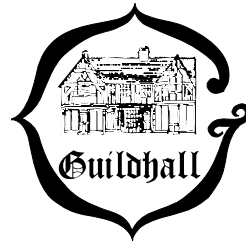


Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 11 October 2006
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Janette Treagust – Deputy Town Mayor
David Adams
Irene Evans
John Evans
George Franks
Glyn Holland
Adrian Meredith
Bob Unwin
Sally Wiggin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Martyn Edwards, Cllr Brenda Flowers and Cllr Glyn Gratton.

152/06-07 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the meeting to take public questions. Notes taken during this session are **attached at Appendix 'A'**.

153/06-07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr David Adams declared his interest as a Trustee in all matters pertaining to the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust.

Cllr Irene Evans declared personal interest in matters pertaining to RAF Cosford and DLO Sapphire House and did not speak on these items.

Cllr John Evans declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to RAF Cosford and DLO Sapphire House and did not speak on these items.

154/06-07 SHREWSBURY & NEWPORT CANAL TRUST

Members welcomed Mr Bruce Crawcour to the meeting who extended the apologies for Mr Chris Chambers who due to unforeseen circumstances was unable to attend representing the Canal Trust.

Mr Crawcour explained that he, himself, was not a member of the Trust but was employed by the Trust to advance the project to restore the canal between Norbury and Shrewsbury at a potential total cost of £100 million.

Such a cost is unlikely to be met in one phase and the Trust realised the need to consider developing the project in sections. An initial application for Lottery funding to develop the Norbury to Wappenshall stretch was unsuccessful but did guide the Trust on identifying four key areas of the project, Norbury, Newport, Wappenshall and Shrewsbury. The aim is to break down restoration into discrete sections, to get water in and boats on.

Funding has been obtained from the Lottery to conduct two Options Appraisals to cover the section from Wappenshall to Lubstree Wharf and the section of canal in Newport to include crossing the Bypass. These Appraisals are to be conducted between November 2006 and April 2007. The next stage will be to examine the feasibility of progressing either section or choosing one to advance. The benefits of either section are likely to be different. The Wappenshall / Lubstree section could take day boat traffic and act as a tourism attraction in north Telford. Opening up the canal in Newport, with its location so central to the town, would present probably the greatest regeneration opportunity. The major risk to advancing such projects arises out of the planning process and whilst Stafford and Shrewsbury Borough Councils are supportive, Telford & Wrekin Borough are the least positive of all the authorities with regard to support for the benefit of regeneration. There is currently a planning application to convert the Canal buildings at Wappenshall to housing and if passed it would be disastrous for the whole canal project. The Regeneration Partnership and Harper Adams are offering very close support particularly as the appraisal process offers an opportunity for students to undertake educational projects such as survey work and canvassing.

The Canal Trust is well aware of local difficulties and tensions and there may be sensitive issues to be considered particularly relating to the funding for crossing the bypass. The Trust aims to see water back into at least one section of the canal with boats on within 5 years.

The Canal need to be self-sustaining in revenue terms and income can be generated by creating off-line marina moorings.

Most of the Newport section is in public ownership but would still need to persuade private owners to co-operate rather than adopting the final resort of taking statutory action.

Members raised many questions in the following question and answers session covering purpose, the effect on the SSSI, where water will be taken from and how loss will be prevented and the very recent announcement of cuts to British Waterways funding.

Mr Crawcour agreed that in assessing public support for the project the question should be posed as to what actions people are prepared to accept to secure the canal including the loss of green field land for housing to secure funding to cross the By-pass.

Members thanked Mr Crawcour for attending the meeting.

155/06-07 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

b. **Civic Society Meeting**

An invitation to attend the next meeting of the Civic Society to be held on 31 October 2006 was distributed to members, as detailed at **Appendix 'C'**.

c. **Strategic Service Plan for Primary Care in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin**

Details of a Scrutiny Panel to assist the Strategic Service Plan for Primary Care was circulated to members, as detailed at **Appendix 'D'**.

156/06-07 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2006 were approved as a true record.

157/06-07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**a. The Newport & East Shropshire Canals Museum
(Minute 130/06-07)**

Members were informed that the first meeting of the Steering Group, at which the Town Council is represented by Cllr Irene Evans, took place on 10 October 2006.

b. Newport SK8 Park

Representatives of the SK8 Park project will attend the meeting to be held on 8 November 2006 to update members on the successful tender bid.

FINANCE

158/06-07 Finance Report

The Finance Report for September 2006, **attached at Appendix 'E'** and the payments therein were approved/ratified, including an item detailed at Minute 160/06-07.

159/06-07 Letters of Thanks

Members noted that letters of thanks for grants awarded had been received from:

Wrekin Hockey Club (Ladies Section)
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Telford Drive
Age Concern Newport Pub Lunch Club
Hope House Children's Hospice
Telford Sea Cadets
Sharon Ann Freestyle Dance Academy

160/06-07 Earmarked Fund – CCTV

It was **RESOLVED** to return £10,000 of money earmarked in 2004/05 towards the potential purchase of a new town CCTV system to balances. The money was allocated from revenue funds and transferred as ring-fenced money within the Capital Fund when the Borough Council requested that the system upgrade be delayed pending a District-wide review.

Following the demise of this review the Town Council proceeded with the upgrade and opted for a lease/purchase arrangement. It is now appropriate to return this money for use as revenue balance funds.

NATIONAL / REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

161/06-07 RAF Cosford

Members considered a letter from Mark Pritchard MP, **attached** at **Appendix 'F'** and directed the Town Clerk to write in support of awarding the Defence Training Rationalisation Contract to RAF Cosford.

162/06-07 Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO) Sapphire House, Telford

Members expressed their dismay at the decision to close the DLO Base at Sapphire House, Telford by 2008, moving the function to Bristol, as detailed in the package of correspondence **attached** at **Appendix 'G'**.

TELFORD & WREKIN BOROUGH COUNCIL (T&WBC) MATTERS

163/06-07 20 mph Zone, High Street, Newport

A full response to the request that the bus stop build-out be removed has been promised by 16 October 2006. The Town Clerk will circulate this to members following its receipt.

164/06-07 Chetwynd Road / Forton Road Pavements

The Town Council has as yet not received a reply to requests to install continuous footpaths. The Town Clerk was directed to follow this up.

165/06-07 Mobile Telephone Masts

Members considered a letter from Dawley Hamlets Parish Council **attached** at **Appendix 'H'**. They **RESOLVED** to support the arguments in the letter to call on the Borough Council to adopt more stringent polices with regard to the siting of mobile telephone masts, if necessary seeking the advice of other councils such as Milton Keynes.

166/06-07 Local Development Framework – Core Strategy

Members considered the Submission Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) for comment by 14 November 2006. It was **RESOLVED** that the submission version still included all the proposals for Newport which the Town Council had previously protested about, in particular the preferred option of building 1000 new homes entailing the use of two green field sites. The Town Clerk was directed to respond to the Submission Core Strategy DPD raising the same arguments previously pertaining to the Draft Version.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

167/06-07 National Treasures

Members welcomed receipt of the National Treasures booklet Volume 5, featuring the restored Newport Cemetery Chapel, as one of the Green Apple Award winners for preserving architectural heritage.

168/06-07 Councillors Information Packs

The Town Clerk requested that members return their Information Packs to The Guildhall, before December 2006, in order that they can be updated prior to the commencement of a new Council in May 2007.

169/06-07 Annual Meeting 2007

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in May i.e. 16 May 2007 to allow sufficient time for paperwork to be circulated following the elections on 3 May 2007.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

170/06-07 Community Safety Committee Meeting

Regrettably the meeting held on 4 October 2006 was not quorate. Notes of points raised by members attending are **attached** at **Appendix 'J'**.

171/06-07 NT3P Meeting

Members considered a short report from Cllr John Evans following a recent meeting of NT3P, **attached** at **Appendix 'K'**. The Town Clerk was directed to write supporting the issues raised and seeking the Borough Council's more effective cooperation particularly in the placing of Statutory Orders.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (L&ES)

172/06-07 L&ES Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 20 September 2006, **attached** at **Appendix 'L'**.

173/06-07 Heart of England in Bloom (HEIB) Regional Seminar

Members welcomed the news that Newport HEIB have been asked to host the next Regional Seminar on 28 November 2006 at The Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport.

174/06-07 Parish Pump News – Autumn 2006

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

TOWN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

175/06-07 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2006.

176/06-07 Proposed Charity Superstore

Members welcomed the letter from the Severn Hospice **attached** at **Appendix 'M'**.

177/06-07 Street Naming – Islington Close

Members considered suggestions for naming the two new roads leading from Islington Close and **RESOLVED to offer the following name for the first phase as Harvest Close relating this to the original site name Harvest Meadows.**

They rejected the Builders proposals of using London Borough names since the original name Islington relates to an old local settlement and has no connections with London.

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

178/06-07 Chairmanship Skills

Members noted the details of a SALC Course arranged for the Telford & Wrekin area on 1 November 2006, detailed at **Appendix 'N'**.

179/06-07 EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the business about to be conducted, that is consideration of tender procedures for Christmas Lighting, it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

Signed

Dated