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Whitchurch Town Council

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WHITCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting of Whitchurch Town Council held at 19:15 on the sixteenth day of September 2021, held in the Edward German Room Whitchurch Civic Centre SY13 1AX

Present: Cllrs: P. Busby, G. Ebbs, A. Hall, R. Hall, R. Hewson, A. Jackson, P. Lea, J. Martin, M. Phipps, M. Ridgway, J. Sinnott, and J. Thornton

In Attendance: Andy Cooper (Admin Support Officer), Press Officer, 1 Member of the Public

Minute WTC/59/2122

Apologies – received from Cllrs: A. Chesters, A. Cooper, G. Sullivan.

Minute WTC/60/2122

Declarations – Cllr. Sinnott declared an interest in item 10.

Minute WTC/61/2122

Minutes – minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26 April 2021 were accepted following 3 amendments. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute WTC/62/2122

Public Participation – The Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders.

Mrs. Clare Bellingham asked the Council if they would like to work together with Blackberry Fair to replace the Makers Market with an Artisan Market. Costed proposals will be sent to the Council. Phase 1 would be something manageable ideally the first market being held at Christmas. Phase 2 would include quarterly special markets. Blackberry Fair are asking the Council for both support and if there is any possible funding.

Minute WTC/63/2122

Public Participation – The Council resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

Minute WTC/64/2122

Membership of Committees – The Council resolved to discuss the Personnel Committee membership later in the meeting once the consideration had been given to excluding the press and public.

Minute WTC/65/2122

Membership of Committees – Councillors accepted membership additions to the following committees:

Parks and Public Realm – Cllrs: A. Hall, A. Jackson.

Culture and Civic – Cllr P. Busby

Finance – Cllrs P. Busby, R. Hewson

Minute WTC/66/2122

Stakeholder Representative – The Council resolved to nominate Cllr. A. Hall as the representative for the Whitchurch Walkers.

Minute WTC/67/2122

Finance – The Council resolved to defer the finance item to the October meeting.

Minute WTC/68/2122

Blackberry Fair – The Council resolved to allow Blackberry Fair to use part of the shed and compound for their event on 2 October 2021. Blackberry Fair to ensure there is no public access and the area is secure at all times. The Council also resolved to allow Blackberry Fair free use of the Sports Hall on 2 October if the weather is 'extreme'.

Minute WTC/69/2122

Whitchurch Allotment and Community Orchard Association – The Council resolved that the Proper Officer approach Shropshire County Council to enquire if they have any land they are prepared to gift for an allotment. The Council asked the Press if the report could be placed in the local news.

Minute WTC/70/2122

Personnel Committee - The Council noted the following additions to the membership – Cllrs: P. Busby, A. Jackson, M. Phipps.

Minute WTC/71/2122

Shropshire Unison – The Council resolved to carry out staff appraisals in the first instance and then revisit the Unison letter.

Minute WTC/72/2122

HR – The Council resolved to accept the SCP recommendations of the job evaluation prepared by ChALC.

Minute WTC/73/2122

HR – The Council resolved to approve the job description. The Council resolved to approve the overall format of the recruitment pack once the removal of any reference to Chief Executive has been made. No approval was given for the position to be advertised at this time.

Minute WTC/74/2122

HR – The Council resolved to continue the staffing arrangements of temporary staff beyond the current tenure, subject to negotiation.

Minute WTC/75/2122

HR – The Council resolved to recommend that delegation be given (in consultation with the Chair of the Personnel/Finance Committees) to the Proper Officer to contract the services of temporary contractor(s), to provide accountancy and payroll support until the recruitment process is undertaken by the Personnel Committee for the Accounts Clerk.

Minute WTC/76/2122

HR – The Council resolved to approve an additional fourteen hours each week to the Proper Officer.

Cllr J Sinnott and Cllr A Hall withdrew from the meeting.

Minute WTC/77/2122

Employment Tribunal Claim – The Council resolved to submit the response drafted by Ellis Whittam to the Employment Tribunal. A recorded vote was requested.

Cllrs: P. Busby, R. Hall, R. Hewson, A. Jackson, P. Lea, M. Phipps, M. Ridgway, J. Thornton – In favour.

Cllr. G. Ebbs – Abstain.

Cllr. J. Martin – Against.