



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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The Town Hall
Bishop's Castle
Shropshire
SY9 5BG

MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD USING ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr G. Perry Cllr J. Dickin Cllr T. Halford Cllr J. Carroll Cllr S. Morris Cllr B. Hawes Cllr J. Magill Cllr R. Houghton Cllr A. Stelman	

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Rippon Mrs C. Owen Mrs M. Gwilliam

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
21-21	1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> None received
22-21	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests b) To declare any personal interests.

Name	Agenda Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Cllr G. Perry	No. 12 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr J. Carroll	No. 12 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr A. Stelman	No. 12 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr A. Stelman	No. 16 Empty Property	✓	
Cllr R. Houghton	No. 16 Empty Property	✓	

23-21 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 19th January 2021**
RESOLVED: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Halford; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

- 24-21 4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**
None present.
- 25-21 5 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**
'My Shropshire' The Mayor had successfully registered for My Shropshire and reported 7 faulty street lights and 12 blocked drains. Shropshire Council sent a team to look at 6 of the street lights the following day. However, the day after the maintenance, all 6 street lights had stopped working again. The Mayor has re-reported the faulty lights. No news on the drains, yet.
Phone Boxes A 70-day consultation process notice has been displayed on the Colebatch Phone box to say the Town Council wants to take it over. The Phone box in the High St is listed and can't be removed by BT. The Phone box in Kerry Lane has gone.
Play Area Equipment. When the 3rd quote has been received, all the quotes will be circulated amongst Councillors for discussion. Cllr Houghton suggested that Shropshire Council should be invited to tender for installing the new equipment. The Clerk will follow it up.
SWS Broadband. SWS Broadband want to invest in a super-fast fibre broadband infrastructure for the town. A Government scheme will pay for some of the cost. The Mayor asked them to come and talk to the Town Council when they have a firm proposal in place.
- 26-21 6 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**
Birch Tree The complainant is not satisfied with the outcome from the ICO and will appeal.
An incident of a motorised scooter being ridden in the play area has been reported to the authorities.
Elections are coming up in May. Forms will be sent out. The Council will need to be mindful of the legislation regarding virtual meetings which currently runs out at the end of April, but may possibly be extended by the Government. The Town Hall is too small to maintain social distancing for a public meeting in the current restrictions. The Council will make a decision on dates and venue or virtual at the next meeting.
- 27-21 7 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**
The next Shropshire Council meeting is next Thursday. Cllr Houghton has tabled a question on the number and location of empty houses in Shropshire. Empty houses have an impact on the housing need. They could be utilised for local families.
Flooding There is a site meeting coming up to look at the flooding issues in Colebatch, (including blocked ditches and pot-holes).
Cllr Houghton has been trying to identify the ownership of the land and gullies in connection with the repeated flooding of the gully at the back of Stone House Hospital.
Cllr Houghton has been trying to get Highways to provide a grit box for Drews Leasowe (which is an un-adopted road) to no avail. The road was extremely icy in recent cold weather.
Roads The Town Council will complain to Shropshire Council about the poor state of recent road repairs on Kerry Lane and other roads in Bishop's Castle.
Ox Leasowe. The Town Council will ask Connexus about installing street lights.
- 28-21 8 **PLANNING**
1. 21/00385/TCA
Application to Fell 2No Ash Trees to hedge level within Bishops Castle Conservation Area at Land Off Church Lane Bishop's Castle Shropshire

RESOLVED: The Town Council recommends that the Tree Warden's

recommendation of reducing the height of Tree 1 to 3m (not hedge height) and felling tree 2 to hedge height be followed. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

29-21

9

MONTHLY FINANCES

- i. To note the Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: Approved. Proposed Cllr Dickin; Seconded Cllr Hawes. All in favour.

- ii. To discuss and decide on the re-appointment of Iain Selkirk as the internal auditor for 2020-2021

RESOLVED: Agreed. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

- iii. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	February Return	909.37
HMRC	PAYE and NI	February Return	846.86
Staff salaries	4 staff	February Return	2340.31
C. Owen	Minute taker	336.	37.56
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	337.	336.00
M. Gwilliam	Work from home allowance	338.	24.00
G.J. Rippon	Work from home allowance	339.	24.00
T. Moulder	Planters	340.	500.00
BCHRC	Storage	341.	143.00
A.Evans	Maintenance	342.	1335.00
Exemplum	printing	343.	239.02
Shropshire Council	Rates	344.	364.00
Bullseye	Pest control	345.	158.00
For information			
Host it	Website Domain name	346.	167.88
Zoom	Log on fee	347.	48
BG	Electricity	348.	30.80
Societe Generale	Printer Lease	349.	322.80
Allotment Society	Membership collected	350.	276.00
BT	Telephone / Broadband	351.	302.73
Corona	electricity	352.	531.07
Total			£ 9285.14

RESOLVED:

The invoices be paid. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

30-21

10

ALLOTMENTS

To discuss and decide the report in relation to the allotments.

Maintenance. The track needs resurfacing. It was agreed that 3 contractors be asked for

advice. One contractor has already given a quote.

Membership and Rent.

RESOLVED It was proposed that the Allotments Society passed on money owed to the Town Council as soon as it was recovered. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in Favour.

31-21 11 **SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM**

To receive a report from Cllr Stelman in relation to South Shropshire Youth Forum. The manager of the South Shropshire Youth Forum sends his apologies for this meeting.

Purpose twofold:

- 1) To demonstrate to the youth that they are appreciated and have a valuable contribution to make to the local area.
- 2) In the light of the long-term impact of Covid on young people, how can we support them?

The proposal is to allocate some seed money for young people to work with SSYF and identify what young people want and need in Bishop's Castle. 8 weekly 3 hour sessions will cost £1200. The Community College is also in discussion with SSYF.

The Underground Youth Centre plans have stalled. Plans to develop a skateboard area in the playing fields were interrupted by Covid, so there is not much provision in the town at the moment.

Cllr Stelman agreed to find out if there was a limit on the numbers that could attend.

The Town Clerk would advise on grants and monies available.

Cllr Stelman hoped that something could be set up Post Covid.

32-21 12. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The traffic survey will go in the next newsletter, so nothing to report as yet. Cllr Halford requested an up-to-date map. The Clerk will contact Shropshire Council re obtaining an electronic map.

33-21 13. **TOWN HALL TRUST**

The Farmers' Market will be on Saturday. Staff are partly furloughed. Awaiting further instructions from The Government.

34-21 14. **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Nothing to report.

35-21 15. **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Enterprise South West Shropshire. Cllrs Perry and Houghton had attended a meeting. There is less IT support but the future is more optimistic than it was.

36-21 16. **ITEMS FOR FACEBOOK / WEBSITE**

Election; Census; My Shropshire.

37-21 17. Confidential item. At 8.31pm there were no members of the public in attendance.

TO DISCUSS USE OF EMPTY PROPERTIES ON THE MAIN STREET.

A property on the High Street was discussed but due to commercial sensitivity the identity is withheld

38-21 18. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 16th March 2021, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 8.38pm.