



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: EXTRAORDINARY FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2024

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JANUARY 2024

PRESENT

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

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: Shropshire Councillors – P. Mullock, P. Wynne 3 Members of the Public

The meeting was held at Whitchurch & District Club whilst the Civic Centre was unavailable.

Councillor A. Hall opened the meeting at 6pm.

1. Apologies

No Apologies were received for this meeting.

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. Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr A. Hall, 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).

MoPs

MoPs outlined the recently instigated petition regarding the Civic Centre and the strength of public support – together with seeking assurances for WTC and local Shropshire Councillor support to keep the facility 'as is'.

AH

Cllr A Hall outlined the desire of Whitchurch Town Council to see retention of the current facility or replacement with a similar facility/ies to meet any assessed community needs analyses / public consultations and the town's Place Plan. Cllr Hall also referenced the Public Meeting, organised by the Proper Officer, on 13th January as a suitable forum to gather public questions / comments for local Shropshire Councillors to present at the forthcoming SC Cabinet Meeting (17th January).

PM (SC)/PW (SC)

Cllrs Mullock & Wynne voiced the support of local Shropshire Councillors and stressed the published 'recommendations' were those of SC Officers. The decision making 'process' was also outlined.

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

4. 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. It was further proposed that local Shropshire Councillors be allowed to remain for item 5(a) on this Agenda. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr R. Hall – all in favour.

5. Whitchurch Civic Centre (Confidential / Contractual)

- a. The Chairman and Proper Officer gave a brief update based on the current situation, previously circulated to WTC Councillors as Confidential Notes on 8th and 9th January 2024, together with Shropshire Council Cabinet Papers, published on 9th January 2024 and a subsequent Press Release. The update, and support voiced by local Shropshire Councillors in attendance, was noted.

- b. Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to adopt the immediate actions proposed, to ensure operational effectiveness of WTC administrative and service-related activities. Agreed actions were separately noted by the Proper Officer to pursue, under delegated powers, with oversight from the WTC “Crisis Management Group” ¹. These actions to include arrangements for temporary accommodation, with consideration given to Community Groups latterly using Civic Centre Facilities, or potential partners with whom WTC were in discussion with. Proposed Cllr A Hall, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/EFC/36(C)/2324**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.55pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____

Notes

¹ Crisis Management Group established under WTC/FC/25-28/2324, 18th October 2023