

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## FULL COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019

#### PRESENT

Cllrs: S Radford, L Broders, R Shepherd, S Hamlyn, H Vasey, A Chesters, J Sinnott, A Hall,  
R Snell, N Raynes, B Duffy

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk  
Barrie White – Whitchurch Herald  
Cllr Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Councillor

#### 1. Apologies

Cllr O'Neill  
Cllr Neville

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 3. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Broders, **WTC/192/1819 RESOLVED** to sign the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### 4. Matters Arising

Cllr Broders made a statement in response to Cllr Sinnott's allegations at the full Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019 that the Personnel Minutes were 'illegal and unlawful with regards to the LGA 1972 Schedule 12(A) - that it was exempt information in that it named people'. Cllr Broders stated that he has taken expert advice, Schedule 12(A) Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 refers to employees, past employees and applicants to become employees, as well as office holders, past office holders and applicants to become office holders, therefore stating that the minutes were illegal and unlawful with regards to Schedule 12(A) is incorrect, as Councillors are not named as exempt.

#### 5. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had sent apologies for this meeting. In the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Duffy:

- Congratulated Cllr Rose Snell on being made a Dame by the Order of St Stanislas in Malta
- Thanked Council staff for all the hard work for the Mayor's Ball
- Received Cllr Hall's resignation from the Personnel Committee

#### 6. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/193/1819 RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to address the meeting.

Signed ..... 1

Hilary Seward introduced herself as the Chair of Whitchurch Chamber of Trade and asked: "Can the Council explain what information they have received, as she has not seen any information, regarding the accounts for Party in the Park?" She went on to explain that there is a separate Party in the Park account containing approximately £730, and that she had paid the bar takings into the account in November 2017. She elaborated that the full team of Party in the Park had not been approached and that the event is a community event which should be run in partnership.

## 7. Presentation from Anton Benson

Council received a short presentation from Anton Benson of Anton Benson Productions, the production company who provide the pantomimes during the Christmas period. Mr Benson explained that he wished Council to approve the pantomime dates of 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December inclusive, explaining that he was committed to the Civic Centre venue and wished to grow the pantomime to become a stand-alone event which was able to attract a larger audience base.

## 8. Shropshire Councillors Report

Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin reported that:

- Shropshire Council have received funding of £55,000 for town clean-ups which needs to be spent before the end of May 2019 and that the Town Council needs to bid for funds.
- WSP are trying to find out which hole – as currently the land drains off fields onto Edgeley Bank.

Cllr Dakin was requested to find out an update of the Civic Centre freehold transfer.

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/194/1819 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

## 9. Christmas Pantomime Dates

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/195/1819 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council agree to Anton Benson Productions holding a pantomime from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 inclusive.

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, it was **WTC/196/1819 RESOLVED** that Council agree to consider employment of additional staff on an ad hoc basis for events of this type.

## 10. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Broders, it was **WTC/197/1819 RESOLVED** that Month 11 Balance Sheets and Income & Expenditure Reports be accepted and duly signed, recording a total equity of £989,085 from the Detailed Balance Sheet. It was noted that 101/4011 Rates there was a sum of £1,681, following investigation this was an error in coding and should read 101/4001 HMRC.

## 11. Minutes from Committees

- a. Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – the minutes need to go back to Committee before bringing to full Council.
- b. Parks & Public Realm Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – the minutes need to be authorised by Committee before coming to full Council.
- c. Civic Centre Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – minutes to go to Committee prior to coming before full Council. Council noted that the Feed in Tariff will be registered with Good Energy Ltd.

- d. After a proposal from Cllr Broders, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, it was **WTC/198/1819 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with a majority vote.

## 12. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

- Cllr Vasey reported that he had been working with Cllrs O'Neill and Sinnott on raked seating for the Main Hall and that current infrastructure was light and folds back into a small space.
- Cllr Raynes reported on her attendance at the Women in Local Government conference:
  - It was an unusual event in that it was a conference of entirely women except one male, and all were involved in local or national Government.
  - The Conference discussed the failure to invest in staff CPD at Councils.
  - The idea that there was no need to sprint to get things done, but to consider projects was put forward
  - The focus for all Councils and Councillors is their electorate.
  - Some of the presentations are available to be shared, if you wish to receive a copy please let the Town Clerk know.
- Cllr Duffy reported that she had attended the Northern Area SALC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and the following discussions took place:
  - HS2 transport movement plans had been cut from 500 to 200 lorry movements per day.
  - Shropshire Cllr Peter Nutting and Prof. Mark Barrow, Director of Place, reported on CIL money, that Shropshire Council are bound by law on how it can be spent. Shropshire Council are currently reviewing the CIL spend process and trying to increase flexibility.
  - SALC instructions regarding End of Year audit and role of Local Joint Committees.

## 13. Committee Vacancies

- a. Events and Entertainment Committee – no volunteers.
- b. Heritage Committee – no volunteers.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, it was **WTC/199/1819 RESOLVED** to start Events and Entertainment Committee meetings at 7pm.

## 14. Correspondence

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/200/1819 RESOLVED** to receive the email from Wem Town Council and that Whitchurch Town Council should support them and send a joint letter to Shropshire Council regarding the high increase of parking charges for residents in Whitchurch and Wem.

## 15. Blackmore Grove Public Space

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Snell, it was **WTC/201/1819 RESOLVED** to take a look at the Deed of Covenant and understand whether Whitchurch Town Council can approve management of the land by a third party.

## 16. Whitchurch Cemetery

- a. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Raynes, it was **WTC/202/1819 RESOLVED** to receive the minutes from the Whitchurch Joint Cemetery Board (Joint Authority that is Not and Entity (JANE)) meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- b. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/203/1819 RESOLVED** to agree and seek further information as follows:

- i. Leave the grounds maintenance contract as it is.
  - ii. To receive a breakdown of project costs with regards to the Proposed Planning – Vehicle Access to New Extension Area WCB/12/1819.
  - iii. To circulate the old and new list of burial fees for 2019 – WCB/14/1819, after a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters, it was **WTC/204/1819 RESOLVED** to agree the increase in burial fees in principle, subject to receipt of the old and new burial fees list.
- c. The review of the Cemetery Regulations was deferred to the next WJCB (JANE) meeting.

## 17. PARTY IN THE PARK

- a. The previous years' accounts were reviewed.
- b. The following questions was asked:
  - i. Should WTC be running the event with cost to Council and staff time?
  - ii. Should it be a partnership event with Chamber of Trade?

Hilary Seward states that Party in the Park should have been offered to the community to run and asks why it wasn't.

Cllr Sinnott stated that the matter had come to Finance Committee and that Party in the Park would be better organised by a community group.

Cllr Duffy proposed that this matter is deferred to a further meeting, that it was not good that the Town Clerk was attacked by a member of the public, namely Ms Hilary Seward.

Cllr Hall, all events run by community committees overseen by Whitchurch Town Council. As Chairman, the only agreement with regards to Party in the Park is to agree the date, and he personally welcomes that it becomes an independent Committee and is organised by the community.

The Town Clerk read out the ToRs for Events & Entertainment Committee, drawing the Council's attention that the strategic management of events is to Committee and delegated authority is to the Town Clerk for operational management of events.

After a proposal from Cllr Raynes, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, it was **WTC/205/1819 RESOLVED** to defer the subject until a specially convened community meeting to organise Party in the Park can be arranged.

## 18. BAR FRANCHISE

Cllr Hamlyn reported that a special meeting had been convened, with an expert speaker, Euan Harris, to discuss the validity of whether WTC should take on the bar.

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/206/1819 RESOLVED** to set up a working group, members will be Cllr Vasey, Cllr Hall, Cllr Broders and Cllr Hamlyn and to meet as soon as possible to consider the options for the Council, on whether to bring in-house or contract out to a franchise.

## 19. 2019-2020 GRANT ALLOCATIONS

After a proposal from Cllr Raynes, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, it was **WTC/207/1819 RESOLVED** to approve the following grants, except Item 8 and the other projects that were identified as deferred:

Project No:	Applicant	Grant Approved
1	Whitchurch Rotary Club	£600.00
2	Karakoram Explorer Unit	£100.00
3	Whitchurch Town Twinning Association	£500.00
4	Whitchurch Allotment & Community Orchard	£400.00

	Association	
5	Girlguiding Whitchurch	£250.00
6	Whitchurch Roller Skating Group	£650.00
7	Whitchurch 10k	£500.00
12	79 (Whitchurch) Squadron Air Training Corp	£100.00
13	Brownlow Community Centre Trust	£1,500.00
15	Beechtree Community Centre	£450.00
16	Whitchurch Fairtrade Group	£100.00
17	Queensway Playing Fields Association	£250.00
19	Crane Counselling	£250.00

**Meeting closed at 8.55pm**

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....