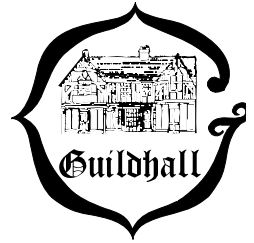


Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 12 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
Brenda Flowers
Glyn Holland
Adrian Meredith
Bob Unwin
Sally Wiggin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were received from Cllr George Franks.

68/06-07 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

Members of the public present having stated they did not wish to ask questions of the Town Council, the meeting continued without suspension.

69/06-07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr David Adams declared an interest in all matters relating to the Newport Canal Trust and Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Sally Wiggin declared an interest in Newport Infants School as a peripatetic teacher.

70/06-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- b. A thank you letter from Mark Pritchard MP is **attached** at **Appendix 'B'**.

71/06-07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006 were approved as a true record.

FINANCE

72/06-07 Finance Report

The Finance Report for June 2006, **attached** at **Appendix 'C'**, and the payments therein were approved/ratified.

AUDIT 2005/06

73/06-07 Internal Auditor's Report

Members considered and accepted the Internal Auditor's Report to the Council covering the Audit Period 2005/06 and **attached** at **Appendix 'D'**.

74/06-07 End of Year Accounts for Audit

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the **End of Year Accounts 2005/06**, to be submitted to the external auditors "Hacker Young" and attached at **Appendix 'E'**.

75/06-07 Statement of Assurance

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

76/06-07 External Auditor's 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'**.

77/06-07 Year End Bank Reconciliation

Members noted and approved the Year End Bank Reconciliation **attached** at **Appendix 'H'**.

78/06-07 Authorisation by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the signing off of the **2005/06 Accounts and Annual Return by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk.**

79/06-07 Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was **RESOLVED** to reappoint Mr R. E. Bennett as Internal Auditor to the Town Council.

TELFORD & WREKIN BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

80/06-07 Local Development Framework Presentation

Members noted the details of a presentation to be held on 25 July 2006, **attached** at **Appendix 'J'**.

81/06-07 Liaison with Parish & Town Councils in the Borough

Members noted a letter from the Corporate Director for Customer, Community and Culture **attached** at **Appendix 'K'**.

82/06-07 City Region Status

Members considered a letter from a Borough Resident sent to the Shropshire Star and copied to the Town Council arising from an article reported in the Newspaper. Both are **attached** at **Appendix 'L'**.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Borough Council Leader expressing concerns about proposals to establish a city region with an elected Mayor. It was felt that the rural areas would see no benefits from such a proposal and indeed may suffer neglect as a result. The letter is to be copied to Ruth Kelly MP and Mark Pritchard MP.

83/06-07 Local Transport Plan 2006 -2011

Members considered the Plan and directed the Clerk to draw to the attention of the Borough Council the need to ensure that accessibility to Public Transport is available throughout the Borough and not just in the urban areas where it is easier to provide. In particular access to the Princess Royal Hospital is vital.

84/06-07 Newport Infants School – Community Governor

Members **RESOLVED** to nominate **PC Dave Parry** as the **Community Governor** representing the **Town Council** at **Newport Infants School**.

85/06-07 Volunteer Centre Newsline – Issue 3

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter.

86/06-07 20 mph Zone High Street, Newport

Members considered a response from the Borough Council regarding possible changes to elements of the 20 mph zone **attached** at **Appendix ‘M’**.

It was felt that any modifications should be implemented one at a time to fully assess their impact. Members agreed that removal of the hatched central area was probably the best initial step, but requested that the Borough Council inform the Town Council in advance of their proposed actions.

A proposition from Cllr David Adams, seconded by Cllr Adrian Meredith detailed at **Appendix ‘N’** requesting the Borough to remove all pinch points and bus build outs was not passed by members on a recorded vote as follows:

For: Cllrs David Adams, Adrian Meredith

Against: Cllrs. John Evans, Brenda Flowers, Glyn Gratton, Glyn Holland, Janette Treagust, Bob Unwin, Sally Wiggin.

Abstained: Cllrs Irene Evans, Martyn Edwards.

87/06-07 Parishes Forum Meeting

Members noted the agenda for the next meeting **attached** at **Appendix ‘P’**.

88/06-7 Parish Plans and Community Building

Members noted an early warning of a meeting to be held on the above topics on Saturday 30 September 2006 at Meeting Point House.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

89/06-07 August Recess – Emergency Committee

The following members were nominated to form an Emergency Committee for the August Recess.

Cllr Irene Evans
Cllr Glyn Gratton
Cllr Glyn Holland
Cllr Adrian Meredith

90/06-07 Standing Orders – Amendment

Following suspension of standing orders under Paragraph 81, members considered a series of amendments to Standing Orders proposed by Cllr John Evans and **RESOLVED to make changes (indicated by italics) as follows:**

a. **Under 8 Public Session add a new clause (e)**

A brief record of the matters raised, including the name and address of the individual raising the issue, who should be registered to vote in one of the 4 Town Council Wards, will be recorded as an appendix to the minutes.

91/06-07 Lobby Groups, Dual-Hatted Members and the Code of Conduct

Members acknowledged receipt of the guidance booklet on the above subject.

92/06-07 Membership of the Canal Trust

Members considered a proposal by Cllr Brenda Flowers that the Town Council review its corporate membership of the Canal Trust in the light of events reported at the previous council meeting. The Town Clerk informed members that she has, subsequent to the issue of the original agenda, received a written request from the Trust to attend the council meeting in October to brief members. Cllr David Adams, as a Trustee of the Canal Trust did not speak to this item.

Following a full and frank exchange of views it was **RESOLVED that the Town Council ceases its Corporate Membership of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canal Trust with immediate effect.**

Members also agreed that Mr Chris Chambers (Chair of the Trustees) and Mr Bruce Crawcour be invited to attend the October meeting of the Town Council.

93/06-07 Be Ready

Members noted receipt of a guidance newsletter on Age Issues in the light of changes to employment law from October 2006 which prevent discrimination on the grounds of age.

94/06-07 Salopian Recorder – Summer 2006

Members noted receipt of the newsletter from Shropshire Archives.

95/06-07 Proposals for a merger between SCAT and Walford & North Shropshire College

A consultation document on the proposals to merge the two colleges is held in the Council Offices.

96/06-07 Staffing & Resources Sub Committee

It was a decision of Council that this sub committee is required to meet before the main Budget meetings of the Council. Membership of the Committee was restricted to four councillors who must represent all shades of political affiliation on the council but not hold any other council offices.

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr David Adams has declared he has joined the local Conservative Association and can no longer be a member of the sub committee on which he was chosen to represent independent members. Since there are no other independent councillors qualified to join the sub committee it was **RESOLVED to reduce membership to three, these being:**

**Cllr Glyn Holland
Cllr Adrian Meredith
Cllr Bob Unwin**

The three members will liaise with the Town Clerk to establish a meeting date.

97/06-07 Election 2007

Advice notes on the elections to be held in 2007, **attached at Appendix 'Q'** were circulated to members.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

98/06-07 Community Safety Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 28 June 2006 attached at **Appendix 'R'**.

99/06-07 West Mercia Police Authority Press Release

Members noted a Press Release issued by the Authority, following the announcement by the Home Secretary of a delay in the police force restructuring programme, attached at **Appendix 'S'**.

100/06-07 Local Policing in West Mercia

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

101/06-07 Vandalism

The Town Clerk briefed members on a spate of vandalism at Town Council sites bordering the Marsh Fields i.e. the Cemetery and Meadow View Road Allotments.

The incidents have been reported to the Police and as one occurrence involved primary school children, the Town Clerk had spoken to all the Newport Primary Schools. The situation will be monitored.

102/06-07 Solar Lights

A letter in the local press has queried the decision of the council to ban the use of solar lights as grave decorations. Members also noted an article in The Clerk which raised similar issues faced by other councils. It was **RESOLVED to continue refusing to allow the placing of solar lights in the Cemetery.**

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

103/06-07 Britain in Bloom

Cllr Glyn Gratton reported that this year Newport would be participating in two competitions. The Heart of England in Bloom Competition will be judged on 18 July 2006 and the Britain in Bloom National Finals judged on 9 August 2006. Anyone able to assist with work parties prior to the judging would be most welcome.

104/06-07 Allotment Rentals

Members were informed that Allotment Rentals were last revised in 2002. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED that new rentals be introduced from 1 April 2007 as per the Table attached at Appendix 'T'**.

105/06-07 Countryside Voice – Anniversary Issue

Members noted receipt of the magazine.

TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

106/06-07 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2006.

107/06-07 Street Naming, Land at Islington Close

The Borough Council forwarded a suggestion for naming additional housing at Islington Close, **attached at Appendix 'V'**.

In the light of subsequent planning application for a neighbouring development at Islington Close, the Borough Council will delay the naming process.

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

108/06-07 Wrekin Area Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 3 July 2006 **attached at Appendix 'W'**.

Signed

Dated