

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
8 pm on Tuesday, 16th April 2019

Present:

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

Locum Town Clerk:

Trudi Barrett

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Hill, who had a prior engagement, and Councillor Davy, who had a family commitment.

These apologies were 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.

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.

5) 10 High Street, Much Wenlock – former Barclays Bank premises and residential flat

- a. Members considered a report from the Barclays Bank working group, comprising Cllrs Edgcumbe Venning, Harper and Whiteman. A short overview of the background to the decision to purchase the property was provided. Following the announcement of closure of the Much Wenlock branch of Barclays Bank in October 2018 the Town Council had opened negotiations with Barclays for the purchase of the property. The aim had been to create a community hub and base for financial services and to secure the long term provision of an ATM on the premises.

During the course of negotiations a full survey of the premises had been carried out, which had raised no major concerns. It was noted that some expenditure would be required to bring the premises up to standard. A valuation of the property had been positive in relation to the purchase price. The property included the former banking premises as well as an attached residential flat.

- b. Members considered the agreement for the provision of a free to use ATM at 10 High Street. The agreement had been made available for Councillors to view at the Town Council office. It was noted that the ATM had been partitioned off from the former banking hall for security.
It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously RESOLVED that the agreement for the provision of an ATM by Barclays Bank at 10 High Street, Much Wenlock, be approved and signed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.**

- c. Members considered for approval and signature the contract documentation for the purchase of 10 High Street, Much Wenlock. The contract documentation had been made available for Councillors to view at the Town Council office. Councillors noted the confidentiality clauses.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the contract for the purchase of 10 High Street, Much Wenlock be approved and signed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.**

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to apply to the Land Registry for an exemption from registration of the agreement, if required.**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....