



Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 13 July 2005
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Janette Treagust – Deputy Town Mayor
David Adams
Martyn Edwards
Irene Evans
John Evans
George Franks
Bob Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Brenda Flowers,
Cllr Glyn Holland, Cllr Sally Wiggin and Cllr Adrian Meredith

The meeting commenced with a Minutes Silence to mark the dead and injured following terrorist bombings in London on 7 July 2005 and the death of Mr John Whitehead, the Town Crier on 11 July 2005.

49/05-06 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

There being no members of the public present, the meeting continued without suspension.

50/05-06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

51/05-06 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A copy of the Town Mayor's engagements is attached at Appendix 'A'.

- b. Members were informed of an invitation to attend a Civic Service hosted by the Chairman of Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. It will be held at St. Matthews Church, Donnington on 4 September 2005 commencing at 6.00 p.m.
- c. The following newsletters have been received:
 - (1) Shropshire Landscapes
 - (2) Salopian Recorder

52/05-06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2005 were approved as a true record.

52/05-06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. BT Public Payphone (Minutes 44/05-06)

To date the Town Clerk has received over 50 responses with a slight majority favouring retention of the payphone. Closing date for replies is 15 July 2005.

FINANCE

54/05-06 Finance Report

The Finance Report for June 2005, attached at Appendix 'B', and the payments therein were approved/ratified.

55/05-06 Thank You Letters

Thank You letters for grants awarded have been received from:

- a. Relate
- b. Newport P's and Q's

56/05-06 Grant Application

Members considered a request to support a sports drop-in session at the Burton Borough Sports Hall for 16-19 year olds during the summer holidays and detailed at Appendix 'C'.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £240.00 from Section 19 monies. It was determined that this award would have a positive impact under the Crime & Disorder Acts.

AUDIT 2004/05

57/05-06 Internal Auditor's Report

Members considered and accepted the Internal Auditor's Report to the Council covering the Audit Period 2004/05 and attached at Appendix 'D'.

58/05-06 End of Year Accounts for Audit

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the End of Year Accounts 2004/05, to be submitted to the external auditors, "Hacker Young" and attached at Appendix 'E'.

59/05-06 Statement of Assurance

Members considered, formulated and **RESOLVED** to submit the responses to the Statement of Assurance as detailed at Appendix 'F'.

60/05-06 External Auditors Supplementary Assurances Information

Members noted and approved the contents list of Supplementary Assurances Information to be submitted to the External Auditors and attached at Appendix 'G'.

61/05-06 Authorisation by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing off of the 2004/05 Accounts and Annual Return by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk.

62/05-06 Reappointment of Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** to invite Mr R. E. Bennett to act as Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2005/06.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

63/05-06 Public Toilets

There has been a recent a spate of on-going vandalism to the public toilets. Once the full costs for repairs have been received, a report will be prepared for consideration by the Leisure & Environmental Services Committee as part of the Budget Proposals for 2006/07.

64/05-06 Shropshire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS)

Members noted a consultation leaflet and covering letter from the Environment Agency attached at Appendix 'H'

65/05-06 Cemetery Land Purchase

Members were informed that the Town Clerk has sealed and authorised the relevant transfer documentation for Land Registry to initiate the formal transfer of land from the Borough Council to the Town Council.

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

66/05-06 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2005.

67/05-06 Scrutiny Commission Review into Local & District Centres

Members considered the final report prepared by the Borough Council Scrutiny Commission for Environment & Economy, together with Minutes from a Cabinet Meeting which considered the report and their response, all documentation attached at Appendix 'J'. Whilst welcoming the Review process, members felt that the future of District Centres must not be allowed to take second place to Telford Town Centre and will need to be closely monitored and supported.

68/05-06 Local Development Framework / Local Development Scheme

Members noted that the Borough Council have revised the Local Development Scheme which was adopted in April 2005, to reflect a change in the political process for preparing the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The new scheme is effective from 1 July 2005.

The covering letter detailing the new consultation procedures and the changed remit for CSI is attached at Appendix 'K'.

Cllr Glyn Gratton gave a verbal report on the proposed building programme for Newport from 2006-2021 as part of the LDF.

SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION / NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (SALC / NALC)

69/05-06 Local Council Review – July 2005

Members acknowledged receipt of the newsletter.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

70/05-06 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Members noted a letter from DEFRA **attached at Appendix 'L'** and stated their intention to monitor what action the Borough Council takes in respect of the Act and whether the Town Council may need to take individual action in the future.

71/05-06 Waitrose Alleyway

Members noted a copy letter from Mark Pritchard MP to Waitrose in Newport **attached at Appendix 'M'**. To date the Town Council has not been contacted by Waitrose on this issue.

72/05-06 West Midlands @ 2021

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter.

73/05-06 Action News – Summer 2005

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter.

74/05-06 The Standards Board Newsletter No. 4 – July 2005

Members acknowledged receipt of the Newsletter.

TELFORD & WREKIN BOROUGH MATTERS

75/05-06 Newport Maintenance Advice Project

Members considered a proposed pilot project to develop a maintenance advice service in Newport as detailed at **Appendix 'N'**. Members welcomed the initiative and nominated the under mentioned to participate in a working group to develop the project.

Cllr Irene Evans
Cllr Glyn Gratton
Cllr Janette Treagust

76/05-06 Scrutiny Review of Car Parking – June 2005

In the light of the recommendations of the Borough Cabinet to the Scrutiny Review and the likelihood of charging being abolished in Newport and Wellington, members were keen to ensure that this issue be closely monitored in the future. The Town Clerk was directed to invite views of the Borough Council on Lorry Parking provision, an issue raised separately in the Review. The recommendation to sell-off under-utilized car parks must not be based on surveys undertaken whilst charges were imposed but must be re assessed following the suspension of charging.

77/05-06 Telecommunications Masts

Members noted the response from the Borough Council attached at Appendix 'P'.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

78/05-06 August Recess – Emergency Committee

The following members were nominated to form an Emergency Committee for the August recess:

Cllr George Franks
Cllr Glyn Gratton
Cllr Glyn Holland
Cllr Janette Treagust

79/05-06 Guildhall Car Park Barrier

It was **RESOLVED** to repair the car park barrier and install a crutch post for a cost of £800 ex VAT, the money to be taken from balances.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

80/05-06 CCTV

Members were informed that work to upgrade the CCTV system will commence on 1 August 2005.

81/05-06 Rural Transport Newsletter – Summer 2005

Members acknowledged receipt of the newsletter.

82/05-06 Community Safety Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 22 June 2005 –
attached at Appendix 'Q'.

Signed

Dated