

Whitchurch Town Council

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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT

Cllrs: B. Duffy, A. Chesters, C. Gregory-Peake, A. Hall, S. Hamlyn, J. Martin, T. O'Neill, S. Radford, J. Sinnott, R. Shepherd, R. Snell and H. Vasey.

IN ATTENDANCE

Nicola Young – Town Clerk
Zoë Dean – Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk
Harry Wright – Reporter, Whitchurch Herald
Charlotte Bentley – Reporter, Shropshire Star

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Lee Broders – work commitment
Cllr Neville – unwell

2. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor Cllr Duffy declared a personal interest in item 22 – resident of Chester Road.

3. Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence was read out from Shropshire Bus Group, requesting bus routes. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall, It was **WTC/152/1920 RESOLVED** that a bus route was required from Whitchurch to Telford Hospital, via Market Drayton.

5. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **WTC/153/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2020 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting. All in favour.

6. Council Resolution Record

Questions were asked about Diversity Training and Electric Charging Points. The electric charging points to be sent to the Cultural & Civic Centre Committee as this item is budgeted for. A question was also asked about Standing Orders (item WTC/45/1920).

It was noted that the Sherrymill Hill Gasworks (WTC/139/1920) and CNE (WTC/142/1920) items could not be signed off.

Council noted that some resolutions are multi-staged and if those items are signed off at the first stage then the item could, potentially, get lost. A progress/comment note would be useful.

Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,

It was **WTC/154/1920 RESOLVED** to sign off all the items presented on the Council Resolution Register except WTC/139/1920, WTC/142/1920 and WTC/78/1920. Three abstentions: Cllrs Hall, Sinnott and Martin.

7. Public Participation

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Martin
It was **WTC/155/1920 RESOLVED** to Suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of public participation.

8. 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 issues concerning traffic and anti-social behaviour.

9. Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Gerald Dakin noted that the Council had been very busy with the recent flooding which was proving to be very expensive with an already stretched Highways budget. The Council's Economic Growth Strategy was awaiting approval from Cabinet following a consultation, a focus would be homelessness and affordable housing.

A member asked whether planners would make a note of fields earmarked for proposed development which have flooded.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **WTC/156/1920 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

10. Accounts

It was noted by the Chairman of Finance that the Town Council had sufficient funds to take them through the year and for the projects which were already committed to.

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Sinnott,
It was **WTC/157/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the Month 10 accounts. The Mayor signed the accounts.

11. Internal Audit

Members' attention was drawn to the auditor's comments with regards to councillors and the procurement process.

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Martin, it was **WTC/158/1920 RESOLVED** to receive the report.

12. Minutes from Committees

- a. After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Vasey,
It was **WTC/159/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parks & Public Realm Committee meeting held on 7th November 2019.
- b. After a proposal from Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Martin,
It was **WTC/160/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Heritage Committee meeting held on 12th November 2019.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,
It was **WTC/161/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Cultural & Civic Centre Committee held on 12th December 2019.
- d. After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Shepherd,
It was **WTC/162/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Personnel Committee held on 12th December 2019. Cllr Hall abstained.
- e. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Martin,
It was **WTC/163/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes from the Finance Committee held on 9th January 2020.

13. Reports from Councillors on Outside Bodies

Cllr Hall had attended the Chamber of Trade meeting at Hill Valley on 29th January 2020, the Chamber had expressed their thanks and congratulations to the Town Council for the 2019 Christmas lights.

Cllr Sinnott asked about economic growth – whether the Joint Economic Board could be re-established to discuss the empty shops.

Cllr O'Neill reported that the Fairtrade Town accreditation is reaching its 10th anniversary of being a Fairtrade town.

Cllr Duffy had attended the Whitchurch Walkers meeting where the town litter pick and Walking Festival had been discussed.

14. Dame Snell

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, It was **WTC/164/1920 RESOLVED** to site the photograph, where appropriate, following a walkabout with the Clerk.

15. Budget 2020/2021

Following a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was **WTC/165/1920 RESOLVED** that £15,000 would be allocated to Youth Work and £15,000 would be used for the Civic Centre development from the Harry Richards Fund.

16. VE Day Friday 8th May

After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters, It was **WTC/166/1920 RESOLVED** that Friday 8th May would be a normal working day for the Council, taking Monday 4th May as Bank Holiday instead.

17. Stage Safety

a. Emergency Stage Work Completed

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Vasey, It was **WTC/167/1920 RESOLVED** that the whole amount would be taken from Project Reserves.

b. Report from Solutions on Stage

Following a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hall, It was **WTC/168/1920 RESOLVED** to receive the report from Solutions on Stage and note the Town Centre Manager will be seeking quotes for replacement booms, which will be paid from 109/4934 Freehold Budget Stage Lighting, within the Clerk's spending powers.

18. Standing Orders

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Radford, It was **WTC/169/1920 RESOLVED** to hold an Extraordinary Full Council meeting, with prior comments submitted to the Clerk by 28th February 2020.

19. Mayor's Allowance

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hall, It was **WTC/170/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the changes to the Mayor's Allowance Scheme policy.

20. Emergency H&S Work

Following a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr O'Neill, It was **WTC/171/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the report.

21. BID Report

Council noted that Mr Aswat would be coming to Full Council in March. After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Vasey, It was **WTC/172/1920 RESOLVED** to receive the report.

22. Highway Concerns

Council noted that the funds for VAS signs for Chester Road, Station Road, Tilstock Road and Heath Road, could be allocated and then match funded by CIL Neighbourhood Fund. After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Gregory-Peake, It was **WTC/173/1920 RESOLVED** to agree in principle, then take back to the next meeting when there is further information available.

23. FOI Policy

It was noted that this item had been removed pending further information.

24. MOTION 21 – RECORDING CONFIDENTIAL PART OF FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The motion received no seconder, therefore was not carried.

25. MOTION 22 – COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Sinnott proposed, seconded by Cllr Hall, it was **WTC/174/1920 RESOLVED** that the motion be amended to the following: That the Town Clerk works with local organisations, including Shropshire Council, to create a Local Community Emergency Plan for Whitchurch and surrounding area,

26. MOTION 23 – REPAYMENT TO HARRY RICHARDS FUND

Cllr Hall withdrew this motion on the grounds that the item had already been covered by a previous agenda item.

27. Recording Protocol

Following a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **WTC/175/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the two amendments based on the NALC solicitor’s advice. Against: Cllrs Chesters, Hall & Sinnott

28. Confidential Business

After a proposal by Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr O’Neill, It was **WTC/176/1920 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.

29. Tills

A spreadsheet was presented to members with the various options for tills. After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Hall, It was **WTC/177/1920 RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk meets with the contractor to discuss options that suit both parties.

30. Youth Report

After a proposal from Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn, It was **WTC/178/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the report.

31. Street Lighting

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Sinnott, It was **WTC/179/1920 RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Highline. Council noted that the EMR would be used to fund the project and the remaining balance from Capital Projects.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman

Date