

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors David Fenwick, Paul Madeley, Daniel Thomas, Chris Tyler, Cherie Whiteman.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Councillor Daisy Whiteman – holiday.

2. 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.

Councillor Daniel Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 10.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

5. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th July 2025 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications and resolved to respond as noted:

25/02827/AMP 8 Shrewsbury Road, Much Wenlock	Non-material amendment to planning application number 22/04512/FUL - Relocation of the porch and a new entrance. Fitting a window where the porch was and enlarging a rear window and changing its position. It was noted that this application had already been approved.
25/02885/FUL 11 King Street, Much Wenlock	Single storey side extension. It was RESOLVED no objection.
25/03038/ADV Gaskell Arms, High Street, Much Wenlock	Refurbishment and update existing signs. It was RESOLVED no objection.

7. Planning Decisions

Members reviewed and noted the following planning decisions:

25/01576/FUL 17 St Marys Road And Wheatland Garage, Much Wenlock	Change of use of C3 dwelling to storage associated with service station and use of rear amenity to form parking area with EV chargers Decision: Refuse
25/01732/LBC Gaskell Arms, High Street, Much Wenlock	Minor external repair works and redecoration Decision: Withdrawn
25/02492/TCA 4 Mardol Terrace, Smithfield Road, Much Wenlock	Crown reduction by 20 percent of 1no. Betula within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. Decision: Consent by Right - Trees

8. Shadwell Quarry Application

Members noted an update on the discharge of conditions for Shadwell Quarry (application 24/04760/VAR). Councillor Tyler and the Clerk were monitoring compliance dates and the Clerk was in contact with the relevant planning officer at Shropshire Council.

Councillors noted that an advertisement had been posted on the RightMove website for lodges at Shadwell Quarry. Shropshire Council had been notified and responded that the description given in the advertisement was 'boutique holiday lodge retreat' which denoted the use for holiday stays, rather than residential.

9. Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted that candidates for the role of examiner had been put forward to Shropshire Council and full Town Council would formally approve an appointment at the meeting on 4th September. The date of the examination was to be confirmed.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Daniel Thomas left the meeting.

10. Meeting with Marrons

Members received a report from the meeting with Marrons regarding a proposed housing development off Bridgnorth Road. The Clerk reported that Marrons had confirmed they would be holding a community exhibition at the Priory Hall on Friday, 3rd October between 3 – 7pm. Ahead of this, residents would receive a consultation leaflet through the post and would be invited to provide comments via a dedicated website. The website was still under construction and Marrons would provide updates as soon as possible.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Marrons requesting further information.

Councillor Daniel Thomas returned to the meeting.

11. Meeting with Principal Planning Policy Officer at Shropshire Council

Members noted the response from Dan Corden, Principal Planning Policy Officer at Shropshire Council, to the invitation to meet members of the Planning & Environment Committee at a Teams meeting. Councillors agreed dates to put forward for consideration.

12. Flooding Matters

- a. Members received a verbal update on flooding matters:
 - There was still uncertainty about chairmanship of the Much Wenlock Flood Action Group. Councillor Thomas agreed to seek clarification.
 - A meeting between the National Flood Forum representative and Shropshire Council's Drainage & Flood Risk Manager would be held the following day to discuss road closures in the event of a flood. There was currently no date arranged for a multi-agency meeting.
 - Members noted a press release on the recent installation of drain sensors at the Gaskell corner.
 - The harvest had now been completed locally and Councillor Thomas would request that drains be cleared of straw. It was noted that the Shropshire Council Highways Technician had access to the drain gulper every five weeks so clearance work could be arranged more easily.
 - A drain with vegetation growing through outside Studio Sydney had been reported on Fix My Street.
 - The Clerk had received an enquiry about the route of a culvert along Stretton Road to the Priory. Councillor Thomas agreed to follow this up with a member of the Flood Action Group and respond.
- b. Members noted that a response to the Reservoir Safety Report on Shadwell Quarry, prepared by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Environment Agency, was still awaited. Progress would be urged.
- c. Options for the storage of sandbags by Back Lane car park were still under consideration as it was proving difficult to find an appropriately sized structure. **It was RESOLVED to request that the Finance & Asset Management Committee increase the budget for the storage unit by £100.**
- d. Members noted that Shropshire Council's Drainage & Flood Risk Manager had requested photos showing the area in St Mary's car park which posed a flood risk to a nearby dwelling during heavy rain.

13. Transport and Highways Matters

- a. A further meeting with Shropshire Council highways was scheduled for 13th October.
A request had been received from a resident of Homer for new road signage to slow traffic. Councillor Thomas agreed to request a visit from the Shropshire Council Highways Engineer to review road markings and signage. The Clerk was asked to notify the resident accordingly.

- b. Members noted that the next phase of roadworks on the Much Wenlock/Buildwas Road for the Ironbridge Power Station development would commence on 8th September 2025.

14. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Members noted public consultation by Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council jointly on a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A member of the public had provided information and a copy of their response to the consultation for the information of Councillors.

It was noted that Councillor Madeley would be attending a Nature Recovery Conference on 3rd October and expected to learn more at that event.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Madeley would report back to Councillors following the Nature Recovery Conference to allow a response to the Local Nature Recovery consultation to be agreed by email and submitted by the deadline of 15th October 2025.

15. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies*

- a. Members noted that the 'Biodiversity Collage' workshop would be held on Saturday, 15th November, 10am to 1pm at the Priory Hall, Much Wenlock. Councillors were encouraged to attend.
- b. Councillor Cherie Whiteman would be attending a networking meeting of local people interested in environmental issues later in the week. She would also be attending the next meeting of Plastic Free Much Wenlock.

16. Storage of General Waste and Recycling Containers Outside Dwellings

Members considered concerns about the storage of waste and recycling containers on the footpath or road outside dwellings in the town, particularly in the Conservation Area. This was contrary to Shropshire Council regulations. A specific matter had been addressed by the replacement of recycling boxes with a wheelie bin, however, the bins were still stored at the front of the property.

It was RESOLVED to request that Shropshire Council write to householders where bins and recycling containers were being stored on footpaths or roads at the front of properties, in contravention of restrictions.

Councillor Tyler offered to provide the Clerk with details of the properties concerned, particularly in King Street and more widely within the Conservation Area. Councillor Fenwick would also forward relevant details to the Clerk.

17. Dog Fouling in the Town

Councillor Whiteman had investigated the provision of dispensers for bags to clean up dog mess in public areas in Bridgnorth. Bone-shaped bag containers were fixed to bone-shaped and decorated, wooden backboards. The Bridgnorth group responsible had offered to provide a couple of boards to allow Much Wenlock to make a start with similar provision. Councillor Whiteman would pursue this further.

A 'Clean up after your dog' stencil had been received from Shropshire Council and the Town Council's handyman would be using this on the pavements in trouble spots in the town.

18. Street Lighting *

19. Street Naming *

20. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*

21. Footpath Diversion Orders*

Members noted that the Clerk was awaiting further information on the situation on the ground in relation to the diversion of the Atterley footpath before addressing this with Shropshire Council's Rights of Way officer.

22. Road Closures*

23. Tree Preservation Orders*

24. Stopping Up Orders*

25. Speed Limit Orders*

26. Introduction of Parking Restrictions and Speed Reduction Measures Around William Brookes School

Members received a verbal report on the remote meeting held between Highways officers from WSP and Shropshire Council, Councillor Dan Thomas and the Clerk, regarding the proposed introduction of parking restrictions, a reduced speed limit and speed cushions on Farley Road and around William Brookes School.

Councillor Thomas explained that every traffic management scheme implemented by Shropshire Council could only go ahead with support from the police and agreement had been given to this scheme, including the speed cushions. Eight responses had been received to the Shropshire Council consultation. All had been in favour of the parking and speed restrictions but not the speed cushions. However, the responses had all been registered as supporting the whole scheme and the work had been scheduled for the school summer holidays. It was noted that the new road signs had already been installed.

Members remained opposed to the installation of the 12 speed cushions proposed.

It was RESOLVED to write to Derek Buchanan, Traffic Engineering Manager at Shropshire Council, to state that Town Councillors acknowledged the need to slow the traffic, but their position had not changed and there was still serious opposition to the speed cushions from members of the public living along or close to the Farley Road. Councillors would like to request another short meeting to discuss cost-effective alternatives to the speed cushions.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to Rod Lake, the Police officer responsible for reviewing traffic schemes, to advise him that Shropshire Council had stated the traffic management scheme could not be implemented without the speed cushions and to ask him to review the scheme to see whether there was an alternative. The other measures proposed were supported but there was strong opposition to the speed cushions.

27. Prohibition Orders*

28. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 30th September 2025 at the Guildhall, Wilmore Street, Much Wenlock.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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

29. Planning Enforcement

There were no enforcement matters to report.

The Clerk was asked to check with Shropshire Council whether planning permission was required prior to the installation of new or replacement shop signage in the Conservation Area.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....