

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 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 CLRLS 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 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 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 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 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.

