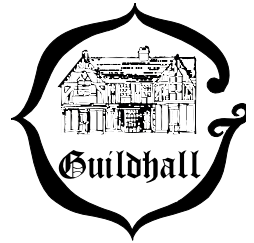


Newport (Shropshire) Town Council



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on

Wednesday 12 March 2008

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Adam Stanton – Deputy Town Mayor
Daniel Ashley
Eric Carter
Tony Forrester
Adrian Meredith
Tim Nelson
Phil Norton
Roy Scammell
Bob Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Brenda Flowers and Sian Walker.

300/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Adam Stanton declared an interest in the item concerning the misuse of the Town Guide as a member of the Borough Council's Standards Panel and excused himself from the meeting during consideration. Cllr Adrian Meredith and Cllr Tim Nelson declared an interest in the same item since it was their actions that had resulted in this item being placed on the agenda but remained to address the issue.

301/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

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

302/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Mayor issued to members a copy of the timetable to re-advertise the vacancy for the Town Clerk's

appointment and proceed to interviews, which is **attached** at **Appendix 'B'**.

- c. Members were informed that the Annual General Meeting of the Telford Samaritans is to be held at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 16 April 2008 at 115 King Street, Wellington.
- d. Members concurred with proposals to name the development of 4 dwellings adjacent to 86 Stafford Road as 1-4 The Old Quarry.
- e. Cllr Phil Norton informed members he has been appointed Chairman of the Rural Transport Forum.

303/07-08 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2008 were approved as a true record.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 5 March 2008 will be considered at the meeting to be held on 9 April 2008.

FINANCE

304/07-08 Finance Report

The Finance Report for February 2008 **attached** at **Appendix 'C'** and the payments therein, were approved/ratified.

305/07-08 Return of Reserve Funds to the Revenue Account

It was **RESOLVED** to return **£3564.93** earmarked for **CCTV in the Capital Reserves to the revenue account balances and similarly £41.40** earmarked for **Public Lighting Energy**.

306/07-08 Grant Applications

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

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

		CDA*
Telford & Wrekin Council (Summer Holiday Play week)	£129.10	+
Shropshire PCAS	£50.00	n
The Burton Borough School	£850.00	+

b. **To award a Section 19 Grant as follows:**

Telford & Wrekin Council (Summer Holiday Play week)	£550.00	+
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- c. To make no award to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust as they have reached the required total for the project.

Note: The Section 137 and Section 19 grants to finance the Summer Holiday Play week will be paid as one amount.

*CDA – Crime and Disorder Act

n = neutral impact

+ = positive impact

307/07-08 Revenue Budget Spend Report

Members noted the Revenue Budget Spend Report for the period to 31 January 2008 **attached at Appendix 'E'**.

The overspend in relation to 3/3A High Street relates to the extensive repairs needed to be carried out to the main street facing front door which had to comply with the status of this listed building.

308/07-08 Thank You Letters

Thank you letters have been received for grants awarded to:

Newport Music Club
Church Aston Thursday Club
Hallcroft Sheltered Housing Scheme

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) AND AREA MATTERS

309/07-08 Question Time Event

Members noted a response to a questions posed by Cllr Brenda Flowers at the event held on 22 January 2008 **attached at Appendix 'F'**.

310/07-08 State of the Borough Report – October 2007

Members noted a summary leaflet **attached at Appendix 'G'**.

311/07-08 Joint Area Review (JAR) Update – Issue 1

Members noted the newsletter, **attached at Appendix 'H'** explaining the purpose of the JAR being conducted by OFSTED into children's services in the Borough.

312/07-08 CVS Newslines Jan/Feb 2008

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

313/07-08 Unauthorised Advertisements

Members noted a letter relating to Fly Posting and the means being taken to reduce it, **attached at Appendix 'J'**.

314/07-08 Prevention of Alcohol Misuse

Members noted a summary booklet issued at a consultation event attended by Cllr Brenda Flowers on 19 February 2008, **attached at Appendix 'K'**.

315/07-08 CVS Advice Surgery

Members noted the details of an Advice surgery for community groups and voluntary organisations to be held at The Cosy Hall on Thursday 20 March 2008 from 11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

316/07-08 Misuse of Town Guide

Members considered a letter from Mrs Eva Alan **attached at Appendix 'L'**. Cllr Tim Nelson gave an unreserved apology to the council and residents of Newport for his part in having his name affixed to the Town Guide even though not mentioned in the letter.

Following discussion Cllr Adrian Meredith likewise apologised to the Town Council for his actions and stated he would not repeat such an error in the future.

317/07-08 Annual Town Meeting – 2 April 2008

Members discussed attendance of interested parties at the Annual Town Meeting where the main theme is Plastic Bag Free status for Newport following an e-mail from the Borough Waste Minimisation officer, **attached at Appendix 'M'**.

Cllr Adam Stanton explained that having attended a recent meeting of the Local Government Information Unit where this issue was discussed it is important to encourage positive not negative initiatives. To this end he has had discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and also gave several examples of how business and customers can be encouraged collectively to reduce plastic bag use. He is also aware that the schools are looking at this initiative.

The Town Clerk informed members that all local groups are invited to attend the meeting as well as posters being displayed to encourage attendance by the general electorate.

It was agreed that in addition to Borough Officer attendance, the incoming Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce should be invited.

318/07-08 SK8 Park Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Members approved the 4th Draft SLA **attached at Appendix 'N'** which has been negotiated by the Town Clerk with Telford & Wrekin Council, for the maintenance of the SK8 Park in respect of the obligations placed on the Town Council at Paragraph 2.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

319/07-08 Community Safety Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2008 **attached at Appendix 'P'**.

320/07-08 Private Firework Displays

Members noted a response from Mark Pritchard MP covering a reply from Gareth Thomas MP, the PUS for Trade & Consumer Affairs, both copies **attached at Appendix 'Q'**.

321/07-08 High Street Pavements

Members noted a report from the Town Clerk who has received an e-mail from the Team Leader for Highways Maintenance concerning further works to the western side pavement of the High Street between Wellington Road and Stafford Street. Engineers have carried out preliminary investigations to determine whether construction on the western side is similar to that encountered on the eastern side.

The recent provision of funds, part of which are for improvements to the High Street, will be dealt with by the Newport Task Force who will be looking at widespread issues. As a consequence the planned works will be incorporated into a broader plan and any works are more likely to be on site in 2009 rather than this year.

322/07-08 Traffic Management Act (TMA) and Street Lighting

Members noted a covering letter from e-on UK concerning the cost and time implications of the TMA which comes into force from 1 April 2008, **attached** at **Appendix 'R'**.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

323/07-08 Marsh Fields

Members noted that a holding reply in respect of the Town Council's wish to investigate obtaining land between the Cemetery and Meadow View Road allotments has been received.

324/07-08 Newport Canal / Victoria Park Feasibility Study

Members welcomed sight of the Study carried out in 2000, circulated individually, which can be used as a basis for plans for the Canal Basin / Victoria Park regeneration.

325/07-08 Youth Café

Cllr Roy Scammell reported on a very successful Open Evening staged by the Youth Café which had encouraged new membership. Several schemes for additional activities have been instigated and all the volunteers and youth workers are to be congratulated for their commitment to the young people using the facilities. The Town Clerk was asked to write letters of commendation in respect of the work of PC Dave Parry and PC Tim Vernon.

326/07-08 The Journal – Spring 2008

Members noted receipt of the Magazine.

TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

327/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 13 February 2008.

328/07-08 Planning Refusals

Members expressed their increasing frustration and concerns regarding recent planning refusals for single unit applications and small developments of 4 units or less on grounds of non-compliance with meeting 35% affordable housing targets. The meeting concurred with the Planning & Economic Development Committee that the Borough Council should be asked to send a senior Planning Officer to the next Committee Meeting and that until clearer and fairer policy is enacted all such similar

applications should be “green-carded” to the Plans Board for determination.

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

329/07-08 LCR March 2008

Members acknowledged receipt of their newsletters.

330/07-08 Wrekin Area Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 30 January 2008 **attached** at **Appendix ‘S’**.

Signed

Dated