



MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on
Wednesday 12 November 2008
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Stanton – Town Mayor
Scammell – Deputy Town Mayor
Ashley
Carter
Flowers
Forrester
Gratton
Meredith
Norton
Walker
Unwin

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Jakeman – Town Clerk,
Mrs Parnham – Deputy Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from: Cllr Nelson (attending Code of Conduct Training)

131/08-09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Flowers declared a non prejudicial interest in agenda item 8c relating to the grant request from The Rainbow Club.

132/08-09 TO WELCOME MEL POLLOCK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKER TO ADDRESS THE MEETING ON THE NEWPORT YOUTH PROJECT

Mel Pollock briefed members on her role, background, activities to date and aspirations for the future based around the contents of **Appendix 'A'**.

Members expressed their thanks for her time and informative presentation and looked forward to working with her, where appropriate, in the future and offered her their support, where they were able.

133/08-09 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

It was **RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to take questions from the Public.**

Mrs Doble of Juniper Row - Thanked the Members (and Telford & Wrekin Officers) for their speedy response in relation to her request at the previous meeting. This has resulted in a noticeable improvement to the mere adjacent to Juniper Row and the complete reduction in 'fly-tipping' in the area.

Mr Hobson of Meadow View Road– Asked what the Town Council was doing following the recent acceptance of the Scrutiny Report (by Telford & Wrekin borough Council) on Traffic Management in Conservation Areas and what they were doing to engage the people of Newport?

The Town Council responded – The scrutiny report demonstrates that our points were considered and that we will work with the regeneration partnership (as a result of the ongoing proposals for the High St and Victoria Park) early next year and that any changes will be the subject of wider public consultation.

Mr Hobson of Meadow View Road – Asked what if any opinion the Town Council had regarding the proposed incinerator at the recycling centre at Granville.

The Town Council responded – We are aware of the proposal and have already begun to gather information in order that the matter can be discussed at our next meeting in December. We would wish to have as many facts available as possible to ensure an informed debate.

Mr Hobson of Meadow View Road – Commented that there had been £2000 set aside for a Town Newsletter however to date none had been issued.

The Town Council responded – The money is still set aside and that they had not been able to move the item forward as quickly as they had hoped for a number of reasons (including the change of Town Clerk and the need to ensure standards of content and distribution methods).

Mr Lavan of The Newport Advertiser – Asked what the Town Councils opinion of the proposed (McCarthy and Stone) development on Stafford Street and what plans there are for the public toilets.

The Town Council responded – To date no formal plans have been submitted. We have been consulted on the potential for the site (which may include the public toilet block being relocated). We are in favour of development taking place and acknowledge that in the current climate developers should not be unnecessarily discouraged. To that end we have indicated that the toilet block could be moved elsewhere [within the current vicinity on the Stafford Street car park] and that any new build should be operational before the existing toilet block becomes unserviceable.

No formal plans have been received yet however we will be consulted throughout any planning process that arises.

Mrs Byrne representing Wellington Road Surgery – Informed Members that she was available to provide input relating to agenda item 15 a – Local GP Services.

The Town Council responded – They would wish to bring the agenda item forward and at that point again open the meeting to comment from the public to allow members to question her on the matter.

134/08-09 ANNOUNCEMENTS

A list of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements is **attached** at **appendix 'B'**.

Members were reminded to return their update Code of Conduct Register of Interests forms to the Guildhall by 24 November 2008.

Members were advised that they should have received correspondence relating to a proposed Puffin Crossing on Wellington Road in the vicinity of the Newport Girls High School. Members were asked to acquaint themselves with the subject in order that it could be considered as an agenda item at the next meeting (10 December).

Members were informed that the Trinity Church & community Centre (to whom we had recently donated £1000 towards major refurbishment) had invited all members to attend their official opening at 3pm on Saturday 21 March 2009. Members were asked to respond to the Town Clerk no later than 27 November.

135/08-09 MINUTES

The Minutes of meeting held on 8 October 2008 were approved as a true record.

136/08-09 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

137/08-09 AGENDA CHANGE OF PRECEDENCE

Members **RESOLVED to bring forward agenda item 15a to the next item to be discussed.**

138/08-09 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

Members **RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to allow Mrs Byrne to be questioned on the item relating to GP Services.**

Mrs Byrne informed the committee of the dispensary service provided at Wellington Road Surgery and answered a number of questions relating to the numbers and types of users of the dispensary.

NATIONAL/REGIONAL MATTERS

139/08-09 Local GP Services

Members considered a letter **copy at appendix 'C'**, from Mark Pritchard MP (The Wrekin) requesting support for his campaign to oppose local GPs having their dispensaries removed.

Members **RESOLVED to respond that Newport Town Council is against the removal of dispensary services from GPs' Surgeries, in particular relating to Newport.**

The Town Clerk was requested to copy the response to Wellington Road Surgery and the Health Minister.

FINANCE

140/08-09 Finance Statement

Cllr Gratton considered that an entry relating to Earmarked Capital Funds (canal picnic area) did not appear on page 2 of the Financial Statement.

The Town Clerk agreed to investigate the matter and report back.

Excluding the matter above The Finance Statement for October 2008 **attached at appendix 'D'** and the payments therein, were approved and ratified.

141/08-09 Thank You Letters

Members noted letters of thanks for grants awarded have been received from:

Trinity Church & Community Centre
Church Aston Thursday Club
Newport Ps and Qs

142/08-09 Grant Applications

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

a. To award Section 137 Grants as follows:

		CDA*
Beaumaris Singers	£200	n
Newport Music Club	£300	n
Newport Rainbow Club	£250	n
St Nicholas Church	£20	n
(Friends of)		
St Nicholas Church	£300	p
(Community carol service)		

b. To award Section 19 Grants as follows:

		CDA*
Bouhey Gardens Tennis Club	£400	p
(Junior Aces)		
Nova United	£600	p
Newport Cricket Club (Junior	£250	p
Section)		

c. To award youth Grants as follows

Newport Detachment	£500	p
Shropshire Army Cadet Force		

Clerks Note:

Remaining balances: Sect137 - £1680, Sect19 - £550, Youth Grants -£1000

*CDA Crime and Disorder Act

n=neutral impact

p=positive impact

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) AREA MATTERS

143/08-09 SK8 Park & Service Level Agreement (SLA)

The Town Clerk informed members that the SK8 Park SLA (approved by the Town Council at meeting serial no 318/07-08) had recently been signed by all parties.

Members were reminded that we had agreed to partial funding for the maintenance of the SK8 park (payment of £1000 annually to Telford and Wrekin and the reserve of up to £4000 annually for independent safety reports and general repairs).

COMMUNITY SAFETY

144/08-09 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Cllr Forrester briefed members following his attendance at a meeting on 20 October 2008.

There are a number of SIDs available for use by rural and urban areas from Telford & Wrekin (In this context Newport is considered urban). Units cost in the region of £2500 each and the cost to relocate one is circa £190. On going maintenance costs have been requested. The initial step is to identify the locations considered for inclusion in the SIDS programme. Cllr Forrester provided a list of proposed sites (having already consulted the local police) and requested input from members.

Members agreed to provide a list of desirable locations for consideration to Cllr Forrester before 28 November. Cllr Forrester was requested to co-ordinate the Newport Town Council.

The subject raised the issue of budget provision. Cllr Forrester agreed to work with the Town Clerk to identify budgetary implications prior to the budget meeting scheduled for 19 November 2008.

145/08-09 PACT Meeting Held on 22 October 2008

Cllr Forrester advised that the issue of illegal parking in and around the High Street was cause of much concern and debate from residents. The provision of parking enforcement was considered inadequate and he wished for members to consider writing to Telford & Wrekin to de-criminalise parking offences in order that they are carried out by Borough Council officers. For too long the Town Council have been criticised for not addressing the issue forcefully enough when the matter was outside of its direct remit.

Members were asked to consider the subject of illegal parking which will be an agenda item at the next meeting of the town Council on Wednesday 10 December 2008.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

146/08-09 Christmas Lights Switching On

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Switching on of the Christmas lights would take place on 28 November on or shortly after 6.15pm.

In the lead up to the event a Christmas Card competition had been run for local children. Judging had taken place [by representatives from The Newport Advertiser, E-on and the Christmas lights contractor] and winners were being informed. A list of the winners will be printed in the Newport Evening Advertiser on Friday 21 November.

In conjunction with the switching on of the Christmas lights the 'tree of light' would also be switched on. This year's event raises funds for Shropshire Air Ambulance and Promise Dreams. A list of all those who have donated towards the 'tree of light' would be printed in The Newport Advertiser on Friday 28 November 2008.

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

147/08-09 Routine Correspondence

Members noted the list of routine correspondence received during October 2008 – List **attached** at **Appendix 'F'**.

TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

148/08-09 Town Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Members noted the unsigned Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008.

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

149/08-09 Quality Parishes

Members noted an invitation to the West Midlands Quality Parish Council local Leadership Programme event scheduled for Friday 28 November 2008.

Cllr Flowers volunteered (subject to conformation) to attend on behalf of members.

(Town Clerk's note: Cllr Flowers unable to attend and has agreed to research the matter on behalf of members remotely)

150/08-09 Local Council Review

Members noted receipt of the NALC publication 'LCR' –
Previously circulated.

151/08-09 EU MATTERS

Nil

152/08-09 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that in the view of the business about to
**be transacted (that is a briefing by staffing sub-committee) it
would be in the public interest that the press and public be
excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.**

Signed

Dated