



# whitchurch town council

MINUTES: PARK & PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MEETING, 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

## MINUTES - PARKS & PUBLIC REALM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

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### PRESENT

Councillors: J. De-Wyrall A. Jackson G. Sullivan

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors: J. Morris

Public: 0 x Members of the Public

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

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hotchkiss and Lea for this meeting. The Proper Officer confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

#### 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 De-Wyrall, seconded by Cllr Jackson, the minutes of the Parks & Public Realm Committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of that meeting.

#### 4. Public Participation

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

*No questions were raised for this item (including Non-Committee Members)*

There being no further items, Standing Orders were reinstated. Proposed Cllr De-Wyrall, seconded Cllr Sullivan – all in favour

## 5. Action Point Update

The Committee discussed tabled and verbal updates from the Proper Officer on actions from previous meetings:

- a. Town Signage Review and Actions **WTC/PPR/16/2223** – it was noted that Working Group meetings will recommence as appropriate, followed by Committee / Full Council reports and proposals where necessary (based on provisions in the WTC Scheme of Delegation, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations).
- b. Spring Planting Programme 24/25 / Biodiversity-aligned Activity **WTC/PPR/03/2425** – it was noted that seasonal planting was in progress, and the in-house team were scoping appropriate areas for bee/bird friendly wildflower planting, as directed (and included within item 9C recommendations)
- c. Britain in Bloom – it was noted that the item was in progress, with the Proper Officer awaiting the commencement of the 2025 application process. In the meantime, a submission was being prepared.
- d. Dog Poo Bag Trial – with reference to the previous Agenda item, it was noted that the trial continued and was actively monitored prior to roll-out, aligned to PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) signage
- e. Shropshire Council PSPO Signage Installation – it was noted that signage from Shropshire Council is awaiting delivery, to be installed by the Facilities Team (and aligned to item 5d above). Discussions with Shropshire Council indicate signage delivery in the next week to complete actions.
- f. Anti-social Driving (ASD) – it was noted that external action continues. The Committee further noted that a ‘Policing Panel’ update meeting has been requested, which includes ASD as a “top 3” policing priority (alongside “drugs” and “anti-social behaviour”)

## 6. Advisory Group Updates

In the absence of Cllr Lea (Cemetery Advisory Group representative), it was agreed to carry the item over to the next Committee Meeting for appropriate update/s. The Proper Officer will continue appropriate engagement with Marbury & District Parish Council in order to update on any Cemetery matters in the absence of an Advisory Group meeting.

## 7. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

*Following a proposal from Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Sullivan, 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. At the Chair’s discretion, non-WTC PPR Committee Members were allowed to remain for the Confidential Business session of the meeting.*

## 8. Confidential Action Point Update

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

- a. Shropshire Council – Capital Asset Transfer (**CONTRACTUAL / LEGAL**) – **IN PROGRESS**  
A recent meeting had been held with Shropshire Council Leader, Lezley Picton – action point/s from which were fulfilled by the Proper Officer and response/s awaited.

## 9. “Back to Basics” Investment Programme (CONTRACTUAL / SENSITIVE) (Full Council – **WTC/FC/46(c)/2324**)

The previously circulated “Final Report, Recommendations and Maintenance Schedule” from the WTC-appointed Consultant was received, noted and considered. It was acknowledged that the Consultant had completed their brief and recommendations were either implemented, in progress or will inform future decision making within the Committee’s delegated powers. It was **unanimously resolved** to implement the proposed Maintenance Schedule, which will form the basis of evolving work plans for the Parks & Public Realm Team, with appropriate performance measures. The Proper Officer will progress matters with the Staff Team. Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Sullivan. **WTC/PPR/05C/2425**

**10. Criminal Damage (LEGAL)**

The Proper Officer appraised the Committee regarding ongoing police investigations into recent incidents and pro-active steps being taken to identify offenders.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.52pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WTC DRAFT