



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING

held on

Wednesday 10 March 2010

at

The Guildhall, High Street, Newport

PRESENT: Cllrs: Ashley - Deputy Mayor
Gratton
Norton
Nelson
Scott
Stanton
Unwin
Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Jakeman – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received and accepted from:

Cllr Scammell (Rotary Club Dinner), Cllr Carter (T&W Council Meeting)
and Cllr Forrester (Holiday), Cllr Meredith (T&W Council Meeting).

260/09-10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

261/09-10 SUSPENSION OF MEETING

It was **RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to take questions from the public.** Mrs Garwood raised the issue of the impending closure of the Royal Mail sorting office in Newport. A summary of the points raised is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

262/09-10 ANNOUNCEMENTS

A copy of the Town Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's engagements for January 2010 is **attached at Appendix 'B'**.

263/09-10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2010 were approved as a true record.

264/09-10

MATTERS ARISING

Central Square – Item 251/09-10 refers. There had been no formal correspondence on the matter however, it was understood that the tenant had acknowledged that some work would need to be done and, that they (the tenant) was in the process of considering a number of small works.

Newport Regeneration Partnership – Item 252-09 refers. The Clerk advised that the Minutes of the Regeneration Partnership for February are available. Copies of future minutes would be made available to the public via the Guildhall.

FINANCE

265/09-10

Finance Report

The Finance Report for February 2010 **attached** at **Appendix ‘C’** was approved and the payments therein ratified.

266/09-10

Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Walker advised Members that she had undertaken a reconciliation of the Bank account statement as at 31 January 2010 and had found nothing to report.

267/09-10

Thank You Letters

Letters of thanks for grants previously awarded by the Town Council had been received from the:

- (1) The Dalens
- (2) Girl-guiding Newport

268/09-10

Members Allowance

Cllr Scott confirmed his intention to claim the annual councillors allowance (pro-rata – since his election).

269/09-10

External Audit

The following councillors agreed to form a working group to review the effectiveness of internal audit:

Cllr Gratton
Cllr Unwin

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL (TWC) AREA MATTERS

270/09-10 Members noted the formal recognition of the adoption of the Parish Charter.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

271/09-10 Community Safety Committee Meeting – Minutes

Members noted the unsigned Minutes of a meeting held on 24 February 2010.

LEISURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

nil

RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION

272/09-10 Routine Correspondence

Members noted the list of routine correspondence received during February 2010. **attached at Appendix 'D'**

273/09-10 Renewal of Wedding Licence

Members **RESOLVED to:**

Renew the licence for the Guildhall to be an approved premises for civil ceremonies, on the understanding that fees charged would provide a cost neutral service.

274/09-10 Town Emblem/ Flag

It became clear that Members had not previously received a report on the item by the Town Clerk on the subject and **RESOLVED to:**

Move the agenda item to the next meeting of the Full Town Council.

275/09-10 St. Georges Day Celebrations

Cllr Scott advised members that the event planning was going well and that a further meeting would be held at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Thursday 25 March at 7pm.

TOWN PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**276/09-10 Planning & Economic Development Committee Meeting
– Minutes**

Members noted the unsigned Minutes of a meeting held on 10 February 2010.

277/09-10 Newport Regeneration Partnership (NRP)

Members received a verbal brief from Cllr Gratton regarding the ongoing topic of Victoria Park which should be completed by mid to late May.

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

nil

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**278/09-10 It was RESOLVED that in view of the special nature of
the business about to be transacted (that is
consideration of nominations for the Town Council
Special Recognition Award) it was advisable in the
public interest that the press and public be temporarily
excluded.**

Signed

Dated.....

NEWPORT POSTAL SORTING OFFICE

Issue raised by Mrs Jackie Gartwood,

Mrs Gatwood highlighted the impending closure of Newport Sorting office.

A total of 180 people had registered with the online petition and some 200 signatures had been obtained in manuscript. Mrs Gatwood asked that the Town Council help in publicising the petition designed to prevent the closure of the sorting office.

A number of questions were put to Mrs Gatwood by councillors regarding details of the impending closure, working patterns, risks to employment and effects on service delivery.

Members indicated their support for keeping the sorting office open.