



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 2024

PRESENT

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

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: No SC Councillors in attendance 3 Members of the Public

The meeting was held at Bargates Hall, Whitchurch, whilst the Civic Centre is currently closed.

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

1. Standing Item: Apologies

No Apologies were received from Members for this meeting.

2. Standing Item: Declarations of Interest

Cllr A. Hall declared an interest in Agenda Item 8. After consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** that Cllr A. Hall should remain in the meeting and give supporting information, for the item to be fully informed. Item 8 will be chaired by Deputy Mayor, Cllr R. Hall. Proposed Cllr Hotchkiss, seconded Cllr Phipps.

No further 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

6 th March 2024	High Sheriff of Shropshire Outstanding Young Citizenship Awards
10 th March 2024	Inauguration Service, St Alkmund's Church
12 th March 2024	Meeting with Head of Sir John Talbot's School & 6 th Form
13 th March 2024	Shropshire Council Civic Centre Working Group Meeting
17 th March 2024	High Sheriff of Shropshire Legal Service, Shrewsbury Abbey
18 th March 2024	Whitchurch Rotary Prostate Testing Event
25 th March 2024	SALC North Shropshire Area Committee
9 th April 2024	Whitchurch Town Twinning Association Meeting (alongside Cllr Hotchkiss)
17 th April 2024	Shropshire Council Civic Centre Working Group Meeting

Members:

Cllr Morris: Attended Community Wellbeing Event (28th February)
Cllrs Ebbs & De-Wyrall: Activity in relation to proposed public event in June 2024, in addition to attendance (with others) at an event planning meeting on 11th April 2024

4. Standing Item: Minutes

The Minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 21st February 2024 were agreed by majority and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps. *10 in favour, 1 abstention (non-attendance at the meeting) – motion carried.*

5. Standing Item: Public Participation

It was resolved that Standing Orders were suspended (Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Ebbs – 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; SC = Shropshire Council; WTC = Whitchurch Town Council).

MoP as Group – represented the “Save Our Civic Centre” Action Group with several technical and procedural questions in relation to Whitchurch Civic Centre.

Cllr A. Hall referred to recent public messaging regarding the progress of the Shropshire Council Civic Centre Working Group and related activity by Shropshire Council officers. The Group were asked to forward any questions to the Proper Officer who would present them to Shropshire Council, as Corporate Landlord, via the Working Group. The Group were recognised for their ongoing commitment to their campaign.

There being no further items, Standing Orders were reinstated. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Morris – 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 7th March 2024 alongside a precis of activity throughout the Civic Year. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Lea, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss – all in favour.
- b) Cllr Phipps gave a brief overview of the CULTURE & CIVIC Committee Meeting of 21st March 2024 and highlighted recommendations on this meeting’s Agenda. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Phipps, seconded Cllr Doyle – all in favour.
- c) Cllr R. Hall gave a brief overview of the OVERSIGHT Committee Meeting of 11th April 2024 and highlighted recommendations on this meeting’s Agenda. 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.

7. Culture & Civic Committee: Resolution WTC/CC/06(C)/2324 - CCTV

The resolution of the Committee under Financial Regulations 4.5 and 11.1, as minuted (21st March 2024) was noted by Full Council.

8. Culture & Civic Committee: Resolution WTC/CC/07(C) – Youth Service: Delivery of “Thriving Children & Families” grant-supported Project (Chair: Cllr R. Hall)

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to approve the recommendation that Cllr A. Hall acts as project lead, overseen by the Proper Officer/RFO. Proposed Cllr Ebbs, seconded Cllr Hotchkiss. **WTC/FC/42/2324**

9. Culture & Civic Committee: Resolution WTC/CC/08(C)/2324 – Heritage Centre Repairs

Following a Proposal by Cllr Phipps, seconded by Cllr R. Hall (all in favour), it was agreed to defer this agenda item to the Confidential Business session of this meeting, due to a proposed contractor update (sensitive).

10. Oversight Committee: Resolution WTC/O/11(a-e)/2324 – Approval of Policies

Following consideration, a majority **resolved** to ratify and adopt the Policies recommended by the Oversight Committee, following scrutiny at their meeting of 11th April 2024:

- Expenses **WTC/FC/43(a)/2324**
- Investment & Treasury Management **WTC/FC/43(b)/2324**
- Income Collection & Debt Recovery **WTC/FC/43(c)/2324**
- Gifts & Hospitality **WTC/FC/43(d)/2324**
- Persistent & Vexatious Communications **WTC/FC/43(e)/2324**

Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Phipps. *10 in favour, 1 against – motion carried.*

11. Motion Cllr A. Hall: CiL and Trust Fund Allocation – Astro Pitch, SJT School

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to allocate £60K (Community Infrastructure Levy Fund) and £20K (Frank Greaves Trust Fund)¹ towards the proposed installation of a new Astro pitch, for public benefit, at Sir John Talbot’s School & Sixth Form. The Proper Officer/RFO will only release funds on confirmation that remaining project funding was in place and received. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr Morris.
WTC/FC/44/2324

12. 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 Phipps – all in favour.

**9. Culture & Civic Committee: Resolution WTC/CC/08(C)/2324 – Heritage Centre Repairs
CARRIED OVER FROM PUBLIC SESSION**

The Proper Officer gave an update on contractor/s proposed to complete Heritage Centre building repairs. After consideration, it **unanimously resolved** to accept the recommendation of the Culture & Civic Committee, allocating the costs to General Reserves (£25K ex VAT). Based on the contractor update, the Proper Officer / RFO will satisfy themselves regarding contractor suitability before commissioning the works, with reference to Committee / Council Chair if necessary. Proposed Cllr Phipps, seconded Cllr Lea. **WTC/FC/45(C)/2324**

13. Whitchurch Town Council Strategic Review (Sensitive)

It was noted that the Proper Officer has commenced a Strategic Review of Town Council services and related Establishment, which will be considered by Committees and Full Council in due course.

¹ Under the provisions of ChA 2011, s.5(1), Recreational Charities: whereby facilities to be provided in the interests of social welfare, the object of providing the facilities must be to improve the conditions of life of the persons for whom they are primarily intended. Those persons must have need of the facilities due to their youth, age, infirmity, or disability poverty or social or economic circumstances, or the facilities must be available to members of the public at large.

14. Whitchurch Town Council – Parks & Public Realm Investment

Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** to allocate £50K of Whitchurch Community Infrastructure Levy Funds to invest in the development of the Town Council’s Parks and Public Realm’s service/s, to include (though not exclusively) additional equipment and infrastructure, training and other support. It was noted that the investment met the public benefit test for the use of CiL Funds. Proposed Cllr A. Hall, seconded Cllr De-Wyrall. **WTC/FC/46(C)/2324**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT