



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 13 February 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
Sian Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Adam Stanton.

261/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

262/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

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

263/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Mayor reminded members that the Civic Ball will take place on Saturday 5 April 2008 and invitations are being sent out this week.
- c. The Town Mayor informed the meeting that the Staffing sub-committee had met and a short list of candidates for interview had been made. They will be invited to a one-hour informal social evening on Tuesday 26 February 2008 to meet with members and staff before attending interviews on Thursday 28 February 2008.

- d. The Town Mayor was pleased to inform members that the double yellow lines have now been burnt off in New Street allowing for up to 10 additional short stay parking places.

264/07-08 MINUTES

The Minutes of meetings held on 9 January 2008 and 16 January 2008 were approved as a true record.

FINANCE

265/07-08 Finance Statement

The Finance Statement for January 2008 **attached** at **Appendix 'B'** and the payments therein, were approved/ratified.

266/07-08 Risk Management and Internal Control

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

267/07/08 Appointment of External Auditor

Members noted the appointment by the Audit Commission of Mazars LLP of Southampton to act as External Auditors as detailed at **Appendix 'D'**. This will have implications in terms of costs as all requested information will have to be sent by carrier unlike the present arrangement whereby the RFO has been able to deliver the documents personally to avoid delay and potential loss.

268/07-08 Grant Applications

Members considered applications for grants detailed at **Appendix 'E'** and **RESOLVED:**

- a. **To award Section 137 Grants as follows:**

		CDA*
Newport Music Club	£300.00	n
Hallcroft Close Sheltered Scheme	£200.00	n
Church Aston Thursday Club	£100.00	n
Samaritans of Telford	£250.00	n
Visible Minorities		
Development Council	£100.00	n
Lilleshall Memorial Hall	£ 75.00	n

- b. To award a Section 19 Grant as follows:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Newport Cricket Club Youth Section | £500.00 | + |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|
- c. To award a Youth Grant as follows:
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---|
| Crucial Crew 2008 | £500.00 | + |
| Oakengates Youth Summer School | £300.00 | + |

*CDA + Crime & Disorder Act
n = neutral impact
+ = positive impact

269/07-08 Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust – Membership

Members **RESOLVED** to rejoin the Trust at an annual cost of **£20.00** for Corporate Membership and support the general principles of the restoration of the Canal.

NATIONAL / REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

270/07-08 Correspondence from MP

Members noted a letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached** at **Appendix ‘F’**.

271/07-08 Speaking Out – December 2007

Members noted receipt of the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) newsletter.

272/07-08 Representing the Future

Members considered in depth the report of the Councillors Commission, a copy of which is held in the Guildhall and the NALC Summary Briefing **attached** at **Appendix ‘G’**. They welcomed the move to give greater understanding of the role of Councillors and Parish and Town Councils and election funding recommendations. Since most of the changes predominantly affect unitary / borough / district / metropolitan councils, members chose not to respond collectively but send their own individual responses.

273/07-08 Orders & Regulations Relating to the Conduct of Local Authority Members in England

Members considered the Consultation Paper **attached** at **Appendix ‘H’** and whilst in general agreement with most of the recommendations did not agree with the recommendations posed under Question 5.

The resignation of a councillor should not prevent a complaint from being determined. The person against whom an allegation has been made could always choose to stand again for election. The Town Clerk will respond accordingly to the consultation.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) AND AREA MATTERS

274/07-08 Contaminated Land

Members noted a response from the Leader, Cllr Andrew Eade, **attached** at **Appendix 'J'** to concerns expressed at the Leisure & Environmental Services Committee meeting under Minute L&ES/32/07-08. There is still natural worry amongst local residents regarding the possibility that other adjacent properties have been contaminated by the creosote spillage from the former timber yard site.

275/07-08 Regeneration Finance

Cllr Glyn Gratton informed members of the proposal from Telford & Wrekin Council to invest £1 million in Newport over the next two years but at present was unaware how the Town Council could become formally involved in determining what projects are undertaken and the means of consultation since nothing has been formalised in writing. Cllr Eric Carter as Borough Councillor for Regeneration explained that the Borough's budget would not be approved until 6 March 2008 but apart from some fine tuning is confident that the monies mentioned will become available. Projects suitable for finance will be channelled through local Regeneration Partnerships but will be financed and managed by the Borough Council. Cllr Carter agreed to speak to the local task group officers and have the procedures laid out in writing for the Town Council's information and action.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

276/07-08 Outside Bodies

The Town Clerk informed members that those appointed to the Newport Exhibition Fund were not required at this stage as the fund had trustees appointed to 2009.

277/07-08 Councillor Training

Members were reminded that training sessions had been arranged as follows:

- 10 March 2008 – Shirehall, Shrewsbury
- 1 April 2008 – Civic Offices, Telford

Both sessions run from 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Cllr Tim Nelson will attend the Shrewsbury session and Cllrs Tony Forrester and Siân Walker the Telford session.

278/07-08 Hope UK

Members noted a letter from the Charity **attached** at **Appendix 'K'**.

279/07-08 Worthy Citizen Awards

Members considered a letter from Mr John Baxter **attached** at **Appendix 'L'**. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED to re-establish the Worthy Citizen Awards as a function of the Town Council. It was felt that the Awards should be made in the New Year, that there should be no limit to the number awarded in each year and that an independent panel be appointed to oversee the nominations. It was to be hoped that the Newport Advertiser would promote the awards and nomination process.** The Town Clerk will reply to Mr Baxter.

280/07-08 Citizens Advice Bureau Meeting

Members noted a report from Cllr Brenda Flowers **attached** at **Appendix 'M'**.

281/07-08 ASHTAV News – No. 4

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

282/07-08 Damaged Safety Railings

The Town Clerk explained she had received no replies to e-mails sent in November and December regarding the repair/replacement of the damaged railings at the junction of Granville Avenue/Station Road. Cllr Adrian Meredith agreed to take up this issue as a Borough Councillor and was given the relevant correspondence.

283/07-08 Private Firework Displays

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no full reply yet from Mark Pritchard MP.

284/07-08 Police Community Consultative Group

Members noted a report from Cllr Brenda Flowers **attached** at **Appendix 'N'**.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

285/07-08 Leisure & Environmental Services Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2008 **attached** at **Appendix 'P'**.

286/07-08 Cemetery Roads

Members considered Minute L&ES/27/07-08. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the resurfacing of the Cemetery Roads had commenced which members welcomed. Following discussion on the issue of vehicular access to the Cemetery it was proposed that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk bring back suggestions to the Council for a possible notice board and signing for one-way traffic in the Cemetery to reduce traffic wear on the roads.

287/07-08 Cemetery Land

Members considered Minute L&ES/28/07-08. Following discussion of the issues, it was **RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to the Borough Council with the proposal to purchase the remaining portion of land between the cemetery extension and the Meadow View Road Allotment site to establish an informal recreational walking facility for use also as burial land together with the possibility of additional allotment plots.**

288/07-08 Youth Café Projects

Cllr Roy Scammell reported on a recent meeting of the Youth Café Management Committee where the Committee is seeking ideas to establish new projects to engage with young people and attract new members. It was agreed that the Town Clerk ask Mr Dave Parry, the Chairman, to brief members in a written report of the current situation and how it can be made more effective in the future with Town Council help. Cllr Daniel Ashley also offered his personal help.

289/07-08 The Playing Field – Winter 2007-08

Members noted receipt of the newsletter and three extracts **attached** at **Appendix 'Q'**.

290/07-08 Shropshire Landscapes – Spring 2008

Members noted receipt of the CPRE newsletter.

291/07-08 Allotments Regeneration Initiative Newsletter – Spring 2008

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

292/07-08 Newport 21 Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 21 January 2008 **attached at Appendix ‘R’**.

TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

293/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2008.

294/07-08 Handyman House Planning Application W2007/1333

Members expressed their concerns regarding the decision to approve the application in its current form and support the committee’s direction that the Town Clerk write to Mr Michael Barker seeking cogent explanations for the granting of this application but refusal of the application W2007/1573 to erect 3 town houses on the Tan Bank Garage site which members had welcomed.

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

295/07-08 NALC Briefing – Community Contracts and Charters

Members noted the briefing note on a new community initiative **attached at Appendix ‘S’**.

296/07-08 Wrekin Area Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2007 **attached at Appendix ‘T’**.

Signed

Dated