



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 11 April 2007
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Janette Treagust – Deputy Town Mayor
David Adams
Brenda Flowers
George Franks
Glyn Holland
Adrian Meredith
Bob Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs: Irene Evans, John Evans and Sally Wiggin.

352/06-07 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to **suspend the meeting to take questions from members of the public. Notes relating to this session are attached at Appendix 'A'.**

353/06-07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Adams declared an interest in the grant application for the Old Tyme Market as an executive member of the Chamber of Commerce and took no part in determining this issue.

354/06-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached at Appendix 'B'**.
- b. The Town Clerk drew to the attention of members details of a Senior Citizens' Forum to be held in Newport on 20 April 2007 at The Parish Rooms, New Street from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

- c. Members noted a letter from Newport Rotary Club sent to the Chief Executive, **attached at Appendix 'C'**. It was decided to await a response from Telford & Wrekin Council before taking any further action.
- d. Members welcomed a response regarding street signing at Norbroom Court detailed at **Appendix 'D'**.
- e. Members noted a letter regarding setting up a Tourist Information Centre, **attached at Appendix 'E'** and deferred this item to be considered later in the meeting.

f. Smoke Free

The Clerk has received information on how charges in the law to banish smoking in public places is to be enforced.

- g. The Town Clerk read a prepared statement regarding breach of confidentiality , **attached at Appendix 'F'** to the meeting.

Members condemned the flagrant breaches of confidential issues. Individual personal statements by members were made to the meeting.

The Clerk reminded the meeting that any further breaches if identified to particular individuals would be referred to the Monitoring Officer at Telford & Wrekin Council for determination.

355/06-07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2007 were approved as a true record.

FINANCE

356/06-07 Finance Report

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

357/06-07 Direct Debits 2007/08

Members **RESOLVED to approve the list of Direct Debits set up to meet expenditure during the period 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008, detailed at Appendix 'H'**.

358/06-08 Thank You Letters

Letters of thanks for a grant awarded and a collection made have been received from:

- a. Listen & Care Group
- b. Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

359/06-07 Grant Application

It was **RESOLVED** to award **Section 137 Grant Funding** as follows:

a. **Old Tyme Market**

To make a grant of £250.00 to assist with meeting the costs of the 40th Anniversary Market, estimated at £1800.

Members were also informed that £400 would need to be spent to replace the damaged street banner.

b. **Shropshire Wildlife Trust**

To take out standard corporate membership of the Trust at a cost of £300.00.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (T&WC) MATTERS

360/06-07 District Centres Regeneration

Members noted the Report presented to the Cabinet on 12 March 2007, and the outline notes for the conference held on 20 March 2007, both **attached** at **Appendix 'J'**. They re-iterated their concerns that the manner in which such matters were dealt with resulting in the press or even the "Insight" magazine being the first to release news of decisions being made, was flawed.

316/06-07 Enforcement of Parking Regulations

Members noted the response to a letter sent on behalf of the Town Council regarding the enforcement of parking regulations within the Borough area, both **attached** at **Appendix 'K'**.

In order to get this issue re-examined by the Borough Council Cllr Flowers suggested that the Town Council requests scrutiny examination of car parking in the Borough and members so **RESOLVED to direct the Town Clerk to write to the Scrutiny Officer requesting such a review.**

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

362/06-07 Pay Point

Members noted a response from Mark Pritchard MP regarding the lack of provision of a Pay Point in Newport, **attached at Appendix 'L'** and support all efforts to address this. The Town Clerk informed members she has been in discussion with Mr Eric Carter, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce who is attempting to find a business prepared to open a Pay Point.

363/06-07 Post Office Closures

Members noted the response from Post Watch to the Government's consultation on the Post Office network **attached at Appendix 'M'** and deplored the gradual removal of service provision from the business citing the intangible social benefits arising from local post office provision.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

364/06-07 "Boy Racers"

Members noted a reply sent to Cllr Flowers regarding complaints of "Boy Racers" in Newport, **attached at Appendix 'N'**. The Town Clerk reminded members of the concerns expressed in the Public Session regarding congregation of car users on Longford Road and was directed to raise this issue with the Police.

365/06-07 Speed Limit, Longford Road

Members were informed that the Newport Police have received a 114 name petition, organised by a boarder at Adams Grammar School, requesting that the current 30 mph zone is extended beyond the entrance to Longford Hall. This has been passed to PC Rod Lake, the officer responsible for traffic management issues, for consideration.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (L&ES)

366/06-07 L&ES Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2007, attached at **Appendix 'P'**.

367/06-07 Public Toilets

It was **RESOLVED** following on from the recommendations of the Committee, to request Telford & Wrekin Council to consider passing formal ownership of the toilet block and associated land to the Town Council, in order that plans for refurbishment/ replacement can be seriously addressed, without the threat of the lease being withdrawn.

368/06-07 Lilleshall Hall Gardens Open Day

Members noted details of the Open Day to be held on 20 May 2007.

369/06-07 ASHTAV News – Issue No. 31

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

370/06-07 Parish Pump News – Spring 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

371/06-07 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2007.

372/06-07 W2007/0296 Change of Use for Industrial Units, Audley Avenue, Newport

The Town Clerk briefed members on the application which had been considered at the earlier Planning Meeting. Three units have been built for industrial use. This application seeks change of use for two of these units to a climbing centre, employing 3 staff, to be opened seven days a week from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. Visitors will mostly use private transport and Highways have registered their concerns regarding insufficient parking.

Members supported the concerns expressed by the Planning Committee regarding removal of a new unit for starter industrial use, the incidence of vehicle movement and the lack of local employment opportunities. Whilst benefits may be forthcoming these have not been clearly identified. Because the units concerned are owned by the Borough Council, the Committee has requested that the application be determined by the Plans Board and not under delegated powers.

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

373/06-07 SALC Events

Details of a series of events being staged in April and early May 2007 were circulated.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

374/06-07 WMRA Speaking Out – Winter 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

375/06-07 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the business about to be conducted, that is a national amendment to staff contracts and issues relating to the purchase of allotment land and regeneration, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and the public be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

Signed

Dated

**RECORD OF QUESTIONS ASKED
DURING PUBLIC SESSION**

11 APRIL 2007

1. Mr Adam Stanton

- a.** The Puffin Crossing on Forton Road is now working but the central lights are obscured by each other to oncoming traffic.

Response:

The issue will be passed to the Highways Department, Telford & Wrekin Council.

- b.** Longford Road is once again seeing congregations of youths / car owners near the park. This behaviour had previously been discouraged by police presence.

Response:

The matter will be reported to the police.

2. Mr Graham Hobson

- a.** Requested an update on the installation by Telford & Wrekin Council on speed indicator lights.

Response:

Will seek an updated report.

- b.** Why are issues relating to a national employment contract being dealt with in Confidential Session.

Response:

Matters pertaining to individual staff and their terms and conditions of work have to be dealt with under the terms of confidentiality.