



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall C. Doyle G. Ebbs A. Hall A. Hotchkiss
A. Jackson P. Lea J. Morris M. Phipps G. Sullivan

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: G. Dakin – Shropshire Councillor (Whitchurch South) 0 Members of the Public

The meeting was held at Bargates Hall, Whitchurch, whilst the Civic Centre was unavailable due to ongoing structural investigative works.

Councillor A. Hall opened the meeting at 7.15pm and referenced the ongoing works at the Civic Centre, thanking everyone for re-locating for this meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs R. Hall, Purt, Ridgway, Sample 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

1 st September	Patient Engagement Event, "Help Yourself to Health", Civic Centre (Churchmere)
2 nd September	Opening of Fort Boxing Club with High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant
3 rd September	Whitchurch Canal Festival, Chemistry
5 th September	Dementia 'Experience' Bus at Bradbury Care Centre
12 th September	Annual Rotary Club Canal Boat Trips
22 nd September	Rotary Club 85 th Anniversary Photo Opportunity with Graham King (Rotary President)
25 th September	Midlands Air Ambulance HQ Launch at Cosford Airbase (with Sheila & Keith Chase)
29 th September	Shropshire Councillor Surgery at Whitchurch Civic Centre Sports Hall
29 th September	Whitchurch MacMillan Coffee Morning at Sports Hall
29 th September	Nightingale Hospice Shop 1 st Anniversary, High Street, Whitchurch
6 th October	Blackberry Fair with High Sheriff Visit to Whitchurch
8 th October	Harvest Festival Service at St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch

Member Update:

Cllr Ebbs Volunteered in assistance of Blackberry Fair (6th October)

4. Minutes

The minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 20th July 2023 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Morris

5. Public Participation

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

(Key: MoP = Member of the Public).

There were no Members of the Public in attendance.

Shropshire Councillor, Gerald Dakin, spoke in support of the Town Council during the disruption caused by structural investigative works and hoped for a speedy resolution.

A brief update on imminent demolition works at the former Whitchurch Swimming Pool was given following a question from Cllr Jackson. It was noted that progress should be seen now full planning had been granted recently.

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

6. Governance Matters: Committee Chair Reports and Minutes

It was noted that, due to works at the Civic Centre, the following WTC Committee meetings were cancelled, but relevant items brought to this meeting from a governance perspective:

- Parks & Public Realm, 7th September 2023
- Culture & Civic, 21st September 2023
- Oversight, 5th October 2023

It was also noted that a ‘normal’ calendar of meetings would now resume, though may require re-location dependant on progress of Civic Centre investigative and reparative works; the Proper Officer will issue Summons as appropriate.

7. Governance Matters: Crisis Management Group

Following consideration:

- a) It was **unanimously resolved** to retrospectively ratify the formation of a “Crisis Management Group” consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Committee Chairs, and the Proper Officer. Proposed Cllr Ebbs, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss. **WTC/FC/25/2324**
- b) Appoint Cllr Hotchkiss as an additional member of the group to ensure quoracy. [Nominations: Cllr Hotchkiss, proposed Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded Cllr Morris; Cllr Ebbs, proposed Cllr Ebbs, seconded Cllr Sullivan. Majority vote.] **WTC/FC/26/2324**
- c) It was **unanimously resolved** to restrict the remit of the group to matters needing a ‘reactive’ response in relation to Civic Centre or related matters, where it is not possible to allow for the statutory notice period for an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting. Proposed Cllr Sullivan, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall. **WTC/FC/27/2324**
- d) It was **unanimously resolved** to time-limit the Group to the current period of investigation and subsequent actions in relation to the Civic Centre building. Proposed Cllr Sullivan, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall. **WTC/FC/28/2324**

8. Governance Matters: Risk Register 2023-24

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to approve the Risk Register 2023-24 revision, as presented. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Doyle. **WTC/FC/29/2324**

9. Parks & Public Realm Matters: Hanging Baskets 2024

In the absence of a Parks & Public Realm Committee Meeting, it was **unanimously resolved** to note the order for 80 Hanging Baskets, plus ‘Pole Planter’ material for the 2024 season with Shrewsbury Town Council: Baskets – total cost £3,666 net; Pole Planting – to be agreed separately by the Proper Officer; aligned to Financial Regulation 4.1 (2023-4) and Scheme of Delegation 4 (2023-4) – original decision noted as Proper Officer, Committee Chair and Mayor. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/FC/30/2324**

10. Finance Matters: Financial Management Information (Q2)

Months 4 and 5 Financial Information was received and noted.

11. 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 Sullivan, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall – all in favour.

12. CC Matters: Friday Market (Contractual)

It was noted that the matter is currently on hold.

13. CC Matters: Heritage Craft Units (Contractual)

A verbal update on actions was given by the Proper Officer.

14. Personnel Matters: Update (Personnel)

It was noted that an outstanding Personnel Matter was now concluded.

15. Finance Matters: Grant Application (Confidential)

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to award a grant of £1,000 to Bridgewater Bowling Club as contribution to solar panel installation, from ear-marked reserves. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/FC/31C/2324**

16. Whitchurch Civic Centre (Confidential / Contractual)

A verbal update was given by the Chairman and Proper Officer. Structural Engineering investigative reports awaited to inform further progress with Shropshire Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____