



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: AMENITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING, 20TH NOVEMBER 2024

MINUTES – AMENITIES & EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT

Councillors: C. Doyle A. Gilmore M. Phipps C. Purt

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: N/A

Public: N/A

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm by Committee Chairman, Cllr Phipps

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. Minutes

After a proposal by Cllr Phipps, seconded by Cllr Doyle, the minutes of the Amenities & Events Committee Meeting held on 25th September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

4. Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

5. Action Point Update

Completion of actions from the Amenities & Events Committee Meeting of 25th September 2024 were noted, namely:

- a. **Market Rights – JDL Mini Markets (WTC/AE/04/2425)** – two successful events have now been held and JDL will also deliver a Christmas Market on Saturday 23rd November 2024 (Christmas Lights Switch-on).
- b. **Remembrance Sunday** – the event took place, without issue, on Sunday 10th November 2024; the change of timings would appear to have been well received by event partners and residents.

6. Advisory Group updates: Heritage Advisory Group

No update was given by Committee Lead for the Heritage Advisory Group, Cllr A. Gilmore – Cllr Gilmore will meet with the Proper Officer to discuss progress, separately.

7. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

*Following a proposal from Cllr Phipps, seconded by Cllr Purt, it was **RESOLVED** 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.*

8. Confidential Action Point Update

The Committee discussed a verbal update from the Proper Officer on actions from previous meetings:

- a. Whitchurch Civic Centre (including CCTV) / Leasehold Premises
- b. Heritage Centre Repairs / Heritage Centre considerations

Matters in relation to the Shropshire Council Civic Centre Working Group will be carried forward to Full Council for consideration in due course. Heritage Centre matters will continue to be progressed, appropriately, with a return to Committee when necessary.

9. Christmas Lights - 23rd November 2024

The Committee discussed a precis of recent activity delivered by the Proper Officer, all relevant information being contained in Event Health & Safety and other ‘briefing’ documentation distributed to individuals involved in the delivery of the event.

10. Budget 2025/26 Pre-discussion

Year-to-date Financial Management Information figures were circulated to demonstrate favourable performance against current total budget figures. Following consideration, it was **unanimously resolved** that the Proper Officer / RFO prepares a budget proposal for 2025/26 retaining current levels, where possible, to ensure minimal impact on the WTC precept request for the next financial year. It was noted that future ‘project’ work would be considered outside the operational budget, for potential CiL/WTC Reserve funding. Known financial pressures on next year’s WTC Budget were also discussed (increase in Employer NI, Election Costs etc), for which provision must be made. An update was also given by the Proper Officer on the Business Rates (Civic Centre) discussions with Shropshire Council and the Valuations Office, which may have impact on 2025/26 Budget considerations. As this is an on-going discussion, further updates will be given to Full Council when it meets in December 2024. It was noted that the resultant Committee budget proposal will form part of the whole, being tabled at December’s Full Council Meeting. Proposed Cllr Purt, seconded Cllr Gilmore. **WTC/AE/05C/2425**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____