



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023

PRESENT

Councillors: C. Doyle R. Hall A. Jackson P. Lea J. Morris
M. Phipps C. Purt M Ridgway G. Sullivan P. Tew

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: P. Mullock – Shropshire Councillor (W/North) 1 Members of the Public (Press)

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

Councillor R. Hall opened the meeting at 7.15pm and welcomed those attending.

1. Standing Item: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs De-Wyrall, A. Hall and Hotchkiss.

2. Standing Item: 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. Standing Item: Mayor and Member Update

Presented in the Mayor's absence:

21 st October	85 th Anniversary Dinner (Whitchurch Rotary), Hill Valley
24 th October	Aircraft Flight Simulator unveiling (RAF Air Cadets, Whitchurch Squadron)
29 th October	100 th Birthday Celebrations (Tom Bate), District Club
4 th November	National Annual Meeting (Walkers Are Welcome), Archibald Worthington Club
4 th November	Shop Opening (Martin's Pies, Bridgewater Street)
8 th November	80 th Anniversary Bulb Planting (Trefoil Guild), Jubilee Park
12 th November	Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph, Parade, Civic Service and War Graves
25 th November	Annual Citizen of the Year Presentation (Paul Jenkins), Bargates Hall
25 th November	Christmas Lights Switch-on
8 th December	Shop Opening (Martha & Mabel, Ellesmere, run by Whitchurch Businesswomen)
17 th December	Annual Nine Lessons & Carols Service, St Alkmund's Church
18 th December	GCSE & A-Level Presentations, Sir John Talbots School

4. Standing Item: Minutes

- a) The Minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 18th October 2023 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Lea
- b) The Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Town Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2023 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Lea

5. Standing Item: Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Sullivan – 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).

Shropshire Councillor, Peggy Mullock, advised that several streetlights in Smallbrook Road were to be replaced and would liaise with the Proper Officer to confirm specifics (following public representations).

Correspondence noted from Spa Dental regarding low uptake of Children's NHS Dental appointments in Whitchurch, following a specific campaign, which could mean relocation of a technician specifically assigned to deliver this initiative.

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

6. Governance Matters: Committee, Working and Advisory Chair Reports and Minutes

- a) Cllr Lea gave a brief overview of the PARKS & PUBLIC REALM Committee Meeting of 9th November, including the recommendation WTC/PPR/08(C)/2324, tabled as item 8 at this meeting. 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 R. Hall gave a brief overview of the OVERSIGHT Committee Meeting of 6th December, including items tabled at this meeting. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr R. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps – all in favour.
- c) It was noted that the meeting of the CULTURE & CIVIC Committee (23rd November) was cancelled due to the current Civic Centre position and any items brought to Full Council if necessary.
- d) Cllr PURT gave a brief overview of the HEALTH & WELLBEING Advisory Group Meeting of 6th September 2023 and the meeting notes were received.

7. Governance Matters: Policy Approval (Biodiversity)

The Proper Officer reminded Council of previous actions and the statutory duties for Town & Parish Councils in relation to meeting obligations of Section 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021. Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to adopt the Biodiversity Policy and Action List, as presented. Proposed Cllr Sullivan, seconded Cllr Jackson. **WTC/FC/33/2324**

8. Parks & Public Realm Matters: Recommendation WTC/PPR/08(C)/2324

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to approve the use of CiL monies for the provision of an additional streetlight in Caldecott Crescent, following a resident request and Committee recommendation (£3,455 net). Proposed Cllr Doyle, seconded Cllr Purt. **WTC/FC/34/2324**

9. Finance / Governance Matters: Small Community Grants (Round 2) 2023/24

The list of grants awarded by the Oversight Committee on behalf of Whitchurch Town Council were noted (8 grants totalling £5,225 – Oversight Committee, 6th December, WTC/O/07(C)/2324 refers).

10. Finance Matters: Budget and Precept Request 2024/25

The background and detail of the Budget Presentation / Precept Request was discussed and the difficulties with the current Civic Centre position acknowledged. Following consideration, and recognising scrutiny by the Oversight Committee (6th December, WTC/O/08(C)/2324 refers), it was **unanimously resolved** to adopt the 2024/25 Budget and Precept Request as presented (Proper Officer to progress):

Income £88,160 (*£95,110*)

Expenditure £649,892 (*£651,840*)

Precept Request £561,732 (*£556,730*)

Band D Precept £160.19 (*£161.18*)

Bracketed figures – 2023/24 Budget for comparison

Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Ridgway. **WTC/FC/35/2324**

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 Doyle, seconded Cllr Jackson – all in favour.

12. Personnel Matters: Update (Personnel)

It was noted that Whitchurch Town Council had met obligations under the National Pay Settlement (“Green Book” Terms) in November 2023 aligned to previous resolution WTC/FC/61(C)/2223.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____