

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th JANUARY 2020

PRESENT

Cllrs: B. Duffy, A. Chesters, A. Hall, S. Hamlyn, J. Martin, T. Neville, T. O'Neill, J. Sinnott, R. Shepherd and H. Vasey.

IN ATTENDANCE

Zoë Dean –Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk
Harry Wright – Reporter, Whitchurch Herald

In line with the Council's Meeting Recording Policy, the Chairman asked if anyone was recording the meeting, Cllr Hall stated that he was recording the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Lee Broders – work commitment
Cllr Rose Snell – unwell
Cllr S. Radford – work commitment

2. Declarations of Interest

None received.

3. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor of Whitchurch represented the Town Council on Christmas Day at Whitchurch Hospital, handing our presents to patients organised by the Friends of Whitchurch Hospital.

4. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Vasey,
It was **WTC/140/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Council meeting held on **Thursday 19th December 2019** and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.
All in favour.

5. Council Resolution Record

The Town Centre Manager read out the items which had been completed. It was noted that some of the blank spaces in the document were being dealt with by the Town Clerk and no updates were available for these items. Cllr Sinnott asked about the Parks Contract and the Youth Pod in the park. Cllr Hall asked about equality and diversity training.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Neville,
It was **WTC/141/1920 RESOLVED** to sign off all of the items listed below:

WTC/47/1920 Party in the Park (page 5)
WTC/42/1920 PCC Questionnaire (page 4)
WTC/71/1920 Heritage Centre Cupola quotations (page 4)
WTC/94/1920 Heads of Terms (page 3)
WTC/89/1920 BID Report (page 3)
WTC/88/1920 Memorial Bench & Tree Policy (page 3)
WTC/87/1920 Financial Regulations (page 3)

WTC/114/1920 Christmas Lights (page 2)
WTC/113/1920 Confidential Meeting Notes (page 2)
WTC/110/1920 Council Van (page 2)
WTC108/1920 Council Policies/Regulations (page 2)
WTC101/1920 Police Request (page 2)
WTC/128/1920 Motion Cllr Hall Youth Work £15,000 (page 2)
WTC/125/1920 Stage Area Testing (page 1)
WTC/123/1920 Town Clerk's Spending Powers (page 1)
WTC/128/1920 WRIN Charity Request (page 1)

6. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **WTC/142/1920 RESOLVED** to Suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of public participation.

7. Update from Local Policing Team

A Police Officer was unable to make the meeting, but the report was summarised by the Mayor. There had been a problem with youths on the roof, police budget and resources and be vigilant regarding phone scams.

8. Co-Option of a Councillor

Two co-optees came forward for consideration by Whitchurch Town Council.
Mr Will McDonnell and Mr Christian Gregory-Peake, the two candidates, each gave a brief presentation to members.

9. Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Gerald Dakin wished members of Whitchurch Town Council a Happy New Year. Cllr Dakin noted that Shropshire Council had been very busy budget setting. The budget would be increasing by 3.9%, the maximum amount allowed. The Pauls Moss planning application was going to judicial review. Potholes were a concern in the county.

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr O'Neill.
It was **WTC/143/1920 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

10. Accounts

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hall,
It was **WTC/144/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the Month 9 accounts. The Mayor signed the accounts.

11. Minutes from Committees

- a. After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Neville,
It was **WTC/145/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Heritage Committee meeting held on 12th November 2019.
- b. The resolution forming part 1 of item 9 could not stand as a Staff Pay Award Policy was not on the agenda. The Chairman of Personnel noted that this item would be on the agenda for the next meeting, after a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Shepherd: It was **WTC/146/1920 RESOLVED** to amend the minutes, removing the resolution PERS/19/1920.
Cllr Sinnott raised an issue with item 4, LTN 22 refers to the Discipline & Grievance Procedure, not the complaints procedure. After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Sinnott: It was **WTC/147/1920 RESOLVED** that the Mayor updated the minutes for item 4 to reflect the title "Review *Discipline & Grievance Procedure.*"
After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **WTC/148/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the Personnel Committee minutes from 15th November 2019, as amended.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Martin,

It was **WTC/149/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 14th November 2019.

12. Co-Option of a Councillor

A closed ballot took place to fill the Town Council's one remaining vacancy for South Ward. The vote received the following result: Mr W. McDonnell: 4 votes. Mr Christian Gregory-Peake: 6 votes. Cllr C. Gregory-Peake signed the declaration of interest form and took his seat at the table.

13. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

Cllr Sinnott asked whether the Joint Economic & Commissioning Board (JECB) was still in existence.

14. Question from Cllr Hall

The Mayor read out a statement regarding the question from Cllr Hall. The Mayor advised that the second part of the question would be deferred until item 18 in Confidential.

15. Budget 2020/2021

Cllr Chesters informed members that Whitchurch Town Council was in possession of all the documentation and therefore now in a position to request £507,666 from Shropshire Council. Some of the funds required would be offset from General Reserves and the Harry Richards fund. The precept requirement for 2020/2021 is an additional £6.87 for a Band D Property per annum. Cllr Chesters thanked Alison Proctor and Zoë Dean for their hard work in preparing the budget for which there had been a great deal of detail provided by staff. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **WTC/150/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the budget for 2020/2021, requesting £507,666 from Shropshire Council.

16. Centre North East

Cllr Vasey provided an update from the CNE Working Group: the group had made some good progress and the Public Consultation had been organised for 19th February 2020 from 6.30pm – 8pm in the Edward German Room. There would also be an anonymous questionnaire, information would be circulated in The Gossip Magazine, The Herald and on Social Media.

17. Confidential

After a proposal by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Chesters it was **WTC/151/1920 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.

All recordings were ceased.

18. Questions from Cllr Hall

The Mayor answered the second half of Cllr Hall's question from Agenda Item 14. Two further questions were received from Cllr Hall, the Mayor explained that these questions were for exempt information and could therefore not be answered.

19. Staffing Matters

Cllr Duffy thanked the Acting Town Clerk for her hard work covering two jobs and noted that the Town Clerk would return to work on Monday.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm

Chairman

Date