

Whitchurch Town Council



High Street
Whitchurch
Shropshire SY13 1AX



Telephone:
01948 665761
Fax 01948 661160

MINUTES

Full Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2011.

A one minute silence was held in memory of Cllr Ruth Leach who sadly passed away.

1. Apologies and reason for absence

Cllr Von Dinther – holiday
Cllr Sedge – work commitment

Members Present:

Councillor: Mullock, Hewson, Ankers, P. Stokes, Walker, Harris, Chesters, J. Stokes, Fearnall, Young, Winwood.

Officers present:

Town Clerk
Assistant to the Town Clerk

2. Declarations of Interest

IT WAS RESOLVED:
That no declarations of interest were received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor attended various charity events in the town.

4. Correspondence received

Letters received:

- Mrs Valley reference Prees truck stop toilets
- Mr Wyatt thank-you letter to the Civic Centre office and caretaking staff for their honourable service
- War Memorial Trust – be on guard to prevent theft
- Beechtree Community Centre letter not read out to the Council
- Levy Training a response required by 1st January 2012 from Council members

5. To suspend standing orders for the purpose of public participation

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To suspend standing orders for the purpose of public participation.

H. Mullock
15.12.11

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6. To receive public participation

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To receive public participation from Peter Wagstaffe. Mr. Wagstaffe asked the Town Council under the heading of the MTRP funding:

- Were the Town Council included and invited in the process of how this money is to be spent on projects?
- The Civic Centre came low on the list of what people in Whitchurch want in the town. On the Whitchurch Town and Parish Plan Survey 2010 list that contained 18 items, the Civic Centre came in at number 17. Therefore it is low on the list of priorities, Mr. Wagstaffe said.
- The proposals for the Civic Centre do not meet with the proposal criteria, as laid out in the MTRP.
- I understand that £30,000 has been spent on the car park in Park Avenue that is in the criteria, the land is then leased to the Town Council so they can make parking charges. So the Town Council have the mandate or legality to make these charges?
- The Civic Centre is well worth the £10.00 per head, per year of the Whitchurch population and this asset should be fully supported by the Town Council.
- Will the Town Council lower charging rates for the hire of the Civic Centre to the local charities?
- What will the benefits bring to the rate payers of Whitchurch?

Cllr Mullock responded to Mr. Wagstaffe and said that the Town Council has no vote, Cllr Hewson responded to Mr. Wagstaffe to say that the Council will look at the charges but different charging scales are already in place.

7. To reinstate standing orders

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To reinstate standing orders.

8. To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 29th September 2011 and sign as an accurate record of that meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To sign the minutes as an accurate record of that meeting.

9. Matters arising from those minutes

Cllr Ankers asked whether the Council had responded to Mrs. Chesters' question about the Town Council minutes. A letter had already been sent to Mrs Chesters.

Cllr Young asked about car parking charges.

M. Mullock
15-12-11

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10. To receive Shropshire Councillor's report.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
That no report was received.

11. To receive written reports from Member representatives of outside bodies.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
That no written reports were received.

Chairman of the Council missed item 12 on the agenda. The Clerk advised it is highly irregular and unlawful to go back on business once the council has moved on. However, IT WAS RESOLVED: To go back to item 12 on the agenda.

12. To receive, consider and approve recommendations from Committees and workshops.

a.) The need for more market stalls for the general Saturday market held outside of the Civic Centre, on the first Saturday of every month, which is an extension of the general Friday market.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
Cllr Hewson proposed not to buy anymore stalls, Cllr Young seconded.
Not to buy anymore stalls.

b.) Application for Christmas Blackberry Fair on 3rd December 2011 to hold their event free of charge in the sports hall.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
To give the Blackberry Christmas Fair, on 3rd December 2011, the sports hall for free for this event.

13. To receive written reports from Committee Chairmen.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
To receive the Civic Centre and Market Committee report, as read by Cllr Hewson.

14. To approve authorisation of cheques and payments.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
To approve cheques and payments.

15. To receive further information from Steve Brown, Shropshire Council, reference White Lion Meadow toilets, in view of the Town Council taking all responsibility for operations and costs, but the asset remaining with Shropshire Council.

Cllr Hewson proposed to shut the toilets, Cllr P. Stokes seconded.

IT WAS RESOLVED:
To shut the White Lion Meadow toilets with immediate effect.

16. To receive a recommendation to adopt the terms of reference, prepared by the Town Clerk for the Parks and Open Space committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

H. Hewson
15.11

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To approve the terms of reference for the Parks and Open Space committee.

17. To consider the following matters appertaining to Mill Street car park:

IT WAS RESOLVED:

For the Town Clerk to continue his investigation regarding the by-law appertaining to charging and enforcement.

To keep the Mill Street car park free until the supermarkets in the town reinstate restrictions.

18. Proposal for Cllr Mullock, reference number 00/55/011

a. To approve the release of £20,000 from general reserves for the purpose of progressing the MTRP, appertaining to the Heritage Centre and the feasibility study for the Civic Centre and Sports hall. The purpose of this funding is to provide the Council with detailed information and a breakdown of costs to appropriately consider the viability of match funding of the said projects.

b. To approve delegated powers to the Town Clerk allowing him the flexibility required to meet MTRP deadlines and commit expenditure from the above funds as appropriate to achieve this.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To release £15,000 for the purpose of feasibility studies which includes the Heritage Centre.

19. To consider help and support for Cllr Leach under DDA regulations in her duties as Town Councillor.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To continue work to meet requirements for the future.

20. To consider a request to fill vacancies and appoint a Councillor to the position of trustee of Whitchurch relief need charity.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

That Cllr J. Stokes was nominated and approved as a trustee of Whitchurch relief charity.

21. A request for information by the Commission for rural Communities review of employment, education and training for young people in rural areas.

a. To consider delegating this task to the Town Clerk.

b. Consideration is given to the results of the Heritage Centre meeting.

c. To consider the results of that meeting and implement strategies necessary to meet the demands of tackling the challenges of unemployment in Whitchurch.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

For the Clerk, Cllr Sedge and Cllr Young to work on a response for the rural commission.

22. To consider an application from the Royal British Legion for funding from s137, a total of £198.58 was requested.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

M. Mullock
05.12.11

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To award £198.58 for the purpose of a coin counter to be shared if other charities in the town hold a charitable coin collection.

23. To consider an application for funding from the Waterways trust.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To award £4,000 from the rolling capital fund to the Whitchurch Waterways Trust and that the group work with the Town Clerk on their planning application

24. To consider an application for funding from Sarah Vaughan, Blackberry fair.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

That this item was dealt with under agenda item 12

25. To consider an application from the Chamber of Trade to reallocate funds awarded to them £250 to the Christmas lights.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To reallocate the £250.00, previously donated to the Chamber of Trade, for the purpose of Christmas switch on.

26. To consider a response to a letter received from the Beechtree Community Centre.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To take no action.

27. To consider a request for funding from the Town Plan Implementation Committee towards.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

To award £1,000 to the Town Plan Implementation group.

K. H. H. H.
15.11.11