



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 12 September 2007
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Adam Stanton – Deputy Town Mayor
Daniel Ashley
Eric Carter
Brenda Flowers
Tony Forrester
Adrian Meredith
Phil Norton
Bob Unwin
Siân Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Roy Scammell.

99/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Bob Unwin declared a personal interest in the grant application by the Newport ACF and took no part in its determination.

100/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the meeting to take questions from members of the public which are recorded at Appendix 'A'.

101/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements is **attached at Appendix 'B'**. The Town Mayor informed members of the continued success in the Heart of England in Bloom competition with Newport gaining Gold for the fourth time.

The Town Clerk also informed the meeting of the special award to Cllr Glyn Gratton.

- b. Members acknowledged receipt of the September issue of Local Council Review.

- c. Members were informed of an e-mail from Clarkes Solicitors congratulating everyone connected with the Newport Nocturne, **attached at Appendix 'C'**. The Town Clerk was directed to write a congratulatory letter to Michael and Nicholas Jeggo.
- d. Members were given advance notice of the consultation process to be conducted into the Post Office Closure Programme. Consultation in the Wrekin Constituency will take place in March/April 2008.
- e. Members noted a letter on Tourism from Mark Pritchard MP **attached at Appendix 'D'**.
- f. Members were informed that the next meeting of the Wrekin Area Committee will be held on 27 September 2007 at 7.30 p.m. at The Castle Farm Community Centre in Hadley.
- g. Cllr Tony Forrester agreed to act as Snow Warden for Newport.

102/07-08 MINUTES

The Minutes of a meeting held on 11 July 2007 were approved as a true record.

FINANCE

103/07-08 Finance Statements

The Finance Statements for July and August 2007, **attached at Appendix 'E'** and the payments therein, were approved/ratified.

104/078-08 Thank You Letters

Thank you letters for grants awarded have been received from:

Forton Cricket Club
Newport & District Agricultural Society

105/07-08 Grant Applications

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

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

		CDA*
The United Benefice	£250.00	n
Vitalise	£100.00	n

Severn Hospice	£250.00	n
Hope House	£250.00	n

b. To award Section 19 Grants as follows:

ACF Newport Detachment	£250.00	+
Wrekin Ladies Hockey Club	100.00	+

*CDA = Crime & Disorder Act

n = neutral impact

+ = positive impact

106/07-08 Applications for Grants and Child Protection Measures

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the letter attached at **Appendix 'G'** to be adopted and issued to all applicants seeking grant aid from the Town Council with effect 1 October 2007.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

107/07-08 Planning for a Sustainable Future – White Paper Summary

Members considered the White Paper Summary **attached** at **Appendix 'H'**. This has to ultimately be incorporated into measures to establish new Planning targets under the Local Development Framework being prepared and consulted on. It was agreed that no Town Council response be made but that the local targets and measures continue to be monitored and addressed as necessary.

108/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting - Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007.

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

109/07-08 Parish Pump – August 2007

Members acknowledged receipt of the newsletter circulated during the August recess and attached at **Appendix 'J'**. The Town Clerk pointed out the article on Registration of land and suggested that the Council may wish to register the Cemetery Land excluding the two extensions which are already registered. Members directed the Clerk to investigate.

110/07-08 SALC AGM

Members were informed that the AGM will be held on Saturday 17 November 2007 at The Buckatree Hall Hotel, The Wrekin, Telford. The following members will attend:

Cllrs: Eric Carter – voting member
Bob Unwin – voting member

NATIONAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

111/07-08 Policing Costs for Community Events

Members considered the letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached at Appendix 'K'**. Following discussion on the impact of such costs on locally staged events it was agreed that the Town Clerk reply to Mr Pritchard with the suggestion that the meeting with the Police be a joint meeting with other local parishes, similarly affected and that the Wrekin Area Committee will be asked to consider setting up this meeting.

112/07-08 West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Changes to Operations Centres

Members considered the consultation document on proposed changes to the WMAS Emergency Operations Centres **attached at Appendix 'L'**.

They concurred with local sentiment that the proposal to remove the Shrewsbury call-centre was faulty and increased concern about ambulance response in a rural community where local knowledge may be of vital importance. The Town Clerk was directed to respond to the consultation paper expressing the concerns of members.

113/07-08 BIG Lottery (West Midlands) Update

Members noted an information e-mail **attached at Appendix 'M'**.

114/07-08 Bus Services in Newport

Members considered correspondence from Mark Pritchard MP **attached at Appendix 'N'**.

Cllr Norton informed the meeting that as their representative on the Rural Transport Forum and as a member for several years, the concerns regarding access to the Princess Royal Hospital by bus from areas North of Telford was a constant issue. Members agreed that there does need to be a direct route without a change particularly for the elderly and disabled. If such a

service was to then continue onto Wellington it could also serve other users such as students.

Cllr Eric Carter stated he would raise the issue with Carl Longland, the officer with overall responsibility for public transport, to arrange a meeting with Arriva. It was also considered important that the research carried out in 2003 and referred to in Arriva's letter be updated. This could be a project for Harper Adams students and will be mentioned through the mechanism of the Regeneration Partnership.

115/07-08 Local Ambulance Service

Members noted the letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached** at **Appendix 'P'**.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) MATTERS

116/07-08 Granville Landfill Site

Members considered a letter from Lilleshall & Donnington Parish Council **attached** at **Appendix 'Q'**. Cllrs Flowers and Walker agreed to attend the meeting on 8 October 2007.

117/07-08 Damaged Crossing Points and Safety Railings

Members considered a response from Telford & Wrekin Council to queries relating to the procedures for repairing, damaged crossing points and safety railings **attached** at **Appendix 'R'**. They felt the mechanisms for enacting repairs are flawed and too often await the outcome of legal/insurance procedures. The Town Clerk was directed to raise the issue of urgent replacement for the damaged railings at the Station Road/Granville Avenue junction in the interests of the safety of Children travelling to school.

118/07-08 Enforcement of Parking Restrictions

Members considered a response to requests to improve parking restriction enforcement, all correspondence is **attached** at **Appendix 'S'**. They did feel that the matter needed to be revisited by Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) seeing doing nothing as not being an option.

It is understood that the issue may be readdressed at TWC and members therefore decided to defer further action until the next meeting in October.

119/07-08 Newport Safer Routes to School Meeting

Members were reminded that a meeting to resolve issues relating to the introduction of Safer Routes to Schools measures

around Newport Infant and Junior Schools will be held on 19 September 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at Newport Junior School.

120/07-08 Sports and Leisure Facilities Draft Framework

Members were reminded that public consultation meetings regarding Draft Framework for Sports and Leisure facilities will be held as follows:

17 September 2007 Newport Library 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon
21 September 2007 Newport Swimming Pool 4.00 – 6.00p.m.

Members also noted a letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached** at **Appendix 'T'**. Members decided to take no specific stance on a proposal from the Newport Olympic Gym Club detailed at **Appendix 'U'** until the Framework is more specific.

121/07-08 Telford & Wrekin CVS – Newsline September 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

122/07-08 Freephone Link-up

Members noted the e-mail **attached** at **Appendix 'V'**. Points are available locally in the Library and at the Swimming Pool.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

123/07-08 Staff Holiday Entitlement

Members were informed that from 1 October 2007 the statutory right to paid holiday entitlement under the working time directive in the UK will increase from 21 days to 24 days.

Workers currently receive an annual increment of 1 additional day per year until their 5th year of service resulting in an annual entitlement of 25 days. This will increase to 28 days. Local Government employees are also entitled to 2 additional statutory days bringing the annual leave entitlement for workers commencing their service to 26 days and those over 5 years to 30 days per year. This holiday entitlement is in addition to Bank Holidays.

124/07-08 Annabelle Lady Boughey Charity – Nomination

Members considered a letter regarding the Town Council's nominations to the Charity **attached** at **Appendix 'W'** and **RESOLVED to nominate Cllr Brenda Flowers as the Town Council representative.**

COMMUNITY SAFETY

125/07-08 Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority – Consultation Questionnaire

Members considered the Action Plan Proposals for 2008/09 detailed at **Appendix 'X'** and chose to respond individually if they had points to make.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (L&ES)

126/07-08 Allotments

Members considered a request from an allotment tenant to erect a 6' wide x 8' long x 6'10" high poly tunnel and also formalise a policy on the use of polytunnels on Council allotment sites. They **RESOLVED not to approve this request on grounds of excessive size, particularly with relation to height. The L&ES Committee will examine measures to set appropriate limits at a future meeting.**

A verbal enquiry to place a bee hive on an allotment was rejected on health grounds because of the possibility of tenants having an allergy to stings.

127/07-08 CPRE Shropshire Landscapes – Summer 2007

Members noted receipt of the Newsletter.

128/07-08 The Playing Field – Summer 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

129/07-08 Shropshire Wildlife and Natural World – Summer 2007

Members noted receipt of the two magazines.

130/07-08 CPRE Fieldwork – September 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

Signed

Dated

**Appendix 'A' to Minutes
of a Town Council Mtg.
held on 12 Sept. 2007**

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Graham Hobson raised his concerns that due to the incorrect time being displayed on the chamber clock, he had been denied the opportunity to participate in the Public Session at the July Town Council meeting, contrary to Standing Orders.

It was pointed out that whilst the clock may have been inaccurate by a few minutes, the lack of public present at 5 minutes past the hour was correct. It was also mentioned that this could have been brought to the attention of members or staff following the meeting hence allowing for greater attention to be paid to his point at this meeting.

Mr Hobson also requested clarification of the Public Notice calling for an election to fill a vacancy on the Town Council as placed in the Newport Advertiser and the time frame to be applied.
