

# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
7 pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Present:**

Cllr. Edgcumbe Venning (in the chair), Cllr. Adam Davy, Cllr. Herbert Harper, Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Kate Southan, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr. Daniel Thomas, Cllr. Allan Walter and Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

**Locum Town Clerk:**

Trudi Barrett

**In attendance:**

6 members of the public

**1) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March and the Live Arts Festival commencing on 9<sup>th</sup> March. The Mayor and Mayoress would soon be attending a thanksgiving service in Ludlow and the opening of the newly refurbished Fire Station in Much Wenlock. The previous day the Mayor had attended a meeting about the Much Wenlock & Surrounding Area Place Plan along with Cllrs. Harper and Hill and the Locum Clerk. The meeting had been attended by senior officers and Shropshire Councillors. The aim was to enable Shropshire Council, working closely with the Town and Parish Councils, to deliver infrastructure needs to the county's communities. Final versions of the Place Plans would feed into the Local Plan. A revised draft of the Much Wenlock Place Plan was promised within three to four weeks and the draft would be presented to the Town Council for discussion at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**2) Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Cllr Jenkins, who was working.

**This apology was ACCEPTED and AGREED as APPROVED absence.**

**3) Disclosure of pecuniary interests**

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

**None.**

**4) Dispensations**

None requested. It was noted that in November 2018 all Councillors who held accounts with Barclays Bank had been granted dispensations for a period of up to two years to participate in discussions concerning negotiations with Barclays Bank relating to the purchase of 10 High Street, Much Wenlock.

**5) Shropshire Council Report**

Shropshire Councillor, David Turner, gave a verbal report. The Wenlock Edge Inn had been granted planning consent for the erection of a dining room extension, which might encourage the owners to re-open the public house and provide further tourism facilities. A council tax rise of 3.99% had been approved by Shropshire Council. The snagging list for the Much Wenlock, Barrow and Broseley HGV route was soon to be addressed, including issues associated with signage. Councillor Turner advised that he would be unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting. His next advice surgery would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Museum, when he would be accompanied by a Town Councillor and police officer.

**NOTED**

Item 14 on the agenda was taken next.

**RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow comments from a First Responder in the town.**

## 6) Defibrillator

It was noted that there were currently defibrillators at the Fire Station, Pinefields, William Brookes School and the Leisure Centre. However, it would be beneficial to have a defibrillator at a more central location in the town. This proposal was very much supported by the local First Responders. Information was provided about the equipment and cabinet, which could be supplied for just under £1,000. A mains power supply would be needed for frost protection for the cabinet.

A number would be displayed on the front of the locked cabinet and in the case of an emergency, the number should be quoted to the emergency services (999), who would then provide the access code to the cabinet. It would be useful to have some local people trained in use of the equipment although instructions would be provided by the emergency services and the defibrillator. It was noted that locked cabinets were very secure. Grants were available for unlocked cabinets but these were at risk of vandalism. It was proposed that the external wall of the library under the Corn Exchange would be a suitable location for a defibrillator.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Town Council purchase a defibrillator and cabinet for installation in a town centre location.**

**RESOLVED to re-invoke Standing Orders.**

## 7) Public Session

None

## 8) Minutes

- a) The minutes of a Town Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and APPROVED as a true record.**
- b) The minutes of a Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were considered for adoption. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be ADOPTED as a true record.**
- c) The minutes of a Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were considered for adoption. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be ADOPTED as a true record.**

## 9) Locum Town Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Locum Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting, as well as a verbal update:

- It was noted that relatives of Alderman Davies should be invited to the unveiling of the plaque on Back Lane car park, when arranged.
- The Annual Town Meeting should be scheduled for a Thursday, rather than Tuesday, in 2020.
- Andrew Arrol of Arrol & Snell had agreed to attend a Finance Meeting to update the Council on progress with arrangements and proposals for maintenance work and improvements to the Guildhall.

**NOTED**

## 10) Nominations for Mayor 2019/2020

Nominations were sought for Mayor for the ensuing year.

**It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Whiteman and SECONDED by Cllr. Hill that Cllr. Harper be nominated as Mayor for the ensuing year.**

**It was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Harper be nominated as Mayor for 2019/2020.**

## 11) Nominations for Deputy Mayor 2019/2020

Nominations were sought for Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

**It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Southan and SECONDED by Cllr. Walter that Cllr. Thomas be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.**

**It was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Thomas be nominated as Deputy Mayor for 2019/2020.**

## 12) Annual Town Meeting

Councillors noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March and that the Chairs of the Planning & Environment Committee, the Finance & Asset Management Committee and the Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee would be required to make presentations. Jason Walker of the Environment Agency would be attending to speak on the Flood Risk in Much Wenlock. There would be an open forum for questions from electors.

### 13) Housing Needs Working Group

- a. Councillors noted a report from the Housing Needs Working Group. The group would consider market led housing as well as affordable housing, self-build, housing suitable for people with disabilities and any other options. It was noted that Shropshire Council had announced their development company had been set up and that they hoped to start building in August in Shrewsbury and Oswestry. The Housing Needs Working Group wished to involve some local people with experience of or expertise in local housing, and would publicise this in the town.
- b. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Group.**

### 14) Neighbourhood Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Payments

Councillors noted the Neighbourhood Fund of £3,866.99, payable to Much Wenlock Town Council in April 2019, and the overall CIL payments from 2012 – 2018.

### 15) Dementia Support Group

Councillors noted the setting up of a dementia support group, "Care and Share Group", which would run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at the Pinefields Community Room, Much Wenlock, commencing in April. Councillors agreed that this was an important initiative and would help to raise awareness as well as providing support for those affected by dementia.

### 16) Great British Spring Clean

Councillors noted that the Great British Spring Clean would run from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There was a very active, regular litter picking group in the town and the next litter pick would take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The Town Council had provided equipment for the group, which was used for each session. The litter pickers provided a valuable service to the community and Councillors agreed to submit a piece to the Wenlock Herald to thank and promote the group.

### 17) Correspondence

Members received and **NOTED** the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and other information – emailed to Members.
- b) Shropshire Council Early Help Update February 2019 – emailed to Members.

### 18) Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

Members suggested the following items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Much Wenlock markets
- Place Plan

### 19) Date of next meeting

Members **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on **4<sup>th</sup> April 2019** at 7.00pm at The Guildhall.

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### **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press should not be present.

### 20) Much Wenlock Library

- a. Members noted a report from the Mayor on recent discussions with the Library Service Manager at Shropshire Council. The refurbishment was almost completed, although a sign for the outside of the building was still awaited. The window frames at the rear of the building were in need of repair and this would be addressed as part of the maintenance programme.
- b. Members reviewed the draft Funding Agreement between Much Wenlock Town Council and Shropshire Council. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to approve the draft Funding Agreement for the provision of financial support for Much Wenlock Library from Much Wenlock Town Council to Shropshire Council.** It was noted that payments would commence in October 2020.

### 21) Barclays Bank

Councillors noted an update on the Town Council's negotiations with Barclays Bank. It was noted that the ATM on the former bank premises was free to use.

**22) Recruitment of new Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

Councillors noted a report from the Recruitment Panel. Applications for the post had been reviewed and applicants selected for interview. The Mayor would call an extraordinary town council meeting for 21<sup>st</sup> March to consider the outcome of the interviews.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Signed.....

Town Mayor

Date.....