr R. Hall, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall. **WTC/FC/45/2223**

#### **13. 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 R. Hall – all in favour.

**14. Financial Matters: Small Community Grant Programme 2022/23 – Additional Round**

An additional round of applications for the 2022/23 Small Community Grants Programme was considered, which particularly targeted “Warm Spaces” activity within the town.

It was **unanimously** agreed to grant the following awards:

Whitchurch Senior Citizens	£60
St John’s Methodist Church	£260
Brownlow Community Centre	£260
Men in Sheds	£250

A additional application was considered, however it was rejected as not meeting the Small Community Grant criteria.

Cllr Morris did not participate in this item, given his affiliation to Men in Sheds.

The Proper Officer was asked to progress with respective applicants. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Purt. **WTC/FC/46(C)/2223**

**15. Update: Shropshire Council Discussions**

Cllr A. Hall appraised members on recent discussions with Shropshire Council on various matters in relation to assets within the town.

Council unanimously **resolved** to progress an item in relation to car parks, which was noted separately to be progressed by the Proper Officer. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps. **WTC/FC/47(C)/2223**

**16. DVSA**

Aligned to public representations received earlier in the meeting, Cllr A. Hall and the Proper Officer appraised members on the latest discussions with DVSA in relation to the Whitchurch Driving Test Centre facility, which were noted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_