



## MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on

Wednesday 9 January 2008

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor  
Daniel Ashley  
Eric Carter  
Brenda Flowers  
Tony Forrester  
Adrian Meredith  
Tim Nelson  
Phil Norton  
Roy Scammell  
Bob Unwin  
Siân Walker

**IN ATTENDANCE:** D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr Adam Stanton.

### 231/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Eric Carter declared non-prejudicial interests pertaining to items connected with regeneration issues and the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

### 232/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

There being no members of the public present wishing to ask questions the meeting continued without suspension.

### 233/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Mayor formally announced the intention of the Town Clerk to retire on 30 April 2008.
- c. An ASHTAV meeting will take place on 26 January 2008 at 2.00 p.m. in Ryton-on-Dunsmore addressing the issues of the Future of Heritage in Small Towns and Villages.

d. Notification of commencement of work on the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in Norbroom Park was passed to members and suggested arrangements for a formal opening at Easter.

**234/07-08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2007 were approved as a true record.

**FINANCE**

**235/07-08 Finance Statement**

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

**236/07-08 Thank You Letters**

A letter of thanks for an annual grant for 2008/09 has been received from the Newport Regeneration Partnership.

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) AND AREA MATTERS**

**237/07-08 Plastic Bags**

In the absence of Cllr Stanton, Cllr Roy Scammell introduced this item with reference to recent media coverage, **attached** at **Appendix 'C'**. He stated it was Cllr Stanton's intention to propose that Newport follows the lead of the towns such as Hay-on-Wye in abandoning the use of plastic bags in favour of more environmentally friendly options. It was acknowledged that the major super markets are already acting on changes in public opinion but this needed to be encouraged amongst all shoppers and in all retail outlets. It was agreed that the Town Council work in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to approach local businesses and that this issue form the main theme for the Annual Town Meeting. It is to be hoped that this can be accomplished in 2008 and be expanded throughout Telford & Wrekin.

**238/07-08 LDF SPD – Design for Community Safety**

Members welcomed this well constructed Supplementary Planning Document and chose to offer no comment.

**239/07-08 LDF Core Strategy – Adoption**

Members noted the formal adoption of the Core Strategy DPD **attached** at **Appendix 'D'** and in particular the amended plan period from 2006-2016 and not to 2021 as originally proposed. The full DPD is held in The Guildhall.

**240/07-08 Norbroom Park – Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)**

Following on from the public meeting concerning the location of the MUGA in Norbroom Park, all local residents were contacted individually with a survey to assess the most acceptable location from 3 options. 42 responses were obtained and a copy of the results is **attached at Appendix 'E'**, the consensus supporting the originally proposed location close to the BMX track and proposed SK8 Park.

**241/07-08 Newport SK8 Park – Service Level Agreement**

Members considered a revised version of the agreement originally circulated at the December meeting with particular reference to para 2.2 **attached at Appendix 'F'**. The Town Clerk and RFO are drawing up proposals for bills to be invoiced to and be paid by the Town Council, which will also result in further amendments. Members concurred with this action. The final draft will be brought back to full council for ratification.

**242/07-08 T&W CWS – Newsline November / December 2007**

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

**RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION**

**243/07-08 Committee and Outside Bodies**

It was **RESOLVED to approve representation on Committees and Outside Bodies as detailed at Appendix 'G'**.

**244/07-08 Staffing Committee**

In the light of the Town Clerk's notice of retirement, it was **RESOLVED to appoint the under mentioned as the staffing committee to oversee the recruitment of a replacement:**

Cllr Glyn Gratton  
Cllr Brenda Flowers  
Cllr Phil Norton  
Cllr Roy Scammell

A timetable is being drawn up commencing with the placement of an advertisement in the Shropshire Star on 10 January 2008 and on the SALC website. An application pack has been prepared.

**245/07-08 Annual Town Meeting**

Members were reminded that the Annual Town Meeting will now be held on **Thursday 24 April 2008 at 7.30 p.m. at The Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport**. Since this coincides with a Telford & Wrekin Council meeting, the 4 dual-hatted members will be unable to attend in addition to Cllr Flowers extending her apologies. The Town Clerk will try to find an alternative option but the date remains until or unless this can be found. As previously minuted the main subject for the meeting will be Plastic Bag Free status for Newport.

**246/07-08 Meeting with Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust**

Members were informed that a Special Town Council meeting has been arranged for 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 16 January 2008 at The Guildhall, to which members of the public are invited.

**247/07-08 Town Council Meetings 2008/09**

A list of meeting dates for the municipal year 2008/09 is **attached at Appendix 'H'**.

**248/07-08 Heritage Open Days (HODs)**

HODs for 2008 will be held between 11 -14 September when The Guildhall should be made available to the public, normally for a minimum of 2 days.

**249/07-08 Royal Mail**

Members noted a letter concerning recent postal disruptions, **attached at Appendix 'J'**.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**250/07-08 Damaged Safety Railings**

The Town Clerk is still awaiting a response to her latest request for an update.

**251/07-08 Private Firework Displays**

Members noted a holding reply from Mark Pritchard MP **attached at Appendix 'K'**. Cllr Eric Carter who had not been present for this item previously declared his support for tighter restrictions to be introduced.

**252/07-08 T&W BUG Meeting**

Members noted the Agenda and attachments for the meeting to be held on 13 February 2008, **attached at Appendix 'L'**.

**253/07-08 Police Community Consultative Group**

Members noted that the next meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 February 2008 at The Cosy Hall, Water Lane, Newport.

**LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**254/07-08 The Journal – Winter 2008**

Members noted receipt of the Burial Authorities Magazine.

**255/07-08 How Green is My Funeral?**

Members considered an article from "The Journal" **attached at Appendix 'M'**. In most instances the Town Council complies with best practice criteria of +10 scoring, failing on occasions to comply with "road miles on funeral" and "grieving road miles", because the Council is the only local authority in Shropshire to offer this solution which non Newport residents also seek.

**TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**256/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes**

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 12 December 2007, previously circulated.

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

**257/07-08 Representing the Future – The Report of the Councillors Commission**

Members were informed that the Councillors Commission has launched a radical programme to strengthen local democracy.

A full copy of their report has been requested and relevant portions will be circulated for consideration and possible comment at the February meeting.

**NATIONAL / REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

**258/07-08 West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) Phase 3  
Revision Draft Plan**

Members noted receipt of the draft and chose to make no comment.

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Signed .....

Dated .....