

Whitchurch Town Council

Civic Centre
Whitchurch
SY13 1AX



High Street
Shropshire
tel. 01948 665761

website: www.whitchurchcouncil.uk

email: clerk@whitchurchcouncil.uk

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MAY 2021

PRESENT

Cllrs: B. Duffy (Chair), A. Chesters, G. Ebbs, A. Hall, R. Hall, P. Lea, J. Martin, W. McDonnell, M. Phipps, M. Ridgway, J. Sinnott, D Sullivan and J. Thornton.

IN ATTENDANCE

Gerald Dakin – Shropshire Councillor
Shaun Jones – Locum Clerk
Harry Wright – Whitchurch Herald

1. To Elect the Town Mayor

After a nomination by Cllr Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Phipps, it was **WTC/1/2122 RESOLVED** to elect Cllr John Sinnott as the Town Mayor for 2021/2022 Council Year.

2. To Receive the Elected Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Sinnott read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. Delivery by Councillors of Their Declarations Of Acceptance Of Office

The Locum Clerk confirmed that all 14 elected members of the new Council to serve 2021 – 2025 have each completed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Apologies

Cllr A Cooper – due to illness

5. Declarations of Interest

Following an election all members are required to complete a new Declaration of Pecuniary Interests Form (supplied ahead of this Annual Meeting) within 28 days, which shall be made available for public inspection. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members shall withdraw from any discussion or vote for which they hold a disclosable pecuniary interest. No specific declarations were received with regard to tonight's agenda.

6. Minutes

Publication of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on **Thursday 26th April 2021** have been delayed due to sickness, it is expected they will be presented for approval at the next Full Council meeting.

7. Public Participation

Members of the public are invited to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of business being transacted at the meeting.

Cllr R Hall on behalf of **Mrs Sheila Chase** asks this Council to undertake in the future to open a continuous communication with Shropshire Council & put pressure on about the serious matter of the Swimming Centre and Centre North East, the lack of these facilities is very serious and if restored will help with the sadly lacking service for the youth of our town & that these matters can be addressed to the appropriate committee.

Cllr Thornton suggests a letter to acknowledge to Mrs Chase that her plea has been heard.

Standing Orders – Public Participation

- *Each member of the public may speak on no more than two items and in total for no longer than 3 minutes, in line with Whitchurch Town Council Standing Orders, paragraph 4. d (vii)*
- *In line with paragraph 4. d (vii), if having heard the response to a question, the person who asked it may ask one related, supplementary question.*

Mayor Sinnott advised that he has spoken to Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) and has an email from them regarding the agenda. According to our Standing Orders we should vote in a Deputy Mayor and it is mandatory and also in the Model Standing Orders published by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and it is not on the Agenda and therefore I think that should be added.

The Locum Clerk advises that he has done his best efforts and states it is difficult to add an item to the Agenda lawfully, if you wish to arrange a further meeting to carry out items usually on the Annual Council agenda – it was more of a priority to establish the Council within 14 days of the election.

Mayor Sinnott states SALC agrees it is appropriate for the Council to follow Standing Orders and the Locum Clerk affirms that Standing Orders also outline items of business should be on an agenda and statutory notice given. Cllr Thornton interjects to move to a vote. Mayor Sinnott confirms the WTC Standing Orders do follow the NALC model. In addition, we are allowed to add items without written notice and one of them is Appoint Committees, I want the Council to be operating soonest so propose we appoint committees tonight. **Motion carried with 2 member abstentions.**

7a. To Elect the Deputy Town Mayor

After a nomination by Cllr Thornton, seconded by Cllr R Hall, **motion to elect Cllr Andy Hall as Deputy Mayor for 2021/2022 Council Year. Motion carried with Cllr Duffy abstaining.**

A Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was not available at this meeting but Cllr Hall will formally complete soonest.

7b. Appoint Committees and Members to Committees

To appoint Members to the following Committees as follows:

Cemetery Committee

Cllr Sullivan Cllr Lea Cllr Thornton

Heritage Committee

Cllr Ebbs Cllr Sullivan
Cllr Lea Cllr McDonnell
Cllr Duffy

Culture and Civic Centre Committee – noting that there is one vacancy

Cllr R Hall Cllr A Hall - Chairman
Cllr Phipps Cllr Ebbs
Cllr Cooper Cllr Ridgway

Parks & Public Realm Committee – noting that there is one vacancy

Cllr Sullivan Cllr Phipps
Cllr Ridgway Cllr Thornton - Chairman
Cllr Lea Cllr McDonnell

7:36pm Cllr Duffy left the meeting.

Finance Committee – noting that there is one vacancy

Cllr Ebbs Cllr Chesters- Chairman
Cllr Thornton Cllr A Hall
Cllr R Hall Cllr Cooper

8. General Power of Competence

It was **WTC/2/2122 RESOLVED:** that Whitchurch Town Council, being satisfied that it meets the eligibility criteria of the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in that it has over two thirds of its councillors elected and has a suitably qualified Town Clerk appointed, now resolves to adopt the General Powers of Competence provisions of s1 of the Localism Act 2011. Furthermore, the Town Council realises that it will be required to make a further declaration of its continued eligibility at each subsequent annual council meeting after any all-out election. **All in favour – motion carried.**

Mayor Sinnott advised that as there is no meeting diary, he proposes an **Extraordinary Council Meeting is called for Tuesday 1st June 2021** where we can continue with the housekeeping steps needed to continue the work of the Council for the remainder of the year. Cllr Thornton calls the **first meeting of the Parks and Public Realm Committee on Thursday 3rd June** and Cllr A Hall states **likewise for the Culture and Civic Centre Committee.**

Finally, Mayor Sinnott formally welcomes all the new Councillors and hope moving forward we can have this Council running with honesty, integrity, openness and we make sure we keep the town informed of everything we are doing. Can we all move forward as a collective of individuals. Members applauded.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Agenda Items 7a and 7b need to be ratified at the EGM on June 1st 2021 to become proper lawfully made resolutions.

Chairman

Date

DRAFT