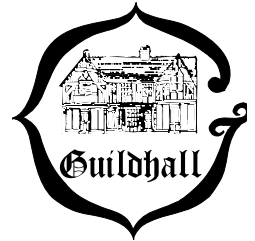


Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on

Wednesday 14 February 2007

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

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

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Martyn Edwards, Glyn Holland, Adrian Meredith and Sally Wiggin.

283/06-07 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

284/06-07 VISIT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

Members welcomed Mr Steve Wellings to the meeting who commenced his address to the Council by stating he had been Director of Resources at Telford & Wrekin Council for 5 years before being appointed to the role of Chief Executive which he has now held for 3 months. He stressed he is a very different animal from his predecessor and has as his main intent a wish to form closer working ties with the Parish and Town Councils. He wishes to put into place better mechanisms to establish good working relationships which listen to comments from ground level. There will be times when partners have to agree to disagree but it is in the interest of the people we all serve to try to agree more often than not. He has asked that the system for responding to correspondence no longer be referred to as complaints but insisted that a procedure for tracking letters is required.

He explained the reasons behind the release of £7.9 million of balances approved by the District Auditor of which £2.6 million is to be set against the 2007/08 Council Tax expenditure. The final Budget will be approved on 1 March 2007. £3 million has been earmarked for street lighting and footway works.

Mr Wellings clarified the situation with regard to stories that the current Council offices were to be replaced with new buildings but only if it forms part of a wider town centre redevelopment with the developer meeting the bulk of the costs.

He promised to investigate the apparent reluctance of some departments to acknowledge the Parish Charter let alone implement it. One of the things he intends to push is promoting neighbourhood working possibly by allocating an area of the borough to each of 5 Corporate Directors whose role will be to ensure the parish charter is implemented.

The allocation of land for allotments and the possible purchase of the two existing sites leased by the Town Council was discussed. Mr Wellings stressed that normally he is not in support of selling land unless there is a very good reason because such assets usually appreciate in value. He prefers the leasing option, however, the Borough Council is prepared to sell the Boughey Road site and the leased portion of the Meadow View Road site. He was unaware of any other plans for the Boughey Road site.

He discussed his support for unitary councils and the need to look to forging closer links with the West Midlands conurbation because improvements to the Birmingham City Region will generate benefits for Telford and Wrekin.

He took away comments relating to High Street pavements particularly in the light of several quite serious falls.

Members thanked Mr Wellings for his full and frank discussions and expressed their hopes of better partnership working.

285/06-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Clerk informed members of the Eon initiative for all households to have an emergency pack for use in the event of power cuts.

- c. Members were notified of the tourism presentation by Harper Adams Students to be held on 23 February 2007 at 10.00 a.m. at the University College.

286/06-07 MINUTES

The Minutes of meetings held on 10 January 2007 and 31 January 2007 were approved as a true record.

287/06-07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Fishers Lock (Minute 263/06-07)

Members welcomed Telford & Wrekin Council's quick response to the issue of road signing at Fishers Lock and their intent to erect new signs with house numbers.

FINANCE

288/06-07 Finance Report

The Finance Report for January 2007, **attached at Appendix 'B'**, and the payments therein, were approved / ratified.

289/06-07 Revenue Budget Spend Report

Members noted the 3-monthly report **attached at Appendix 'C'**.

290/06-07 Thank You Letters

Letters of thanks for grants awarded have been received from:

Heart of England in Bloom (Annual Budget Grant 07/08)
Newport Carnival (" " " ")
Newport Male Voice Choir (" " " ")
St. Nicholas Church (" " " ")
Nova United Junior FC

291/06-07 Grant Applications

Members considered applications for grants from the Town Council detailed at **Appendix 'D'** and **RESOLVED:**

a. to award Section 137 grants as follows:

		CDA*
Beumaris Singers	£200.00	n
Church Aston Thursday Club	50.00	n
Llangollen Eisteddfod	£100.00	n
Listen & Care Self Help Group	£125.00	n
Newport Show	£150.00	n
**Burton Borough Big Band	£1150.00	+

b. to award Section 19 grants as follows:

Oakengates Youth Summer School	£200.00	+
Crucial Crew 2007	£100.00	+
Newport SK8 & Ride	£150.00	+
**Burton Borough Big Band	£200.00	+

*Crime & Disorder Act (CDA)

**to be paid as one grant of £1350.00

n = neutral

+ = positive

292/06-07 Section 137

Members noted that the cash limit for 2007/08 for Section 137 payments, has been set at £5.74 per elector.

293/06-07 Risk Management and Internal Control

Members considered the Risk Assessment and Management and Internal Control procedures laid down by the Town Council at **Appendix 'E'** and **RESOLVED to approve them without amendment.**

COMMUNITY SAFETY

294/06-07 Audley Avenue – Dangerous Traffic

Members considered a letter from a resident of Audley Avenue, detailed at **Appendix 'F'**. They noted that the details had been passed to the police who have said they will actively target this problem following the half-term break. The Town Clerk will write back to the complainant.

295/06-07 Norbroom Court – Street Signing

Members considered a suggestion regarding Street name Signs at Norbroom Court, **attached at Appendix ‘G’** and **RESOLVED to pass the proposal onto Telford & Wrekin Council requesting similar action to that taken for Fishers Lock.**

296/06-07 Telford & Wrekin Street Lighting

Members noted a letter sent to Telford & Wrekin Council regarding repairs to Highway Lighting, **attached at Appendix ‘H’**. They welcomed the information from the Chief Executive (Minute 284/06-07) about the earmarking of £1 million towards a replacement programme of Highway Lights.

297/06-07 Stafford Street Bus Park

Members noted a letter regarding the Stafford Street Bus Park, **attached at Appendix ‘J’**.

298/06-07 New Street – Parking Restrictions

Cllr Glyn Gratton proposed that Telford & Wrekin Council be asked to re-examine parking restrictions in New Street, to free up extra short term parking and this was so **RESOLVED**. The Town Clerk will write to the Highways Department requesting they remove restrictions on the side adjacent to the Car Pak but introduce limited waiting only.

299/06-07 Street Lighting New Works

The Town Clerk briefed members on the new system established by Central Networks for costing new works as detailed at **Appendix ‘K’**. This regrettably removes the personal point of contact previously in place and will delay estimates for Capital Works due to be considered at the February Community Safety Committee meeting.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (L&ES)

300/06-07 Leisure & Environmental Services Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 24 January 2007 **attached at Appendix ‘L’**.

The Town Clerk reported that due to bad weather the meeting at the Cemetery with Viv Geen had been postponed. Help was sought from interested members of the public to identify the bird population in the cemetery. It had also been suggested that bird and bat boxes could be sponsored.

301/06-07 Allotment Provision

Members considered a letter sent to Telford & Wrekin Council at the behest of the L&ES Committee regarding continuity of allotment provision in Newport, **attached at Appendix 'M'** and welcomed the comments of the Chief Executive (Minute 284/06-07).

302/06-07 SK8 Park

The Town Clerk reported that a full consultation with local residents bordering the proposed SK8 Park site was conducted over two weeks in December. The majority were in favour, one resident remains totally opposed to the initiative and one asked for noise reduction and possible screening. As a result the plans will now involve a breeze block screen wall, treated with anti-graffiti paint and a tree planting scheme shielding the wall. Ultimately the SK8 Park group are hoping to enact some street art on the wall to discourage vandalism.

303/06-07 Benches

The siting of the Station Road bench was confirmed but it was agreed that the owners of the nearest property be informed.

Members agreed to consider resiting the Forton Road bench from the garage to the green space opposite Avondale.

304/06-07 North Telford Parish Paths Project (NT3P) – Minutes

Members considered the Minutes of an NT3P meeting held on 25 January 2007 together with a covering letter from the retiring project officer, **attached at Appendix 'N'**.

The Town Clerk was directed to write to the Chief Executive asking that more money be allocated to clear the backlog of legal orders and stating that the project was too important to be allowed to fold and that Bob King should be commended for all his work.

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

305/06-07 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting- Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 10 January 2007.

306/06-07 W2006/0148 16-20 Stafford Street, Newport

Members noted the Minutes of the Plans Board Meeting which dealt with this application and welcomed the final resolution, detailed at **Appendix 'P'**. It is understood that the applicant has now withdrawn his Appeal against non-determination and is in discussion with Planning Officers regarding Section 106 Agreements.

307/06-07 T-Mobile Pre-Application Consultation Proposed Base Station

The Town Clerk informed members that T-Mobile have notified the Town Council of their intent to apply for a new Base Station and Mast to be co-located with other provider's equipment on the roof of the Central Night Club. Members **RESOLVED to agree this proposal as the best option.**

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

308/06-07 Meeting with External Auditors

Members were informed that SALC have arranged a meeting for Clerks / RFO's with the external auditors UHY Hacker Young who have been re-awarded the contract for the next 5 years. It will take place on 5 March 2007 and Mrs Parnham will attend.

309/06-07 Introduction to Local Councils

Members were informed that the Guildhall will be used to host a SALC event to promote interest in serving on Local Councils prior to the elections. It will take place on 19 March 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

310/06-07 Local Democracy Pack

Members noted receipt of the Pack which will be held in the Council offices for those requesting information on how to become a councillor.

311/06-07 Review of the Quality Town & Parish Council Scheme

Members noted a letter detailing possible changes to the scheme, attached at **Appendix 'Q'**.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

312/06-07 Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Consultation

The Town Mayor and Town Clerk had attended a presentation on the revised Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Region. Members **RESOLVED to approve the draft response attached at Appendix 'R'**.

313/06-07 A Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members

Members were informed that the full consultation document had been received on 12 February 2007 for comment by 9 March 2007. The Town Clerk has requested the Department for Communities and Local Government to extend the consultation period and has asked Telford 7 Wrekin Council Legal Department to also question the time frame. Members chose to add no further comments to the proposals.

314/06-07 LDF Design for Community Safety

The Supplementary Planning Document has been received for comment by 21 March 2007 and will be circulated to members in time for full consideration at the March Town Council meeting.

315/06-07 Environmental Enforcement Contacts

Members noted the new arrangements detailed at **Appendix 'S'**.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) MATTERS

316/06-07 Ethical Standards Bulletin Winter 2006/07 Edition

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

317/06-07 Amendments to the Code of Conduct

A summary of the document referred to at 310/06-07 had been sent to parish and town councils by TWC on 30 January 2007, and was circulated to members for their views, **attached at Appendix 'T'**. Apart from the very short consultation period, members chose to offer no comments.

318/06-07 Audley Avenue Rising Bollard Proposals

Members considered the proposals for introducing a rising bus bollard on Audley Avenue adjacent to the Burton Borough School and detailed in the map **attached at Appendix 'U'**.

Whilst accepting that the numbers of bus journeys through the town will be halved (from 18 to 9) members still felt that ultimately a mechanism to turn the buses around so that both inward and outward journeys were made via the rising bollard, should be implemented. In the interim buses should not be allowed to exit the town using Granville Avenue and Avenue Road.

319/06-07 City Region

Members noted a letter sent to Wellington Town Council and copied to Newport Town Council for information **attached at Appendix 'V'**.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

320/06-07 Meeting Dates 2007/08

Members noted the Town Council meeting dates for the municipal year 2007/08 **attached at Appendix 'W'**.

321/06-07 Annual Town Meeting

Members noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 4 April 2007 at The Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport.

Mr Mathew James of Telford & Wrekin Council will give a presentation on Recycling and take questions.

322/06-07 Quarterly Newsletter

The Town Mayor asked members to consider the possibility of producing a Quarterly Newsletter for all householders detailing the work of the Council. It was decided to leave this issue to be determined by the new council.

Signed

Dated