

20/20

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
 held remotely by video conference
 at 7 pm on Thursday, 3rd September 2020

Present: Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Matthew Park, Cllr. Natalie Park, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr. Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Cllr. Allan Walter, Cllr. Duncan White, Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

Town Clerk: Trudi Barrett

In attendance: Reverend Matthew Stafford, Shropshire Councillor David Turner and several members of the public.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the meeting.

He noted that Shropshire Council's Local Plan review consultation would close at the end of the month and encouraged everyone to respond.

The Mayor had been pleased to see several facilities in Much Wenlock reopen, including the Leisure Centre, the Priory Hall and the bowling green on the Gaskell Recreation Ground. The Guildhall had re-opened at the beginning of August and was staging different exhibitions each month until the end of October. Despite the relaxation of restrictions, the Mayor urged everyone to remember it was still essential to take precautions against Covid-19.

The Mayor noted the closing of the Copper Kettle café, which had been an important part of Much Wenlock life for over 20 years. On behalf of the Town Council, he thanked the proprietors, Lesley and Clive Ingram, for their hard work over the years and wished them a very happy retirement.

2. Apologies

An apology was received from Cllr. Herbert Harper, who was unwell.

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.

4. Dispensations

None requested.

5. Shropshire Council report

Shropshire Councillor David Turner gave a verbal report. He noted that public consultation on the Shropshire Draft Local Plan was open until 30th September and information was available on line. A hard copy of the documentation could be viewed at Much Wenlock Library. Much Wenlock Leisure Centre had re-opened, with stringent safety measures in place. Councillor Turner's next advice surgery would be held at Much Wenlock Museum on 3rd October and he invited a Town Councillor to join him.

Councillor Turner was thanked for his report.

6. Public session

There had been no requests to speak.

7. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd July 2020 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd July 2020 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.
- b. The minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 20th August 2020 were considered for approval. Following some discussion of the minutes and correction of minor typographical errors, **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 20th August 2020 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

- c. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd June 2020 be ADOPTED.**
- d. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 30th June 2020 be ADOPTED.**

8. Town Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. In addition, the Clerk advised that a Director of Avon Estates, the new owners of Shadwell Quarry, had agreed to attend the Council's October meeting.

NOTED.

9. Reinvigoration of Much Wenlock Town Centre

Councillors were very pleased to note that the Town Council had been awarded £5,000 from Shropshire Council's Small Market Town Support Fund to support the revitalisation of the town centre. It was reported that there were three elements to the project proposal: the production of a series of short promotional videos suitable for distribution via social media, coaching for traders and other organisations to help them improve their operation and bring more people into the town and improved signage to encourage more visitors into Much Wenlock.

It was noted that no specific contact with coach and tour companies had been envisaged, but local businesses might wish to use the videos to promote themselves and the town to coach companies.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to note the report.

10. Planning Application 19/00560/OUT (T&W TWC/2019/1046) – Former Ironbridge Power Station

Councillors noted that amendments to the above application had been submitted. The Planning & Environment Committee had been unable to make a recommendation to full Council as there were nearly 300 documents associated with the application and it was unclear what the amendments were. Contact had been made with both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council to seek clarification, but no response had been received.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to re-submit the Council's previous objections to application 19/00560/OUT for the former Ironbridge Power Station.

11. Shropshire Draft Local Plan Consultation

- a. Councillors considered the proposals for employment land for Much Wenlock. It was noted that the amount of land available was much reduced and that there was little employment land available in the town.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to request that Shropshire Council find more employment land for the town than that proposed in the Draft Local Plan.

- b. Councillors considered the impact on Much Wenlock of proposals for other areas included in the Local Plan. Development proposals for Tasley were specifically referenced, with some Councillors concerned about the possible increase in traffic from this development which would pass through Much Wenlock. Proposals for other settlements in the area around Much Wenlock would also increase traffic through the town.

Councillors were deeply concerned about the potential impact of increased commuting and service traffic from vast housing developments near to Much Wenlock on the medieval town. The large developments proposed for other areas nearby could overwhelm the road network. Some support was expressed for a bypass for the town.

It was noted that traffic management was the responsibility of Shropshire Council, not the Town Council. The Town Council should continue to lobby Shropshire Council for action to address the problems and to discuss the issues in detail with the Town Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to express the Town Council's great concerns about the impact on Much Wenlock of increased traffic from developments at Tasley, Buildwas, Shrewsbury and other areas and to ask Shropshire Council to take decisive steps to lessen that impact. The Town Council would also lobby Councillor Turner as the town's representative at Shropshire Council.

12. Consultation

Councillors considered a response to the following consultation:

- a. West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner's Town and Parish Council survey (closing date 9th October)
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that Councillors White and Jenkins should compose a response from the Town Council.

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- b. Shropshire Fire & Rescue draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2021-25 (closing date 30th September)
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that Councillors White and Jenkins should compose a response from the Town Council.

13. Letter from Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire

Councillors considered correspondence from Mrs Anna Turner JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, regarding those deserving special thanks for their support of the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Councillors were urged to pass the names of those they wished to nominate to the Town Clerk.

14. Correspondence

Members received and noted the following:

- a. SALC information bulletin and other information (emailed to Members)
- b. Shropshire Council and central government information connected with the coronavirus pandemic (emailed to Members)
- c. Shropshire Council Press Releases (emailed to Members)
- d. Rural Bulletins (emailed to Members)
- e. Notification of online domestic abuse training sessions from the High Sheriff of Shropshire (emailed to Members)
- f. Community Reassurance update from Shropshire Council, 25th August 2020 (emailed to Members)
- g. The Apley Plan, received from Apley Estate, Norton (brochure available to view in the office)

15. Agenda items for next town council meeting

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

- In view of the traffic problems, consideration of trialling a one-way system for the town centre and/or the closure of Wilmore Street.
- An update on 10 High Street
- Reports from working groups

16. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 8th October 2020.

The meeting closed at 8pm

Signed

Town Mayor

Date