



whitchurch town council

MINUTES: FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2025

MINUTES OF THE FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2025

PRESENT

Councillors: C. Doyle G. Ebbs R. Hall A. Hotchkiss
J. Morris M. Phipps C. Purt M. Ridgway

Proper Officer: Mike McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE: N/A (Shropshire Councillors) 0 Members of the Public

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, Jackson and Sullivan for this meeting.

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

In the absence of Cllr A. Hall, it was noted that this item would be carried over to the next Full Council Meeting.

Members: Cllr Ebbs: Whitchurch Business Group Meeting/s (not as WTC Rep)

4. Standing Item: Minutes

The Minutes of the Full Town Council Meeting held on 19th February 2025 were unanimously agreed and signed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr Morris, seconded Cllr Purt.

5. Standing Item: Public Participation

No Members of the Public were present at this meeting.

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

- a) In the absence of Cllr Jackson, Cllr Hotchkiss (Committee Vice Chair) gave a brief overview of the PARKS & PUBLIC REALM Committee Meeting of 5th March 2025, also highlighting the item on this Agenda (8 conf). The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr Hotchkiss, seconded Cllr Purt – all in favour.
- b) Cllr Phipps gave a brief overview of the AMENITIES & EVENTS Committee Meeting of 19th March 2025. 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 9th April 2025. The Minutes of the meeting were received and noted, pending approval by the Committee at their next meeting. Proposed Cllr R. Hall, seconded Cllr Morris – all in favour.

7. 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 R. Hall, seconded Cllr Ebbs – all in favour.

8. Jubilee Park – Proposed Works (Contractual/Sensitive)

Following consideration it was **unanimously resolved**, noting Parks & Public Realm Committee scrutiny, to:

- a. Suspend Financial Regulations (by virtue of 19.2 WTC/FC/ACM/09/2425) recognising a previous tender process (2020/21) and ongoing discussions with a contractor, stalled due to national circumstance and other elements outside of WTC control.
- b. Note the historic context of the issues regarding drainage and the sensitivity of the area in question (Children’s Play Area, Skate Park and Harry Richards Garden).
- c. Approve the proposed scheme (scrutinised by PPR Committee (5/3/25, Agenda Point 11) as referenced in Agenda item 6a) and quote from McFour Ltd (£38,195.73 + VAT, including a 10% contingency, comparing it to previous quote of £29,797.68 + VAT (not including contingency and further developed since 2020/21).
- d. Fund the works from existing CiL monies since the drainage works align to strategically considered improvement works to the Jubilee Park Play Area and consequently deemed 'preparatory works' for CiL-funded improvements (to be finalised once the area is 'suitable' for improvement).
- e. Agree that the Proper Officer now engages the contractor (McFour Ltd) to progress works as soon as practicable, considering any scheduled events etc.

Proposed Cllr R. Hall, seconded Cllr Ebbs. **WTC/FC/36C/2425**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.38pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chair: _____

Date: _____

Post Meeting Note:

Local Elections 2025 – Uncontested Election

The Proper Officer also reminded those Members present (and others by subsequent email) of the importance of completing and submitting the “Return of Election Expenses” and “Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests” (DPI) documentation, post-election, to relevant recipients, under timelines previously advised. Members were advised of a potential change to DPI submission, which will be advised in due course, but to proceed as advised until notified otherwise.