

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21st May 2015

PRESENT

Councillors: M McDonald (Mayor), A Chesters, B Duffy, J Ebbs, T Harris, R Hewson, T Neville, T O'Neill, J Sinnott, B Slater, L Stones and G Stockton.

IN ATTENDANCE

M Wilson (Town Clerk)

1. To elect the Town Mayor

The retiring Mayor gave thanks to the Councillors and all their hard work throughout the year and thanked the staff for their support and their hard work. He went on to say he had raised £3,000 for his charities this year, Air Ambulance, Cystic Fibrosis, Youth cricket and Youth Rugby all receiving a cheque for £750 each.

After nomination from Cllr B Slater and seconded by Cllr Neville **it was RESOLVED WTC/1/1516** that Cllr M McDonald be elected as Mayor for Whitchurch Town Council. Mayor McDonald gave the retiring Mayor and his wife a gift and thanked him for his tireless work throughout the past two years. Cllr J Ebbs gave a vote of thanks.

2. To elect the Deputy Town Mayor

Two nominations for deputy mayor were received, Cllr Duffy and Cllr Neville. After a voting the two contenders were Cllr Duffy and Cllr Neville, by ballot **it was RESOLVED WTC/2/1516** that Cllr T Neville would be the Deputy Mayor for Whitchurch Town Council.

3. Apologies

Cllr Rigley – On holiday
Cllr Dakin (Shropshire Councillor) – On Holiday
Cllr Leverton – Working

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Sinnott **WTC/03/1516 RESOLVED** accept the minutes of the meeting held on **16th April 2015 which included confidential minutes and the Extra Ordinary meeting of the 29th April 2015.**

6. Matters Arising

None

7. Mayor's Announcements

None

8. Outstanding Actions

None

9. Public Participation

After nomination from Cllr M McDonald and seconded by Cllr R Hewson **it was RESOLVED WTC/4/1516** to suspend standing orders. Resident Terry Evanson gave a talk around names to be added to the cenotaph as in item 10. Two names were requested as these have been missed off any memorial

After nomination from Cllr M McDonald and seconded by Cllr R Hewson **it was RESOLVED WTC/5/1516** to return to standing orders.

10. WW1 names on cenotaph

A discussion took place about the two individuals especially one who had died in training. After nomination from Cllr J Sinnott and seconded by Cllr L Stones it was **RESOLVED WTC/06/1516** that Jacob Griffiths should be names on the cenotaph and that William Mulhall should not be named on the cenotaph .

11. Report from Members on Outside Organisations.

Cllr Harris reported back from the Jane Higginson Trust and informed councillors that 33 Dodington had now been refurbished and is available for anyone over 60 with limited means.

12. Minutes from Committees

• Civic and Markets. Cllr Sinnott

After a proposal by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Harris **WTC/7/1516**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th April 2015 be accepted.

• Parks

After a proposal by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor O'Neill **WTC/8/1516**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th April 2015 be accepted.

13. Appointment to Committees and Working Groups.

To be decided after consultation with newly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman. A discussion around the CCTV and Christmas lights committee as the CCTV cameras are almost completed and the need for a separate committee. It was agreed to put the Christmas lights committee with the Civic and markets committee.

14. Appointment of representative to outside bodies.

To be decided after consultation with newly elected Chairman and Vice Chairman.

15. Appointment of representatives to events

To be circulated by the clerk when all nominations received.

16. Annual Calendar of Meetings

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Sinnott **WTC/9/1516**

RESOLVED: to accept the calendar of dates (which could be subject to change for committees)

17. Correspondence

- Notes from Terry Evanson concerning the names on the cenotaph
- Barbers letter concerning the offer on the land

18. Councillor Badges

The clerk explained that to give the Town Council a higher profile that when councillors attend events wearing the lanyard with Whitchurch Town Council and a badge would show those in attendance that the Town Council is involved in the activity.

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Hewson **WTC/10/1516**

RESOLVED: to agree to purchase the lanyards and photo holders.

19. Events

As item 15 above.

20. Grants

The clerk explained that Heritage lottery funding have seminars on grant applications and they are on certain days in the week; two councillors expressed an interest in attending these seminars and would like their expenses for travelling to be paid. After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Chesters **WTC/11/1516 RESOLVED** to cover the cost of travel.

21. Wire around cenotaph

After a proposal by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor O'Neill **WTC/12/1516 RESOLVED** It was agreed to let the British Legion secure the poppy wreaths by placing wire around the cenotaph. The British Legion must be informed to use stainless Steele as they may ruin the brickwork on the cenotaph if anything else is used.

22. Insurance for the Town Council

The clerk informed the Town Council that though asking for quotes only Zurich had arrived in time for the meeting and they are offering a discount if taken over three years. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor Sinnott **WTC/13/1516 RESOLVED** to place insurance with Zurich for three years.

23. Web site

The Town Clerk explained that the website is now up and running and wanted to officially announce that it was now on line.

24. Whitchurch (Hampshire) Festival

Some residents had expressed an interest in attending this event and would like the Town Council to fund some or all of it. The clerk reported that expression of interest had been made but no numbers or for how long as the event is on over three days. A discussion around the need to attend and the reason to attend this event. The clerk was tasked to find out more and report back.

25. Planning committee

Cllr Harris express concern over the current arrangements for the planning committee and requested nominated individuals to be the planning committee. After a proposal by Councillor Hewson and seconded by Councillor O'Neill **WTC/14/1516 RESOLVED** to have a planning committee consisting of Cllrs Harris, Stockton, Duffy, O'Neill and Sinnott.

26. Councillors and Facebook

All councillors were reminded that the Town Council have a communications policy and anything on Facebook should not be on behalf of Whitchurch Town Council. Cllr Haris reminded councillors that once the agenda has been sent then there can be no debate about items on the agenda by email.

27. Grant applications

Applicant	Amount awarded	Proposer and secondor
Whitchurch Blackberry Fair- Request £1,500	1,500	Cllr Chesters and Harris
Whitchurch Community Service Association (Beechtree Centre) -request £1075	1075	Cllr Chesters and Harris
North Shropshire Folk request £400	None	Cllr Chesters and Harris
Whitchurch Hockey Club – request £250	250	Cllr Chesters and Harris
Whitchurch Museum & Archives request £2500	2500	Cllr Chesters and Harris

Whitchurch Rotary Club request £1600	1600	Cllr Duffy and Slater
Home-Start Shropshire request £2500	None	Cllr Harris and Neville
Party in the Park request £510	510	Cllr Chesters and Slater
Leisure Services - Shropshire Council request £500	500	Cllrs Sinnott and Chesters
Whitchurch Town Twinning Association request £400	400	Cllrs Sinnott and Chesters
3rd Whitchurch Guides request £600	600	Cllrs Sinnott and Chesters
NS Wheelers ANY AMOUNT	500	Cllrs Harris and Chesters
Citizens Advice Shropshire request £1,000	1000	Cllr Harris and Sinnott
Queensway Areas Residential & Recreational Association request £500	500	Cllr Chesters and Harris
Waterways Trust request £850	500	Cllr Chesters and Harris

After a proposal by Councillor McDonald and seconded by Councillor Neville **WTC/15/1516 RESOLVED** to accept grants applications as above

28. Annual Accounts 2014/2015

The clerk informed councillors that both Cllr Chesters and she had examined the accounts returned from the accountants and apart from some written explanations they were satisfied the accounts should be accepted. After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald It was **WTC/16 /1516 RESOLVED** Annual Accounts for 2014 2015 were agreed and signed subject to

29. Annual Governance statement

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald It was **WTC/17/1516 RESOLVED** The Annual Governance statement be approved and signed.

30. Annual internal audit

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald It was **WTC/18/1516 RESOLVED** To approve the Internal Audit Report for 2014-2015 for submission to the External Auditor.

31. To receive the Statement of Accounts for month 12 and 1. (Copy already circulated)

After a proposal by Councillor Chesters and seconded by Councillor McDonald It was **WTC/19/1516 RESOLVED** To receive the Statement of Accounts for month 12 and 1

32. Confidential Business

Meeting closed at 8:35 pm

Signed  Dated 18th June 2015.