



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 10 October 2007
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor
Eric Carter
Tony Forrester
Adrian Meredith
Phil Norton
Roy Scammell
Bob Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs: Ashley, Flowers, Stanton and Walker and for delayed arrival from Cllrs: Carter and Meredith.

131/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

132/07-08 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

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

133/07-08 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. A list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **Appendix 'B'**.
- b. Members were informed that the next meeting of the Regeneration Partnership would take place at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 16 October 2007 at Harper Adams UC.

134/07-08 MINUTES

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

FINANCE

135/07-08 Finance Statement

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

136/07-08 Heartstart

Members **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £100 towards the costs of running the recent Heartstart training event. The money is to be taken from Section 137 General Grants.

138/07-08 NEAT 21

Members were informed that the Newport branch has now reformed and wishes to hold its meetings in Newport at The Guildhall. Previously Telford & Wrekin Council paid the hire fee but no longer have a designated office/department for this purpose. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday 12 November 2007 from 7.30 – 8.45 p.m. Members **RESOLVED** to offer The Guildhall venue for monthly / two monthly meetings, free of charge.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (L&ES)

139/07-08 Leisure & Environmental Services Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2007, **attached** at **Appendix 'D'**.

140/07-08 Newport & District Allotment Society – Newsletter

Members noted receipt of the September Issue, **attached** at **Appendix 'E'**.

141/07-08 Cemetery Yew Trees

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk **attached** at **Appendix 'F'**. Expressing regrets that this loss of specimen trees has occurred they await proposals for suitable replanting following the meetings with Telford & Wrekin Council officers.

142/07-08 Rights of Way Officer (RoW)

Members noted the contents of an e-mail concerning the rationalisation of the RoW team's geographical areas of responsibility and welcomed the appointment of Mr Andrew Careless to oversee Newport's RoW – **attached at Appendix 'G'**.

Cllr Gratton reported that the Heart of England in Bloom Committee had identified the Hutchinson Way as in need of improvement and they have held a meeting with Mr Adrian Corney. An Information Board is also being considered.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

143/07-08 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2007.

144/07-08 Street Naming – Land to rear of 8-10 Islington Close, Newport

Members considered suggestions to name the new road at the above development and **RESOLVED to recommend the following:**

Brook View

EU MATTERS

145/07-8 Referendum on EU Treaty

Members considered a letter from Mark Pritchard MP **attached at Appendix 'H'**. The Town Clerk had costed implementing a postal referendum as follows:

No. of dwellings	4657
	£
Franked Postage @ 32p x 2	2980.48
Paper 4 boxes (2500 sheets per box)	52.00
Envelopes 10 boxes (1000 per box)	90.00
Staff time (at least 5 days)	<u>200.00</u>
	<u>3322.48</u>

If this was extended to the electorate of 8228, costs would increase to £5819. Since this has neither been budgeted for, nor was felt to be an appropriate charge, it was **RESOLVED not to implement this suggestion.**

NATIONAL / REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS

146/07-08 Town & Parish Standard – September 2007

Members noted receipt of the newsletter.

147/07-08 DEFRA – Ways to tackle Climate Change

Members noted receipt of the advice booklet which is held in the Council offices.

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) MATTERS

148/07-08 Damaged Crossing Points and Safety Railings

The Town Clerk has notified TWC of the need to enact repairs to the safety railings at Station Road / Avenue Road.

149/07-08 Enforcement of Parking Restrictions

Members welcomed the report from Cllr Stanton at the Community Safety Committee Meeting held on 3 October 2007 (Minute CSC/15/07-08 at Appendix 'S') The Town Clerk has written to the other District Centres seeking their support. A copy of this letter is **attached at Appendix 'J'**.

150/07-08 Bus Services between Newport and Princess Royal Hospital (PRH)

Members considered an e-mail regarding the issues of a directly routed bus service to the PRH **attached at Appendix 'K'** and a follow up report from Cllr Eric Carter, **attached at Appendix 'L'**. Whilst the situation was understood, there was still concern that the elderly and physically disadvantaged find making these journeys difficult and expensive and after 6 p.m. the service 55 does not run on a 15 minute schedule. There was a suggestion that local taxi operators might be able to offer a mutually beneficial service by mini bus and this will be explored.

151/07-08 New Environmental Legislation – Treatment of Non Hazardous Waste prior to Landfill

Telford & Wrekin Services Ltd (TWS) are required to comply with new legislation that from 30 October 2007, all commercial non-hazardous waste destined for landfill must undergo "pre-treatment" as detailed at **Appendix 'M'**. The Town Clerk has completed the pre-treatment form on behalf of the Town Council for waste generated at the Guildhall, detailed at **Appendix 'N'**.

152/07-08 Local Development Framework (LDF) – Central Telford Area Action Plan – Consultation

The Town Clerk has received a full copy of the LDF Central Telford Area Action Plan. Whilst this does not impinge directly on Newport, there are arguments made in the document in favour of housing density at levels below the prescribed planning model, which she has extracted for use in arguments against high density housing development in Newport.

153/07-08 Customer Charter

Members noted the new Customer Charter effective 1 October 2007 **attached at Appendix 'P'**.

154/07-08 "Talk about Rural"

Members noted the details of an information event to be held on Saturday 27 October 2007, **attached at Appendix 'Q'**.

155/07-08 Ceremony of Light

Members noted the details of the event to be held on 11 November 2007, **attached at Appendix 'R'** and will reply individually.

RESOURCE & ADMINISTRATION

156/07-08 ASHTAV AGM

Members noted that the AGM will be held on Saturday 27 October 2007 at Buckingham University.

157/07-08 Town Council Newsletter

Members considered a proposal from Cllr Gratton to produce a Town Council Newsletter from 2008. Cllr Gratton explained he had previously raised this issue with the previous council in February 2007 but since no finance was available in the budget it was not possible to progress the idea in 2007/08. If members felt the idea was worth pursuing, it would be necessary to include provision in the 2008/09 budget. His suggestion is to produce a newsletter twice yearly or quarterly to keep residents better informed as to the workings of the Town Council, since their only source of information at present is the local newspaper. The newsletter should inform residents of the work of the Town Council and its committees and whilst members would write the articles, the Town Clerk would edit the final newsletter to ensure accuracy and remove possible political bias.

Since the time frame for obtaining costings is tight and the parameters such as size, printing, how to be delivered, frequency etc. are as yet undetermined will affect these costs, Cllr Norton offered to provide information relating to the production of the Donnington Parish Council newsletter for consideration by the Town Council at the November meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

158/07-08 Community Safety Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2007, **attached at Appendix 'S'**.

159/07-08 Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

Cllr Phil Norton reported on a recent PACT meeting he had attended which had addressed several issues.

- a. Telford & Wrekin Council are considering installing a flashing warning light to deter speeding on Station Road.
- b. The Police will also review reports of speeding vehicles once more on Longford Road.
- c. There is concern about increased underage drinking.

160/07-08 School Warning Lights

Members noted an e-mail **attached at Appendix 'T'** concerning the installation of school flashing warning lights on the Wellington Road approaches to Newport Girls High School and Moorfield School.

161/07-08 T&W BUG Meeting

Members noted the Agenda for the meeting to be held on 10 October 2007 together with the Minutes of the previous meeting, **attached at Appendix 'U'**

162/07-08 Rising Bus Bollards – Audley Avenue

Members welcomed the response to queries concerning the delays in completing the scheme, **attached at Appendix 'V'**.

163/07-08 Canal Bridge/Chetwynd Road

Members expressed disappointment at a response to committee concerns regarding signage on the Canal Bridge and lack of footpaths along Chetwynd Road, **attached at Appendix 'W'**.

164/07-08 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was RESOLVED that in view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted (that is to receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk concerning the Public Conveniences on Stafford Street Car Park) it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

Signed

Dated

**Appendix 'A' to Minutes
of a Town Council Mtg.
held on 10 Oct. 2007**

PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Paulette Stephens raised her concerns about the serious shortage of 3 bed housing units in Newport at affordable rental costs and in particular that these appear to be the very houses being sold off by the Wrekin Housing Trust.

Young people with children are having to live in flats with no access to gardens and safe play areas for rentals of £500 – 600 pcm.

Cllr Bob Unwin had attended a Wrekin Area Committee meeting where it was perceived that the Housing Trust was selling more houses than it was building replacements. He felt the Trust needs to be held to account and produce statistics to challenge this perception.

The Town Clerk was directed to raise this issue through Telford & Wrekin Council Leader, Cllr Andrew Eade with a copy for Mrs Stephens.
