



## MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on  
**Wednesday 9 April 2008**  
at  
**The Guildhall, High Street, Newport**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor  
Adam Stanton – Deputy Town Mayor  
Daniel Ashley  
Brenda Flowers  
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 Cllr Siân Walker and for late arrival from Cllrs Adrian Meredith and Phil Norton.

### **331/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **332/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the meeting to take questions from the Public. Mr Graham Hobson asked what could be done to remove the graffiti from the club house on Shuker Field and passed photos of the same amongst members. The Town Clerk will contact Telford & Wrekin Council to request its removal.

### **333/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'A'**.
- b. The Town Mayor reminded members that the evening for meeting short listed candidates for the post of Town Clerk was Tuesday 15 April 2008 at 7.00 p.m. with interviews being held on Friday 18 April 2008.

- c. Members were informed that the Cosy Hall AGM will be held at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 24 April 2008 at Water Lane, Newport.
- d. Members were made aware that the extended pavement at the junction of Hampton Drive and Stafford Road was creating dangerous conditions for drivers and the police have asked Telford & Wrekin Council to address the issue urgently.

**334/07-08 MINUTES**

The Minutes of meeting held on 5 March 2008 and 12 March 2008 were approved as a true record.

**FINANCE**

**335/07-08 Finance Statement**

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

**336/07-08 Thank You Letters**

Members noted thank you letters for grants awarded as follows:

Samaritans  
Crucial Crew  
Lilleshall Memorial Hall  
Newport Cricket Club Youth Section

**337/07-08 Sponsorship of Newport Show**

It was **RESOLVED** to take a **£150 sponsorship package for the Newport Show on 19 July 2008, the money being taken from Section 137 Grant Funds.**

**338/07-08 Direct Debits 2008/09**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments of certain services in 2008/09 by Direct Debit as detailed at **Appendix 'C'**.

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

**339/07-08 St George's Day**

Members considered a letter from Hadley and Leegomery Parish Council, **attached** at **Appendix 'D'**.

Both the Town Council and St. Nicholas Church fly the flag of St. George on the day. Members will bring forward suggestions as to how the day can be celebrated in the future.

**340/07-08 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007**

Members noted the NALC Legal Briefing **attached** at **Appendix 'E'**.

**341/07-08 Financial Services Compensation Scheme**

Members noted the NALC Briefing **attached** at **Appendix 'F'**. The Council's current investment strategy is adjudged to be safe.

**342/07-08 NALC Report of the Chief Executive**

Members noted receipt of the Report, **attached** at **Appendix 'G'**, which will be deferred for consideration to the next meeting of the Town Council.

**NATIONAL / REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS**

**343/07-08 Town and Parish Standard – March 2008**

Members noted the information sheet **attached** at **Appendix 'H'**.

**344/07-08 Speaking Out – March 2008**

Members noted the latest WMRA newsletter.

**345/07-08 WMRA Conference – Outcomes**

Members noted an information sheet concerning the conference held in January 2008, **attached** at **Appendix 'J'**.

**346/07-08 Rural Post Offices**

Members considered a letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached** at **Appendix 'K'** and **RESOLVED** to write in support of his actions with copies sent to **Sambrook and Church Aston Parish Councils**.

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

### **347/07-08 Land adjacent to the Cemetery**

Members expressed their disappointment at the response to the request to purchase the land between the Cemetery and Meadow View Road allotments, **attached at Appendix 'L'**.

The Town Clerk was asked to rewrite to the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council with greater detail about the need for cemetery land which would be included within the concept of park land, particularly since the need would increase with the closure of church burial grounds in the area. It should also be pointed out that the land in question is also bounded by the Meadow View Road allotments where there has been a waiting list of up to 50 people for the last two years.

### **348/07-08 TWC Press Releases**

Members noted three press releases detailed at **Appendix 'M'**.

### **349/07-08 JAR Update – March 2008**

Members noted the Second Issue **attached at Appendix 'N'**.

### **350/07-08 Voluntary & Community Forum Meeting**

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 19 February 2008 **attached at Appendix 'P'**.

### **351/07-08 Change for Children – Winter/Spring 2008**

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

### **352/07-08 Newport High Street Local Safety Scheme**

Members considered correspondence **attached at Appendix 'Q'**. Cllr Adam Stanton reported on a meeting he had attended with Cllr Eric Carter and the Scrutiny Panel on 7 April 2008. He was disappointed to discover that their site visit had taken place on Maundy Thursday at 3.30 p.m. when the schools had closed at lunch time and they therefore had perceived no problems. He had identified four major points of concern being the Canal Bridge, the bus stops outside Adams Grammar School, the pinch points outside St. Nicholas Church and the bus build out by the National Westminster Bank. An option to remove the bus-stop was not supported by members and the meeting remained in favour of the 20 mph zone but felt its implementation had been poorly thought out perhaps in an attempt to reduce costs.

The suggestion raised at the Community Safety Committee of extending the 20 mph zone to the Forton Road junction and thereby removing signage on the bridge should also be passed to the Scrutiny Panel.

**353/07-08 Farmers' Market**

Cllr Roy Scammell expressed his disappointment at the failure of the Farmers' Market in Newport and informed the meeting he would be prepared to investigate alternative and better provision if the Town Council wished this. Members expressed their full support for the provision of a true Farmers' Market in the town and thanked Cllr Scammell for his offer requesting he continue his investigations.

**354/07-08 Household Waste**

Members considered a letter proposing additional plastic collection banks, **attached at Appendix 'R'**. It was **RESOLVED to fully support the initiative but suggest that a plastic collection bank be placed on the Somerfield Car Park rather than having two together at the Stafford Street Car Park.**

**355/07-08 LDF Land Allocations Development Plan Document**

Members noted the timetable for finalising the DPD prior to consultation, **attached at Appendix 'S'** and the invitation to landowners/developers to submit information concerning the development potential of land in their ownership.

**356/07-08 Norbroom Park MUGA**

Members following a proposal from Cllr Brenda Flowers, directed the Town Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Telford & Wrekin Council for the new facilities at Norboom Park but also to refer them to other play facilities in the town which need attention.

**RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION**

**357/07-08 Town Council Committees**

It was **RESOLVED to cancel all committee meetings other than the Planning Committee until the new Town Clerk is in post to alleviate the Deputy Town Clerk's workload in the interim.**

**358/07-08 ASHTAV – Appointment of new Director**

Members noted a letter from the new Director of ASHTAV detailed at **Appendix 'T'**.

**359/07-08 Plastic Bag Free Newport**

Following on from the Annual Town Meeting members considered establishing a working group to advance the initiative of creating a Plastic Bag Free Newport.

Members were fully supportive of Cllr Adam Stanton's proposals to hold a meeting with interested parties at the end of April where an executive committee could be determined and a strategy for action determined. The Town Clerk will write to all those who had left their details following the Annual Town Meeting inviting them to attend.

**LEISURE & ENVIROMENTAL SERVICES**

**360/07-08 Newport Youth Café AGM**

Members noted the Reports presented to the AGM **attached at Appendix 'U'** Cllr Roy Scammell updated members on increased attendance following the Open Evening and the initiatives for more outdoor activities. The main problem remains the lack of provision during the school holidays when Youth Workers are not made available.

**361/07-08 Fieldwork – March 2008**

Members noted receipt of the newsletter and in particular an article on housing in the West Midlands **attached at Appendix 'V'**.

**362/07-08 Newport 21 Minutes**

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 3 March 2008 **attached at Appendix 'W'**.

**363/07-08 Countryside Voice – Spring 2008**

Members noted receipt of the magazine.

**TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**364/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting - Minutes**

Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 12 March 2008.

**365/07-08 Planning Appeal**

Members welcomed the decision of an applicant to appeal against the refusal of a planning permission on the grounds it did not meet the 35% affordable housing targets, **attached at Appendix 'X'** and endorse the action of the Town Clerk in supporting the applicant's appeal in her letter at **Appendix 'Y'**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**366/07-08** It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted (that is interim arrangements pending the appointment of the new Town Clerk) it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

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Signed .....

Dated .....