

# Whitchurch Town Council

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## FULL COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020

Held online via Zoom due to Coronavirus Government Guidance

#### PRESENT

Cllrs: B. Duffy, L. Broders, A. Chesters, C. Gregory-Peake, S. Hamlyn, A. Hall, M. Haynes, J. Martin, S. Radford, J. Sinnott, R. Shepherd, R. Snell, and H. Vasey.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Shropshire Councillor Gerald Dakin  
Zoë Dean –Town Centre Manager/Assistant Town Clerk  
Harry Wright – Journalist, Whitchurch Herald  
9 members of the public.

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.

The Mayor announced that some updated information had been received for item 75 and this would be taken into Confidential Session for consideration.

#### 60. Election of a Deputy Mayor

Cllr Hall proposed Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Chesters.  
Cllr Snell proposed Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Martin.

Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Broders, Council briefly went into Confidential session in order for a virtual vote to be carried out.

Cllr Simon Hamlyn was elected Deputy Mayor with the majority of the votes.

#### 61. Apologies

None – all members present.

#### 62. Declarations of Interest

None received.

#### 63. Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Duffy reminded members that the High Sheriff of Shropshire's visit was due to take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 from 9.30am, all councillors welcome.

#### 64. Minutes

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/60/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes from the Full Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as an accurate record of that meeting.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Martin,  
It was **WTC/61/2021 RESOLVED** to accept and sign the minutes from the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as an accurate record of that meeting.

#### **65. Public Participation**

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **WTC/62/2021 RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow any members of the public to address the meeting.

A member of public spoke in support of item 74 – CNE would be a great opportunity and item 84, in support of the raked seating proposal.

A second member of the public congratulated the Deputy Mayor on his appointment and asked him to support a freeze on spending for this year.

A third member of the public, and representative of Blackberry Fair, spoke in support of item 77, endorsing the letter from Blackberry Fair.

#### **66. Update from Local Policing Team**

None present.

#### **67. Shropshire Councillor's Report**

Cllr Dakin noted that Shropshire Council's communications via the press had been excellent of late. Shropshire Council had been meeting via Zoom and the Council's ICT system was working well, noting there is now little need for Shire Hall.

Members advised Cllr Dakin that the speed limit signs in Wrexham Road, close to Aldi, were showing 30MPH one way and 60MPH another, which are very confusing.

Mr William McDonnell gave a brief presentation regarding his suitability to become a Town Councillor.

Mr Alan Cooper gave a brief presentation regarding his suitability to become a Town Councillor.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **WTC/63/2021 RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

#### **68. Applications to Become Town Councillors**

Members briefly went into private session to vote on the appointments.

Both Mr W. McDonnell and Mr A. Cooper were co-opted onto the Town Council to fill the two remaining vacancies in both the North and South Wards, respectively.

#### **69. Zoom Meetings**

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **WTC/64/2021 RESOLVED** to note that Virtual Meetings are to continue.

#### **70. Accounts**

After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Martin,  
It was **WTC/65/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the Month 4 & 5 Accounts.

#### **71. Minutes from Committees**

- a. After a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Duffy,

It was **WTC/66/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Whitchurch JANE Cemetery meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

- b. After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Snell,  
It was **WTC/67/2020 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Cultural & Civic Centre Committee meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020.
- c. After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Radford,  
It was **WTC/68/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parks & Public Realm Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.
- d. After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Shepherd,  
It was **WTC/69/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- e. After a proposal from Cllr Martin, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **WTC/70/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Heritage Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- f. After a proposal from Cllr Chesters, seconded by Cllr Martin,  
It was **WTC/71/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.

## 72. Elect Members to Committees

- a. Cllrs: Cooper, Chesters and Sinnott came forward for the two vacancies on the Parks & Public Realm Committee. Cllr Sinnott withdrew his nomination.  
It was **WTC/72/2021 RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Cooper and Cllr Chesters to the Parks & Public Realm Committee.
- b. Heritage Committee meets every other month in the daytime – no one came forward.
- c. It was **WTC/73/2021 RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hamlyn to the Cemetery JANE Committee.
- d. It was **WTC/74/2021 RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Broders and Cllr McDonnell to the Planning Committee.

## 73. Motion 26 – [Cllr Duffy]

Cllr Sinnott proposed that item 76 was brought forward, seconded by Cllr Hall.

Cllr Snell briefly left the meeting. 5 For, 6 Against. Cllr Hall asked for a recorded vote.

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,

The motion that “Whitchurch Town Council agrees money can be spent on the refurbishment and upgrading of any part of the Civic Centre building, prior to an extended lease or Freehold being obtained from Shropshire Council” was debated.

A vote was taken. 11 For, 3 Against. 1 abstention.

It was **WTC/75/2021 RESOLVED** To support Motion 26.

## 74. A Sustainable Future for Centre North East

Cllr Vasey introduced his report and the findings from the CNE Working Group.

- a) Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Snell,  
It was **WTC/76/2021 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council agrees to take on Centre North East from SC on a 30-year lease (or longer lease) including, if necessary, an interim one year lease period to allow work to commence before the 2020 autumn/winter period (All in favour).
- b) Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/77/2021 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council facilitates a four-way agreement with Shropshire Council, the local philanthropist donating the 10k, and the local roofer, so that roof works can progress ASAP.  
(All in favour)

- c) After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Chesters,  
It was **WTC/78/2021 RESOLVED** that Whitchurch Town Council bids for Shropshire Council's CIL Neighbourhood fund for £50k capital funds for work on the building. (1 Abstention)
- d) Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Haynes,  
It was **WTC/79/2021 RESOLVED** to agree that the building will be sublet (with permission from Shropshire Council) to a new charitable creative hub organisation within one year of taking on the lease. (13 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstention)
- e) After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **WTC/80/2021 RESOLVED** that WTC agrees a small, working group to be set up to establish the new independent organisation and progress the issues above, reporting to Full Council/a committee of the Council each month as necessary. (All in favour)

## 76. Savings to the Budget

The Town Centre Manager updated Full Council on the correspondence received from Shropshire Council regarding confirmation of a complete refund for 2020/21 Business Rates. The Town Council had budgeted £52,000 for Business Rates, the actual invoice totalled £46,592, of which £23,297 had already been paid. This amount had now been refunded. The Chairman of Finance, Cllr Chesters, noted that this sum would plug the hole in the budget but Council must urged members not to forget next year's budget, noting that all committees have an individual responsibility for their own budget.

## 77. Jubilee Park Contractor's Yard

The Town Centre Manager informed Council that the advice obtained thus far from Shropshire Council stated that the Town Council needed to apply for a Certificate of Lawful Development. Council noted that this item required further examination.

- a) After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Vasey,  
It was **WTC/82/2021 RESOLVED** to defer the budget item, taking back to Parks & Public Realm Committee for further examination. (All in favour)
- b) Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Haynes,  
It was **WTC/83/2021 RESOLVED** to agree to community use of the shed, pending the relevant permissions from Shropshire Council.  
A further proposal was received from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/84/2021 RESOLVED** to install the shipping containers in principle. (All in favour)

*After a proposal from Cllr Sinnott, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **WTC/85/2021 RESOLVED** to continue with the meeting after 2 hours.*

## 78. Local Plan Consultation

The Mayor asked for councillors to email suggestions to the Town Centre Manager by 25/09/20.

## 79. Wheatsheaf Drive Play Area

After a proposal from Cllr Hamlyn, seconded by Cllr Duffy,  
It was **WTC/86/2021 RESOLVED** to agree the £25,000 funding from CIL Neighbourhood in principle; going out to a wider consultation to determine the best location in the town. (All in favour)

## 80. Youth Services

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hall,

It was **WTC/87/2021 RESOLVED** to note the Youth Services update that funding is in place until March 2021.

**81. Cemetery Board Memorial Policy**

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Martin,  
It was **WTC/88/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the Cemetery Board Memorial Policy.

**82. Whitchurch Relief in Need Charity**

Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/89/2021 RESOLVED** that Mrs Sue McKeon is to continue in her role.

**83. Bar Lounge Refurbishment**

The Bar Lounge refurbishment was debated by members.  
After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/90/2021 RESOLVED** to set a maximum budget of £30,000 from CIL for the Bar Lounge refurbishment. (All in favour)

**84. Report from Cllr Radford**

The issue of raked seating was debated.  
Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Martin,  
It was **WTC/91/2021 RESOLVED** to agree the installation of raked seating and bar provision in the Main Hall.  
(12 in favour, 3 against)

**85. Confidential Business**

After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Broders,  
It was **WTC/92/2021 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.

Council confirmed that the recording has been switched off and asked for members to confirm that no-one was to enter the room.

**75. Civic Centre Freehold**

After a proposal from Cllr Vasey, seconded by Cllr Shepherd,  
It was **WTC/93/2021 RESOLVED** to agree Freehold Paragraph 6.  
After a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/94/2021 RESOLVED** to accept the wording in Freehold Paragraph 13 and expedite with a matter of urgency.

**86. Employment Matters**

The Mayor gave a verbal report.  
Following a proposal from Cllr Duffy, seconded by Cllr Hamlyn,  
It was **WTC/95/2021 RESOLVED** to accept recommendation no.2 from the verbal report.

**Meeting closed at 10.29pm.**

**Chairman .....**

**Date .....**