

Minutes 8th January 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.M. Carroll, J.L.V. Blundell, B.P. Jones,
E.A. Lawrence, K.E.C. Pinches, W.J. Morris, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Kinmond and Magill.
2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH DECEMBER 2001:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th December, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell with two amendments: (1) Addition to Item 6g: 'The Mayor took no part in the discussion or the decision' and (2) Item 22.k amend £5000 to £500. Proposition seconded by Cllr Jones, approved and signed by The Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

a) Cllrs Blundell and Whittall declared an interest on item 20.
b), c), d), e) and f) None.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4.9: It was agreed that the wording of a banner should be 'Market Open in Town Hall Today' and should be printed on both sides.
Item 4.12: Kay Chambers, Secretary of the Community Forum has asked if Mr Pahl could come and speak to the Council at a meeting. It was proposed that Mr Pahl be invited to the next meeting.

Item 6.g: Cllr Carroll reported that at the recent meeting with Mr Caird this was discussed. Mr Caird had advised that the five year planning permission expires in February. It was therefore necessary for them to renew the permission and the old original plan had been put forward. However, since this plan had been approved, amended plans for the road have been approved. This has caused some confusion and a new amended plan should be received shortly.

Item 9: Letter from Mr Biggs read regarding the public conveniences. All responses from Parish and Town Councils will be reported to the Council's Executive Committee on Wednesday 16th January and he will write to us again after this meeting.

Item 22.k: As 2002 is Jubilee Year, Mr Whitefoot has asked if the Council would like to consider including a carving on the top bar of the gate 'To Commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II'. It was agreed that the Playing Field Committee should meet Mr Whitefoot to agree the details of the gate before he begins to make it. Cllr Jones said that the money she raised whilst Mayor had not yet been distributed but it is her intention to give 25% towards the Playing Field and this could be put towards the gate. The Council gratefully accepted this offer.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) No plans received.

b) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1) 1/01/12809/F Planning Permission granted to S.M. Cooper, 44 Union Street, Bishop's Castle for erection of ancillary domestic outbuilding.

2) 1/01/12842/F Planning Permission granted to Bishop's Castle Medical Practice, School Lane, for erection of extensions to surgery.

3) 1/01/12765/F and 1/01/12767/CA Notice of Withdrawal of application for erection of 2 dwellings and domestic garages and demolition of former bakery. Mr R. Sidebottom, Church Street, Bishop's Castle.

4) 1/01/12813/F Planning Permission granted for erection of dwelling. A.D. Buy, plot to the rear of Hall Villa, Bishop's Castle.

5) 1/01/12845/F Planning Permission granted for erection of extension to dwelling. Mr M. Evans, 32 Grange Road, Bishop's Castle.

c) Internally illuminated signs in the Town: The Deputy Mayor with Cllrs Lawrence and Whittall had met Mr Caird in Ludlow on 3rd January to discuss signage in Bishop's Castle. Cllr Carroll gave a report of this meeting, it was confirmed that internally illuminated signs are not permitted in the Conservation Area, but photographic evidence will be required before SSDC can take action. It was suggested that for the large corporate businesses a direct approach to the Company would be more effective than legal action.

In case of difficulties with plans it was suggested that e.mail should be used to elucidate uncertainties.

7. ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the invoices listed on the Agenda an invoice has been received from Mr A. Wallace for December street cleaning for £20.50. Cllr Wright proposed that all accounts presented are approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

8. PRECEPT:

Accounts to 31.3.01 together with details of income and expenditure to 31.12.01 and estimates for 1.1.02 to 31.3.02 had been circulated to Councillors with the Agenda. The precept for the current year was £32,000, an increase of £10,000 of the previous year, to enable money to be set aside for improving lighting in Kerry Lane and safety surfacing in the Playing Field. Since then the problem of the roof of the Town Hall needing extensive work had arisen and it had been agreed to put in safety surfacing when any new equipment is purchased. A lighting scheme for Kerry Lane has been drawn up and amendments are under consideration.

There was discussion about the estimated expenditure the Council faces in the next financial year and whether the current precept will be sufficient or should be increased. Cllr Carroll proposed that although the cost of the Town Hall repairs are not yet known and the Kerry Lane lighting remains a priority, the precept should remain the same, at £32,000 seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

9. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK - PART III LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000:

Standards Committee: The Mayor advised that Mr A. Clague has been elected as Chairman of the Standards Committee until the annual meeting of Council 2002 at the first meeting of the Committee held on 17th December. The second meeting is to be held on Tuesday 15th January.

Training: To advance understanding of this topic, a series of training sessions for all Council Clerks and Chairmen is to be arranged as soon as possible, so that Town and Parish Councils have plenty of time to determine the content of their own local code will before the 5th May deadline.

New Model Code of Conduct: Individual copies will be sent to every Councillor as soon as possible. The DTLR have written that the local government white paper Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services was published on 11th December and an extract which sets out proposals for the reform of the financial regime was enclosed. The Government hopes that this package of proposals will help all parishes move towards Quality Parish and Town Council status, while allowing extra flexible

10. TOWN HALL - REPORT ON PROGRESS:

The Mayor read a letter from Mr Wheatley of Wheatley & Lines Architects and reported that he would be coming to the Town Hall on Tuesday 15th January at 10.00am. He hoped that as many Councillors as were available would be willing to come to meet him. Mr Newall of Baart, Harries, Newall was being invited to come to meet Councillors at 10.45 am. A copy of the RIBA Conditions of Engagement for works to historic buildings had been received from Mr Wheatley which was passed around for Councillors to read.

11. REQUEST FOR GRANT BY PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE FOR KITCHEN AND TOILETS:

Letter read from Mrs Ellis, secretary of Public Hall Committee, advising that the application made for a Lottery grant has not been successful, but the Committee have decided that improvements to the kitchen and toilet facilities are a priority and should go ahead. The Committee would like confirmation that the £1,000 that the Council had offered was still available. Cllr Blundell proposed that the Council should have more details of what is planned and estimates of cost before making a decision, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. Details to be obtained for the next meeting.

12. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION:

It was reported that Mr M. Holland and Mr P. McCaul from the S.S. Housing Association had met with the Clerk, Cllrs Wright and Lawrence and P.C. Weaver to consider the problems in Corricks Rise raised in correspondence over the past 18 months. It appeared that complaints about the tenant came from the occupants of one house so that the Housing Association felt this is a neighbours dispute and were disinclined to act on a single complainant. If there were more complaints they would be more inclined to take action. It was agreed that the H.Association would write to their tenant and recommend mediation and the Council should recommend the same to the complainant. Cllr Carroll proposed the Council write and advise mediation, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TOWN HALL CLEANER:

Ms Fox was appointed cleaner w.e.f. 1st October 2001 on a three month trial @ £71.00 per month. It was agreed that the Council is very happy with her work and Cllr Blundell proposed the appointment be confirmed, with an increase in salary to £77.50 per month, which should be reviewed in April, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

14. FLOODING AND DRAINAGE:

Letter read from Mr Kennedy, Principal Drainage Officer, S.C.C., who has also written to Mr Edwards and Mr Richards directly. S.S.D.C. and S.C.C. are addressing the problem to provide relief from the watercourse over flowing, but it is thought the major problem is of inadequate capacity in the combined sewerage system of the Severn Trent Water Plc. This company appear to continue to refute the growing evidence of the inadequacy of the sewerage system and he suggested the Council should write to them. The Mayor proposed that as we have already written to Severn Trent and to date they have not even acknowledged our letter, it would be far more effective for the County Council to contact Severn Trent themselves, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. PRESENTATION AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

The headmaster and Chair of Governors has invited the Council to a presentation of the Building Development on 22nd January at the Community College at 5.30 pm. Stage 2 of a £450,000 building programme is to start on the 4th January and during the presentation Nick James the County Architect will talk about the building programme and Terry Hunt will speak about how the development will improve the College's ability to serve the South Shropshire Community. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Jones would like to attend and Cllr Whittall would like to, other commitments permitting.

16. VITAL VILLAGES:

Vital Villages is a new range of grants available from the Countryside Agency to help the community take action on issues which are important to them. The grant schemes will enable the community to develop a plan of action to look at issues such as local transport, access and improvements to key services. Cllr Lawrence explained that these grants are important and should not be overlooked as there may be money that could help Bishop's Castle. It was felt that there needs to be a commitment by some-one willing to undertake this, as these application forms can be lengthy and daunting. Cllr Morris would like to see the application pack and the Clerk was asked to obtain one and circulate to Councillors. ACTION TOWN CLERK

17. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE COUNTY STRATEGY:

The South Shropshire Partnership has sent a copy of the South Shropshire Community Strategy and a summary of the County Strategy. These documents set out plans for the next ten years. Other agencies and their networks have been consulted and feedback is welcome. The next stage of the consultation process will be to get the views of the residents of South Shropshire which will be carried out at the end of January / February through the publication "South Shropshire Matters." It was agreed this document should be circulated urgently around Councillors. CIRCULATE

18. CAMP-SITE UP-DATE:

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on 29th November the Caravan, Camping and Walking Centre project was questioned by Mr Williams who said it was seen as being competitive with existing operations. Dr Skewiss explained that this idea had arisen from meetings held in the Town, not from the company and letters of support had been received from the Town Council and the Tourism Group, who had undertaken some of the initial research work. It was envisaged that after development it would be put to tender to allow local interests an opportunity to bid.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

a) Cllr Whittall reported that he had attended the AGM of the Joint Advisory Committee at The Leisure Centre, the minutes of which have been received and can be circulated. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23rd January.

CIRCULATE
b) Cllr Carroll report that during the meeting with Mr Caird it was agreed that the footpath in Oak Meadow, which had been a rural path needs to be tarmaced as it now passes through a housing estate. He will use his best endeavours to have this path resurfaced by the County Council. Mr Caird felt that there ought to be a policy introduced so that in future the Developer and the three councils involved all work together to ensure such paths are dealt with in the appropriate manner.

c) Cllr Jones has received notification of a meeting to be held on 5th February of the Community College Advisory Group and it was requested that Groups send in ideas/comments for discussion prior to 10th January. Cllr Jones proposed a letter is sent supporting the development of the skate board area and a drop-in centre for young people, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

20. STREET LIGHTING:

Mr D'Alezio is on holiday at present and the Clerk will be speaking to him about the design plan for Kerry Lane, on his return.

The Auction Yard is very dark and Cllr Whittall suggested that a bright light on the east side would be very useful. Councillors were asked to look at this before the next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

21. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) Mrs A. Humphrey: Letter read regarding the Christmas music from the Awareness shop and the American flag displayed outside. It was proposed a letter is sent to the shop owners regarding the music, as two other verbal complaints had been received, but take no action regarding the flying of the American flag taking into account the owners connections with the country and the events that took place on 11th September. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Sodexo: A customer care questionnaire for completion, asking if the Council is satisfied with the work carried out etc. The form was completed; on the whole the Council is quite satisfied, but it was requested that we would like the grass to be cut up to the boundary, which at present it is not. It was felt that this is due to lack of time and it was requested that more time is allowed in order that the boundaries can be cut which would look tidier.

c) Mr M. Corfield, Chairman, E.S.W.S.: In the past there have been three Community Chest Schemes, where grants of up to £500 were offered to a variety of small, economic, social and community projects. The Board are considering a new scheme for 2002 and have asked the Council to consider making a contribution. Following discussion about this request Cllr Lawrence proposed no action is taken, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

d) S.C.C.: A copy of the consultation leaflet about the County Council Budget 2002/03. The C.C. welcomes views on the budget proposals and is holding a series of public consultation meetings. For the South Shropshire area a meeting will be held on 15th January at 7pm at the Bishop Mascall Centre. CIRCULATE

e) S.C.C. Emergency Planning: Annual Update meeting 2002 will be held on Wednesday 10th April at the Shirehall. A short illustrated presentation will be given highlighting the events of the last 12 months and will seek to examine ways in which communications in a crisis can be improved. This will be followed by an Open Forum. Cllr Jones is not able to attend this year, so any Councillor who would like to attend to contact the Clerk.

f) Ms K. Pinsent, newly appointed Rural Transport Partnership Officer for South Shropshire is willing to come and meet Councillors to discuss any transport projects or help with the "Parish Transport Grant". For reference, no action to be taken at present.

g) Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice: Request for a grant to help the Hospice to continue to meet the increasing local need to provide care to terminally ill patients. PRECEPT MEETING

h) South Shropshire Police-Community Consultative Group: Minutes of meeting held at Ludlow on 9th October 2001. CIRCULATE

i) S.P.F.A. Play Report. CIRCULATE

j) Shropshire Health Authority - Ambulance Service: A Partnership for the Future: A consultation document on the proposal to contract with West Midland Ambulance Service NHS Trust for an ambulance service for the people of Shropshire from the 1st April 2002.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Minutes 5th February 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.M. Carroll, J.L.V. Blundell, B.P. Jones, C.T.E. Kinmond, K.E.C. Pinches and J.A.J. Whittall.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Lawrence, Magill, Morris and Wright.
2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th January, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Pinches, approved and signed by The Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

c) Cllrs Blundell and Whittall declared an interest on item 15.
a), b), d), e) and f) None.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4.12: Mr Pahl was unable to attend this meeting, but would like to come to the March meeting.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mr N. Hurd, on behalf of the Bishop's Castle Wasteless Society reported that correspondence has been received from the S.S.D.C. requesting the 'Green Tractor' be removed from the Recycling Centre within 28 days because of problems with unlawful materials being put in. Following a meeting with Mr W. Jones, this period has been extended, but this is an extremely disappointing result of several years of fund raising and during the short time it has been at the Centre has been very successful. The Society checks the tractor on a regular basis and has on occasions had to remove materials that should not be there. However, to remove this facility would be a great shame and Mr Hurd asked if the Town Council would support the Society by writing and asking for the Group to be given time to amend the design of the tractor.

Mrs G. Thomas: The closure of the public toilets under the Town Hall would be a great loss the visitors and staff of local businesses. The facilities are well used, and in good condition. People cannot be expected to walk down to the Auction Yard and back up the hill. Mr A. McBarnett: Also feels the condition of the facilities is quite acceptable and they are required by local businesses and visitors. The S.S.D.C. has a duty to encourage tourism to the Town and retain these facilities.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

1) 1/01/13037/F Planning Permission (full) for Installation of a septic tank. (delegated matter). Plot to the rear of Hall Villa, Bishop's Castle. Mr A.D. Buy. Cllr Blundell proposed no objection, although it would be preferable to connect to the main drains via the new development currently being built in the adjoining field. Seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

2) 1/01/13027/F Planning Permission (full) for erection to extension to dwelling. (delegated matter). 15, Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Ms B. McGlynn. Cllr Blundell proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved.

Since the last meeting the following plans have been received that needed a response before this meeting:

1) 1/01/12956/F and 1/02/12957/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for change of use of shop A1 to estate agency A2. (delegated matter). 29 High Street, Bishop's Castle. McCartneys. Seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Jones. No objection.

2) 1/02/12979/F and 1/02/12980/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to dwelling (delegated matter) 54 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs P. Needle. Seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Whittall. No objection.

3) 1/02/12972/F and 1/02/12973/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for installation of windows and internal alterations to dwelling (delegated matter) The Malt House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs D. Williams. Seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Whittall. No objection.

Cllr Whittall proposed that the Council approves the action taken regarding these plans, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

- b) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1) 1/01/12803/CA Conservation Area Consent and 1/01/12802/F Planning Permission granted for erection of an office building on site of existing barn to be demolished. Barn to the rear of 5-7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (Bishop's Castle).

2) 1/01/12827/LB Listed Building Consent granted for alterations to dwelling. Unicorn House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. J. Raney.

3) 1/01/12832/F Planning Permission granted for alterations to public house. The Six Bells, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. N. Richards.

c) Internally illuminated signs in the Town: Letter from Mr Caird was read which confirms that planning permission for the pole sign exists. It appears that this sign has been internally illuminated since the change of ownership. Cllr Blundell suggested that the Clerk should write to Mr Caird to clarify that the permission approved is for an internally illuminated sign. If so there is the question to be raised as to how this was approved, as the premises are in the Conservation Area where these are not permitted. Seconded by Cllr Kinmond and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

7. ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the invoices listed on the Agenda an invoice has been received from South Shropshire Area Committee of the S.A.P.T.C. for the Annual Subscription for £25.00 and Cllr Whittall has completed an expense claim for £16.00, for travelling to the meeting with Mr Caird in Ludlow on 3rd January. Cllr Blundell proposed that all accounts presented are approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Bedell and approved.

8. S.A.P.T.C.:

The Mayor asked the Clerk to confirm the present cost of membership and the publications. The annual subscription for the current year is £224.95, which includes 11 copies of the Parish Pump @ £7.92 and £9.99 for the Local Council Review which is produced every other month. The Mayor proposed that the Council should continue to receive the Parish Pump, but the Local Council Review should be cancelled for the time being, it can be re-ordered in the future if it is felt it would be useful. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

9. STREET TRADING LICENCING:

Letter read from Mr A. Proctor, who has taken advice and confirms that once controls have been implemented, they remain in force 365 days of the year. However he would like a copy of the Town's Charter and confirmation of the type and location of controls that the Council wishes to implement together with locations of the Michaelmas Fair and Christmas Lights Festival. The Clerk was asked to pass this information to Mr Proctor.

10. THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE:

Cllr Blundell reported that a small number of people had expressed an interest in organising some form of celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. He is prepared to meet with interested people to discuss ideas and will report back to the next meeting. There may be the possibility of obtaining match funding for this if the Council would be prepared to set aside some money. Cllr Blundell proposed that up to £1,000 is approved on the condition that it is matched, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. Cllr Carroll reported that there is an idea being considered for a Concert. Cllr Jones suggested that it would be nice to have a Jubilee Beacon. Cllr Bedell said that he would give consideration to this, but it would depend on DEFRA legislation. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

11. PROPOSED FIREWORK DISPLAY:

Cllr Whittall reported that for a number of years there has been no Bonfire Night Celebrations in the Town. A number of people have raised this with him and some are willing to help organise an event. Mr S. Green would be willing to organise the firework display and the whole thing could be self-financing. Cllr Whittall proposed that in principle the Council approves of re-introducing a celebration and he is prepared to represent the Council on an Organising Committee. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

12. COMPLAINTS REGARDING OBSTRUCTIONS ON PAVEMENTS:

Letter read from Mr P. Schofield pointing out that the pavement in Church Street is obstructed by large pots which are attached to the wall of Bumble Cottage. It was agreed this must cause a problem for people in invalid chairs and Cllr Whittall proposed that the new residents of the Cottage are contacted, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. TOWN HALL:

a) Appointment of Architect: The Mayor reported of the recent meeting Councillors had with Mr Wheatley regarding the repairs and improvements. Mr Newall no longer wishes to be considered. Cllr Whittall proposed that Mr Wheatley is asked to act on our behalf, he certainly appeared to be enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about historic buildings. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Use as venue for music event: The Clerk has been asked if the Town Hall can be hired as a venue for youngsters who are interested in a Samba Band. It was thought this is a good idea, but the Town Hall, particularly if it is to be at the week-ends is not perhaps the most suitable building. Cllr Blundell proposed that the organiser is advised that the Public Hall might be a more suitable venue, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

c) Public Entertainment Licence: The Town Hall does not have an Entertainment Licence and it is felt that this limited its use, it may be beneficial to obtain one. The Clerk has had discussions with Mr Proctor in the past and has been advised that certain events using recorded music do not require a licence. More information would be obtained from Mr Proctor. ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT THE TOWN HALL:

Letter read from Mr Biggs advising that the Council's Executive Committee has resolved that the public conveniences at the Town Hall are to be closed with effect from 1st April 2002. The Committee selected this set to close as they could not be made to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act when it comes into force in 2004. However a motion has been submitted by 14 members which if carried would mean that all the public conveniences across the district would be kept open for another twelve months during which time the review of public conveniences provision and maintenance would be completed. The notice of motion will be discussed by the Council on 7th March. Letters objecting to the closure from Mr Lennox, Miss S. Gould and Mr D. Wilkinson were read. Earlier in the meeting Councillors hear that it is felt very important that these conveniences are retained as they are used by local businesses, their customers and stewards and visitors of the two Museums. Despite reports of their poor condition they have been found to be in good working order and clean. Cllr Blundell proposed a letter is sent to SSDC Councillors strongly objecting to their closure, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Before leaving this subject it was reported that for several weeks the Auction Yard has been used as an animal collection centre on Wednesdays and to meet regulations it has been closed to the public from midnight the previous night, which effectively closes the toilets to the public. A letter was read from Mr D. Bryan-Jones of Halls advising that owing to a change in legislation it is no longer viable to sell fatstock on a Friday and in future sales will take place every Wednesday morning at 9.30 am. Store cattle sales will be held on Thursdays rather than Saturdays. Cllr Whittall proposed Halls are contacted to request that the toilets and bottle banks are not closed to the public and that the area is fenced off in such a way as to maintain access to them. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. STREET LIGHTING:

a) Auction Yard: The Auction Yard is very dark for people parking or walking through at night. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Clerk obtains a price for erecting a light directed over the area attached to the pole of the existing street light and if it is within the budget of the Clerk then approval should be given for the work to go ahead. Seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Church Bank: Letter from Mr Hunt was read raising his concerns about the inadequate lighting on Brampton Road. On busy evenings at the College there are considerable numbers of people using this road which has only a couple of lights between the College and the Church. Cllr Whittall said that money has been set aside to improve lighting in Kerry Lane and the area where there are most complaints about is between Corricks Rise and Corporation Street and he proposed that prices are obtained to bring this stretch of Kerry Lane up to Highway standard and the rest of the money is put towards bringing Brampton Road, from the crossroads to the Church up to Highway standard. From the Church to Grange Road would be greatly improved if the developers of Bells Court were asked to erect lighting each side of their entrance, which would greatly improve Kerry Lane. Cllr Jones seconded this proposal which was approved. Cllr Jones proposed that the Clerk makes enquiries about preparing a design scheme for Brampton Road, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

16. VITAL VILLAGES:

Cllr Carroll reported that she, Cllr Lawrence and the Clerk had met a representative from the Community Council of Shropshire to talk about the Vital Villages project. This had been an informative and interesting meeting and Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council proceeds with an 'Expression of Interest'. However she felt that professional help and guidance would be required to complete the application process and a request for this should be included. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION JC & TOWN CLERK

17. PUBLIC HALL:

Mr Whitefoot, Chairman of the Public Hall Committee was present and the Mayor invited him to speak about the proposed improvements to the Hall, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. Mr Whitefoot reported that three applications for Lottery funding have been turned down, one reason being that there is no disabled access to the basement of the building. There has been no change to the proposed renovation plans, but the Committee feel that the kitchen and toilet facilities are in great need of improvement and have taken the decision to phase the work. The total cost of the planned improvements is in the region of £200,000, but this first phase is estimated at approx £56,000. There is currently a survey being carried out seeking the views of the public about the Hall. Cllr Whittall proposed the offer of a grant of £1,000 remains, seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved.

Mr Whitefoot reported that Mr W. Oakley and Mr P. Williams are joint holders of the Public Entertainment Licence, the Alcohol Licence is held by the Boar's Head and the bar manager is Mr T. Herrick. Concern was expressed about the number of bottles and glasses in the Hall at the most recent dance and it was requested that the door stewards at dances are asked to be more vigilant and refuse admission to any-one with a glass or bottle. The bar staff only serve drinks in plastic cups and it is requested that empty bottles are collected regularly throughout the evening. If there are problems in future with glasses or bottles then the Committee should review it's bar policy. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. PLAYING FIELD:

a) Gate: Cllrs Carroll, Blundell and Whittall met recently with Mr Whitefoot and the Clerk to finalise details for the new gate. However, after consideration Mr Whitefoot had expressed his concern about the proposed size of the gate, the consequent stress on the gate posts and the difficulty he envisages making a gate of this dimension. Cllr Whittall proposed that in view of this the size of the gate should be reduced and proposed one 10' and one 4' gate, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. The wood will be purchased from Powys Estate.

b) Correspondence from C. Murphy: Letter read advising that the 'Friends of the Playing Field' group have expressed a wish to consider opportunities available for the development of the playing field as a space serving the wide range of needs in the Town. Cllr Carroll proposed that we advise the group we are pleased to hear this information and confirm ownership of the field, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

c) Grass cutting contract for 2002: Cllr Jones proposed the Clerk seeks tenders for this Contract for consideration at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

d) Playground Inspection Training: The latest Report from the SPFA contains a report from Rospa that there are indications that where there has been a professional, independent annual inspection of play equipment indicating no major faults and where regular inspections are carried out and an inspection regime is in place, insurance companies are less likely to take up a case of an accident claim. A series of Inspection Training has been organised in various locations at a cost of £10 per person. Cllrs Blundell and Whittall expressed an interest in attending one of these courses. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council meets the cost for both to attend, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved.

19. MAY FAIR:

Mr and Mrs Wynn have written to request the use of the Playing Field from Tuesday 7th May until Saturday 11th May, holding the fair on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th. The Clerk advised that the Agreement drawn up ran out last year so a new Agreement needs to be drawn up. Cllr Whittall proposed a new Five Year Agreement is drawn up with a rent of £525 for this year, increasing by £25 each year, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. The only complaints received about the Fair have been regarding the dismantling of equipment after the closure on the Saturday night. The Agreement should include a request that nothing is dismantled between midnight and 8.00 am on the Sunday morning. In view of the damage to the Bowling Club fence last year it was also agreed to incorporate that there should be no access to the Bowling Green for electric or water until a representative of the Club or a Councillor provides the key. ACTION TOWN CLERK

20. DRAINAGE PROBLEMS:

Cllr Kinmond reported that a large number of drains at the top part of the Town are blocked, particularly Castle Green, Castle Street, Welsh Street and the top of High Street. The Clerk was asked to contact S.C.C. Highways Department.

Letters regarding the flooding problem at the Six Bells were read from the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Matthew Green M.P. A site meeting had been suggested by the M.P. which was thought to be a good idea, particularly if Severn Trent can be persuaded to send a representative. MEETING TO BE ARRANGED

21. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION:

Cllr Carroll reported that the footpath around 'The Green' in Corporation Street is extremely rutted and muddy. It is unacceptable that Residents are expected to walk on paths of this standards to get to and from their homes. Also, being very rutted the question of a possibility of a fall and injury has to be raised with the Housing Association. The Clerk has received a number of complaints about the two cherry trees in Corporation overhanging the pavement as they are at face height. Cllr Carroll proposed a letter is sent to the Housing Association advising them there is a danger of being sued and asking for the trees to be carefully trimmed back. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

22. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE COUNTY STRATEGY:

Document in circulation, due to the time constraint it was proposed this is carried over to the next meeting.

23. CIVIC AWARDS:

It was reported that a Committee, comprising The Mayor with Councillors Blundell and Whittall should meet to discuss the details of introducing Civic Awards and will report back to the next meeting.
ACTION MAYOR, CLLRS BLUNDELL & WHITTALL

24. FARMERS MARKET:

The Mayor reported that a very striking poster had been received giving dates for the year of the Local Produce Markets in Castle Square, Ludlow. The Mayor felt that by calling ours a 'Farmers Market' we were perhaps limiting interest and that Local Produce should be the aim. Cllr Carroll proposed that on future advertising the wording 'Local Produce and Farmers Market' should be used, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

The time being 10.00 pm, Cllr Carroll proposed a ten minute extension to the meeting, seconded by Cllr Blundell.

25. PROGRESS REPORT ON ARTS AND SPORTS CENTRE:

Cllr Carroll reported that plans appear to be progressing well.

26. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK - PART III LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000:

The Mayor, Deputy and Clerk attended a meeting at the Community College on 30th January. Mr Richard Thomas gave information about Part III of the Local Government Act 2000. The need for the Council to adopt the Model Code of Conduct and the implications for Councillors arising from this. All Councillors must adopt the model Code of Conduct by 5th May 2002 and within two months each Councillor must sign the Form of Undertaking. There will need to be available for inspection Registers of Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Register of Interests and Register of Gift and Hospitality, which Councils are being asked to maintain locally. Each Councillor had received with the Agenda for tonight's meeting, a copy of the Guidance Note on Part III of the Local Government Act 2000; 'The New Ethical Framework' issued by S.S.D.C.

A letter from Mr Thomas was read and a questionnaire was completed. Cllr Carroll proposed that this is on the Agenda for the next meeting and in the meantime the Clerk returns the form to Mr Thomas, seconded by the Mayor and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

27. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Cllr Whittall attended a meeting of the Leisure Area Advisory Board on 23rd January. He reported the swimming pool is closing in the middle of February for major refurbishment and will be re-opening at the end of May. There is a threat to the funding of the South Shropshire Sport and Leisure Advisory Group, which in recent years has approved a number of small grants for sports clubs and many clubs in Bishop's Castle have benefited from it. These small grants have in some cases opened up the opportunity to larger grants and Cllr Whittall proposed a letter is written to Mr G. Biggs saying what a great pity it would be if S.S.D.C. did not continue with these grants, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

Cllr Jones reported there had been a meeting of the Community Advisory Board at the Community College, which unfortunately she had been unable to attend. She would pass the minutes to the Clerk to circulate when they are received.

Cllr Carroll reported that she and Julie Davies of the Chamber of Trade had attended a meeting on 24th January in Ludlow about Town Branding. There are likely to be a number of meetings about this in the future.

28. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) Rev K. Collins: Permission to use Market Square for two events this year, Sunday 24th March as an assembly point for the Palm Sunday Procession and Friday 29th March for a short service. It is suggested that Mayor's Sunday is held on 2nd June this year to combine this annual service with something special for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection to this request, seconded by Cllr Bedell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Mrs J. Palmer: Application for street closure orders Sunday 24th March for Palm Sunday Procession from 10.40 am to 11.00 am, Market Square, High Street and Church Street. Also on Sunday 23rd June from 10.30 am to 11.00 am and 12 noon and 12.30 pm for the Midsummer Rejoicing procession in Union Street, Market Square, High Street, Church Street and Salop Street. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection to this application, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

c) C.C. Peter Phillips: A number of news cuttings, one in particular Cllr Phillips asked if the Council would request SSDC to re-instate the grants to arts and leisure. The Clerk was asked to circulate this. CIRCULATE

d) Julie Davies, Chair of B.C. and District Chamber of Trade: Thanking the Council for use of the Town Hall and the Mayor for turning on the Christmas lights.

e) South Shropshire Access Group: Established in 1993 to raise awareness of the access needs of people with disabilities and work with local authorities and providers to meet those needs. CIRCULATE

f) Bishop's Castle Walking Festival: 11th - 13th June 2002 - A guided three day Walking Event. Also a copy of a report collated by Catherine Murphy of the Walking Festival held in October 2001. CIRCULATE

g) Local Environment Focus: CIRCULATE

h) The Wasteless Society: Newsletter CIRCULATE

i) S.A.P.T.C.: A Special General Meeting was held on 2nd February at The Shirehall to adopt a new constitution reflecting the way that Councils must now operate.

j) CIC News: Zurich Municipal newsletter. CIRCULATE

Cllr Carroll proposed a letter is sent to Mr Biggs regarding the 'Green Skip' that Mr Hurd came along to talk about earlier in the meeting, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Minutes 5th March 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.M. Carroll, J.L.V. Blundell, B.P. Jones, E.A. Lawrence, J.A. Magill, W.J. Morris and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Kinmond, Pinches and Whittall.

2. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 5TH AND 26TH FEBRUARY 2002:

Minutes of the Council meetings held on 5th and 26th February, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Jones, approved and signed by The Mayor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

a) Cllrs Blundell declared a possible interest on item 14.
b), c), d), e) and f) None.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 5: Letter from Ruth Richards, SSDC read. The S.S.D.C. recognises the valuable work undertaken by the Wasteless Society, but it has been necessary to contact them about the requirement for improvements to the design of the trailer. The Society is now in contact with the Environment Agency and it is hoped the problem can soon be resolved.

Item 6: A mobile home has been sited at The Cabin for which the Council has not received a planning application. Cllr Jones informed the Council that the person responsible has had planning approval to renovate their house and has contacted SSDC about temporary siting of a mobile home while the work is carried out and were advised that planning permission would not be necessary.

Item 9: Mr Proctor has advised that there should be a separate Market Charter. Cllr Blundell proposed that Mrs Marion Roberts, the Honorary Archivist is contacted to try and locate it, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 12: The pots have been removed from the front of Bumble Cottage.

Item 6.c: Internally illuminated signs in the Town: A fax received from SSDC confirms approval was given on 28.7.86 for five years. It was confirmed that it was never illuminated during this period. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Caird requesting that enforcement action is taken as this permission expired before the current owner purchased the premises. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 27: Letter read from Mr Biggs regarding the future of South Shropshire Sport & Leisure Advisory Council. The Council has had to reduce its budget and during the public consultation the majority of respondents were not prepared to pay more Council Tax so as to prevent the Sports and Art budget from being deleted.

From meeting 26th February 2002: It was reported that the hearing regarding the Public Entertainment Licence application for The Crown & Anchor Vaults had taken place on 1st March at the Shirehall and as time had run out, had been adjourned to a date yet to be arranged. The Mayor thanked Cllr Carroll and the Clerk for attending the proceedings and giving evidence, which had been a time consuming and stressful day. It was reported that during the hearing reference had been made to the Film Society wishing to use the proposed new building. The Secretary of the Film Society had contacted the Council that this had been reported as moving to the Crown & Anchor Vaults has never been discussed. Cllr Blundell proposed the Clerk contacts the Clerk of the Court with this information, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) A/02/12979/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a polytunnel (delegated matter). Field adjacent to B4385 Crowgate to Bishop's Castle. A.N. & W.B. Coull, 2 Little Folly, Lydbury North. Cllr Carroll proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Bedell and approved.

b) A/02/12979/F and 1/02/12980/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent. Internal and external alterations to dwelling (re-advertised amended plan) (delegated matter). 54, Church Street, Bishop's Caslte. Mr and Mrs P. Needle. Cllr Carroll proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Bedell and approved.

d) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1/02/12972/F and 1/02/12973/LB Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent granted for installation of windows and internal alterations to dwelling. The Malt House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs D. Williams.

e) South Shropshire Local Plan: This has been circulated around some Councillors, but has not yet been seen by every-one. Comments should be with SSDC by 12th April, so it was agreed this should be on the Agenda of the next meeting.

AGENDA NEXT MEETING

7. ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the invoices listed on the Agenda an invoice has been received from Mr A. Wallace for street cleaning during January and February for £32.80. Cllr Blundell proposed that all accounts presented are approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved.

8. REVIEW OF MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE:

Currently £275 per annum and £250 last year. Cllr Blundell said a more realistic amount would be 10% of the Precept, as when he was Mayor his telephone bill exceeded the Mayor's Allowance. Following discussion The Mayor proposed £300 for the forthcoming year, seconded by Cllr Jones. Cllr Magill proposed that the Mayor should also be paid telephone and motoring expenses. It was stated that a Travelling Allowance of 42p per mile is already available to Councillors travelling on Council business. Cllr Wright proposed that up to £200 for the year can be claimed if required for telephone expenses, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved. It was thought that telephone expenses could be minimised by the Mayor and Clerk meeting at mutually agreed times.

9. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK - PART III LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000:

The Mayor read through the personalised Members' Code of Conduct. It was proposed by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Wright and unanimously resolved that the Council hereby adopts the model Code contained in The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 with effect from this date, 5th March 2002 and that all members be reminded of their obligations to make a formal declaration to observe the code.

Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Form I) were completed and signed by Councillors present. Cllr Blundell proposed that the Clerk purchases the necessary forms and registers for the Notification of Financial and Other Interests from the authorised supplier, Shaw and Sons, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE:

Cllr Blundell is hoping to meet Sue Cooper in the near future to discuss funding. Cllrs Carroll and Magill both said they were willing to help co-ordinate a meeting to help move things along and will report back to next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

11. DATES OF ANNUAL MEETINGS:

1. Private meeting of members of the Council: Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30 pm, prior to Council meeting at 8.00 pm
2. Annual Town Meeting: Tuesday 23rd April at 8.00 pm in Town Hall. It was suggested Mr Hunt, Headmaster of the Community College be asked to come along to speak. If he is not available perhaps Mr A. Williams, SCC Chief Librarian would be.
3. Annual Council Meeting: Tuesday 14th May at 8.00 pm in Town Hall.
4. Mayor's Sunday Service: Sunday 2nd June.

12. TOWN HALL:

Market Rent: Rents were increased last year to: Daily hire of Charter Room £30.00. Inquests in Council Chamber £20, Fruit and Veg stall £25 and all other stalls £5. Cllr Blundell proposed that the Town Hall Committee meet to discuss, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

Architect: Mr Wheatley has been asked to act on its behalf in connection with the proposed repairs and improvements to the Town Hall and has verbally accepted to take on the project. It was reported that last Saturday during the Flea Market there was an electrical problem. Cllr Blundell attended and found that a fault had developed which requires the meter and RCD to be replaced, so currently there is no electricity in the downstairs part of the building. It is estimated that parts and time will cost less than £150 and Cllr Blundell was asked to order the materials and put this work in hand as soon as possible.

13. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AT THE TOWN HALL:

A number of District Councillors have replied to the Council request to reconsider the proposed closure of the public conveniences at the Town Hall. Mr Biggs has notified the Council that there is a notice of motion being considered by the Council on 7th March relating to the proposed closure, however if the Council continues to maintain its present policy position, it remains open for the Town Council to take over the running of the conveniences. Water is leaking from the Ladies, which is a potential hazard during icy weather. Cllr Carroll proposed that SSDC are informed of this, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. STREET LIGHTING:

It was reported that there is a bent street light on Castle Green. Unfortunately it cannot be repaired until a large white van has been moved. A letter from GPU regarding a safety matter involving a Pole Top street lighting fitting has been seen by Cllrs Blundell and Whittall, who have advised the Clerk that these fittings are not used in Bishop's Castle. A letter from Mrs A. Owen was read complaining that the new light in the Harley Jenkins Street car park is very bright and shines directly into their house. Cllr Blundell suggested that the lamp is exchanged with the one recently erected in the Auction Yard, which is not quite so bright. ACTION CLLR BLUNDELL AND WHITTALL

16. VITAL VILLAGES:

Having registered the Council's interest Cllr Carroll proposed the next stage is to arrange a meeting of the voluntary bodies in the Town to discuss the overall view of future plans for the Town. It should be stressed to these groups there is no intention to 'take over' the various projects, merely pool ideas and formulate a plan. Mrs Oakes of Shropshire Community Council has confirmed she will be willing to attend such a meeting and suggested mid April. Cllr Carroll and the Clerk agreed to liaise and organise a meeting.

ACTION CLLR CARROLL AND TOWN CLERK

17. MAYFAIR CONTRACT:

Letter from Mr and Mrs Wynn, accepting point raised about dismantling overnight, but requested a 7.00 am start on Sunday rather than 8.00 am. Cllr Blundell proposed this is acceptable. The Mayor and Clerk to liaise over drawing up Agreement and Clerk to contact Mr and Mrs Wynn regarding to collecting key, connecting to services and removing rubbish.

18. PLAYING FIELD:

Grass Cutting Contract: Three Tenders have been requested, one has been received, another has telephoned to say they are interested but have not yet been able to prepare a tender and no response received from the third. Cllr Morris proposed that when the second tender is received the Mayor and Clerk have permission to act and offer the contract to the cheapest, seconded by Cllr Jones and approved. ACTION MAYOR AND CLERK

19. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE PARTNERSHIP:

Letter read from J. Owen, South Shropshire Partnership. This Partnership is made up of representatives from the voluntary, community and statutory sectors who meet approximately 4 times a year. The Board Group wishes to extend its representation to the market towns of South Shropshire, with one representative from the community and one from the business sector. Cllr Lawrence thought she had more information about this and would contact the Clerk. The Clerk to send a copy to the Chamber of Trade asking if they would nominate a representative from the business sector. ACTION TOWN CLERK

20. FLOODING/DRAINAGE PROBLEMS:

Mr Rutherford confirmed that instructions for re-cleaning of the gullies has been issued. A site meeting by the Six Bells was held on 26th February attended by The Mayor, Mr W. Jones, SSDC, M. Green MP, County Councillor P. Phillips and representatives from Severn Trent Water. Severn Trent agreed to investigate the problem and provide the Town Council with a progress report every 4 weeks. The Clerk was asked to put this on the Agenda for future meetings.

21. DOG FOULING:

A number of letters have been received from pupils of the Primary School, complaining about dog mess on the pavements. It was agreed that although the grass on the Playing Field is much better there is still a problem on a number of pavements. Posters do seem to have some effect for a time. It is felt that the majority of dog owners are responsible and clean up any mess, but unfortunately a number are not. Purchasing a dog bin for Harley Jenkins Street was considered and Cllr Blundell proposed that the Clerk enquires about the cost of employing the services of a dog warden for half a day. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

22. MR R. PAHL, COMMUNITY FORUM:

Mr Pahl, Chairman of Bishop's Castle and District Community Forum came along to suggest that the Forum and the Town Council could be more effective if they were to work more closely together in the future. All authorities have a requirement to consult the public at various times and the Forum is a useful resource for people to come together when there is an issue to discuss.

Useful discussion followed and it was pointed out that there is a danger that the Town Council could be side lined by the Forum. It was agreed that the Town Council will suggest items for the Agenda and pass to the Steering Committee. Representatives will be sought from the parishes for the Steering Committee and it was suggested that the forum should go back to moving around the District for their meetings.

23. BUSES:

1. Timetable: The case outside the Town Hall leaks and the wet has ruined the timetable. Clerk to contact S.C.C.
2. Parking: It was noted that buses are still parking on the Boar's Head crossroads, which is so dangerous for other road users. Clerk to raise with S.C.C.
3. Bus Shelter: Mr Gallop, S.C.C. and Mr Jones, Minsterley Motors are coming to discuss the buses going around to Stone House on Thursday 14th March at 10.30 at Billingsley Close. Would any Councillor available join the meeting. There are currently grants available of up to 75% of the cost of a bus shelter and the Clerk was asked to obtain some designs and prices for the next meeting.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

24. TOWN CRIER:

Letter read from Andrew Evans offering his resignation as Town Crier. Councillors were disappointed, but understood his reasons. Cllr Bedell reported that the ex Town Crier, Mr Higgs had offered to stand-in for any events. Clerk to contact Mr Evans to arrange for the bell and uniform to be returned. Action to be decided at a later date. ACTION TOWN CLERK

25. FOOTPATHS: AGENDA NEXT MEETING

26. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

27. CORRESPONDENCE:.

A) Use of Old Market Place: The local Morris Dancers are hosting an event on Sunday 21st April and have asked for the use of the Old Market Place for a short time for dancing at some point during the day. Cllr Wright proposed no objection provided they are advised that they are responsible for their own insurance, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved.

B) Morgan's Solicitors: Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence into the sole name of one of the co-licensees, Mr Gardiner. Noted.

C) Concessionary Travel Scheme: Officers of S.S.D.C. will be issuing the District Travel Card and have supplied a poster giving details of venues, dates and times. NOTICE BOARD

D) Major A.H. Coles, Chairman, S.C.C.: In order to avoid invitations clashing the Chairman is setting up a "Civic Diary of Shropshire Events", with which we may consult before arranging our respective events, to ensure, where possible they fall on a "free date". Noted.

E) Cllrs Mrs S. Murrell and P. Neal: Following a recent District Council Social Policy Committee Meeting they have been asked to find out what level of interest there is for Green Burial and what the views of the council are on this matter. Councillors understand the law allows this type of burial as it stands and felt that it should be recommended that such burials should be subject to planning permission.

F) County Councillor P. Phillips: Quality Town and Parish Councils: A survey of work going on in various counties. CIRCULATE

G) Youth Offenders Panel: Panels are a new way of dealing with young people who commit crimes. Local people will take the lead in challenging young offenders to take responsibility for their actions and helping them to change their behaviour for good. Panel Members are currently being recruited. NOTICE BOARD

H) South Shropshire Housing Association: To ensure a prompt response to queries notes have been prepared together with a list of staff and their responsibilities. A Guide to the Formal Complaints Procedure was also enclosed which the Clerk was asked to circulate. CIRCULATE

I) W.G. Batten Esq: Invitation to a charity concert by Shrewsbury Male Voice Choir at Shrewsbury Abbey on 10th May. The proceeds will be donated to The Richard Willis Blind School in Nepal and an information sheet giving the background of the school was enclosed. Any-one who would like to attend contact the Clerk.

J) C.P.R.E. The Government recently launched a major review of the planning system with the publication of its Green Paper 'Planning: delivering a fundamental change'. While there are some welcome reforms proposed the CPRE feels that the overall effect of the proposals would be to undermine the role of good planning in protecting the environment and countryside by tipping the balance in favour of the developers. It was felt this should be circulated and discussed at the next meeting. CIRCULATE AND AGENDA

K) Shell Interactive: CIRCULATE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Minutes 2nd April 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J.M. Carroll, J.L.V. Blundell, E.A. Lawrence, J.A. Magill, K.E.C. Pinches, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

The Mayor and Council stood in silence in memory of H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother who died last Saturday.

1. NEW ETHICAL FRAMEWORK:

Letter from Mr R. Thomas, Head of Legal Services, SSDC read, reminding the Council of the timescales which apply now it has adopted the Code of Conduct. a) Declaration of acceptance of office and undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct must be returned to the Clerk within 2 months of adopting the Code of Conduct. It was confirmed that all Councillors present have signed and returned these to the Clerk. b) The form relating to the Notification of Financial and other interests must be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days of adopting the Code of Conduct. It was confirmed that all Councillors present have completed their forms and returned them to the Clerk.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Bedell, Jones, Kinmond and Morris.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 5TH MARCH 2002:

Minutes of the Council meetings held on 5th March, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Lawrence, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall both declared a prejudicial interest on item 8 and a possible prejudicial interest on item 26.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4: Council advised that the Hearing between R.D. Sidebottom and S.S.D.C. will continue on Friday 12th April at The Shirehall.

Item 4.9: Mrs Roberts has provided a copy of the Market Charter, which has now been passed to Mr Proctor.

Item 11: Mr Hunt has confirmed he is able to attend the Annual Town meeting on Tuesday 23rd April.

Item 18: The contract for cutting the grass has been given to Sodex Ho, whose price for the season is £1,004.25 + VAT, compared to J.D.M. Midland of £1,204 + VAT.

Item 27.c: L. Keay, has advised that SSDC is investigating new methods of issuing District or Countywide Travel Cards and suggestions would be gratefully received.

South Shropshire Housing Association has acknowledged the Council's concern about footpaths and the cherry trees in Corporation Street. They have arranged for the paths to be inspected and any necessary repairs to be carried out. The grounds maintenance contractor has been asked to attend to the trees.

6. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

7. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13218/TC Tree works (Conservation Area) for felling of a Scots Pine (delegated matter). St. John the Baptist Church, Bishop's Castle. Mr B.J. Harrison. It is understood that emergency work has had to be carried out. Cllr Blundell proposed no objection to necessary work being carried out, and recommend a replacement tree is planted, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved, 4 votes, 1 against.

b) 1/02/13203/F and 1/02/13204/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for erection of extension and alteration to fenestration to dwelling and erection of ancillary domestic outbuilding. (delegated matter). 58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs J. Greig. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

c) 1/02/13221/TC Tree works (Conservation Area). Felling of an Ash tree (delegated matter). 29 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr A. Seabourne. Objection has been received from the Civic Society and the Tree Warden has advised that the tree does not present a threat to neighbouring property. Cllr Wright proposed an objection to felling a healthy tree, which is not dangerous to neighbouring properties, seconded by Cllr Lawrence and unanimously approved. It is suggested that a T.P.O. be placed on the tree.

d) 1/02/13230/AD and 1/02/13231/LB Advertisement Consent and Listed Building Consent. Display of 2 advertisements (delegated matter) 29 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. McCartneys. Cllr Blundell proposed no objection and suggested that McCartney should be asked to provide off-street parking for staff working on the premises, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

Since the last meeting an application has been received for Tree Works (Conservation Area) for felling of a tree at 9 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle by Mr R. Smith. Response to this was required by 23.3.02. It was seen by the Tree Warden, Mayor and Deputy. The Clerk was asked to object on the grounds that work already carried out had rendered the tree safe. The Council approved the action taken.

The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1/01/12934/O Outline Planning Permission granted for renewal of O.P.P. 1/08365/O of 19.2.99 erection of 40 dwellings with link road and formation of vehicular accesses. Off Welsh Street and Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (Bishop's Castle) Ltd.

1/02/13054/F Planning Permission granted for erection of a polytunnel. Field adjacent to B4385, Crowgate, Bishop's Castle.

1/01/12914/F and 1/01/12915/LB Notice of Withdrawal of application for extension and alterations to Public House, Crown & Anchor Vaults, High Street, Bishop's Castle.

e) Illuminated Sign: Letter read from Mr P.G. Clasby, Planning Department, SSDC. Advertisements are displayed with the benefit of express consent, subsequently benefit from deemed consent by virtue of Class 14, Part 1, Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1992, upon expiry of the express consent and having considered the facts presented is of the opinion that the display of the illuminated advertisement is not unlawful. Cllr Blundell proposed the Council does not accept this opinion and the Clerk should write to Mr Caird, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved, with the exception of Cllr Carroll who felt it a waste of time to protest further. ACTION TOWN CLERK

f) South Shropshire Local Plan: Having been circulated to Councillors it was unanimously agreed there is no comment.

g) Stars News Shops Ltd.: Application for New Justices Licence authorising the sale of alcohol from 70 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Unanimously approved that the Council objects strongly to this application on the grounds that there are sufficient public houses, off licences and licenced restaurants for the population of the Town. ACTION TOWN CLERK

8. ACCOUNTS:

The Audit of Accounts for 2000-01 has been completed and the Auditors Certificate and opinion to Bishop's Castle Town Council has been posted on the Notice Board outside the Town Hall. The audit concluded that the statement of accounts fairly presents the financial position of the Council at 31st March 2001 and its income and expenditure for the year ended in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 and CIPFA Accounting Guidance Notes for Local Councils. The only point raised was that the deeds for the Playing Field were not available for inspection. The Clerk reported Mr Hickey has not been able to locate the deeds, neither have Robert Hanratty Solicitors, the Clerk has now written to the Land Registry at Telford for advice.

The Account received from District Audit was for £1,249.97, which was a considerable increase on the charge for the previous year. There appeared to be no reason why there should be such a large increase and Cllr Blundell proposed the Clerk writes to enquire about the charge, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

The cost in Insurance has increased by £294 from last year, but Councillors felt this was to be expected.

In addition to the invoices listed on the Agenda an invoice has been received from Cllrs J. Whittall and J. Blundell for repairs to street light during December, January, February and March for £270.00. Cllr Wright proposed that all accounts presented, with the exception of District Audit are approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved.

HSBC have advised an increase in charges for Safe Keeping, to £25.00 for small items, £40 for medium and £55 for large. This Council has one large item, 2 medium and 1 small, they also advise that a £10 access fee is to be introduced. This is likely to cost a considerable amount over the year, yet the maces and mayor's chain obviously needs to be kept securely. The Mayor to contact the Manager and will report back to next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

9. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN CRIER:

The Council were very pleased to hear that Mr M. Shanahan has applied for the position of Honorary Town Crier, however, as the vacancy has not yet been advertised it was felt that a notice should be put on the Town Hall notice board. Mr Shanahan's application along with any others received to be considered at the next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

10. THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE:

It was resolved that the Town Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards celebrations in the way of street parties etc. arranged by Townspeople provided applications are made before 29th April and notice should be given in the local press and on the Town Hall notice board. The Council to consider presenting mugs or coins to children at Crowgate, Primary School and Community College who live within the Borough of Bishop's Castle. Details of number and costs to be investigated. Cllr Carroll will call a meeting with Councillors Blundell, Magill and Whittall shortly and report back to the next meeting.

Other suggestions put forward were: Lighting of a beacon, 'Jubilee' bus shelters in Union Street and Church Street. New gate at Playing Field entrance. Cllr Blundell would try to meet Sue Cooper to discuss whether money might be available to meet the cost of some of these.

11. C.P.R.E. THE GOVERNMENT PLANNING GREEN PAPER - RESPONSE:

The Government recently launched a major review of the planning system with the publication of its Green Paper 'Planning: delivering a fundamental change'. The CPRE has sent a copy of this, which has been circulated to Councillors. No response was proposed.

12. VITAL VILLAGES - REPORT ON PROGRESS:

Local groups and committees have been invited to a meeting on Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Mrs Caroline Oakes, Shropshire Community Council will be coming to speak about the Vital Villages project.

13. TOWN HALL:

1. Architect: Mr Wheatly has advised that he and colleagues have been to closely photograph the building and are currently scaling the photographs which will form part of the report currently being prepared.

2. Review of rents: The Town Hall Committee had met and discussed the Friday Market and proposed that the rent is increased by 50p per table, per week. This would increase the weekly rent per table to £5.50 per week. No increase was proposed to the rent for the Farmers Market or hire of the Town Hall. It was reported that a new cake stall will be starting in the Market on Fridays in the next few weeks and that some-one is interested in coming into the hall way to sell china, books and bric-a-brac.

3. Farmers Market: The Clerk reported that the Farmers Market are progressing well, with most stalls now being regular booked. A stall selling herbs will be at the next Market on 20th April, leaving just one empty stall, which it is hoped will be taken by organic vegetable producers. Dates have been arranged for the rest of 2002, being the third Saturday of each month with the exception of September. Posters have been produced and widely circulated.

14. TRAFFIC IN STATION STREET:

There has been quite severe traffic congestion on Station Street since the Market has opened. It was thought much of this is caused through the new legislation for wheels of vehicles to be disinfected before entering the Auction Yard. Minsterley Motors reported that they have been held up on several occasions, and recently had a delay of 15 minutes. The Mayor has telephoned Halls to advise them of the problem. It was suggested that the responsibility for traffic management lies with the Auctioneers. It was proposed by The Mayor that a letter is sent to Mr Willcock of Halls, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The gates to the Auction Yard are closed the night before an Auction, again to meet new legislation. However this gives the impression that the public toilets are not to be used and it was proposed that in the letter to Mr Willcock it is suggested that a sign be put on the gates 'Pedestrian Access only'.

15. BUSES; REPORT OF MEETING AND SHELTER:

The Deputy gave a report of the meeting held with Mr Gallop, S.C.C and Mr Jones, Minsterley Motors, attended by The Mayor, Deputy and Clerk. They advised changes are being made to the existing bus routes, details of which will be advised when they have been finalised, but most routes will be made by newer low level buses, making access much easier. It was requested that buses go around to Stone House as often visitors to Stone House and Abbeyfield are elderly. However, the tight timetable and lower level buses will mean it is not possible to take every bus around, but when they are preparing the new time table they will try to incorporate a limited number of buses going this way. A bus shelter could then be put by the roundabout at Billingsley Close. Access for buses will require some pavement being removed and alterations to the corner of Union Street/Billingsley Close. S.C.C. were also asked to investigate taking away some pavement in Church Street, to enable buses to pull in off the road and make this corner safer.

At this meeting Mr Jones advised of the difficulties the buses have getting up Station Street when cars are double parked, although there is room if they are parked close to the pavement. Cllr Carroll proposed that Highways are contacted about signage, seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

16. MAYOR'S REPORT ON TWINNING WITH ST. MARCEL:

The Mayor has just returned from the student exchange visit to St. Marcel over the twinning process. Whilst there he signed a 'letter of intent', and a copy was distributed to each Councillor. A return visit will be made my the French School and accompanying adults, starting on the 18th June.

17. SHROPSHIRE TOURISM WEBSITE:

Shropshire Tourism is supposed to promote tourism to the area and websites are a very important part of this. Cllr Carroll report that the promotional information about Bishop's Castle would certainly not encourage people to visit our Town and it would have been preferable to discuss what is being proposed with the local Tourism Group before putting information about the Town on the web. Cllr Carroll proposed a letter is written to the Chairman of the Board of Shropshire Tourism with a copy to S.C.C., seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. PLAYING FIELD GATE:

The wood has been collected from Powis Estates and Mr Whitefoot is making good progress with making the gates. The top bar has been sent to be carved. The Earl of Powis has approved a 50% discount on the cost of the wood, a gesture very much appreciated. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of appreciation to the Earl. ACTION TOWN CLERK

19. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE PARTNERSHIP- APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE:

The Chamber of Trade have been contacted to appoint a representative from the business sector and will put it on the Agenda for their next meeting. Cllr Lawrence agreed to represent the Town Council.

20. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS:

It was reported that the promised monthly report from Severn Trent has not arrived and the Clerk has advised the M.P. as suggested at the meeting in February.

21. DOG FOULING:

Letter from Ms Richards, Team Leader, Waste Services, SSDC read advising that dog wardens double as a pest control operative throughout South Shropshire and his duties regarding dogs are restricted to picking up onstained strays on instruction. Therefore it is not possible for the Town Council to hire the dog warden service as requested. Should any member of the public witness a person in charge of a dog, allowing it to foul and not clean up after it, be willing to act as a witness, the DC would be prepared to take a prosecution for an offence against relevant Bye-Laws if appropriate. A letter from Sue Cooper was also read making a number of suggestions about how this problem might be tackled. It appears that fouling mainly occurs in the early morning when owners' loose dogs out after a night indoors. One suggestion being that some-one should be employed for a couple of hours during the early morning to walk around the town and photograph those dogs without owners and trace the dogs back to the owners. This was felt to be an excellent idea, but would need some-one willing to give evidence in Court if necessary. Cllr Blundell to discuss this with the Dog Warden for the adjoining District and will report back to the next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

22. MICHAELMAS FAIR:

1) Use of Playing Field: Mrs P. Dakin, on behalf of the Michaelmas Fair Committee has requested permission to use the Playing Field for the annual event, as in previous years and asked about the organisation of the Town Crier's competition, which has been very successful in the previous two years. Cllr Blundell proposed there is no objection to the use of the field for this week-end, on the same condition as previous years, that the Committee organise appropriate insurance and any damage to the field, hedges, trees, fences, etc. is made good, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

2) Town Criers Competition: In previous years the M.F. Committee have organised the Town Criers Competition on behalf of the Town Council, which takes place over the Michaelmas Week-end. It was felt that when the new Town Crier is appointed he may wish to be involved in the organisation of the competition. The Clerk to contact Mrs Dakin after the appointment of a new Town Crier. ACTION TOWN CLERK

23. SALARY REVIEW:

Cleaner: The salary for this post if currently £930 per annum, for 4 hours per week. It was proposed by Cllr Wright that this is increased to £988 per annum, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

Town Clerk: The Clerk left the Council Chamber whilst this was discussed. The current salary for this post is £5,280. It was proposed by The Mayor that this is increased to £5,550, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

24. FOOTPATHS:

25. CIVIC AWARDS:

Councillors have met and discussed this idea. It is proposed that three young people are presented with an award at Mayor Making in May.

26. STREET LIGHTING:

Cllr Blundell has agreed to provide a specification for a lighting scheme on Church Bank for consideration at the next meeting. It was reported that a light has been damaged on Castle Green and a replacement, which will be erected on the existing pole, has been ordered.

27. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Cllr Carroll gave a report of the meeting of the South Shropshire Sport & Leisure Advisory Council she had attended on 19th March at which a grant of £700 was approved to the Civil Defence Bowling Club. All funds have now been exhausted, but the Committee will remain in existence in the event that further finance becomes available.

28. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) Miss S. Gould: Prior to the opening of the takeway at 13 Market Square she had been advised that waste would be stored in the basement, however it is being stored at the rear of the property, right outside her house. In connection with this property the following matters were reported: the Biffa bin in place is not adequate as rubbish bags were all around it. Rubbish is also being thrown through a window on The Cobles below. The doors and windows are open so cooking smells are escaping rather than the extractor fan removing them. Opening hours are 5.00pm to 11.30pm including Sunday which was thought to be contrary to the planning approval. Cllr Carroll proposed the Clerk should write to Mr W. Jones, SSDC requesting a copy of the conditions attached when the planning appeal succeeded and to investigate the complaints received. Seconded by Cllr Blundell, who requested a copy be sent to Mr R. Rennox, owner of the property. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Enterprise South West Shropshire: Notice of a meeting on 21st May at 7.00pm at the Community College to consider Objective 2 projects (European Funds), Arts and Sports Project and Waste Recycling Company. Cllrs Carroll and Whittall agreed to attend, and will require an Agenda.

d) South Shropshire Women's Aid: Confirmed that they have not been successful in gaining charitable status due to being managed by South Shropshire Housing Association, a not for profit organisation.

e) Dial Shropshire: A Disability Advice Centre established in 1990 requesting financial support to ensure that people experiencing disabilities receive advice, information and benefits. PRECEPT MEETING

f) Citizens Advice Bureau: Letter thanking Council for donation of £283.00.

g) Axis Counselling: Letter thanking Council for donation of £25.00

h) South Shropshire Furniture Scheme: Letter thanking Council for donation of £100. They are pleased to report this scheme is extremely successful, it has been able to help 19 families and individuals living in Bishop's Castle and 45 people from this area have donated household items. Since March last year this scheme has diverted more than 270 tonnes of household waste that might well have gone to landfill sites.

i) SSDC: Amenity Waste Service for the disposal of household and garden waste, dates for manned service at Crowgate Recycling Centre. NOTICE BOARD

j) Community Recycling in South Shropshire: Event organised by South Shropshire Furniture Scheme, The Wasteless Society and the Community Council of Shropshire, to be held on Wednesday 24th April from 2pm - 6pm at Craven Arms Community Centre. There being no other volunteer the Mayor agreed to attend

k) DEFRA: a) Regarding article in The Times on 29th December "Dibley Villages". CIRCULATE

l) Details of 'The Campaign against the Illegal Poisoning of Wildlife' CIRCULATE

m) Mr I. Ridgeway, SCC: Emergency Planning briefing for Town and Parish Councils: Annual update to be held at 7.15 pm on 10th April at Shirehall. There will be a review of this year's emergencies, a brief analysis of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and general discussion on how urgent information can be more accurately and effectively passed on at a time of disaster.

n) Post Office: Notification that despite efforts the Wentnor branch of the Post Office will close on Thursday 28th March. However this is hoped to be only a temporary measure.

Cllr Wright proposed that less items of correspondence are circulated for Councillors to read, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed.

Minutes 23rd April 2002

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD APRIL 2002 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE.

PRESENT Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J.M. Carroll, E.A. Lawrence, W.J. Morris, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.

County and District Councillor P. Phillips, D. Whitefoot, Chairman of the Public Hall Committee, Mr T. Hunt, Headmaster of The Community College, Mr N. Hurd, Mr C. Pugh and Mr T. Evans.

Apologies were received from Councillors Bedell, Blundell, Jones, Magill and Whittall.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 28TH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON 24th APRIL 2001:

There were no matters arising.

2. REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR P. PHILLIPS:

As this is the first Annual meeting since the elections last year Cllr Phillips thanked people for their support and their co-operations since the elections, which has been very productive. He reported that there is a cabinet of 10 and he is 'Culture' and Deputy Leader. Just before Christmas last year grants were secured for Enterprise South West Shropshire for the next three years of £29,500 p.a. of which £12,000 will go to the Community College. Traffic measures have been installed on a trial basis in the High Street, the link road from The Wintles to Oak Meadow has been put 'on hold' and Kerry Lane now has eight passing places. He reported that one of the major problems facing both County and District Councils is waste. Shropshire has one of the lowest recycling levels and currently the cost of the landfill tax is over £1 million. There needs to be a huge effort to resolve the waste problems.

Mr Hurd of the Wasteless Society asked why it is planned to spend £1.5 million building a new digester when there are already four in South Shropshire, one of which is locally at Bank Farm and Cllr Phillips agreed to look into this. Mr Hurd reported that the new plastics collecting centre on the Industrial Estate has been very successful and over 50 bags of plastic containers have been collected, which is less going into the ground and provides disabled people with employment. The 'green' skip has also been very successful and exceeded all expectations for its first year. Cllr Carroll felt that the Councils will need to provide some sort of incentive to encourage people to increase their recycling and reduce their waste and an enthusiastic educational programme will be required.

Cllr Phillips reported that the S.C.C. and S.S.D.C. consulted widely when preparing their budgets and in order to provide the services they have had to increase the Council tax. The West Mercia Police increased their portion of the Council tax by over 30% in order to put extra police on the beat. It is planned to hold a review of local government structure, with the possibility of having just one authority for Shropshire. Cllr Phillips was very pleased to report that £765,000 has been committed so far for the Arts and Sports Project and the field behind the swimming pool is in the process of being purchased. There is a new structure for Health Care in the County and we see extensive building work taking place at the Community College. This time last year we were in the throws of Foot and Mouth and it is clear that this had a great impact on not just farmers, but a large number of other businesses in the County and it is hoped that this year sees businesses recovering.

3. REPORT FROM PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE:

The Mayor welcomed to the meeting Mr Derek Whitefoot, Chairman of the Public Hall Committee to give the annual update on behalf of the Public Hall Committee. Accounts for y/e 31st March 2002 are not yet completed but will be forwarded to the Council as soon as they are available.

Mr Whitefoot reported that unfortunately a further bid for Lottery funding in order to upgrade and improve facilities at the Public Hall has not been successful. Before reapplying they were advised to carry out a public consultation exercise, which has now been completed with a 21.35% response rate. The results of this exercise will be submitted with the next application for funding. In the Mean time plans are being progressed for the first phase of improvements which involve the kitchen and toilet facilities.

Bookings for the Hall have increased from last year, a number of bookings were lost last year owing to Foot and Mouth. The Committee has £23,500 in hand, compared to £19,800 last year.

One important factor that came out of the consultation were requests to increase the use of the Hall for the youth, which is being carefully considered.

4. SPEAKER: MR T. HUNT, HEADMASTER, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Mr Hunt spoke about the need to improve facilities in the Town for the young people. Often people think only about the negative actions of a few which are the minority, the majority of young people in town are responsible. There are a number of sports clubs, drama and dance events and cadets, but outside this there is little to interest this age group. As a result of concern about young people hanging about the streets a survey was recently carried out, which raised the need for somewhere to meet socially outside the confines of the College. It is hoped that something can be done to address this. The South Shropshire Youth Forum is based in Ludlow and is able to access funding and it is suggested that the S.S.D.C., S.C.C., Town Council, Countryside Agency and representatives of the young people, maybe via the College Council can work together to progress such a scheme. The skate board area which is to be on the College grounds seems to be progressing satisfactorily and this will very much be welcomed by the youngsters. There are plans underway for a Youth Tourism project which will maximise the use of the Community College.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no further matters raised under Any Other Business, The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Minutes 30th April 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 30TH APRIL 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.M. Carroll, J.L.V. Blundell, C.T.E. Kinmond, E.A. Lawrence, J.A. Magill, K.E.C. Pinches, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Jones and Morris.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall both declared a prejudicial interest on item 22.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2002:

Minutes of the Council meetings held on 2nd April, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Whittall, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 5.4: The Hearing between S.S.D.C. and Mr R. Sidebottom was continued on 12th April when the case was dismissed, costs were awarded to the S.S.D.C. Cllr Blundell proposed a vote thanks to all who had been involved with this case, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

Item 7.g: The Mayor reported that Stars News Shops had withdrawn their application for a Justices Licence authorising the sale of alcohol. It had been revealed that there was a covenant on the property making certain conditions over items sold, which included alcohol.

Item 8: No response has been received from the District Audit.

Item 17: Letter from Shropshire Tourism was read. Cllr Carroll proposed that a reply is sent advising that the Town has had a Website for the past five years. Although it is realised that space is limited for this "taster" page it was felt that the Town should nevertheless be consulted about the wording. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 28.a: S.S.D.C. are investigating complaints.

Item 28.b: C.C. Phillips noted from the minutes of the last meeting that Cllrs Carroll and Whittall were to attend the meeting on 21st May at 7.00 pm at the Community College, he suggested that the subjects to be discussed were of great interest and that as many Councillors as possible should make every effort to attend.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/01//13307/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a domestic garage. Land to the rear of Hall Villa, Bishop's Castle. Mr A.D. Buy, Idimw, Woodbatch Road, Bishop's Castle. Five letters of objection have been received, all advising that the building is already under construction and objecting on the grounds of the size of the building which is entirely out of scale, it is too high and very close to the neighbouring property with two windows overlooking No 8 Bowling Green Close. Cllr Wright proposed the Council objects to this application on these grounds, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

Two letters were also received pointing out that there appears to be a breach of planning on the dwelling being built on this site, which was previously granted planning permission. The orientation of the house appears to be different to the plan, extra windows have been put in and trees have been removed from the site. Cllr Wright proposed the Planning Officer is asked to make an urgent site visit and stop work whilst the matter is investigated, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) 1/02/13315/O Outline Planning Permission and 1/02/13316/CA Conservation Area Consent for demolition of former police station (committee matter). Gorsty Developments, Former Police Station, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Blundell proposed objection to this application on the grounds of overdevelopment, the height of which would dwarf the bungalows in Grange Gardens, to the rear of the site. Parking area in not adequate for this number of dwellings. Any Planning Application for this site should not affect any trees and the scale of house should be suitable for the size of the site. Seconded by Cllr Lawrence and approved.

c) 1/02/13317/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter). 26 Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr N.D. Evans. Cllr Blundell proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved.

d) 1/02/13323/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of extension to dwelling. 4, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. P. Allwood. Cllr Wright proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1) 1/02/13204/LB Listed Building Consent and 1/02/13203/F Planning Permission granted for extension and alteration of fenestration to dwelling, and erection of ancillary domestic outbuilding. 58, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs J. Greig.

2) 1/02/12980/LB Listed Building Consent and 1/02/12979/F Planning Permission granted for internal and external alterations to dwelling (re-advertised amended plan) 54, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs P. Needle.

3) 1/02/13218/TC Permission for works to trees granted for felling of a Scots Pine at St. John the Baptist Church, Bishop's Castle.

Illuminated Sign: Letter read from Mr P.G. Clasby, Planning Department, SSDC. However, this did not answer the question raised and Cllr Blundell proposed a reply is sent to Mr Clasby asking for an answer, seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Entertainment Licence: Application for a public entertainment licence from Mr A. Lewins of the Kings Head, Church Street. There had been complaints regarding noise from these premises when a previous landlord had live music. It was proposed by the Mayor that the Council objects to this application on the grounds of potential noise and nuisance to neighbours and the frequency of events. An application of 6 - 10 events during the current year would have been more favourably considered. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Proposed restriction of number of days for Fairs, Festivals etc. A news cutting had been passed to the Council regarding proposed changes in the planning system. The Clerk had contacted S.S.D.C. to ask for further information, but they were not aware of the details. A copy had now been sent to the M.P. asking if he is aware of the proposals. The Clerk will report back at a future meeting with more details.

6. STREET TRADING:

Letter read from Mr Proctor regarding street trading. The Market Charter makes provision for an annual fair on 23rd, 24th and 25th June and the implementation of any control of trading in the form of a consent / licence or prohibition would remain in force for the remaining 352 days of the year. The Michaelmas Fair and Christmas Lights Festival would not be exempt. If the decision is made to implement a consent / licence these would be administered by the S.S.D.C. and any fees paid to them.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council should not consider any further the introduction of licensing and Mr Proctor is asked for advice about the street traders that come on a Friday, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

7. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN CRIER:

There being no further applications Cllr Carroll proposed that Mr Shanahan is invited to the the Town Crier for the forthcoming twelve months, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. The question of expenses will need to be considered.

AGENDA NEXT MEETING

8. THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE:

There are 340 school children in Bishop's Castle and the Committee proposed to present each with a gold plated medallion engraved with the Town Crest. These will cost in the region of £1.50 each. The alternative was to present each child with a Jubilee mug, at a cost of £1.80 each. When put to the vote, 5 votes were for the medallions and 3 votes for the mugs. Decision needs to be made when to present these. J.C. TO ORDER

Various events are being arranged and Cllr Magill has offered to prepare a leaflet setting out details. It was agreed that following the Mayor's Sunday Service the procession will go to the Playing Field for the opening of the new Jubilee gate. By kind permission of the Bedell Family it is proposed to light a beacon at The Wintles in the evening of Monday 3rd June. Other events being arranged include a celebration of gardens, fireworks, ringing of the Church bells and the band playing.

There have been only two applications for funding for Jubilee Events. 1) Residents of The Ridge are organising a Barbeque for Tuesday 4th June to raise money for the Church, which will be open to everyone. 2) Mrs Kim Evans is in the early stages of organising a tea party at the Public Hall. The Mayor proposed that up to £150 is given to each, providing it is match funded, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

Sue Cooper has advised that we are too late to apply for funding for the Jubilee gate as the project is already underway and grants cannot be awarded retrospectively and projects cannot start until grant approval has been obtained. Suitable projects need a minimum of 3 months lead in time to the project from the date of application.

Cllr Blundell suggested that consideration is given to building a 'Jubilee Hut' in the Playing Field. He has in mind a brick structure to house the facilities for the field. Sue Cooper may be able to give advice about this suggestion. The bus shelters discussed at a previous meeting might be suitable projects.

9. TOWN HALL:

a) Market Traders: The Mayor read letters from Mrs Latchford and Mr and Mrs L. Stanley regarding the area of land to the east of the Town Hall. It was felt that there is no doubt the entrance belongs to the Town Hall, but it was appreciated that since the cellar of the building adjacent has been opened up there needs to be access. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr and Mrs Stanley and inform them that they have pedestrian access only to their door, and if they believe otherwise the Council should have sight of their deeds. In the meantime they should ensure that the tenant is not harassed. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Staircase: Some paint was chipped off the wall during the Christmas Lights Festival and The Mayor asked if it could be repainted before Mayor Making.

c) The Cobbles: Mr Stanley has asked if Andrew Wallace could be asked to sweep The Cobbles, since the Takeaway has opened there appears to be more rubbish here. The Mayor reported that Mr Ian Holten had for some time kept The Cobbles clean on an entirely voluntary basis, but found it very discouraging that both staff and customers from the takeaway flick their cigarette ends onto the ground.

10. BUSES AND 11. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:

It has been reported by Minsterley Motors that the buses have been held up again in Station Street on a couple of occasions. Each time this happens the buses run late at every stop to Shrewsbury and the S.C.C. consider this to be unacceptable. The problems are caused by parking both sides of Station Street and there are a number of places where this makes the road too narrow for larger vehicles. Mr Willcock from Halls has advised that on Store Cattle Sale Days due to Defra requirements for disinfecting vehicles they do have difficulty with the flow of traffic in Station Station. However, they will try to ensure that there is an orderly queue into the Market so that traffic can pass up and down Station Street. Mr G. Shaw, S.C.C. has responded to the Council's request for parking signs in Station Street. He has arranged to order advisory signs (white writing on blue) requesting no parking opposite another vehicle. If this does not work he suggests the Council give consideration to introducing parking restrictions. Cllr Whittall proposed that the Clerk contacts the Police for advice and see whether putting out bollards at the narrower points on sale days might help, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. HIGHWAYS:

S.C.C. Local Plan Southern Division has been received, identifying works for the 2002/03 programme. Under the Drainage Programme the only works listed For the Bishop's Castle area is a culvert at Upper Broughton to B4385. Under the Footway Renewal Programme is Church Bank - Station Street and Welsh Street. FOR CIRCULATION

Cllr Bedell advised that the final development in Oak Meadow has begun and the hedge in Welsh Street has been removed. The grass verge has grown approx 18" over the road and he proposed that S.C.C. are contacted and asked to ensure the road is not made narrower through this. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr Bedell also pointed out that a considerable amount of water runs down Welsh Street from Banks Head and there will need to be adequate drainage in Oak Meadow to cope with this. Cllr Wright proposed S.S.D.C.and/or The Environment Agency are advised that this needs attention in order to avoid problems in the future.

13. JOY RIDERS:

Councillors have received numerous complaints over recent weeks about the group of vehicles racing dangerously around the streets in the evenings. These vehicles gather in various parts of the Town, the Auction Yard, the Industrial Estate and by the Recycling Centre and are a danger to other road users and themselves. Calls have been made to the Police reporting registration numbers, but no action appears to have been taken. Cllr Carroll proposed that a letter with the car registration numbers is sent to the Inspector of Police, seconded by Cllr Kinmond and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. CONSIDERATION OF LICENCE FOR SKATE BOARD AREA:

The draft Licence prepared by the Shropshire County Council for the Town Council to have use of the area for skate boarding out of normal school hours was read to the Council. Cllr Carroll proposed that between the hours of 5pm - 10pm and week-ends was quite reasonable and the Council approves progressing the Licence. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. Town Clerk to contact Mr C. Proctor, Community College. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. PLAYING FIELD:

1. Bike Track: Cllr Magill reported that she had received further complaints from people living near the bike track about bad behaviour and swearing from children using the track. Cllr Carroll proposed that these complaints have continued for a long time and people should be able to enjoy their gardens without having to listen to this sort of behaviour. The area is far from suitable and it would be much better if a piece of land could be made available where there are not people living nearby. Cllr Carroll proposed that this area is demolished and the S.S.D.C. are contacted regarding using the Industrial Estate as an alternative, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved. Mr Bryan Evans should be contacted if the track is removed as he put the soil there when it was built. ACTION TOWN CLERK

2. Hedges: Councillors had been asked to look at the hedge running along Kerry Lane prior to the meeting. Because of the difficulty of getting to this hedge, over the years the hedge cuttings have built up and it is believed they are a fire hazard. It was felt that all the rubbish and scrub should be removed and a hedge planted along the fence. However, it was felt that the 'Friends of the Playing Field' are currently in contact with the Countryside Unit regarding improvements to the field and this hedge could already be under consideration. The Playing Field Committee to meet the 'Friends' to discuss.

Mrs Morris has contacted Cllr Whittall regarding the hedge at the back of her property. Councillors suggested that ownership of the hedge is established and the Clerk was asked to contact Mrs Morris. ACTION TOWN CLERK

3. May Fair: The Agreement drawn up for use of the Playing Field for this year and the next four has been signed by Mr and Mrs Wynn and The Mayor signed on behalf of the Town Council. The May Fair will take place on Friday and Saturday 10th and 11th May.

4. Entrance: Mr Whitefoot has nearly completed making the gates and the carved plaque has been fitted in. The cost of wood for a post and rail fence from the gate to the road will be in the region of £300 from J. Ransford, who will give the bark for the bank free of charge. Cllr Carroll proposed the Council approves this as the fence needs to be in keeping with the gate and that Cllr Whittall and Blundell should be given permission to go ahead with the fence so that it can all be finished before the Jubilee Bank Holiday, seconded by Cllr Lawrence and approved.

16. VITAL VILLAGES:

Cllr Carroll reported that the first meeting of the Vital Villages had taken place on 16th April. It was well attended by various Organisations and Committees in the Town, and details of the various projects and plans were gathered together. Mrs C. Oakes from the Community Council was in attendance to offer assistance and advice. The next stage will be to raise awareness in the Community with a second, more public meeting, before producing a report and Action Plan. This is to be held in June, with the date yet to be arranged.

17. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS:

Letter read from Severn Trent. The closed circuit television survey of the sewer has been completed which shows a number of minor obstructions impeding the flow within the sewer. Arrangements have been made for these to be removed and this work should be completed within the next two weeks. Though this will not alleviate flooding from the foul sewer it will increase the capacity and help to minimise future flooding incidents. With regard to research into a long term solution to the problem, they advise that it is not possible to complete such detailed investigations in a short time span as such problems require extensive research before a project can be advised which will confidently alleviate the flooding.

18. PLAY AREA - OAK MEADOW:

Letter read from residents of 47 Oak Meadow, whose garden joins the Play Area in Oak Meadow, requesting a high fence between their property and the Play Area. Since the new development has been completed there is a large amount of children using this area and children are jumping over the dividing wall on the flower bed, balls and stones arrive in their garden and they fear that the car will be damaged. Their dog has already been frightened by children throwing stones at him whilst he was shut in the passage at the side of the house. Councillors sympathised with these problems and felt it is a reasonable request. Cllr Whittall proposes the Clerk contact S.S.D.C., seconded by Cllr Bedell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

19. DOG FOULING:

The Town Clerk has contacted the Dog Warden at Welshpool. He advised that Dog Fouling needs tackling in a number of ways to be successful. They have a policy of education/talks/publicity and prosecution. The have voluntary Estate Wardens on a number of larger estates and persistent owners are prosecuted. Over the last seven months there have been 23 cases taken to court and a lot of publicity has been given to the results of these cases.

This is on the Agenda for discussion at the Community Forum on 9th May and it was agreed to wait for the outcome of this meeting before taking any further action.

20. ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the Accounts presented on the Agenda an invoice for £20 had been received from Mr Bishop for repairing the bench at the end of Grange Road. Notification has been received from S.S.D.C. for the Non-Domestic rates for the Town Hall, £1,071.49 for the year, payable by Direct Debit. The first payment paid on the 1st April was £108.49 and will be followed by 9 monthly payments of £107.00. The Clerk advised that a cheque for £16,000 had been received from S.S.D.C., being the first half of this years precept. Cllr Blundell proposed these accounts are paid in full, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

21. FOOTPATHS:

22. STREET LIGHTING:

Cllrs Whittall and Blundell left the room whilst this was considered. The damaged light on Castle Green has been removed and the cost of a replacement investigated. A modern light fitting would cost in the region of £120, a decorative metal replacement approximately £220. Cllr Magill proposed that in view of the position of this light a decorative metal one should be used in keeping with the others in Bull Lane, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. It was reported that tenders for erecting new lights in Kerry Lane between Corporation Street and Corricks Rise should be available for consideration at the next Council meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

23. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS HELD BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

24. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) Notice of the Bishop's Castle & District Community Forum 'Spring Meeting' to be held on Thursday 9th May at 7.30 pm in the Fletcher Room, The Community College. Current issues include: Update on the High Street Road Scheme, Facilities for Teenagers, dog fouling, improvement to Cycle facilities, update on the Arts & Sports Centre plans.

b) Bishop's Castle Public Hall Committee: Requesting use of the Playing Field on Sunday 7th July for the Carnival. The Clerk was asked to advise there was no objection to this request, usual arrangements regarding insurance should be made.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Minutes 14th May 2002

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH MAY 2002 IN THE TOWN HALL AT 8.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors G.N. St J. Penney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, B.P. Jones, C.T.E. Kinmond, J.A. Magill, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Councillor E.A. Lawrence and County Councillor P. Phillips.

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR:

Cllr Blundell proposed Cllr Jones as Mayor, Cllr Whittall seconded the proposition. There being no further nominations the Council approved without division that Cllr Jones should be Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Mayor was robed and accepted the Chain of Office. She then took the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN:

The Rev. K. Collins was unable to attend this evenings meeting, but had confirmed her willingness to be the Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

4. MAYOR'S SUNDAY:

The date of Mayor's Sunday was confirmed as Sunday 2nd June to coincide with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The procession will leave the Town Hall at 10.40am as in previous years, for a service at St John the Baptist Church at 11.00 a.m. On leaving the Church it is proposed to go to the Playing Field where the new gates will be formally opened before returning to the Church. The P.C.C. are organising some celebrations at the Church following the Service and it will need to be considered whether the Procession returns as normal to the Town Hall or not.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR:

Cllr Wright proposed Cllr Carroll as Deputy Mayor, seconded by Cllr Kinmond. There being no further nominations the Council approved without division that Cllr Carroll be elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CONSORT:

The Mayor had great pleasure in asking her husband, Mr David Jones to be her Consort for the ensuing year.

7. DATES AND TIMES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:

Cllr Blundell proposed that there is no change to the frequency of Council meetings and they continue to be held every fourth Tuesday, commencing at 8.00 p.m., with additional meetings as deemed necessary by the Mayor, Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE ON 'FRIENDS OF BISHOP'S CASTLE LIBRARY GROUP':

The representative on the 'Friends of Bishop's Castle Library Group' is appointed annually. Cllr Lawrence, who was not present has been the Council Representative on this Group for the last three years and it was proposed that no decision is taken in her absence and that this is considered at the next Council meeting.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

9. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13347/F Planning Permission for erection of a dwelling (delegated matter). Land to the rear of Shirland House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Blundell proposed the Council objects to this application on the grounds that the dwelling is too large for the site and too high in relation to its surroundings, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

b) Application for Public Entertainment Licence - The Kings Head, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. The application has been referred to a special meeting of the S.S.D.C. Licensing Panel to be held in the Community Building at the Community College at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 16th May. Cllr Magill agreed to represent the Council at this Hearing.

10. THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS:

The Mayor addressed the meeting and welcomed everyone, thanking Cllr Blundell for his kind words and Cllr Whittall for seconding the proposal. She welcomed Councillor Carroll as Deputy Mayor.

Thanks was given to a number of people who give their time to help with various matters: The clock winders, Messrs Bainbridge, Gaffney and Davies, who keep the Town Hall clock running. The mace and pike bearers and the band and all the people involved in the Mayor's Sunday Service and Parade and Remembrance Day Parade. We now have a new Town Crier, Mr Mike Shanahan, who had intended to be here tonight, but unfortunately work commitments prevented him.

It is pleasing to see that most shops in the Town are now occupied and The Railway Museum has re-opened after the disastrous fire and that the Chapel Yard Heritage Archive Centre and House on Crutches Museum are going from strength to strength.

At last years meeting there were concerns about the dangers of vehicles driving down the pavement in High Street and this seems to have been addressed by the new traffic system which appears to meet with approval, although at present it is only on a trial basis. Work on two new developments has started, on Love Lane and the final phase of Oak Meadow. The Mayor felt we need to do more for the young people in Town, they are the future of the Town and Mr Terry Hunt, Headmaster of the Community College came recently to the Annual Town Meeting to talk about this.

An Architect has been appointed for the Town Hall and a report is currently being prepared and The Mayor nominated the Town Hall Repair Fund as her Charity for the coming year

The meeting was declared closed at 8.20 p.m. when the Mayor invited every-one to join her for light refreshments in the Council Chamber.

Meeting 29th May2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and K.E.C. Pinches

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Gaffney (working), Cllr. Magill (holiday), Cllr. Wright (working)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by ***** with the following corrections. Seconded by *****

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by ***** with the following corrections. Seconded by *****

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

5. Letter of thanks from Old Castle Land trust.

6. Letter of thanks from Marie Curie Cancer care.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18891/F Planning permission (full). Erection of 3 no affordable and 3 no open market dwellings: construction of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular and pedestrian access.

Station Street Garage, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. G & R Price.

Letter Furber,

b) 1/06/18945/F Planning Permission (full) Use of flat roof as amenity area and installation of railings / screening.

3A Bull Street, Bishop's Castle. J. Charters.

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18506/F and 1/06/18507/LB Erection of an extension and renovation to public house.

Kings Head Inn, 48 Church Street.

Planning permission and list building consent granted.

(ii) 1/06/18866/TC Felling of a Japanese flowering cherry tree.

17 Church Street, Bishop's Castle.

Consent granted

(iii) 1/06/18867/TC Felling of a flowering cherry tree.

19-21 Church Street, Bishop's Castle.

Consent granted.

(iv) 1/06/18868/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.

22 Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle. Miss S Taylor.

Planning permission granted.

1/06/18899/LB Installation of a handrail.

Town Hall, Bishop's Castle. Listed building consent granted.

(v) 1/06/18929/LB

Installation of replacement door and painting of dwelling.

35 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle

Listed Building consent granted.

7. PRECEPT

Agreement of precept for 2007/8

See attached notes.

8. LIGHT IN UNION STREET

What action should be taken about the light at the top of Union Street.

Letter from Central Networks enclosed.

E-on customer complaints department looking at it.

9. UNITARY AUTHORITY

The Executive Council for SALC would like to hear Council opinion about the Government White paper.

Council are asked to give their views on the following:-

a) A unitary council for Shropshire.

b) An enhanced two-tier model for Shropshire.

c) Ideas for another option. (describe.)

d) Telford and Wrekin to be included into the City Region.

10. STREET FURNITURE - Cllr. Hird.

Is there too much street furniture in Church Street / High Street.

11. FOOTPATH IN LOVE LANE Cllr. Hird

Should a request be made to the County Council to extend the footpath in Love Lane from the industrial estate north as far as the kennels.

12. LIGHTING IN LOVE LANE

Council has been advised by John Overall, Shropshire County Council that there is no prospect of a roundabout being built at the Love lane / Brampton Road junction as it would cost in excess of £100,000. Should we now write to the County Council and asking them to implement their lighting scheme (approved at a previous meeting) as soon as possible.

13. DONATIONS

Request from South Shropshire Youth Forum for a donation.

14. PARKING ISSUES

Report on the meeting with representatives from the Town Council, County Council, District Council, Park Right and the Police on parking problems in Bishop's Castle.

17. ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. and approved.

Mrs J Ince - December salary - £589.47 January

Claire Grant - January salary - £52 - H.V. Collins - £52

Andrew Broome - £149

E.S.W.S. - £25.76

Zurich Municipal - £105

Mrs J Ince - newsletter - £43.65

Mrs J Ince - expenses - £37.57

Asterley Events (farmers market) - £200

Andrew Wallace - £16.50

Npower - playing fields - £40.09

Village Outreach - £7.00

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

19. Correspondence.

(i) Ms Daniels and South Shropshire District Council re ash tree at the rear of 29 Union Street.

(ii) Copy of letter from Cllr. Peter Phillips to Jake Berriman regarding the Wintles.

(iii) Mrs Daniels re planning.

(iv) West Mercia Police Authority - meeting on draft priorities for policing in west Mercia.

b) For circulation

(i) The Playing Field

(ii) Speaking out - West Midlands Regional Assembly

(iii) PFI Quality in Communities Project.

(iv) Local Council Review

(v) Public Hall Accounts

(vi) Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils minutes and agenda.

(vii) Clerks and Councils Direct

18. Playing Fields Accounts settled since the December meeting.

E.S.W.S. - £76.43

Lynne Farr - £355.10

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at p.m.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.06 p.m.

Minutes 25th June 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, E.A. Lawrence, J.A. Magill, W.J. Morris, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Bedell, Kinmond and Whittall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Blundell declared a prejudicial interest on item 17.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th May 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Dr Penney, seconded by Cllr Pinches, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 10: Mr Rutherford has passed our concerns about Station Street to Mr R. Drummond at S.C.C. Signs have been erected advising it is a bus route and requesting that vehicles are not parked opposite each other.

From meeting of 14th May 2002: Shropshire Tourism advise that the Bishop's Castle entry on the Shropshire Tourism website is being re-written and a copy will be sent to the Tourism Group for consultation before alterations are made on the site. Mr Marsh, (S.S.D.C.) and Mr White (S.C.C.) have written to confirm that the 5" pipe in Welsh Street/Oak Meadow is a temporary measure and the main drainage work will be commenced shortly. A 12" pipe is to be laid along Welsh Street with road gullies installed which will connect to the existing ditch, which is to be repaired.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mr T. Magill.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13338/F Planning Permission (full) for change of use of former factory (part) to offices and ancillary accommodation and construction of an external fire escape (delegated matter). Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. Bishop's Castle & District Lifeline Co Ltd. Cllr Blundell proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

b) Powys County Council: M2002 0533 Erection of buildings to form livestock market with associated plant and parking facilities at Pt encl 7065 and 7962, Churchstoke. This is a re-submission of a previous application which the Council had strongly opposed. Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council repeated it's previous objections, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Clerk reported the following plans had been received since the last meeting which required a response before this meeting:

a) 1/02/13426/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of extension to residential home (delegated matter). The Grange, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr H. Ishmael. Seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Dr Penney who proposed no objection.

b) 1/02/13448/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a conservatory (delegated matter). 7 Woodbine Terrace, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Price. Seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Dr Penney who proposed no objection.

This action for both applications was approved by the Council.

The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1) 1/02/13037/F Refusal of Planning Permission for installation of a septic tank. Plot to the rear of Hall Villa, Bishop's Castle. Mr A.D. Buy.

2) 1/02/13317/F Planning Permission granted for erection of extension to dwelling. 26 Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr N.D. Evans.

3) 1/02/13323/F Planning Permission for erection of extension to dwelling. 4, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr P. Allwood.

Formal notification received that on 29th May 2002 that a Tree Preservation Order was placed on tree off Union Street, which prohibits anyone from cutting down, topping or lopping without the Council's consent.

Notification has been received that at the SSDC Development Control Committee meeting tomorrow, 26th June, applications 1/02/13347/F (land to rear of Shirland House, Mr and Mrs Wainwright) and 1/02/13307/F (Land to the rear of Hall Villa, Mr A.D. Buy) are to be considered. People who objected to these applications may speak about their concerns and it was reported that Mr R. Gwyther and Mr J. Caldwell will be asking to speak.

d) Illuminated Sign: Mr Clasby, S.S.D.C. advised that were permission for the erection of a house not to have been implemented as defined by Section 56 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) it would expire 5 years after the date of issue as prescribed by Section 91, unless such other time period as may be considered appropriate was cited to the contrary. Councillors cannot understand why a permission expires for a dwelling, but not for a sign. Neither it be understood why when internally illuminated signs are not permitted elsewhere in the Conservation Area this sign in Church Street is permitted. Cllr Blundell proposed a further letter is sent to S.S.D.C. asking why an exception is being made here. HSBC, Barclays, the Post Office and Nationwide have complied with the regulations and it is feared that once one sign is allowed more will quickly follow. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

e) Six Bells Development: This development, now nearing completion shows how difficult it is to imagine the reality of plans. The Council objected to this development at the time of application, but now it is built the fears expressed have been proved correct. Built on rising land they are very high, dominating the whole area. There appears to be at least one house too many and this could create a pattern for future building. The plans presented may have looked exciting, but they are not practical, emergency service vehicles will not even be able to get to the properties. It was approved that the Planning Department should be asked to take more notice of height of buildings in relation to the surrounding properties. Cllr Wright proposed a letter is sent to the Mr Caird to this effect, with a copy to the Civic Society, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

f) New Planning Schedule: Cllr Dr Penney outlined changes to the procedures for planning applications taking place. The Government has introduced new regulations regarding the time between the publication of Committee agendas and reports and the meeting at which they are considered, this means that Development Control Committee papers must now be published on Tuesdays rather than Thursdays. It has been necessary to amend publication dates for applications so the period for representations starts on a Wednesday and finishes on a Tuesday. Cllr Penney felt that this will probably require a lot of special meetings to consider plans and the Council may well have to consider whether meetings should be held on a Monday. Cllr Blundell proposed this is put on the Agenda of the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

g) Name of new development on Love Lane: The developers have erected an advertising board giving the name 'Old Brick Meadow'. The Council were under the impression that developers are required to contact the District or Town Council before settling on a name. Cllr Lawrence offered to check the name of this field an old town map that the Museum holds. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Mayor and Deputy are given power to act in suggesting a suitable change of name, with 'Love Lane' being put forward if nothing more appropriate comes to light, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION AEL/MAYOR & DEPUTY

7. TRAFFIC PROBLEMS:

Sub Officer T. Magill of Bishop's Castle Fire Station asked to speak about the congestion caused by parked vehicles in Church Lane around the junction with Kerry Lane. Cars park both sides of the lane, with just enough room for another car but not enough for the Fire Engine. use of parking cones and posters have been used in the past when it is known events are being held and fortunately the Engine has yet never been held up when attending a fire. However, as events become more common it is felt that something more permanent in the way of road markings or signs is needed. Cllr Blundell suggested that when a Road Closure Order is applied for stewards are requested in this area to ensure the road is not blocked. The Tourism Group should be asked to provide the Fire Service with a list of dates for the various Festivals. Cllr Dr Penney thought a large sign 'Fire Station Please Keep Clear' would help, although it was generally felt that bold road markings would be most effective. Mr Magill agreed to discuss and collate ideas and report back to the next meeting. ACTION MR T. MAGILL

Cllr Blundell has received complaints about the speed of vehicles turning into Kerry Lane, Cllr Lawrence who lives in this area agreed there is a problem. Cllr Lawrence proposed S.C.C. Highways Department need to look at the traffic flow and thought a red tarmac strip between The Lymes and the Six Bells would inactivate a dangerous corner. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. Cllr Wright proposed that it is requested that the pavement is extended out-side the Church and the Six Bells which would effectively make the road narrower and make vehicles slow down, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

8. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TOWARDS COST OF ARMISTIC DAY EVENT:

Letter read from Mr R. Beaumont, Arts Co-ordinator at the Community College. For a number of years events for Armistic Day have been promoted to keep Remembrance alive, raise money for the poppy appeal and to educate younger people about the sacrifice of their forebears. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday 7th November and financial support is being sought to commission the historian and expert on the Great War, Mr Jeff Garner. Cllr Carroll felt that the Council should support cultural events such as this and proposed a donation of £100, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT - SOUTH SHROPSHIRE SPORT & LEISURE ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Letter from Mr J. Hern, Chairman of South Shropshire Sports and Leisure Advisory Council read. In the past this Committee had undertaken the role of processing grant applications for sports organisations on behalf of the District Council and has had delegated authority to make grant awards of up to £500. This has been helpful for small clubs either starting up or making bids to larger organisations. Unfortunately due to budget difficulties the District Council has had to delete the grant aid from its budget. The Advisory Council would wish to continue to provide support and service and have invited Town and Parish Councils to consider whether they could make a donation to allow this grant support to continue. Cllr Blundell proposed a donation of £50 and suggest that if they are still looking for funds to contact us again before the Precept meeting in November. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE ON FRIENDS OF B.C. LIBRARY GROUP:

Cllr Lawrence has represented the Council on the 'Friends of Bishop's Castle Library' Group for the last three years and confirmed her willingness to continue should the Council wish. Cllr Blundell proposed that Cllr Lawrence be asked to continue with this post, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

11. AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

The question was raised about the definition of Affordable Housing. Do the District Council take into account the average wage of an area before setting the level of 'affordable'? Mortgages are normally 2 1/2 or 3 times an annual salary and the average wage for this area was thought to be £12,000, so current prices are far out of reach of many people. Cllr Dr Penney said that after three years houses can be sold on at market value and they should be obliged to retain them for at least ten years, or sell them at the purchase price. Cllr Carroll proposed a letter is sent to the District Council Social Policy Committee, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. TOWN HALL:

Mr Wheatley will be coming to Bishop's Castle at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 3rd July to talk about the Town Hall. It would be appreciated if as many Councillors that are able come along. It was reported that Mr Hurd has great difficulty putting up the flag for the Jubilee and he has suggested that the problem needs sorting out before it needs to go up again. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this problem is put forward to the Architect.

The new tenant of Market Steps only puts two or three pots outside the shop door, but it was felt that nothing should be permitted without a nominal charge being made, in order to avoid problems in the future. Cllr Carroll suggested that this can be sorted by asking the owner to relinquish any claim to the land underneath the porch. It was reported that there has been no response to the letter sent to Mr and Mrs Stanley and Cllr Dr Penney proposed this is on the Agenda for the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

It was reported that the outside light has been bent, although it is still working. Cllr Blundell offered to have a look and make it safe.

13. PLAYING FIELD:

1) Bike Track: As the Friends of the Playing Field are to carry out full community consultation in the near future, it was felt it would be a mistake to make any changes to the field at this stage. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that no action is taken for at least three months, until the outcome of correspondence to SSDC and SCC, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

Letter from Mr W. Jones, S.S.D.C. was read explaining that regrettably the Industrial Land is in joint ownership of the County Council and is designated "Industrial", it would therefore be inappropriate to provide a bike track on this site. Councillors felt that until such time that it is required for industrial purposes then surely an area could be made available for use by young people with bikes. There would be no expense incurred as nothing is required to be provided, just permission for use of land. As the land appears to be in joint ownership a copy of the correspondence has been sent to C.C. Phillips with a request that this is taken up with the County Council.

Mrs G. Furber, Mr M. Pugh and a number of young people were present at the meeting. Cllr Wright proposed that members of the public be invited to speak, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved. Mike Pugh, Youth Worker explained that recently a group of young people had been taken to Church Stretton bike track and found the facilities available there excellent. The area, which is locked at dusk, is well away from housing and young people are mainly left to themselves. He strongly recommended that Councillors have a look at Church Stretton and would very much like to see similar facilities for Bishop's Castle.

2) Entrance: The gate has now been completed and the tarmac footpath through the smaller gate needs to be widened and at the same time it is suggested that an area inside the gate is surfaced with tarmac. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that Mr Whitefoot is thanked for making such an impressive job with the gate and that the Playing Field Committee meet to discuss the footpath and report back at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

3) Doorstep Green Project Application: Ms Cath Murphy has advised that the Friends of the Playing Field have, with help from the Countryside Agency, via the Doorstep Green Scheme, to carry out a community consultation on the Playing Field and draw up a plan for its future development and enhancement. There will need to be a formal agreement with the Town Council, as Landowners, to enable the group to bring about the changes in the consultation. It was thought it would be helpful for Cath Murphy and/or a representative of the Friends Group to come to a meeting to discuss this in more detail. It was proposed that they are invited to attend the August meeting. AGENDA AUGUST MEETING

4) Skip on Field during Folk Festival week-end: Organisers of the Festival had hired at the cost of £80 plus VAT, a skip for campers rubbish and had noticed that before it was collected it had been filled with discarded items. As it was thought some of the rubbish came from the Playing Field the Council was asked to consider making a contribution towards the cost. It was noted that the rubbish was put in after the Festival and the charge would have been the same whether it was returned half empty or full. A cheaper option for another year may be to hire the blue bins from Biffa. Cllr Blundell proposed that the charge of £50 for the use of the field should be reduced by £10, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

Sodex Ho have been contacted and reminded that the Field needs strimming around the hedges and along the bank. They have responded that they will ensure around the hedges are tidied up, but that the bank has a lot of stones on it and they are worried about damaging their equipment. Cllr Blundell could not think that stones would be a problem.

14. VITAL VILLAGES:

Cllr Carroll reported that Mrs Caroline Oakes of the Community Council had attended the second meeting of the Vital Villages in the Town Hall on 20th June. At this meeting it was agreed that a Steering Group needs to be formed of 12 - 15 people, which should represent as wide a cross section of local organisations and sectors of the community as possible. The Steering Group will be able to access funds to appoint a Facilitator and the plan should be completed by June 2003. A list of suggested members have been contacted and invited to attend a meeting on 16th July in the Town Hall. Cllr Dr Penney requested that Mr R. Gwyther be invited to represent the Civic Society.

15. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS

No further information received.

16. DOG FOULING:

Letter from Matthew Green M.P. pick, suggesting that a couple of dog waste bins are purchased and positioned near the Primary School, S.S.D.C. has been contacted and they are prepared to read up the cost of emptying them. It was agreed that people do not like to put dog faeces in the ordinary litter bins, although it is O.K. for them to do so, but there needs to be consideration about the more suitable position for them. Cllr Wright proposed this is given some thought and discussed at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

17. STREET LIGHTING:

Letter read from Mr D'Alazio confirming that lighting in Brampton Road and Kerry Lane between Corricks Rise and Corporation would be adopted if improved to highway standard. However, the scheme prepared by M.E.B. Contracting for upgrading the lighting in Brampton Road would not be suitable for adoption. In order to meet highway standard lighting should be designed in accordance with British Standard 5489 Category 3/2 with 8m columns and 100w SON lamps. Cllr Dr Penney proposed these comments are forwarded to M.E.B., seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. FOOTPATHS:

Letter from Mr Caird regarding footpaths read advising that individual developments shall continue to be dealt with on their merits. In order to cover the policy SSDC are considering making an amendment to the third bullet point of Policy AC1 of the Draft Local Plan which refer to the extension of the existing network of footpaths. This will be amended to include the improvement of the footpath network. Cllr Carroll proposed that Mr Caird is advised that the footpaths in Bowling Green Close and Oak Meadow are unacceptable and the Town Council would like to be consulted about what happens to them and suggest perhaps a meeting with some-one to discuss. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

19. ACCOUNTS:

Cllr Blundell proposed the accounts listed on the Agenda are paid, with the exception of Links Electrical, who have been asked to send a credit note, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

20. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES: None.

21. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) Mr A. Cooper, S.C.C.: Shropshire Waste Local Plan 2002 - 2014. This plan sets out planning policies to control the development of waste management facilities in Shropshire and identifies 29 sites which are suitable 'in principle' for waste management facilities and operations. The public consultation period for the Plan is from 12th June 2002 until 24th July 2002. Objections should be made in writing. A public meeting is to be held on Monday 8th July at 7.00 pm at Ludlow CE School. where officers will make a brief presentation about the Plan.

b) Mrs J. Palmer, S.S.D.C. Street Closure Order for Saturday 30th November for the Christmas Lights Festival. Cllr Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved.

c) Mr R. Thomas, S.S.D.C. Training Opportunity for the New Ethical Framework under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000. The Standards Committee has agreed that further training opportunities should be offered to Councillors as earlier sessions were mainly for Clerks and Chairmen. A training seminar will be held on Tuesday 2nd July at 7.00 pm in the Public Hall. The Mayor asked that as many Councillors as possible try to attend this session.

d) Mr A. McCartney, Corporate Policy Officer, S.S.D.C.: The Council has resolved for the Economic and Environment Policy Panels to hold a Joint Scrutiny Inquiry regarding a number of issues relating to industrial development land in South Shropshire. The Council is invited to make written submissions to the Joint Policy Panel regarding the motions before 28th June. As none involved Bishop's Castle it was agreed to take no action.

e) Bishop's Castle & District Community Transport Group: The A.G.M. is to be held on Monday 1st July at 7.30 p.m. in the Fletcher Room at the Community College, could any-one wishing to attend please contact The Clerk.

f) S.C.C. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 - Section 14. Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic - Kerry Lane. The Order will come into operation on 1st July to enable sewer and water connections to be made and is expected to take 5 days.

g) Ms K. Jackson, Intermediate Care Development Manager, Shropshire County NHS: A series of workshops are being held throughout the County to contribute to developing a working directory of intermediate care services. Any-one requiring more information please contact The Clerk.

h) The Countryside Agency: Two new publications - 1) Vital Villages Update: Details of grant schemes available to communities and articles about people who have been involved in schemes. PASS TO DEPUTY MAYOR

2) 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gives details of parish and town councils obligations under Section 17 of the Act and offers practical advice on ways to achieve crime reduction and community safety. CIRCULATE

i) Wasteless Society: Newsletter. CIRCULATE

j) DTLR: Consultation Paper - Local investigations and identification of misconduct allegations: Sets out the framework within which allegations about misconduct by councillors could be handled by local authorities. CIRCULATE

k) South Shropshire Housing Association: A new leaflet has been sent to all tenants, which is the start of the consultation on Planned Maintenance. It is the aim of the Association to produce a fixed 3 year investment programme on housing stock in 2003. PASS TO CLLR KINMOND

l) Standards Committee: Agenda for meeting Tuesday 25th June together with Minutes of meeting held on 30th April. CIRCULATE

m) The Post Office: The Wentnor branch has been closed since March and will re-open at a new location in Rock Close on 16th July.

n) S.M.P. (Playgrounds) Ltd.: Youth Shelters and Sports Systems, a good practice guide produced by Thames Valley Police, for outdoor recreational facilities for adolescents. CIRCULATE

o) St John the Baptist Parish Church: Re-Pitching the Tent has raised over £20,000 in two years, the cost of a new heating system is around £28,000 and 1st October has set as a deadline in order that the heating system can be installed before Winter.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Meeting 23rd July 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 23RD JULY 2002 AT 8.00PM
PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, E.A. Lawrence, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

Before the start of the meeting The Council stood in silence in memory of Mr Jim Close, an ex councillor, who died recently.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllrs Kinmond, Magill and Morris.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Wright declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.c
Cllr Carroll declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.b
Cllr Bedell declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.d

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH JUNE 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney, approved and signed by The Mayor.

The Mayor proposed that in view of the large number of members of the public present Item 6 is brought forward, seconded by Cllr Wright. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that as Mr Hurd wished to speak on item 10, this should also be brought forward, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 6.b: Letter of acknowledgement received from Powys County Council and copy of a letter of objection from C.C. P. Phillips was read.
Item 6.d: Letter from Mr Caird read. There are lots of examples under planning legislation of developments which have taken place under previous Policy which would if applied for now, not fall within current Policy. There appears to be two alternatives. One is to explain to people whose proposals have been judged in light of recent Policy the importance of improving environmental standards. There other is to give in and allow everyone to do what they want on the basis that to do otherwise appears unfair. Cllr Lawrence proposed this issue is tackled from another direction and that the petrol company concerned is contacted direct, explaining that the two banks and Post Office have agreed not to have internally illuminated signs, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. It was thought the Civic Society might also be prepared to write. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 9: C.C. P. Phillips advised that a motion had been approved to instate the £10,000 grant so local sports/arts clubs can apply for funding.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mr J. Geach, Mr N. Hird and Mr G. Morrall.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13315/O Outline Planning Permission and 1/02/13316/CA Conservation Area Consent for erection of 8 dwellings (re-advertised amended plans). Former Police Station, Bishop's Castle. Gorsty Developments, c/o de Weijer Architects, West Bromwich. Letters of objection have been received from Mrs Bright and Mr and Mrs T. Magill. S.S.D.C. had written to advise this would be considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 24th July, but had since written to say this was incorrect. Mr G. Morrall speaking on behalf of the other residents of Grange Gardens explained their objections to this application. Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council objects on the grounds that there are too many houses which are too high and would overlook dwellings in Grange Gardens. Visibility from the access is very poor and it is not deemed suitable for the amount of traffic that eight dwellings would generate. There should be no felling or lopping of trees on the site. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

b) 1/02/13536/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a dwelling. Plot to the rear of The Old Brick Guest House, Bishop's Castle. Mr P. Hutton. Cllr Carroll left the room whilst this was discussed. The Clerk advised that letters of objection had been received from Mrs P. Thomson, Mr and Mrs C. Rogers, Mrs J. Olley, Mr B. Dodd and Mrs T. Dodd, Secretary of Coppall Paddock Ltd. It was noted that the location plan for this application does not show houses on Coppall Paddock or Bells Court. The proposed dwelling is considered too large for the size of the plot. Building here would remove garden and parking area from the Old Brick Guest House and visitors would have to park on Church Street. The access to the proposed dwelling would be over an unadopted road owned by Coppall Paddock Ltd, who object. Cllr Wright proposed that the Council objects to this application on these grounds, seconded by Cllr Lawrence and approved.

c) 1/02/13484/F Planning Permission (full) for conversion of Brewery, entertainment room and store, and holiday accommodation to six dwellings. Erection of a porch to Public House. The Three Tuns, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Wright left the room whilst this was considered. There were a large number of people present who objected to this application and Mr J. Geach spoke on their behalf. To convert the Brewery, Museum and entertainment room would represent a great loss to the heritage of Bishop's Castle and he suggested that the Council considers raising funds to buy the property in order to ensure its future.

Letters of objection have been received from Mr M. Tebbutt, Mrs C. Denham, Mr J. Greig, Mr D. Palliser, Secretary of Bishop's Castle Tourism Group, Ms S. Haliday, Mr and Mrs R. Lennox, Mr and Mrs T. Magill, Cllr C. Kinmond, Mr R. Moulson on behalf of the House on Crutches Museum Trust, Mr and Mrs A. Speke, Ms S. Gould, Mr and Mrs G. Cooke and Mr J. Rainey. The letters received raised numerous grounds of objection to this proposal: The Brewery is one of only a few tower breweries left in the Country and beer has been brewed here for centuries, lack of car parking for proposed dwellings, leaving no car park for the public house. Removing the victorian spiral staircase and inserting new windows. Dwellings so close to a public house would inevitably lead to complaints of nuisance from noise, the right of way through the yard to the rear of Prospect House and Hillview seems to have been overlooked. It is felt that the plans appear to be structurally doubtful and not sympathetic to the historic building.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council objects to this application in the strongest possible way, but does not think that at this stage the Town Council should consider purchasing the property. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

d) 1/02/13576/F Planning Permission (full) for conversion of agricultural building to holiday accommodation unit. (delegated matter). Mr R. Lennox, Watermead, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Bedell left the room while this was considered. Cllr Blundell proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

e) 1/02/13581/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of 6 lighting columns (5 m high). Bishop's Castle Civil Defence Bowling Club, off Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Carroll proposed No Objection, providing that the lights are not used after 11.00 pm and that care is taken that they do not cause nuisance to neighbours in Coppall Paddock. Seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

f) 1/02/13593/TC Tree Works (Conservation Area) works to trees on land adjoining Laburnum Alley. The Bungalow, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Tree Dimensions, Sunny Lea, Meifod, Powys. Cllr Wright proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

The Clerk reported the following plans had been received since the last meeting which required a response before this meeting:

a) 11/02/13511/F and 1/02/13512/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for change of use commercial B1 to residential C3 and alterations to fenestrations (delegated matter). 38 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr S.P. Egan. Seen by the Mayor and Cllrs Lawrence and Dr Penney, who saw no objection.

b) 1/02/13525/TC Tree works (Conservation Area). Felling of an Elm tree (delegated matter). 7 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. Ms D.Shekeleton. Seen by The Mayor and Cllrs Lawrence and Dr Penney, who saw no objection.

c) 1/02/13467/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of an extension to dwelling and a domestic garage (delegated matter) 15 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Ms J. CcGlynn. Seen by The Mayor and Cllrs Lawrence and Dr Penney, who saw no objection.

This action for these applications was approved by the Council.

The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

1) 1/02/13426/F Planning Permission granted for erection of extension to residential home. The Grange, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle.

2) 1/02/13407/F Planning Permission granted for subdivision of dwelling to create two residential units, formation of an annex and erection of an extension to provide staircase. Cottage Farm, Bishop's Castle. J. & H. Beamond.

3) 1/02/13448/F Planning Permission granted for erection of a conservatory. 7 Woodbine Terrace, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr J.A. Price.

4) 1/02/13307/F Refusal of Planning Permission for erection of a domestic garage. Land to the rear of Hall Villa, Bishop's Castle. Mr A.D. Buy.

5) 1/02/13347/F Refusal of Planning Permission for erection of a dwelling. Land to the rear of Shirland House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs Wainwright.

6) 1/02/13373/CA Conservation Area Consent and 1/02/13372/F Planning Permission granted for demolition of existing dwelling and garage workshop. No 1 Laburnum Alley, off Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr B. Hendley.

7. NAME OF NEW DEVELOPMENT ON LOVE LANE:

Letters read from Harper Group Construction Ltd and Planning Department of S.S.D.C. "Old Brick Meadow" is the marketing name for the project on Love Lane, for which the developer is not obliged to seek approval. In due course a road name will be suggested and put to the District Council, when the Town Council will be consulted and given the opportunity to comment. Cllr Lawrence had looked at this field on an old map and it was referred to as the Brick Meadow.

8. ROWDINESS AND VANDALISM:

It was reported that since the Chinese has been open on The Square there has been an increase in late night noise and rowdiness. During the Beer Festival week-end cars parked there had been walked over and each week-end the situation appears to be getting worse. Cllr Carroll reminded people that when there had been similar problems in this part of Town a couple of years ago, the Police advised that all incidents should be reported to them. The Chinese is open every night until midnight except Tuesday when it is closed, which is contrary to the permission granted by SSSDC, which was up to 11.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday and closed on Sunday. Cllr Carroll proposed that this is a matter for SSSDC to take enforcement action, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

9. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - CHURCH LANE / KERRY LANE:

Since the last meeting Mr T. Magill had sent in three options which he feels would be suitable for improving the problem in Church Lane. Cllr Wright proposed a combination of Options 1 and 2, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. The Clerk will contact S.C.C. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. WASTE DISPOSAL:

Shropshire County Council published the first Deposit Draft of the Shropshire Waste Local Plan 2002 - 2014 on 12th June. The Plan sets out 30 planning policies to control the development of waste management facilities in Shropshire and identifies 29 sites which are suitable in principle for waste management facilities and operations. The Plan identifies a site in Bishop' Castle on the Industrial Estate as being suitable for commercial waste transfer and recycling. The closing date for consultation is 24th July. Mr Neil Hird attended the meeting and recommended that the Council objects to the siting of the Commercial Waste Transfer Station on the Bishop's Castle Industrial Estate, which in view of the highway network makes this location unsuitable. This is not an area where there are large amounts of commercial waste produced, so there will obviously be a considerable increase in heavy traffic travelling on narrow unsuitable roads bringing it in from other areas with the consequent pollution. Mr Hird suggested that it would be more acceptable to accept to have a Household Waste Recycling Centre or Civic Amenity Site, as this would be building on what is already located there which is proving very successful.

The only business already on this site is the Veterinary Practice and the Pre-School Child Centre and it is felt to be an entirely unsuitable to locate a Waste Transfer Station adjacent to these and it would be unlikely to attract new businesses to the Estate. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council objects very strongly to this proposal, seconded by Cllr Blundell, who pointed out that this site is very near the water supply.

As the closing date for comment is tomorrow Cllr Blundell proposed that the Mayor, Deputy, Clerk and Mr Hird complete the form and return it to Mr Adrian Cooper, Assistant Planning Officer at S.C.C. tomorrow, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. Cllr Lawrence proposed that there should be more public awareness of this proposal.

ACTION MAYOR, DEPUTY & CLERK

11. PLANTERS IN HIGH STREET:

At the recent meeting of the Community Forum it was suggested that planters on the cobbled 'build outs' in High Street might look nice and it was thought that volunteers could be found to water the plants. The Council had had some spare planters, but it was thought they had been given to Stone House. Cllr Bedell will check. Cllr Carroll proposed that if Cllr Bedell does not find any spare planters a request is made to S.C.C. for four new ones, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. NEW SIGN FOR LIBRARY:

Cllr Lawrence reported that at a recent meeting Mr A. Williams had said the new Library is not adequately signed. Now The Library has moved the sign by The Porch House needs removing. It was thought that a black and gold finger post to match existing signs would be best. These had been provided by the Tourism Group, but Cllr Carroll proposed that a request is made to S.C.C.. Cllr Carroll also proposed that the front of Enterprise House should have a Library sign. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. VITAL VILLAGES:

Cllr Carroll reported that a Steering Group has now been formed. The first meeting was held on 16th July and Sam Hine from S.S.D.C. had attended. If the initial application for a grant of £7,000 is successful The Town Council will be required to pay a contribution of 5%. Cllr Blundell proposed that a sum of money up to £347 is approved for this purpose, seconded by Cllr Lawrence and approved. C.C. Phillips is hoping that Bishop's Castle and the surrounding hinterland will be successful with the bid for the Market Towns Initiative and if this is the case the Parish Plan being produced by the Vital Villages Steering Group will be a very important part of the consultation process.

14. PURCHASE OF DOG WASTE BINS:

At the last meeting the purchase of some new dog waste bins was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that three new bins are purchased from Wybone of similar design to those already in Town at the cost of £142.74 each. A green bin for the Old Castle Land, which Trustees are prepared to empty, a red bin for The Green in Corporation Street and a second red one for Oak Meadow, location to be agreed. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. Cllr Penney also proposed that the S.S.D.C. are asked to provide a bin outside the Play Area on Oak Meadow, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. Clerk to order stickers for existing litter bins. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. TOWN HALL:

The Mayor, Cllr Dr Penney, Cllr Lawrence and the Clerk had met Mr Wheatly and his assistant on 3rd July to discuss plans for the Town Hall and it is clear they have several ideas, but needed general information about the building and it's uses to proceed and look into funding. It was thought that perhaps an application should be made to the Heritage Lottery for the immediate roof repairs and improvements to the building being a separate application. Any schemes prepared by Wheatley Lines will be put to the Council for consideration and the public can then be consulted. The possibility of opening up the old reservoir is being considered and the mayor's husband was successful in opening up the door. The area this would open up could be used for a number of options, toilets or a retail area were two suggestions. A hoist will be needed to closely inspect the roof to see exactly what work will be required.

The Mayor and Cllr Lawrence subsequently met with Mrs Jackson of E.S.W.S. to discuss funding under Objective 2. Charges are likely to be 10% of any granted received. Mr Wheatley and Mrs Jackson to discuss further.

Mr Marsh, Building Control Officer for SSSDC has written to advise that the grant approved for the hand rail has been lost, as work must be completed within 12 months. However, if the Council wishes to make another application then the work will still be considered.

Letter read from Head of Legal Services, SSSDC regarding the porch that has been erected over the frontage of the Town Hall, recommending that the matter should be regularised by way of some form of agreement. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Stanley has not responded to the Council's letter of 5th June. Cllr Carroll felt it is unnecessary to resort to legal threats at this stage and efforts should be made to regularise the matter by formal agreement and proposed another letter is sent to Mr Stanley suggesting a peppercorn rent of £25 per annum is paid, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

16. PLAYING FIELD:

Mr and Mrs N. Hurd have 4 oak and 4 ash whips they would like to give to the Council for planting this Autumn. Councillors to consider and suitable suggestions for planting to be put to the next meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

Mr A. Jones of Union Street would like to build a retaining wall between his property and the entrance to the Playing Field and would like to replace the land drain with a solid pipe. Cllr Whittall proposed there is no objection to this request, as it will tidy up and improve the area, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

The Playing Field Committee have met and would like the area at the top of the Kerry Lane entrance, approximately 3 metres inside the new gate to be surfaced with tarmac and a further 12 metres to be hard surfaced, with either tarmac or stone scalping. Cllr Blundell proposed prices are obtained for this, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. Cllr Dr Penney asked that when prices are being requested a price could also be obtained for resurfacing with tarmac the footpath from Station Street to Church Bank, at the back of Bowling Green Close. ACTION TOWN CLERK

There are a couple of benches which need repair and Cllr Whittall proposed Mr Bishop is asked if he can repair the damages then sand down and either varnish or paint all of the benches in the field, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

It appears that children with bikes are riding up the bank at the entrance to the Playing Field, bringing bark down onto the road. Cllrs Whittall and Blundell had put up a post and wire fence to stop this last night, but unfortunately the fence had been pulled down by lunch time. It was reported that the new lock on the gate had been damaged, so another lock has been put on.

Sodexo have been contacted about strimming the bank in the Playing Field, but have advised that there are a lot of stones on there and they are concerned they will damage their equipment, so not prepared to cut this until the stones have been removed. Cllr Blundell proposed that some-one is asked to trim the bank and the cost is deducted from Sodexo's charges, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Annual Play Area Safety Inspection Report prepared by RoSPA has been received. Playing Field Committee to read and report back.

A resident of Kerry Green had reported to the Police that he had nearly been knocked over by a motor scooter whilst walking through the Playing Field. The Police had contacted the Clerk and suggested a notice that no unauthorised motorised vehicles are permitted in the field. Cllr Blundell reported that whilst he and Cllr Whittall were putting up the fence last night it had been necessary to speak to someone who was on a motor bike in the field. Cllr Whittall proposed that Councillors give some thought to suitable wording for a sign to be erected at each entrance, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

17. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS

No further information received.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Bishop's Castle & District Community Forum: Public Meeting held on Thursday 11th July at The Community College attended by The Mayor, Cllrs Carroll and Whittall and Town Clerk. Notes of this meeting and Report on activities prepared by Chairman Dr R. Pahl to be circulated. CIRCULATE

Minutes of Chapel Yard Heritage Archive Partnership Group: Notes of meeting held on 4th July at the Old Chapel Yard, attended by Cllr Magill. CIRCULATE
E.S.W.S. Cllr Lawrence gave a report of the meeting she had recently attended. There is a range of European Projects under "Objective 2" that have been widely available at a number of outlets, however they are looking at means of making the information more widely available to the community and are wondering if the information could be distributed in conjunction with a Parish Magazine. It was proposed that the 'Spotlight' produced at Enterprise House would be a good way of circulating this information. ACTION TOWN CLERK

c) County Training: A new project is currently being initiated called 'Into Work Shropshire' which will be funded by the European Social Fund. The aim is to provide training and job search support for people who are not working, currently living in rural areas. TOWN HALL NOTICE BOARD

d) Mr P. Norton: On behalf of the Parish Church - a letter of appreciation for the £150 towards the Queens Golden Jubilee celebrations.

e) Ms S. Dixon: On 11th July Ms Dixon was contacted by the pack of working dogs accompanied by two cyclists went through The Square. This has happened before and Ms Dixon asks that the Council investigate, as she has two concerns; dog mess and this number of dogs being a threat to domestic pets. Cllr Bedell reported that he has contacted the United Pack to discuss this matter and he is satisfied that the hounds are properly trained and adequately supervised on these exercises and Ms Dixon should be re-assured on both of her points of concern.

f) Commission for Racial Equality: The amended Race Relations Act gives public authorities a new statutory general duty to promote race equality. The duty applies to all public authorities listed in Schedule 1A of the Act. Parish Councils are not covered by either of the specific duties, only the general duty. CIRCULATE

g) Shropshire Partnership: Objective 2 Project support: Two seminars have been organised to assist project applications with Record Keeping and Monitoring Activities - Tuesday 20th August at The Shirehall and State Aid on Friday 27th September at the Mytton and Mermaid Hotel at Atcham. Places are limited, any-one wishing to attend should contact the Clerk before 31st July.

h) South Shropshire Access Group: Minutes of meeting held on 21st May and Agenda for meeting on 16th July. CIRCULATE

i) South Shropshire Police-Community Consultative Group: Minutes of meeting held at Craven Arms on Tuesday 9th April. CIRCULATE

j) South Shropshire Area-Committee. Meeting held on Monday 8th July at Stone House, Ludlow. CIRCULATE

k) Bishop's Castle Lifeline Company Ltd.: Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Thursday 18th April at the Boar's Head, Bishop's Castle. CIRCULATE

l) South Shropshire District Council. Director of Central Services Reports No 12/02. Social Policy Committee meeting held on 6th June 2002. (a) Reports on on-street parking - result of consultation with local councils. and (b) South Shropshire Community Safety Partnership - Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002-2205. CIRCULATE

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Minutes 6th August 2002 (Special Meeting)

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, C.T.E. Kinmond, E.A. Lawrence, J.A. Magill, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, W.J. Morris, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Bedell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest on item 4.a

Cllr Pinches declared a personal interest on item 4.a

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

4. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13605/RM Approval of Reserved Matters. Siting, design and external appearance for phase 1 of The Wintles (committee matter) Living Villages (Bishop's Castle), 5 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Cllr Dr Penney left the room whilst this was considered.

It was put to the Council that the letters attached to the plans submitted should not be taken into account when this matter is being considered. Cllr Wright proposed the Council objects to this application on the following grounds: Phase 1 is on the most prominent part of the site which will be visible from the south side of Town. The houses are out of Scale, the largest one will be probably over 40' high, they do not take account of the rising landscape and surrounding buildings and are unsuitable for this position. Effect on neighbouring properties: being so high they will have a marked effect on nearby properties and cottages on Castle Green will be dwarfed. Parking; Occupiers of 4 and 5 bedroom houses are very likely to have several cars, especially in a remote Town like Bishop's Castle. Drains; The question should be raised as to whether the drainage system at the bottom of Town will be able to cope. Footpaths: Nos 30 and 33 cross this site but are not shown on the plan. These paths should be surfaced by the developer so as to make them suitable for urban use. Low Cost Housing: It is felt there is not sufficient low cost housing and SSDC to be asked to confirm that the appropriate number is included in this plan. Section 106, Services: When outline permission was approved it was stated that the road and services should be completed before the houses are occupied. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

b) 1/02/13646/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of secure accommodation for 6 motorised scooters for the use of elderly disabled residents (delegated matter). Abbeyfield House, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle. The Abbeyfield Society. Cllr Blundell proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Morris and approved.

c) No other plans have been received.

5. TOWN HALL:

The Mayor and Cllr Lawrence have discussed funding for the Town Hall with Mrs Jackson of E.S.W.S. and the Architect. Cllr Lawrence was invited to join the Town Hall Committee, who will be required to meet in the near future to consider and draw up a Business Plan. Cllr Wright felt that this should be prepared by some-one with the appropriate experience, Cllr Lawrence said that Mrs Jackson would be prepared to help and if the Town Council drew up a draft she would meet Councillors and offer advice. Mrs Jackson within the next few days would be preparing an idea of the charge that E.S.W.S. would make for obtaining funding. It was thought that Mr Wheatley obviously has experience of funding and may also be willing to give an estimate. The Mayor asked if Cllr Dr Penney would be willing to take on the role of liaising with the Architect on behalf of the Council, which he confirmed he was happy to do. Cllr Dr Penney said that SSDC have information available called 'Grant Finder', he would obtain an application form for the Mayor and Clerk to complete.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Minutes 17th September 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, J.A. Magill, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies received from Cllr Lawrence, who is in hospital.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH AUGUST 2002:

Minutes of the Council meetings held on Tuesday 20th August 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, with one amendment, to item 10.c - should be proposed by Cllr Whittall not Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 6.h: SALC advise that decisions made at any Council meeting, including the Annual Meeting can be reconsidered subject to Standing Orders. The proviso in Standing Orders is that no decision can be reconsidered within six months of it being made.

Item 7: Mr Drummond is reluctant to introduce a further black plastic bollard into the High Street pending any initiatives to replace them with timber bollards through the local community and S.S.D.C. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the black plastic bollards are quite acceptable and as there seems to be no activity about replacements in timber we press ahead for an additional bollard in black plastic, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. Mr Drummond considers the parking on the corner by 17 Market Square as an enforcement issue rather than traffic management. However Councillors felt that the Police cannot possibly ensure there is no parking on this area at all times and it requires a physical obstruction to prevent vehicles driving on the pavement. Cllr Dr Penney proposed a letter to Mr Drummond and Inspector Payton about this matter, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The Police assure the Clerk that efforts are being made to reduce the problem of excessive speeding in the streets and unmarked Police vehicles will be carrying out speed checks.

Item 10.c: No suggestions have been received for suitable sites for planting Mr and Mrs Hurd's trees. The Clerk has contacted Mrs Daniel, the Tree Warden and she is considering. However, she has pointed out that she cannot agree to maintain them.

Item 16.d: The next Community Forum is likely to be held mid - late November

Item 16.i: The Council has been advised that it has recently been decided that the energy required for street lighting for many years has been underestimated and it is necessary to increase the energy costs for each street light. Cllr Blundell said he would look at the Councils street lights before the next meeting to see how much difference this will make to the Council.

From previous meeting: (1) Mr G. Shaw, S.C.C. has agreed to erect a sign for The Library in High Street and on The Boar's Head crossroads. (2) Mr Drummond, S.C.C. has advised that the County Council are pleased that the Town Council supports the idea of pole mounted planters for the build-outs in High Street, but unfortunately cannot agree to fund them. Cllr Dr Penney reported that several years ago the Town Council had 12 planters, some are still in use, but 4 were given to Stone House. He noted that they had not been planted this year and proposed that Ms P. Cadman at Stone House is contacted to see if they are still needed, if not they could be used in High Street, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK
(3) Miss D. Humphrey, SSDC has enclosed a copy of the Officers report for The Wintles. There is a legal agreement in place that requires 10% affordable housing for local people, which equates for 4 properties.
(4) Copies of letters of objection received from M. and R. Pettersson and M. Ashwell regarding Planning Application 1/02/13655/O at Hollenbough, Church Lane.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13722/LB Listed Building Consent. Internal alterations to flat 1 and 2 (delegated matter). Old Porch House, High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Lucas. Cllr Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved.

b) 1/02/13720/F Planning Permission (full). Erection of an extension to dwelling. (delegated matter). 9 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs C. Pearson. Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council objects to this proposal on the grounds of the increase in height from 4.5 metres to 6.6 metres, particularly as it is on elevated ground, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

c) 1/02/13760/TP Tree Works (TPO) Pruning of an Ash Tree. Laburnum Alley, Bishop's Castle. Mr B. Headly and Mr A. Seabourne. Cllr Dr Penney proposed No Objection, providing it is light pruning carried out under the supervision of Shropshire County Council Tree Officer, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

f) No other Planning Applications received.

g) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

i) 1/02/13484/F and 1/02/14385/LB Notice of Withdrawal of Planning Application and Listed Building Consent, The Three Tuns Brewing Company Ltd., Three Tuns, Salop Street.

ii) 1/02/13646/F Planning Permission granted for erection of secure accommodation for 6 motorised scooters for residents. The Abbeyfield Society, Abbeyfield House, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle.

iii) 1/02/13576/F Planning Permission granted for conversion of agricultural building to holiday accommodation unit at Watermead, Bishop's Castle. R. Lennox.

iv) 1/02/13467/F Planning permission granted for erection of an extension to dwelling and a domestic garage. Ms J. McGlynn, 15 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle.

v) 1/02/13581/F Planning Permission granted for erection of 6 x 5m high lighting columns, Bishop's Castle Civil Defence Bowling Club, Bishop's Castle.

vi) 1/02/13591/F Planning Permission granted for erection of a conservatory, Highfields, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs S. Price.

vii) 1/02/13593/TC Permission for works to trees on land adjoining Laburnum Alley. The Bungalow, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Tree Dimensions.

Planning Application for erection of buildings to form livestock market with associated plant and parking facilities, land adjoining Harry Tuffins Supermarket, Churchstoke. Powys County Council have advised that a public enquiry has been arranged for 15th October into the refusal of planning permission on 7th December 2001. A revised application M2002 0533 for the development was considered at the meeting of the Montgomeryshire Planning Committee on 6th September 2002 and it was resolved that subject to certain conditions permission is granted. In light of this decision it is expected that the appeal may be withdrawn. Letter read from C.C. Phillips expressing his concern that permission has been granted. The Council were advised that S.S.D.C. will be seeking an injunction on the grounds of it's close proximity to Bishop's Castle Market and are currently checking The Charter and preparing a case.

Notification has been received that applications for The Wintles, former Police Station and land to the rear of the Old Brick Guest House are to be considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee tomorrow, 18th September. People who object to planning applications may speak about their concerns.

7. FUNDING TOWARDS BISHOP'S CASTLE SHUTTLE BUS:

Cllr Carroll reported that the Tourism Group are looking to raise £5,000 locally to finance a Shuttle Bus at week-ends between Easter and September from Bishop's Castle in a circular route around Lydbury North, Clunton, Clun, Anchor and Sarn. Dial-a-ride will be used and it will be organised in a similar way to the Longmynd Shuttle bus. All Parish Councils on the route have been contacted regarding making a contribution. Cllr Blundell proposed a contribution of £200, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

8. OAK MEADOW - USE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD:

The number of children in Oak Meadow has increased dramatically over recent years and it was noted that during the Summer Holidays there were large numbers of young children playing in the road and on pavements in Oak Meadow whilst the Primary School field was locked up and not in use. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council looks again at the possibility of somehow using this area outside school hours and proposed a letter is sent to The Chairman of School Governors, with a copy to the Headteacher, to see if some sort of dual use scheme could be worked on, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOX:

Cllr Dr Penney reported that the Public Telephone Box in High Street is a coin only facility and proposed that British Telecom are requested to install a dual card and coin facility, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. OBSTRUCTION OF PAVEMENTS:

The Clerk had been asked to check the legal position regarding goods for sale being put on pavements. Shropshire County Council had been contacted and confirmed that legally goods are not permitted on the public highway, although in some cases in Bishop's Castle there is an area of ground immediately in front of properties that is privately owned and not part of the public highway. Shropshire County Council Highways Department should be contacted if there are instances where a pavement is regularly being obstructed and they will investigate.

11. LITTER BINS:

It had been raised that there are not sufficient litter bins at the top end of Town, particularly in Market Square. Cllr Whittall pointed out that the litter bin by the bench in Church Street is not big enough. It was approved that the Clerk looks at designs and prices of purchasing four new bins. One between Country Pursuits and The Ganges (permission of owner needs to be confirmed), one at the top of The Cobbles, a replacement outside the Fish and Chip shop and a larger one for Church Street.

12. VITAL VILLAGES:

Cllr Carroll reported that there had been a further meeting of the Vital Villages Steering Group on Tuesday 10th September, where it had been proposed that all residents are consulted by a leaflet requesting comments circulated to all households in the Town. From this the Facilitators will prepare a report. It is proposed the next meeting will be held in November

13. PLAYING FIELD:

a) It is proposed the Firework Event is considered for next year.

b) Cllr Carroll reported she had attended a recent meeting which had been held to form a Steering Group, a similar process to the Vital Villages. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Steering Group is offered free use of the Town Hall for 12 meetings over the next twelve months, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. In view of the fact that the Friends Group had been awarded a grant which has not yet arrived and they have no money, Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council lends the Group £200, free of interest until the end of the current financial year, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

c) The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk to liaise over the wording of A4 laminated signs to go at the three entrances to the Playing Field. Sign to include Playing Field is owned by and responsibility of Town Council, no unauthorised motor vehicles, no horses, request to clean up dog mess and dogs should be on a lead, although Cllrs Carroll and Whittall wish their objection to the addition of this last point to be recorded.

d) As one quotation has not yet arrived it was proposed this is dealt with at the next Meeting.

14. TOWN HALL:

It was reported that on 10th September The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Dr Penney met with Mr Wheatley and Mrs Jackson to discuss the plans and funding for the repair and refurbishment of the Town Hall. Cllr Lawrence prior to being taken ill, had contacted Anthea Addis of the Community Council of Shropshire regarding the possibility of a grant towards the cost of a feasibility study on the Town Hall. Town Clerk to follow up. Cllr Dr Penney advised that the S.S.D.C. offered a grant service and the Clerk was asked to contact Sim Hine for more information. ACTION TOWN CLERK

It is planned that photographs and plans prepared by Wheatley Lines should be on display for the public to see and make comment. Mr Wheatley will let the Town Clerk have photographs and the plans in due course which can be put in the Library and on Friday 11th October in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall. On this date a Coffee Morning is to be held in the Council Chamber from 10 am until noon, organised by The Mayor and Deputy, which is hoped will help raise money and awareness. It was proposed that the Civic Regalia should also be on display.

The Duty Mayor reported that Mr and Mrs Stanley had met the Mayor, Clerk and herself on 5th September to discuss the porch. Mr and Mrs Stanley undertook to contact Mr C. Richards, S.S.D.C. about obtaining Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent. The Deputy Mayor has spoken to Mr Fellows, Solicitor for S.S.D.C. for advice about the wording of an Agreement with Mr and Mrs Stanley and it was proposed that the matter of these permissions be sorted first, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

15. NEW RADIO STATION - THE STORM:

Cllr Wright proposed no action, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

16. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Nothing further to report.

17. ACCOUNTS:

Cllr Dr Penney proposed these accounts be paid, with the exception of one invoice from Links Electrical, which is for a lamp which is to be returned, seconded by Cllr Whittall and approved.

ANNUAL AUDIT: The Clerk provided Councillors with copies of the Accounts for the Council for year ending 31st March 2002. The only amendment being proposed to page 4, Supporting Statement, that added to the Civic Regalia should be 1 Beedles staff, The Town Bell and The Charters. From these accounts Section 1, the Statement of Accounts had been completed by the Clerk. The Council resolved that these accounts are approved and signed by The Mayor. Section 2 - Statement of Assurance was read and points 1 - 8 were all unanimously agreed. It was resolved that this Statement of Assurance is approved by the Council and signed by The Mayor. The accounts now need to be examined by an independent person before being forwarded to Winross Hacker, the external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. Cllr Blundell proposed Sykes & Co are asked to carry out the internal audit on behalf of the Council, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

The Mayor reported she had today attended a meeting of Trustees of the Trinity Hospital.

19. CORRESPONDENCE:.

a) It is planned to hold the first meeting of the Market Towns Initiative on Monday 14th October in the Methodist Hall. Councillors will be receiving an invitation and further details within the next few days.

b) Information Commissioner: Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Publication Schemes: This Act applies to all bodies identified as "public authorities", the Town Council is one of the public authorities listed in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Act. Section 19 of the Act requires every public authority to adopt and maintain a publication scheme which has been approved by the Information Commissioner. The implementation timetable requires a scheme to be approved by the Commissioner and in place by 28th February 2003. To meet this deadline we are required to submit a scheme to the Commissioner by 31st December 2002. It was suggested that this should be circulated and an Agenda item for the next meeting. CIRCULATE

c) S. Anderton, Citizens Advice Bureau would like to come to a meeting to talk about the work of the Bureau and receive any questions that Councillors may have. It was proposed that Ms Anderton should be invited to the Annual Town Meeting next April.

d) DEFRA: Parish and Town Councils to retain role in Planning. The Planning Green Paper, published in December 2001 included proposals to streamline the bureaucracy and change the role of statutory consultees, which caused much concern that the role of parish councils could be diminished to the detriment of local communities. The list of consultees has been built up over a long period and it makes sense to review the approach, however this will not affect the role of parish and town councils as it has been decided in advance of consultation that parish and town councils should not lose their current rights. CIRCULATE

e) D. Johnson, Rural Transport Officer, S.C.C.: Having recently joined S.C.C. will be working with local communities across Shropshire to improve access to transport for people in rural areas. As part of this role Ms Johnson will be seeking to develop the network of volunteer Bus Contacts and supporting and developing Community Car schemes across the county. In these areas she will liaise with Cllr Wright and Mr A. Varcoe.

f) S. Hill, Cultural Strategy Development Officer, S.C.C.: Draft Cultural Strategy for Shropshire. CIRCULATE

g) Mr J. Goldsworthy, West Shropshire Talking Newspaper: Request for financial support. PRECEPT MEETING

h) S.S.D.C. Report of The Joint Policy Panel Inquiry into Employment Land etc. Council Meeting 12th September 2002. CIRCULATE

i) Commission for Racial Equality: The non-statutory Ethnic Monitoring - 'A guide for public authorities' summarises the outcomes public authorities should be working towards, and the arrangements they should have in place to meet the duty to promote race equality. CIRCULATE

j) Mrs J. Rowson and Mrs K. Price: Residents of Church Lane complaining that visibility on the junction of Church Lane with Kerry Lane is regularly obstructed by parked vehicles outside the Church and up Kerry Lane. Councillors felt that if the Planning Application for the development of 8 dwellings in the Garage is approved the amount of traffic on this junction will increase and the problem will be even worse. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Caird, S.S.D.C. to advise him of these complaints. Cllr Pinches proposed The Police are contacted and asked to monitor the parking on this junction, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

k) Mrs R. Morris, Resident Close: Concern about Road Closures for Festivals preventing residents taking vehicles to and from their homes. It was felt that whilst there is sympathy for residents in affected roads, these events can only go ahead with the good will and co-operation of residents and for public safety vehicles cannot be permitted to drive through unaccompanied. Road Closure Orders are always advertised well in advance and are required for the safety of the public, but emergency vehicles are always able to get through. Cllr Blundell proposed that the Clerk passes this information to Mrs Morris, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

l) Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils: South Shropshire Area Committee, minutes of meeting held on 8th July and Agenda for meeting arranged for 14th October. CIRCULATE

m) Local Environment Focus: CIRCULATE

n) The Mayor has received a request for two of the pictures of Bishop's Castle from the Mayor's Parlour to be used at the Church Exhibition over Michealmas Weekend. Cllr Blundell proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Minutes 15th October 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, C.T.E. Kinmond, W.J. Morris, G.N. St J. Penney, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from Clirs Lawrence and Magill. Letter from Clir Lawrence was read thanking Councillors for their kind wishes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Clir Dr Penney declared a personal interest on items 6.c and 6.d
Clir Wright declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.a
Clir Bedell declared a personal interest on item 6.c
Clir Blundell, Carroll and Whittall declared a personal interest on item 11.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Clir Blundell, seconded by Clir Dr Penney, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4: Pat Cadman, Manager for Coverage Care has written that it was difficult tending and watering the planters at Stone House and there would be no objection if the Council wished to have them moved to the High Street. It was proposed that they are removed and emptied before Winter sets in and they will be ready for re-positioning and planting up next Spring.

CLIRS BEDELL & MORRIS TO ORGANISE

Item 19. j: Clir Blundell reported that during two events held at the Church Barn last week-end vehicles were parked in such a way that the road was obstructed and should there have been a fire call-out there would be problems getting the engine out. Although the white lines on Church Lane have recently been repainted, the hatching requested in our letter to Mr Drummond has not yet been carried out. Clerk to write another letter. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 19.c: The Annual Town Meeting is the annual opportunity for the public to raise for discussion issues which concern them and the meeting should not be completely taken up with speakers.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13803/F and 1/02/13804/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for erection of extension, conversion of store to provide toilet facilities, erection of a porch and extension to conservatory. Removal of balcony. Conversion of 2 units of holiday accommodation to a dwelling and change of use of 2 units of holiday accommodation to dwelling (Committee matter). Three Tuns Inn, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle. Clir Wright left the room whilst this was considered. Letter of objection read from Mr J. Greig. Reservatons were expressed about the Building Regulations and Fire Regulations and whether the Environmental Health Department would be satisfied with the location of the W.C.s., although it was agreed these matters would be dealt with by S.S.D.C. It was felt that permanent dwellings in this position will cause problems with lack of parking for customers and staff. Clir Blundell proposed the Council objects to the application as these dwellings could be sold and become under different ownership to the Public House, seconded by Clir Morris and approved.

b) 1/02/13768/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a balcony (delegated matter). The Old Clinic, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs W. Jones. Clir Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Clir Whittall and approved.

c) 1/02/13791/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of an office building (revised scheme) (delegated matter) Barn to rear of 5 - 7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. The Living Village Trust. Clir Bedell left the room whilst this was considered, Clir Dr Penney did not take part in the discussion or vote. Clir Blundell proposed the Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is mis-described, as it is very large for office accommodation, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

d) 1/02/13825/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of an annexe to existing building. High Trees, Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs R. Hicks, 23 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Clir Dr Penney did not take part in the discussion or vote. A letter of objection was read from Bishop's Castle Civic Society. Clir Wright proposed the Council objects to this application for two reasons. The first that the building is extremely large for the site and being so near the road would spoil the appearance of the village. Secondly that the only access to the premises on Bull Lane, is unsatisfactory, dangerous, narrow and a very busy road and the development is bound to generate more traffic. Seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

e) 1/02/13806/VA Variation of Agreement. S106 Agreement dated 12.11.96 to permit the disposal of 0.2 Hectar of Land (delegated matter). Lower Woodbatch, Bishop's Castle. Mr C. Jones. Clir Dr Penney proposed no comment is made regarding this application as there appears to be insufficient information provided about the application, seconded by Clir Wright and approved.

f) No other Planning Applications received.

Since the last meeting one application has been received which was seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Mrs Daniel, Tree Warden, who proposed No Objection. Ref: 1/02/13771/TC tree works (Conservation Area) Felling of a Wych Elm tree and works to an Ash tree (delegated matter) Rear garden of 7 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. TreeLine.

g) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

i) 1/02/13697/F Planning Permission granted for change of use retail A1 to (additional) residential accommodation C3. Mrs T.G. Bengry, 1 Corporation Street, Bishop's Castle.

ii) 1/02/13703/LB Listed Building Consent granted, alterations to dwelling (amended scheme) 58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Greig.

iii) 1/02/13655/O Refusal of outline Planning Permission: Erection of a dwelling for use as holiday accommodation. Hollenbough, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs B.L. Jones.

iv) 1/02/13536/F Planning Permission granted for erection of a dwelling. Plot to the rear of the Old Brick Guest House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr P. Hutton.

v) 1/02/13722/LB Listed Building Consent. Internal alterations to flats 1 and 2. Old Porch House, High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Lucas.

vi) 1/02/13771/TC Permission for Works to Trees. Felling of a Wych Elm tree and works to an Ash tree. Rear Garden of 7 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. TreeLine

Notification has been received that applications for The Wintles and 9 Pound Close are to be considered at the meeting of the meeting of the S.S.D.C. Development Control Committee tomorrow, 16th October.

7. HOUSING ON CLUN ROAD:

S.C.C. has now purchased the land next to the Community College where it is proposed to build the Sports & Arts Centre. It is understood that the plans may be approved, but it is normally the developers responsibility to erect a sign initially. As the developer has emigrated it is asked if the Council will consider providing the appropriate sign. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

Clir Carroll advised that if the Town Council identifies a need for Affordable Housing in the Town and some suitable land can be identified SSDC would be prepared to consider a scheme.

8. OAK MEADOW - USE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD:

Clir Wright advised that this was discussed at the recent meeting of Governors and although it is thought the original objections still stand it was agreed to go back to S.C.C. for advice. In the meantime if the Town Council has proposals for a scheme this could be considered. It was suggested that the lower part of the school field could be fenced off with a 'Licence' or Agreement being drawn up between S.C.C. and the Town Council for use in the evenings, week-ends and school holidays, within set times, after which the gate would be locked. The town Council should be prepared to meet the cost of fencing and drainage if required and there is a responsibility for regular safety inspections would need to be considered and A. Wallace could be asked about checking and removing rubbish. Dogs would need to be banned from the area. It was felt that owners of adjacent properties need to be considered as one of the Governors concerns was the possible increase in noise. Clir Dr Penney proposed these suggestions form the basis of a scheme to be put to the Governors, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

9. PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK TO GIVE AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE:

At present members of the public can come along to a meeting and ask The Mayor or Clerk for permission to speak prior to the commencement of the meeting. It was suggested that it may be preferable if people are required to give at least 24 hours notice of their intention to speak. Clir Wright felt that the Council should be encouraging people to speak and proposed it is left as it is at present, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

10. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM:

It has been reported in the local press recently that the South Shropshire Youth Forum, based in Ludlow and incorporating this area has had it's grant application to the National Lottery turned down. This would mean a closure very soon, however, S.S.D.C. have stepped in and offered temporary financial assistance. Clir Carroll felt the Forum is doing a very good job and proposed a letter of support is sent, seconded by Clir Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. OBJECTIONS TO ROAD CLOSURES:

Clirs Blundell, Carroll and Whittall declared a personal interest. Three letters have been received from owners of shops in Church Street, who complain that the extended Road Closures over the Michaelmas Fair week-end had a detrimental effect on their business. It is requested that extended closures are not permitted during normal trading hours, and that the Christmas Lights Festival should not be closing off streets to traffic on the Saturday afternoon. Clir Dr Penney felt that social events can be very good for the Town, but is concerned that some businesses are reporting a loss of trade because of road closures. A sub-committee of the local authority and Sam Hine and C. Clir Phillips outlined the initiative and what it would mean for Bishop's Castle and its rural hinterland if the bid is successful. Names were put forward for a Steering Committee and it is proposed this Committee meets on 2nd December in the Methodist Hall. Clir Carroll agreed to represent the Council as it will connect in with the Vital Villages Parish Plan which is currently being prepared.

12. SKIPS ON STREETS:

A letter from the Manager of Stars Newsagents has asked about the regulations of skips on the streets, one of which has had a detrimental affect on the shop business and resulted in damage to the premises. The Clerk has contacted S.C.C. Highways Department and been advised that people who are hiring a skip which has to be placed on the public highway needs to apply for a Permit from S.C.C. Contractors should check that a permit has been granted before leaving the skip. Any complaints should be directed to S.C.C.

13. PLAYING FIELD:

(a) Sign for entrances: A draft sign was circulated and Councillors felt the only amendment should be to advise the nearest Accident Department. It was proposed a laminated sign is put at each entrance, but Councillors felt these should be temporary whilst the cost of more permanent signs is investigated.

14. RESURFACING OF FOOTPATH and 13.(b) Tenders to tarmac inside gate:

Tenders for resurfacing the footpath from Station Street to Church Bank and the area inside the Playing Field gate had been sought from three companies, but only two have replied. J. Bebb has quoted a total of £3,454 for both and K. Watkins £3,340. Clir Dr Penney proposed that K. Watkins is asked to carry out the work as soon as possible, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved. The grass has grown over the tarmac footpath in the Playing Field between Kerry Lane and Union Street and Clir Dr Penney proposed that Mr Watkins is asked to spray 1' each side of the path when the work is carried out, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. LITTER BINS:

Clir Whittall proposed that four new litter bins should be purchased, seconded by Clir Blundell and approved. One free standing black 'Copperfield' similar to others in Town will cost £121.40, to be sited by the bench in Church Street. Two wall/post mounted black bins to be bought for Market Square and one for Salop Street, each costing £45.34.

16. TOWN HALL:

Photographs and plans for the Town Hall prepared by Mr Wheatley have been on display in The Library, the entrance to Enterprise House and the Town Hall during the recent Coffee Morning. During this time some very interesting comments and suggestions have been received, which Clir Carroll will be collating and drawing up a report. The plans will be left at Enterprise House until 9th November when they will be taken to the Church. Anne-Marie Jackson has advised that after the 4th November the next round of applications will be open to Advantage West Midlands when we will be able to obtain an application form from E.S.W.S. It was proposed the Clerk should contact Mr Wheatley to bring him up to date.

Coffee Morning: The Mayor reported that £107 had been raised at the recent Coffee Morning in aid of the Town Hall roof and The Mayor thanked Councillors for their contribution and Sam Hine and C. Clir Phillips outlined the initiative and what it would mean for Bishop's Castle and its rural hinterland if the bid is successful. Handrail: It was proposed that a temporary handrail should be put at the entrance as soon as possible.

Curtains: Clir Whittall proposed that the cream curtains are not put back on the venetian window until the leak has been repaired otherwise it is likely that the curtains will be stained, seconded by Clir Dr Penney and approved.

Blinds: One blind is missing from the Council Chamber as the bracket is broken and needs a new part. The Mayor and Clir Dr Penney have tried unsuccessfully to buy a new piece.

Correspondence from Christmas Lights Festival Committee: Request for use of the Town Hall for the afternoon and evening of Saturday 30th November for the Christmas Lights Festival. The ground floor to be used for stalls and upstairs for Father Christmas' Grotto. Clir Dr Penney proposed this request is approved, with no charge being made, seconded by The Mayor and approved. A request was made for a contribution towards the cost of lighting the town for Christmas. The lights were improved last year and the Committee need to raised money every year if improvements are to continue. Clir Dr Penney proposed a contribution of £200 towards the Christmas Lights, seconded by Clir Kinmond and approved. Alf Fox is proposing to organise a junior disco for Halloween on 31st October in aid of the Christmas Lights Festival and Clir Dr Penney proposed free use of the Town Hall for this is approved, seconded by Clir Kinmond and approved.

17. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS:

Nothing further to report.

18. ACCOUNTS:

In addition to the accounts listed on the Agenda invoice had been received from:
Viking Direct - Inkjet and stationery - £39.14
The Sign Workshop - Changes to Market Banner and 2 A boards - £50.00
Clir Wright proposed these accounts be paid, seconded by Clir Dr Penney and approved.

S.S.D.C. is currently preparing its Revenue Estimates for 2003/2004 prior to the calculation of the Council Tax which is to be levied next April. The Council would like to know the Council's precept requirement before 17th January 2003. When calculating the precept sufficient budget should be included to cover election costs. It was proposed this is dealt with at the January meeting of the Council.

19. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:

It was reported the Sykes & Co have completed the internal Audit and the signed Annual Return has been completed, signed and sent to the External Auditors, Winross Hacker. All matters on The Annual Return have a positive response except one, as the Council has not carried out a Risk Assessment and this needs to be addressed. The Internal Audit report included the following matters for the Council's attention. (1) Minor adjustments have been made to the Balance Sheet. (2) It is noted that the Risk Assessment has not been carried out. (3) Information relating to The Annual Budget should be formally reconciled and minuted as having been adopted. (4) It is more satisfactory from an accounting point of view to prepare the Annual Return using the Income and Expenditure basis rather than the Receipts and Payments basis. (5) It is noted that the Town Council has miscalculated her net salary and accordingly has been underpaid. It was proposed by Clir Wright that the Clerk seeks advice from S.A.L.C. about what information is required for a Risk Assessment in order for this to be considered at the next meeting, seconded by Clir Whittall and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Clir Blundell proposed that the Mayor, Deputy and Clerk should investigate the salary underpayment which should be paid, if this is found to be correct, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved. ACTION MAYOR, DEPUTY & CLERK

20. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

The Mayor reported there had been a meeting last night about the Market Towns Initiative, Clirs Carroll and Whittall and the Town Clerk had also attended. Bishop's Castle is a high priority for the next round of this initiative, but it is unlikely that a decision will be made until the Spring. The District Council would be the lead authority and Sam Hine and C. Clir Phillips outlined the initiative and what it would mean for Bishop's Castle and its rural hinterland if the bid is successful. Names were put forward for a Steering Committee and it is proposed this Committee meets on 2nd December in the Methodist Hall. Clir Carroll agreed to represent the Council as it will connect in with the Vital Villages Parish Plan which is currently being prepared.

21. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Clir Lawrence: Letter of thanks for the Council's card and kind wishes.

b) S.S.D.C.: A request has been made for a Street Closure Order for Sunday 10th November to accommodate the Remembrance Sunday Parade, for High Street and Church Street from 10.40 am to 10.55 am and 12 noon to 12.15 pm Clir Carroll proposed No Objection, seconded by Clir Dr Penney and approved.

c) S.S.D.C.: Street Name Signs - The Novers. A request has been received for the provision of a suitable street name sign. The D.C. maintains signs and replaces them as necessary and the Council has the responsibility to erect a sign initially. As the developer has emigrated it is asked if the Council will consider providing the appropriate sign. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

d) Mr M.E. Pullen, Hon Treasurer, S.A.F.E.R., Bishop's Castle: A scheme has been introduced in Shropshire to provide profligate treatment in areas which cannot be reached my ambulance, by employing trained local volunteers. The Bishop's Castle group has a team of three fully qualified volunteers, trained by the Shropshire Ambulance Service. The volunteer team attends 999 emergency calls to administer life support techniques until an ambulance arrives. The group now needs funds to purchase a wider range of equipment and any financial help would be appreciated. It was proposed this is considered at the next meeting when donations are being discussed. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

e) S.S. Housing Association: Open Evening - Putting Communities First. Invitation for 6th November at 6.45 pm at the Harley Centre, Ludlow College. Invitation to be passed to Clir Kinmond.

f) Bishop's Castle & District Community Forum. Minutes of Steering Group meeting on 11th September 2002. CIRCULATE

g) Temporary Planning Provisions: Report from recent SALC correspondence advised there will be no changes in the temporary uses planning provisions which means that events such as clay pigeon shooting, car boot sales and farmers markets' continue to be free from planning red tape where the event occur infrequently.

h) The Wasteless Society: Newsletter. CIRCULATE

i) Community Council of Shropshire: Protecting our future - the impact of change in the West Midlands on the voluntary sector in Shropshire and how to influence it - Annual Conference at Minsterley Village Hall on Tuesday 5th November 2002. Any-one who would like to attend contact the Clerk for Further details.

j) Shropshire Partnership: Objective 2 Financial Record Keeping & Monitoring & Output Definitions. Workshop to focus on the financial aspects of record keeping and monitoring of Objective 2 projects to be held on 28th October at The Shirehall. Any-one wishing to attend contact the Clerk for booking details.

k) Powys County Council: Appeal by Black Country Reclamation Ltd. The public inquiry scheduled for 15th October has been cancelled.

l) West Mercia Police Authority: Appointment of Independent Members: Applications are being sought from the general public, closing date for applications is 31st October 2002.

m) S.S.D.C.: Prioritising for the Future: The Council is undertaking a review of how it performs in five key areas and a questionnaire is enclosed for completion. It was resolved that The Mayor, Deputy and Clerk complete the form. ACTION MAYOR, DEPUTY AND CLERK

n) Bishop's Castle Public Hall Committee: Accounts for year ending 31st March 2002. It was proposed these are on the Agenda for approval at the next meeting and in the meantime Councillors have the opportunity to read them.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, C.T.E. Kinmond, W.J. Morris, G.N. St J. Penney, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from Clirs Lawrence and Magill. Letter from Clir Lawrence was read thanking Councillors for their kind wishes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Clir Dr Penney declared a personal interest on items 6.c and 6.d
Clir Wright declared a prejudicial interest on item 6.a
Clir Bedell declared a personal interest on item 6.c
Clir Blundell, Carroll and Whittall declared a personal interest on item 11.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Clir Blundell, seconded by Clir Dr Penney, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4: Pat Cadman, Manager for Coverage Care has written that it was difficult tending and watering the planters at Stone House and there would be no objection if the Council wished to have them moved to the High Street. It was proposed that they are removed and emptied before Winter sets in and they will be ready for re-positioning and planting up next Spring.

CLIRS BEDELL & MORRIS TO ORGANISE

Item 19. j: Clir Blundell reported that during two events held at the Church Barn last week-end vehicles were parked in such a way that the road was obstructed and should there have been a fire call-out there would be problems getting the engine out. Although the white lines on Church Lane have recently been repainted, the hatching requested in our letter to Mr Drummond has not yet been carried out. Clerk to write another letter. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 19.c: The Annual Town Meeting is the annual opportunity for the public to raise for discussion issues which concern them and the meeting should not be completely taken up with speakers.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13803/F and 1/02/13804/LB Planning Permission (full) and Listed Building Consent for erection of extension, conversion of store to provide toilet facilities, erection of a porch and extension to conservatory. Removal of balcony. Conversion of 2 units of holiday accommodation to a dwelling and change of use of 2 units of holiday accommodation to dwelling (Committee matter). Three Tuns Inn, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle. Clir Wright left the room whilst this was considered. Letter of objection read from Mr J. Greig. Reservatons were expressed about the Building Regulations and Fire Regulations and whether the Environmental Health Department would be satisfied with the location of the W.C.s., although it was agreed these matters would be dealt with by S.S.D.C. It was felt that permanent dwellings in this position will cause problems with lack of parking for customers and staff. Clir Blundell proposed the Council objects to the application as these dwellings could be sold and become under different ownership to the Public House, seconded by Clir Morris and approved.

b) 1/02/13768/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of a balcony (delegated matter). The Old Clinic, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs W. Jones. Clir Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Clir Whittall and approved.

c) 1/02/13791/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of an office building (revised scheme) (delegated matter) Barn to rear of 5 - 7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. The Living Village Trust. Clir Bedell left the room whilst this was considered, Clir Dr Penney did not take part in the discussion or vote. Clir Blundell proposed the Council objects to this application on the grounds that it is mis-described, as it is very large for office accommodation, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

d) 1/02/13825/F Planning Permission (full) for erection of an annexe to existing building. High Trees, Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs R. Hicks, 23 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Clir Dr Penney did not take part in the discussion or vote. A letter of objection was read from Bishop's Castle Civic Society. Clir Wright proposed the Council objects to this application for two reasons. The first that the building is extremely large for the site and being so near the road would spoil the appearance of the village. Secondly that the only access to the premises on Bull Lane, is unsatisfactory, dangerous, narrow and a very busy road and the development is bound to generate more traffic. Seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

e) 1/02/13806/VA Variation of Agreement. S106 Agreement dated 12.11.96 to permit the disposal of 0.2 Hectar of Land (delegated matter). Lower Woodbatch, Bishop's Castle. Mr C. Jones. Clir Dr Penney proposed no comment is made regarding this application as there appears to be insufficient information provided about the application, seconded by Clir Wright and approved.

f) No other Planning Applications received.

Since the last meeting one application has been received which was seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Mrs Daniel, Tree Warden, who proposed No Objection. Ref: 1/02/13771/TC tree works (Conservation Area) Felling of a Wych Elm tree and works to an Ash tree (delegated matter) Rear garden of 7 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. TreeLine.

g) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

i) 1/02/13697/F Planning Permission granted for change of use retail A1 to (additional) residential accommodation C3. Mrs T.G. Bengry, 1 Corporation Street, Bishop's Castle.

ii) 1/02/13703/LB Listed Building Consent granted, alterations to dwelling (amended scheme) 58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Greig.

iii) 1/02/13655/O Refusal of outline Planning Permission: Erection of a dwelling for use as holiday accommodation. Hollenbough, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs B.L. Jones.

iv) 1/02/13536/F Planning Permission granted for erection of a dwelling. Plot to the rear of the Old Brick Guest House, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr P. Hutton.

v) 1/02/13722/LB Listed Building Consent. Internal alterations to flats 1 and 2. Old Porch House, High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Lucas.

vi) 1/02/13771/TC Permission for Works to Trees. Felling of a Wych Elm tree and works to an Ash tree. Rear Garden of 7 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. TreeLine

Notification has been received that applications for The Wintles and 9 Pound Close are to be considered at the meeting of the meeting of the S.S.D.C. Development Control Committee tomorrow, 16th October.

7. HOUSING ON CLUN ROAD:

S.C.C. has now purchased the land next to the Community College where it is proposed to build the Sports & Arts Centre. It is understood that the plans may be approved, but it is normally the developers responsibility to erect a sign initially. As the developer has emigrated it is asked if the Council will consider providing the appropriate sign. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

Clir Carroll advised that if the Town Council identifies a need for Affordable Housing in the Town and some suitable land can be identified SSDC would be prepared to consider a scheme.

8. OAK MEADOW - USE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD:

Clir Wright advised that this was discussed at the recent meeting of Governors and although it is thought the original objections still stand it was agreed to go back to S.C.C. for advice. In the meantime if the Town Council has proposals for a scheme this could be considered. It was suggested that the lower part of the school field could be fenced off with a 'Licence' or Agreement being drawn up between S.C.C. and the Town Council for use in the evenings, week-ends and school holidays, within set times, after which the gate would be locked. The town Council should be prepared to meet the cost of fencing and drainage if required and there is a responsibility for regular safety inspections would need to be considered and A. Wallace could be asked about checking and removing rubbish. Dogs would need to be banned from the area. It was felt that owners of adjacent properties need to be considered as one of the Governors concerns was the possible increase in noise. Clir Dr Penney proposed these suggestions form the basis of a scheme to be put to the Governors, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

9. PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK TO GIVE AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE:

At present members of the public can come along to a meeting and ask The Mayor or Clerk for permission to speak prior to the commencement of the meeting. It was suggested that it may be preferable if people are required to give at least 24 hours notice of their intention to speak. Clir Wright felt that the Council should be encouraging people to speak and proposed it is left as it is at present, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved.

10. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM:

It has been reported in the local press recently that the South Shropshire Youth Forum, based in Ludlow and incorporating this area has had it's grant application to the National Lottery turned down. This would mean a closure very soon, however, S.S.D.C. have stepped in and offered temporary financial assistance. Clir Carroll felt the Forum is doing a very good job and proposed a letter of support is sent, seconded by Clir Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. OBJECTIONS TO ROAD CLOSURES:

Clirs Blundell, Carroll and Whittall declared a personal interest. Three letters have been received from owners of shops in Church Street, who complain that the extended Road Closures over the Michaelmas Fair week-end had a detrimental effect on their business. It is requested that extended closures are not permitted during normal trading hours, and that the Christmas Lights Festival should not be closing off streets to traffic on the Saturday afternoon. Clir Dr Penney felt that social events can be very good for the Town, but is concerned that some businesses are reporting a loss of trade because of road closures. A sub-committee of the local authority and Sam Hine and C. Clir Phillips outlined the initiative and what it would mean for Bishop's Castle and its rural hinterland if the bid is successful. Names were put forward for a Steering Committee and it is proposed this Committee meets on 2nd December in the Methodist Hall. Clir Carroll agreed to represent the Council as it will connect in with the Vital Villages Parish Plan which is currently being prepared.

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13. PLAYING FIELD:

(a) Sign for entrances: A draft sign was circulated and Councillors felt the only amendment should be to advise the nearest Accident Department. It was proposed a laminated sign is put at each entrance, but Councillors felt these should be temporary whilst the cost of more permanent signs is investigated.

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Tenders for resurfacing the footpath from Station Street to Church Bank and the area inside the Playing Field gate had been sought from three companies, but only two have replied. J. Bebb has quoted a total of £3,454 for both and K. Watkins £3,340. Clir Dr Penney proposed that K. Watkins is asked to carry out the work as soon as possible, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved. The grass has grown over the tarmac footpath in the Playing Field between Kerry Lane and Union Street and Clir Dr Penney proposed that Mr Watkins is asked to spray 1' each side of the path when the work is carried out, seconded by Clir Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. LITTER BINS:

Clir Whittall proposed that four new litter bins should be purchased, seconded by Clir Blundell and approved. One free standing black 'Copperfield' similar to others in Town will cost £121.40, to be sited by the bench in Church Street. Two wall/post mounted black bins to be bought for Market Square and one for Salop Street, each costing £45.34.

16. TOWN HALL:

Photographs and plans for the Town Hall prepared by Mr Wheatley have been on display in The Library, the entrance to Enterprise House and the Town Hall during the recent Coffee Morning. During this time some very interesting comments and suggestions have been received, which Clir Carroll will be collating and drawing up a report. The plans will be left at Enterprise House until 9th November when they will be taken to the Church. Anne-Marie Jackson has advised that after the 4th November the next round of applications will be open to Advantage West Midlands when we will be able to obtain an application form from E.S.W.S

Minutes 12th November 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor B.P. Jones, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: S.J.S. Bedell, J.L.V. Blundell, J.M. Carroll, J.A. Magill, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from Cllrs Lawrence, Kinmond, Morris and Whittall.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Blundell declared a prejudicial interest on item 18.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th October 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Carroll, approved and signed by The Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 10: Vickie Robson, South Shropshire Youth Forum has asked to attend a meeting to speak about facilities for the youth. Cllr Wright proposed she is invited to the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

Cllr Dr Penney had suggested at a previous meeting that the two banks are asked to provide a facility to dispose of bank slips by each cash machine. He proposed the Clerk writes to HSBC and Barclays, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mrs G. Thomas and Mrs S. Taylor. Both spoke of their concerns about the planning application 6.c. This rare stone building is an attractive feature in the Conservation Area, it is in a very poor state of repair and should be repaired, but retained as a domestic outbuilding. The proposed velux and new larger windows would overlook and invade the privacy of the neighbouring garden.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13883/F Planning Permission (full) for change of use residential C3 to shop A1 (Delegated matter). The Porch House, High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Lucas. Cllr Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

b) 1/02/13903/CC County Council Development. Erection of extension and alteration to Bishop's Castle Primary School. Cllr Dr Penney proposed No Objection, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

c) 1/02/13914/F and 1/02/13415/CA Planning Permission (full) and Conservation Area Consent. Part demolition and rebuilding of ancillary domestic outbuilding to form annex to main dwelling (delegated matter). Building to the rear of 19 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. N. Sanderson, 71 Margravine Gardens, London. Letters of objection received from Miss S. Gould and Mr A. McBarnett. Following discussion and consideration of the matters raised by owners of neighbouring properties Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council objects to this application, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. The grounds for objection being: the loss of an interesting and important historic relic in the Conservation Area, overdevelopment of the site (the yard area between No 19 and the outbuilding is shared by three other properties). Lack of parking, which will give rise to even more vehicles being parked on an already congested street. The proposed velux and larger windows would overlook the neighbouring garden depriving the neighbours of their privacy. The building was formerly used for the storage of logs and coal and it is strongly recommended that it is retained as a domestic outbuilding.

d) No other Planning Applications received.

e) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

i) 1/02/13760/TP Permission granted for work to trees. Pruning of an Ash Tree at Laburnum Alley, Bishop's Castle. Mr B. Headley and Mr A. Seabourne.

ii) 1/02/13720/F Planning Permission granted for erection of an extension to dwelling at 9 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs C. Pearson.

iii) 1/02/13605/RM Approval of Reserved Matters. Erection of 7 dwellings at The Wintles, Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (Bishop's Castle) Ltd.

Notification has been received that applications for the erection of an office building at The Wintles is to be considered at the meeting of the S.S.D.C. Development Control Committee tomorrow, 13th November.

7. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - PUBLICATION SCHEMES:

The Model Publication Scheme for local councils has been circulated to all Councillors. The purpose of the scheme is to be a means by which local councils can make a significant amount of information available routinely and is intended to encourage local councils to publish more information and develop a culture of openness and transparency. Councillors felt there would be very little difference as current procedures cover most of the matters in the Scheme. Cllr Dr Penney proposed this Council adopts the model scheme for Parish, Town and Community Councils produced in accordance with section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and will publish information in accordance with that scheme, seconded by Cllr Blundell and unanimously approved.

8. SKATE BOARD AREA - REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Cllr Carroll reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the Skate Boarding Group at the Community College. Matters are progressing and the Licence is being prepared ready for signature between the S.C.C. and the Town Council permitting use of the area between 4.00 pm and 9.30 pm, with longer hours at the week-ends. A great deal of time has been spent considering the details and discussions with the young people, Police and Youth Service and consequently a set of rules for the area have been drawn up. However, there remains considerable doubts regarding the College bearing the additional cost of wear and tear to College property and damage which may occur. Cllr Dr Penney proposed the Council approves a donation of £500 per annum for the next five years towards such costs, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

9. CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

It was resolved that the following donations are approved under the powers of Section 137:

- Ambulance First Responders: Scheme introduced in Shropshire to provide prompt treatment in areas which cannot be reached quickly by ambulance, using trained local volunteers. Request from Mr M. Pullen, Treasurer of S.A.F.E.R., Bishop's Castle for donations to help meet the cost of equipment. Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney a donation of £100, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.
- County Youth Service, South West Rural Project: Last year the Youth Project ran a pre 17 year old driving test. The course was successful and they are planning to run a similar course in 2003. A request from Tim Evans, Youth Worker for a donation to meet some of the cost of this course. Cllr Dr Penney proposed this request is not supported, seconded by Cllr Pinches, Cllr Carroll proposed an amendment that a donation is approved of £200, providing that participants are informed the scheme has been financially supported by the Town Council, seconded by Cllr Blundell. The amendment was approved 4 votes to 3. This was then put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved.
- Crucial Crew: This is a Safety Awareness Day for year 6 children organised by Bridgnorth & District Crime Panel together with West Mercia Police, which the Council has supported in recent years. 30 children will qualify to attend from the Primary School and a donation of £3 each is requested. Cllr Carroll proposed a donation of £90, providing the children are informed the scheme has been financially supported by the Town Council, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.
- Dial Shropshire: This Disability Advice Centre was established in 1990 by local disabled people to provide a free independent and confidential information and advice service to people with disabilities, their families, carers and healthcare professionals. This is the first request received, Cllr Blundell proposed a donation of £25, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved, with one vote against.
- Shropshire & Mid Wales Hospice: A request for financial assistance to help the Hospice continue to meet the increasing local need to provide care to terminally ill patients, which is dependent upon voluntary contributions to continue the care offered. Cllr Dr Penney proposed this request is not approved, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.
- No Panic: Formed 11 years ago to help people who are suffering from anxiety illnesses. Cllr Dr Penney proposed this request is not approved, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.
- Dial-a-Ride: The Bishop's Castle & District Community Transport Group is continuing to seek contributions towards the running costs. Cllr Dr Penney proposed a donation of £100, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved.

It was resolved that under the Power of Section 142 the following donation was approved.

- Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Wright proposed a donation of £283, the same as approved last year, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

10. BISHOP'S CASTLE PUBLIC HALL ACCOUNTS:

The Public Hall Accounts for year ending 31st March 2002 have been presented. There were a couple of matters that need clarification, but as it was reported that Mr D. Whitefoot, the Chairman, who has signed these accounts, is in hospital and it was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that this is left for the time being and the points checked with Mr Whitefoot when he has recovered, seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. The Clerk was asked to send the Council's good wishes to Mr Whitefoot.

11. STREET NAME SIGNS - THE NOVERS:

Mr Marsh, Building Control Officer of S.S.D.C. has written that a request has been received for the provision of a suitable street name sign at the above development. It is normally the developers responsibility to erect a sign initially, however, in this case the developer has emigrated and it is impossible to force him to erect the required signs. The S.S.D.C. maintains signs and replaces them if damaged, but cannot provide them for the first time. It is requested that the Town Council considers providing the appropriate signs, a sign leading to the Novers and one at the entrance. Councillors feel that although the developer, Mr P. Buy has emigrated, he still has business interests in the Town and should be contacted and asked to meet the cost of erecting the two signs. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that S.S.D.C. are requested to make every effort to contact Mr Buy, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. USE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD OUTSIDE NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS:

Letter from Chairman of the governing body of the Primary School read. Although sympathetic to the needs of the families in Oak Meadow, the position has not changed since the matter was discussed two years ago. It was felt that one way forward would be for the Town Council to purchase the bottom part of the field as a community area, taking over responsibility for it and leasing it back to the Primary School for use in school hours. Cllr Blundell proposed this suggestion is put to the Local Education Authority, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. Cllr Wright wished it recorded that he did not vote. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. PREPARATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT:

No advice has yet been received from the S.A.L.C.

14. TRAFFIC:

The yellow hatching in Church Lane requested by this Council has been painted recently, but unfortunately is taken into the area by the Church Barn. This has given rise to a number of complaints as this is the only area in which it is safe to park. Cllr Penney proposed that S.C.C. are asked to correct this mistake, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr Penney asked if S.C.C. could be asked to erect a sign at the exit from Stone House advising no left turn, as large vehicles going up Union Street cannot get through and have to reverse back down, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

There are a number of other traffic matters that have been raised in recent months with Mr Drummond and Mr Rutherford, S.C.C. which we are still awaiting a response. Cllr Carroll proposed that Mr Drummond is invited to meet the Mayor and Council Representatives to discuss these matters one afternoon, 4.30 - 5.00 pm would be a suitable time, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. STREET LIGHTING - BRAMPTON ROAD:

A design scheme for Brampton Road is expected from M.E.B. Contracting very shortly. It was proposed that when it arrives the Clerk forwards it to Mr D'Alezio at S.C.C. to ensure that it meets the necessary standard for Highway lighting and will be suitable for adoption by S.C.C. ACTION TOWN CLERK

It was brought to the Council's attention that the street light in Welsh Street near the new development has been removed, presumably by the developers. It is assumed that it has only been removed whilst the work is taking place and will be re-erected in due course.

16. TOWN HALL:

The recent high winds have blown off some ridge tiles which damaged tiles and guttering as they fell. The Clerk has contacted the Insurance Company about this damage. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that agreement will be needed from the Insurance Company that the repairs can be delayed and carried out at the same time as the other repairs are done to the roof, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

17. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS:

Nothing further to report.

18. ACCOUNTS:

Cllr Blundell left the room whilst this matter was considered.

In addition to the accounts listed on the Agenda invoice had been received from:

Sykes and Co - Annual Audit - £235.00

Links Electrical - Light fittings - £129.25

D. Palliser - from Vital Villages grant - £54.39

Cllr Dr Penney proposed these accounts be paid in full, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Minutes of the Board Meeting of Bishop's Castle & District Lifeline Company held on 24th October have been received. CIRCULATE

20. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) County Councillor P. Phillips: South West Shropshire Arts and Sports Project - S.C.C. have purchased land behind the Community College and the Architects have produced a set of plans (copy enclosed) and there is over £1/2 million in the kitty. The Plans are also in the Library and at the Community College for the public to examine. All schools and local councils in South West Shropshire are being contacted to ask if they will consider making a donation of £500 or £1,000 and although cheques are not required for perhaps another 3 years, if every school and council did this it would be a significant help and a strong demonstration of public support. A Presentation of the plans will be given by Alan Penton, County Sports Officer on Thursday 28th November at 7.30 pm in the Fletcher Room at the Community College. It was proposed this is on the Agenda for the next meeting, which will take place after the public meeting. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

b) S.S.D.C. Skip Service: The manned skip service will be available at the Crowgate Recycling Centre between 12 noon and 4.00 pm every other week from Thursday 7th November. NOTICE BOARD

c) S.C.C. Winter Opening Hours 2002/2003 for the Household Waste and Recycling centre from 27th October 2002 to 29th March 2003. NOTICE BOARD

d) S.S.D.C. Changes to the office opening hours at South Shropshire District Council. Offices, excluding the Environment and Development Department, will not open until 9.30 am Tuesday mornings to allow for staff training. NOTICE BOARD

e) Bishop's Castle & District Community Forum: Notes of Public Meeting held on Thursday 11th July and Minutes of Steering Group meeting held on 22nd October. CIRCULATE

f) Community Council of Shropshire: Development Project Shropshire's Rural Community Development. - Consultation on preliminary review of research. CIRCULATE

g) S.S.D.C. Standards Committee: Agenda for meeting 12th November and minutes of previous meeting held on 20th August. CIRCULATE

h) Shropshire Playing Fields Association: Notice of A.G.M. on 31st October together with Annual Report and Accounts for 2001-2002. CIRCULATE

i) Shell Interactive: CIRCULATE

j) S.C.C. Community & Environment Services: Shropshire's Local Transport Plan - Stakeholders Seminar - 28th November at The Shirehall. Any Councillor wishing to attend please contact the Clerk for further information. Annual Progress Report 2002 for information. CIRCULATE

k) Home Zones: County Councillor P. Phillips had given The Mayor information regarding Home Zones, which it was felt Councillors may be interested to read. CIRCULATE

l) The Countryside Agency: Doorstep Greens Framework Agreement for Partnership and A17 Specialist Organisations to help with trees. To be retained on file.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Minutes 10th December 2002

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2002 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor J.M. Carroll, Deputy Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J.L.V. Blundell, J.A. Magill, G.N. St J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, J.A.J. Whittall and R.D. Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies received from The Mayor and Cllrs Bedell, Lawrence and Morris.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall declared a prejudicial interest on items 15.a and item 18.

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2002:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2002, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Blundell, seconded by Cllr Magill, approved and signed by The Deputy Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 4: Barclays Bank have advised they will be installing a small container as requested.

Item 11: The Building Control Officer has advised that attempts are being made to contact the developer of The Novers who is currently living in Europe, it is hoped that he will agree to undertake his obligations.

Item 14: Request for sign in Union Street has been passed to Mr R. Drummond for consideration.

From a previous meeting: British Telecom has advised that it is not possible to change the kiosk in High Street to a cash and card phone. It was announced in May 2002 that BT Payphones was withdrawing from the pre-paid Phonecard due to a serious decline in usage as a result in the increase in mobile phones. BT do operate payphones which can be used with a credit card, (a minimum charge of 50 pence), but these tend to be only in urban areas, in rural areas they supply cash only phones.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: None.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/02/13946/RM Approval of Reserved Matter. (Committee Matter). Erection of 14 dwellings, formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and construction of estate roads. The Wintles, Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (Bishop's Castle), 5 & 7 Castle Green. Concerns were expressed about the height and size of the houses, the drainage from the site and the lack of affordable houses. The Deputy explained that the affordable houses will be in the sheltered accommodation. It was proposed that the Clerk writes to the SSDC to obtain the formal definition of 'Affordable Housing' and this is an Agenda item for a future meeting. Cllr Blundell proposed that the Council objects to this application on the grounds that the houses are large and out of keeping with Bishop's Castle, that the drainage from the site is not adequate and that the houses should not be built until the road has been completed, seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

b) 1/02/13999/F Planning Permission (full). Erection of 2 domestic garages, 17 High Street, Bishop's Castle. G.R. Rose. Cllr Blundell proposed No Objection providing a Section 106 is attached to ensure that they are not converted into living accommodation.

c) No other Planning Applications have been received, but it was reported that since the last meeting a Planning Application for the Erection of a car port at Fairfield, Woodbatch Road, Bishop's Castle has been made by Mr I. Wall. (Reference 1/02/13944/F) This application was seen by The Mayor, Deputy and Cllr Whittall who proposed No Objection.

d) The following Planning Reports have been received since the last meeting:

(i) 1/02/13657/F and 1/02/13658/LB Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent approved for conversion of storage building to a dwelling and garage. The Barn, Chapel Yard, Bishop's Castle, Mr and Mrs Lewis.

(ii) 1/02/13791/F Planning Permission granted for the erection of an office building (revised scheme). Barn to rear of 5-7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. The Living Village Trust.

(iii) 1/02/13768/F Planning Permission granted for the erection of a balcony. The Old Clinic, Stone House, Union Street. Mrs W. Jones.

7. SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE SPORTS & ARTS CENTRE:

On 28th November a Meeting of the Community Forum was held at the Community College which was very well attended. During the meeting the Plans were presented for the proposed Arts and Sports Centre by Mr A. Penton, Sports Officer, SCC. The project will comprise of a new Fitness Suite, second squash courts, sports hall (2 court), wet/dry/outside changing rooms, 3 tennis courts, artificial grass wicket, 120 seater community drama studio/theatre, reception area, car parking and access road. These will be in addition to the existing facilities. There was great enthusiasm for the project, although a number of people raised concerns about the whether the size of the Theatre would be large enough.

The SCC has purchased land behind the Community College and over 1/2 million pounds has already been raised, towards an estimated cost of £1.9 million. C.C. Phillips has asked all Councils in the area if they would consider making a donation towards the cost. Cllr Wright proposed this is considered at the next meeting when the Precept is discussed, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

In order to raise awareness of and support the Project the local Sports and Arts Groups are planning an event at The Community College on 28th February and 1st March which will be an Exhibition of the History of Sports and Arts Groups in the area. A meeting is proposed for Monday 13th January at 7.00 pm at the Community College to finalise details.

8. SKATE BOARD AREA:

The Governors of the Community College have delayed making a decision on the Skate Boarding Scheme until the next meeting, which is to be held on 27th January, as there are a number of issues of concern. The young people keen on Skate Boarding have worked hard at putting together a project and Cllr Whittall proposed the Council sends to the Governors a letter of support, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. VITAL VILLAGES:

The Deputy Mayor reported that a meeting of the Steering Group of the Vital Villages had been held last night where details of how the residents of the Town should be consulted about their ideas for the future of the Town. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to express their views. Consequently a questionnaire has been drawn up and the Town divided into areas with representatives in each area consulting their neighbours.

10. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM:

V. Robson and L. Seymour from the South Shropshire Youth Forum came along to the meeting to show Councillors a video of the work they have undertaken with the Youth in South Shropshire. They work with the 15 - 24 year age group, slightly older than the Shropshire Youth Office, who work with 13 - 19 year olds. There were plans to extend their work more into Bishop's Castle, but unfortunately they were not successful in their recent bid for funding from the Lottery. Without funding they would not have been able to carry on after March 2003, but fortunately the S.S.D.C. has stepped in with money to enable them to continue for a while longer and it is hoped that they will be successful with their next application for funding. Councillors were surprised to hear that the Community College is the only Secondary School in South Shropshire that do not work with the S.S. Youth Forum and it was proposed the Council contacts Mr Hunt, Headmaster of the Community College. ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. NAMING OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

(a) New development on Love Lane: SSDC have received a request from the developer to name the new development on Love Lane 'Old Brick Meadow'. It was felt there could be confusion with regard to the Old Brick Guest House, but Cllr Lawrence had confirmed at a previous meeting that this was the name of the field on an old map. Following discussion Cllr Whittall proposed 'Brick Field', seconded by Cllr Dr Penney, Cllr Blundell proposed an amendment 'Old Brick Field' seconded by Cllr Magill. There were 2 votes for the amendment and 4 votes for the proposition, which was put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved. The Clerk was asked to advise SSDC that this Council suggests the name 'Brick Field'. ACTION TOWN CLERK

(b) New dwellings at Oak Meadow/Welsh Street: SSDC have received a request from the developer of phase 3 of Oak Meadow for the provision of a postal address. In considering the lay-out of the 11 dwellings, which have access onto Welsh Street it was felt appropriate to give this development its own name and suggested Victoria Green, Welsh Street or Castle View, Welsh Street. The Mayor had written and suggested two alternative names; Welsh Street Meadow and Jubilee Meadow, Cllr Whittall suggested Meadow View. Following discussion about the various options Cllr Wright proposed the houses are numbered as part of Welsh Street, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. TWINNING WITH ST. MARCEL:

Cllr Dr Penney reported that a formal constitution has now been agreed and submitted to Brussels for approval. This year marks the fifth year of the twinning between St Marcel and Nudlingen in Bavaria. Celebrations took place in St Marcel over the weekend of 22/24 November attended by about ten from Germany and the same from Italy, where twinning is already signed up. Ten from the Bishop's Castle committee were invited to join in the celebration, although Bishop's Castle will not be signing up until April 2003. The theme of the weekend 'Recycling' was chosen and as a result of this grants will be available from Brussels. This involved a morning a water treatment plant and an evening presentation of about 10 minutes from each delegation.

The plan is for Bishop's Castle and St Marcel to sign up in early April 2003, coinciding with a trip from the Community College enjoying an exchange visit to St Marcel (3rd - 10th April), when the Mayor has expressed an intention to take part.

It will be following by a return visit from St Marcel school to Bishop's Castle (19th to 26th June) and further signing. The idea is for hospitality to be given to the visitors in each country. Both these events will attract a grant from Brussel as they are for signing up purposes, but there will be no more European money without an approved theme each time. Without a project there will be no grant, Brussels is not very quick over these matters. The cost for each person going to St Marcel is £120, which includes visits to Paris and Euro Disney.

It was suggested that after the signing in April that some signs should be erected in the Town, or at the approach to the Town; 'Bishop's Castle twinned with St Marcel'. It was agreed that this should be an Agenda item for a future meeting and in the meantime Cllr Dr Penney will discuss with the Committee.

13. THE COBBLES:

Mr Ian Holten who kindly volunteers to clean and maintain The Cobbles has reported that there are a few of the cobbles loose and need attention. Cllr Dr Penney proposed Mr Rutherford is contacted and asked if they can be inspected and repaired, but request that the correct cement is used, as work done on a previous occasion had to be re-done. ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. PLAYING FIELD - TREES:

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall reported that recent gales which blew down a tree into Mrs Thompson's garden also damaged other trees in the Playing Field. Consequently Mr C. Pritchard was asked to have a look and make recommendations, which were (1) Trim damaged branches and general pruning of a beech and two oak trees by football pitch. (2) Fall wind damaged maple tree by football pitch. (3) Trim damaged branches and general pruning of an oak tree and three beech trees by footpath. He could also arrange to plant the new trees donated by Mr and Mrs Hurd. These details have been passed to Mrs M. Daniel, Tree Warden, who made the following comments: That most of the pruning necessary has already been done (1) The lime tree (not beech) and two oaks only need damaged branches trimming. (2) Suggests leaving the maple tree as it is, it is a good safe climbing tree for the children. (3) No pruning necessary to the young beech near new fence. (4) All other trees along footpath only require damaged branches pruning. It was approved that Mr Pritchard should be asked to carry out pruning work as agreed by Mrs Daniel. Councillors were asked to have a look at the maple tree before the next meeting. ACTION ALL COUNCILLORS

It is understood that the residents of Coppall Paddock would be pleased if the fallen trees along the footpath were not replaced, as trees when grown tend to block out a lot of light. Mrs Daniel to be consulted about suitable sites in the Playing Field for Mr and Mrs Hurds trees to be planted.

15. STREET LIGHTING:

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall declared their interest on item 15 (a) and left the room whilst this was considered.

(a) Repair Contract: The Agreement between the Council and Messrs Blundell and Whittall for repairing street lighting had worked very well and saved the Council money. The Agreement made in September 2001 with them was that the Council will provide the materials in the way of light bulbs, photocells etc. and pay them £10 for each light repaired and £5 for inspection of a light which is found to have another fault other than a defective bulb or photocell. They are required to organise Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this Agreement is renewed for a further 12 month period, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved.

(b) Brampton Road: The plan produced by M.E.B. Contracting for new lighting between the Church and Community College crossroads has been forwarded to Mr D'Alezio, S.C.C. to advise if it meets the criteria of highway lighting, therefore qualifying for the 25% grant and when completed would be suitable for adoption by S.C.C. It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that when confirmation is received from S.C.C. that the scheme is satisfactory the Clerk puts the work out for tender, seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

(c) Market Square: A damaged light in Market Square has been replaced with a modern lamp which is felt to be unsuitable by the owners of the building to which it is attached. However, it is thought the owners have been in contact with S.C.C. and a more suitable lamp is being organised. Report back to next meeting.

It was reported that the lamp attached to Ivy Cottage, Welsh Street is reported to be past repair and requires a new lamp. However as this part of Welsh Street is very dark it was wondered if a temporary lamp could be organised whilst the cost of purchasing a suitable replacement could be investigated. Also reported were: light on Montgomery Road not working and one in Kerry Lane on all day.

Cllrs Blundell and Whittall returned to the room to find that items 15 (b) and (c) had been discussed in their absence, having left the room while item 15 (a) was considered. They wished it to be recorded that they were not happy that items relating to street lighting were discussed in their absence when information they knew would have been helpful to the discussion. The Deputy Mayor reported on the matters, they agreed with the action approved and it was decided it was not necessary to discuss any further.

16. TOWN HALL:

The Mayor, Deputy and Town Clerk recently met with Mrs A.M. Jackson regarding funding for development work. The preparation of a Business Plan will be necessary, for which the Council needs to consider uses for the Town Hall. The Board with pictures and suggestions for the Town Hall has now been in the Library, Enterprise House, The Town Hall and Church and the comments received have been analysed by the Deputy Mayor, which will be circulated to Councillors. It is felt the next step would be to meet the Architect to discuss the comments made and it was suggested that the Clerk could try and arrange a meeting on Friday 10th January. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Mr L. Stanley has sent to the Council a copy of a letter received from Mr C. Richards, Conservation Officer, S.S.D.C. The letter advises Mr Stanley that it would be prudent to await the outcome of the analysis of various refurbishment/redevelopment proposals currently being investigated before deciding to regularise the canopy from a planning perspective, or remove it from the building. If it is decided that the canopy and the redevelopment proposals can co-exist quite comfortably then the submission of an application for listed building consent should be submitted.

17. SEVERN TRENT WATER - PROGRESS REPORT OF DRAINAGE INVESTIGATIONS:

A letter from Mr P. Gelder, Sewerage Network Manager for Severn Trent advises that Severn Trent should receive a report on the findings of the Consultants before Christmas. The Town Council will be advised of the conclusions of the investigations in early January, when they will be in a position to know the scope of work required to alleviate the flooding problem.

Cllr Whittall advised that a drain at the entrance to the Auction Yard in Station Street is blocked. Cllr Wright proposed that a letter is sent to S.C.C., seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. ACCOUNTS:

The Clerk advised that the invoice from J. Whittall for £220.00 for lighting repairs was an error as this was approved for payment at the last meeting.

In addition to the accounts listed on the Agenda invoice had been received from: Enterprise South West Shropshire - Centre Usage July and November - £63.42

Cllr Blundell proposed these accounts be paid in full, with the exception of the £200 for lighting repairs, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

Two meetings have been held recently regarding the Market Towns Initiative. The first held at the Methodist Hall on 2nd December and notes made by the Consultants 'Insight 02' have been received. The second meeting was held at the Community College earlier today which was well attended. CIRCULATE NOTES

20. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) C. Murphy, Playing Field Group: The Group would like information about the Playing Field in time for discussion at the next meeting on 9th January. The Clerk was asked to provide information regarding the budget spent during the last three years. The Clerk will discuss a plan of the field and Cllrs Blundell and Whittall would assist with details of underground services. A model of the Playing Field will be placed in several sites during December to gather more evidence of peoples ideas for the area, which will be brought together at the meeting on the 9th. Cllr Whittall and/or Cllr Blundell agreed to attend this meeting.

b) Mr P. Norton, to all traders, M.Fair Committee: Then acknowledging the comments regarding Street Closures in the Town. The Committee had agreed to take a questionnaire to Chair traders in the Town, but then realised the Chamber of Trade were doing the same thing. Following discussions it was resolved that the Chamber of Trade would carry out the survey, sharing the results with the M.F. Committee and discuss appropriate action when the results are known.

c) Mr L. Stanley: (a) Copy of a letter from Mrs S. Bagley, Customer Relations Operational Complaints Team, Severn Trent Water regarding complaints about maintenance of storm drains in Market Square. The complaint is being investigated and it was proposed that it is not necessary to take any further action at present. (b) Mr M. Ashwell, E.S.W.S. has been trying to obtain broadband in Bishop's Castle. Whilst providing it for the library and the Community College, at the behest of the government, British Telecom are refusing to extend this facility to the Town. Enterprise House is being denied access to broadband even though they share the same building with the library. Cllr Wright proposed this is an Agenda item for the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and approved. AGENDA NEXT MEETING

d) S.C.C. Questionnaire regarding the provision of Christmas Lighting: Cllr Blundell offered to complete the form.

e) S.S.D.C. 2002/03 Register of Electors, published 1st December 2002. The list must be used strictly in accordance with the Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002, which has made it a criminal offence for anyone entitled to receive the Register, i.e. Parish/People Councils and their elected Members, to supply copies or part of the information contained in it to anyone else. The information must only be used to undertake the statutory function of the Council relating to security, law enforcement and crime prevention or for statistical purposes. An updated Register, incorporating the changes implemented by the District Boundary Review, together with additions, amendments and deletions will be published in February/March.

f) S.S.D.C. Mr D. Hives, Sports & Leisure Development Officer: Agenda for meeting of the South Shropshire Sport & Leisure Advisory Council being held tonight, together with minutes of the meeting on 17th September. Apologies had been sent from this Council and Mr Hives had apologised that the last two meetings had coincided with this Councils meeting. Dates are arranged for the year at the A.G.M. and the next two meetings in March and June will not clash.

g) Mr R. Drummond, Principal Traffic Engineer, S.C.C.: Two additional Traffic Team members have been appointed and there has been a re-appraisal of areas of responsibility. Details of names, geographic areas and telephone numbers were included for information.

h) Independent Consultation Project Board: Proposed Merger of the Princess Royal Hospital NHS Trust and Royal Shrewsbury Hospitals NHS Trust. A leaflet outlining the proposal for the establishment of a new Trust on 1st October 2003, based on the experience of joint working between the two hospitals for a considerable period. Consultation commences on 2nd December and runs for a three month period until 1st March 2003. CIRCULATE

i) South Shropshire Access Group: Agenda for the A.G.M. held in Ludlow on 19th November together with minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th November. CIRCULATE

j) Regionalism White Paper: At a meeting between Chief Executives and leaders/chairman of Shropshire County Council, District Councils and Shropshire Association of Local Councils a statement was agreed in response to the Government White Paper concerning Regionalism. CIRCULATE

k) S.A.L.C. Annual Report and Accounts 2001 - 2002 and N.A.L.C. Annual Reports and Accounts 2001 - 2002. CIRCULATE

l) West Midlands Regional Assembly - Publication 'Speaking Out' issue 1. CIRCULATE

Before the meeting closed the Deputy Mayor congratulated Cllrs Blundell and Whittall who, with help from a small number of helpers had made a splendid display of Christmas Lights in the Town.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.