

Minutes 11 January 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 11th JANUARY 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris,
Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. M. Davidson - Stanley (working),
N. Hird (away from home)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is a trustee of
the Old Castle Land Trust.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 6d as he is a Governor at the
College.

Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 12 as his wife is Secretary to the
Friends of the playing fields.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 6b as the applicant is a
family member.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2004, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr.Dr. Penney with the
following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell.

Prior to item 6b should read "Cllrs. Blundell and Magill left the room."

Following item 6b should read "Cllrs. Blundell and Magill returned."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

Cllr. Carroll, The Mayor proposed that item 19c be discussed prior to item 6. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Items 10 and 12 - A letter was read from Patrick Mc Caul, South Shropshire Housing Association saying both the sites at Kerry Green and at Grange road are
under discussion with a view to developing.

Item 22 (vii) - The Clerk reported that Living Villages did not own the pole, neither did the County Council. Cllr Blundell said Central Networks owned the pole and
that it was an electricity pole, although it had B.T. lines on it. The Clerk will investigate further.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

19c. CORRESPONDANCE

Two letters were read from Cllr. Neil Hird regarding the payment of traveling expenses to co-opted Councillors.

A letter was read from Cllr. Furber tending her resignation and enclosing a cheque to cover payments of traveling expenses for 13.10.03 and 12.01.04.

The Clerk clarified the situation regarding the payment of traveling expenses to co-opted Councillors. Payment could be made to co-opted members until 31st
December 2003, when the law changed. The law changed again on 2nd November 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2004 No.2596) stating that traveling and
subsistence expenses can now be paid to co-opted members and can be back dated to 31st December 2004. Therefore, Cllr. Furber is now entitled to the two
payments received.

Cllr. Dr. Penney expressed his dissatisfaction that co-opted members had been treated any differently to other members. He emphasised what a valuable asset
they were to the Council.

Cllr. Wright commented that Cllr. Furber had been obliged to resign as she could not risk any suggestion of impropriety in her position at the Post Office.

Cllr. Wright proposed that as there had been absolutely no impropriety in her conduct, a letter be sent to Cllr. Furber asking her to reconsider her resignation and
explaining the new law to her. Her cheque should be returned and an explanation that Council confirmed she had been given and accepted the expenses in good
faith. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/04/16528/TC Tree works (Conservation area). Felling of an ash tree. (delegated matter)

Llanserth, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Burkill.

Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

Cllr. Blundell left the room.

b) 1/04/16505/LB Listed Building Consent. Alterations to chimney breast. (delegated matter)

Six Bells, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. N. Richards.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Blundell returned.

c) 1/04/16511/F Planning Permission (full) Change of use domestic garage to auto parts and spares retail. (delegated matter)

Chapel View, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. G.Price.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection, but concerns should be expressed over access and parking, also assuming there would be no nuisance to neighbours of
noise or smell. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

d) 1/04/16533/CC County Council Development. Construction of a sports and arts facility, extensions; a viewing gallery; associated external works including
alterations to vehicular and pedestrian access.

The Community College, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle.

The Mayor reported that the Civic Society had given the verbal opinion that they had no objection providing there was a direct route to the Clun road from the new
buildings with a one way system set up.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed there be no objection providing there was an exit onto the Clun road. Seconded by Cllr Gaffney and approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the public be allowed to speak. Seconded by

Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Mr John Rainey, a representative of the SPARC Committee explained that there had been a lobby against an exit on to the Clun Road
because with the funding available, if the road was built, other things would have to be forfeited.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed strong concern should be shown about the large area of steel clad walls. The appearance of the building will be detrimental to the
Conservation area it is adjacent to. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

e) 1/04/16455/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of extension to dwelling and alterations to domestic garage. (delegated matter)

Aviemore, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs R.G.Jones.

Looked at by Mayor and Deputy Mayor who agreed to no comment.

f) Any other plans received. - none

g) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/04/16338/RM Approval of reserved matters. Re-submission of design for houses F1, F2, F3, F4 & F5 .

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd.

Permitted subject to conditions.

7. REARRANGEMENT OF BANK ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that more interest would be obtained if some of the bank accounts are combined.

Town Hall fund - Business Money Manager - 2.27%

Contingency fund - Business Money Manager - 2.30%

High Interest working account - Money Manager - 2.30%

Current Account - 0.10%

Business High Interest Dividend Bond - 4.25%

Cllr. Wright proposed that Town Hall Fund and the Contingency fund be combined into a Business High Interest bond. They can be kept separate in our accounting
system. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

8. PRECEPT

Cllr Gaffney proposed that Option 3 be adopted, giving a rise of 10% or £6 per D band household per year. The precept for 2005/6 to be £39820. Seconded by Cllr.
Dr. Penney and approved.

9. DONATION

Request from the Old Castle Land Trust for a donation of £400. Cllr. Blundell proposed that the Old Castle Land Trust be given a donation of £200 now and £200 in
April 2005 from next years budget. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

10. DISPENSATION

The Mayor reported that dispensation has been granted when considering matters relating to Bishop's Castle Public Hall for a four year period.

11. LITTER FROM THE FISH AND CHIP SHOP.

Cllr. Magill proposed that a letter be sent to the Fish and Chip shop asking the owners to clear up fish and chip papers found in the surrounding area at the end of
the evening. Cllr, Blundell offered the use of a key for the litter bin so that it can be emptied. A second letter to be sent to environmental department at the District
Council explaining the problem and asking for suggestions as to what action can be taken. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

12. BENCHES IN THE PLAYING FIELDS

Six benches in the playing field will become available for resiting. Councillors suggested the following places.

1. Top gate of Lydham Manor on the Montgomery Road.

2. Beyond the surgery.

3. Sraight mile.

4. Love Lane by G. Bryan-Jones

5. Castle land.

Cllr. Blundell advised that it would take at least six people to carry a bench.

13. FENCE AT BISHOP'S CASTLE BUILDING SUPPLIES

The Mayor explained that she has been in discussion with Mr Matthews regarding the planting of hedging next to his fence to help hide it. She has also been in
discussion with the Planning Department at the District Council as there appears to be a breach in planning as the fence is above two metres high. The Planning
Department are looking into the matter.

14. FP 22 - FOOTPATH BETWEEN A488 AND BOWLING GREEN CLOSE.

a) The Mayor reported that the Footpath Department at Shropshire County Council intends to reinstate the path to its proper route at the A488 end. (ie) move it
approx 2 metres south. Cllr. Carroll proposed there be no objection, seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) The Mayor also explained that the footpath between Old Brick Meadow and Bowling Green Close does not at present follow the correct route. It should go across
the middle of the field. The owner is willing to allow the Council to tarmac the path if it is officially diverted to where people currently walk. If it were an unapposed
diversion it would cost the Town Council approximately £1400.

Cllr. Blundell proposed that the County Council should be approached as the path has had unobstructive usage for many years. To be put on next agenda.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

15. NEW GRIT BINS

Dave Wilkinson of Autolycus has requested that a new grit bin similar to that at the Heritage Resource Centre be put by the entrance to the Castle Hotel as this
would be more in keeping with the conservation area than the yellow bins. They are made by a firm in Onibury and cost about £80 plus VAT. Cllr. Carroll proposed
that a letter be sent to the County Council requesting new bins in the conservation area. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Blundell raised the issue
of who will pay for any damage incurred.

16. CIRCULATION

There is a need to improve the circulation of literature to Councillors. The last pack returned was sent out in June. Cllr. Carroll proposed that the papers are sent
round in the same order each month. This will enable the Clerk to check where they are. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. The Suggested order is:-

Cllrs Magill, Wright, Carroll, Gaffney, Davidson-Stanley, Dr. Penney, Hird, Morris, Farr, Pinches, Blundell, The Clerk.

17. ACCOUNTS

In addition to the Accounts listed on the Agenda the following invoices have been received.

A. Wallace - £16.50

E.C.Davies - £25.93

It was proposed by Cllr Dr. Penney that the Accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES - none

19. CORRESPONDENCE

a)(i) Shropshire County Council - Reply to Cllr. Peter Phillips re

road closures in Bishop's Castle..

(ii) Letter from Malcolm Bridges, Shropshire County Council to Matt Lord,
Enterprise PLC regarding road work in Welsh Street. Work is unlikely to be
finished by 24th December and they will have to open the road after this date.

(iii) Copy of the letter sent by Severn Trent Water to local residents regarding
road closures in Brampton Road/Church Street.

(iv) Christmas cards from Wheatley Lines, Ludlow Town Council,

Mouchelparkman, Roger Walker.

b) For circulation

Local Council Review

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Minutes 08 February 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill,
Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Davidson-Stanley, Cllr. J. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is on the skateboard committee and item 15 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 15 as he is a Director of the Wasteless Society.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 as he is the Street lighting Contractor.
Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as the property is next door.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney

Item 8 - Precept should read "Cllr. Gaffney proposed that option 3 be adopted giving a rise of 10% or £6 per D band household per year in order to cover the necessary expenditure on the Town Hall".

b) Minutes of the extraordinary meeting, (closed session) also held on 11th January 2005, having been circulated, were proposed a true record by Cllr. Blundell, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 7.- Rearrangement of bank accounts - The Clerk reported that she had closed the two old accounts and opened an additional High Interest bond. The interest made on this bond will be £77 in the first three months. In reply to Cllr. Blundell's question the Clerk confirmed that the same signatories are on all the accounts.

Item 14 - F22 footpath - The Clerk read a letter from Paul Crampton, Shropshire County Council explaining the three available options. a)The landowner could look to dedicate the route onto the definitive map by entering into a formal legal agreement. This would cost £1300 - £1500. b)The landowner could enter into a permissive agreement. This is a temporary agreement. c) If the path has been used for over 20 years public rights may have been established. This would leave two footpaths across the field.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Mayor discuss the matter with Mr Evans, the landowner. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Item 19c - Mrs Furber - resignation - The Clerk read a letter from Mrs Furber confirming her resignation. Cllr. Wright proposed a letter be sent to Mrs Furber thanking her for her work on the Council. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Blundell requested that if there were problems of this nature in the future they be brought to Council first.

Item 15 - New Grit bins. - The Clerk explained that Ian Rutherford, Shropshire County Council was happy to replace the grit bins but suggests the Town Hall one be replaced first to see how they stand up to wear and vandalism. He would like it to be slightly bigger than the one at the Heritage Resource Centre so that a standard plastic liner will fit. Colin Richards, South Shropshire District Council would like to see them in a darker colour.

Cllr. Blundell proposed that we ask Mr Rutherford to go ahead with an order for one bin that is slightly bigger and in a darker colour. He suggested the one by the Castle would be a better trial. The Mayor and Clerk will discuss with Mr Rutherford when they meet next week. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mrs Pauline Thomson

Mrs Thomson spoke on behalf of her neighbour at 6 Coppall Paddock who wishes to fell an ash tree. (Item 6a). She explained that the ash tree causes damage to the trees in the playing fields and the hedgerow and was in fact only a sapling and had not been planted.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/16578/TC Tree works (Conservation Area), Felling of an Ash tree (delegated matter)

Land between 6 Copall Paddock and Bishop's Castle Playing Field. C. Pritchard.

The Mayor, Cllr. Carroll spoke against the felling of the tree. She explained that when Council are considering large developments they are usually in favour of mature trees being kept.

These trees often end up in people's gardens. They should not then be felled at a later date.
Cllr. Dr Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) 1/05/16626?HR Hedgerow removal notice. Removal of hedgerow.

Land south of Beech-O-Cwmago, Banks Head, Bishops Castle, Mr M.D.Hall.
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room, Cllr. Magill took the Chair.

c) 1/05/16628/LB Listed Building Consent. Alterations to dwelling (detailed in schedule) to include installation of 3 x velux roof lights: demolition of 2 x chimney stacks: removal of render to expose stone and point: fixboarding to oak frame and renewal and replacement of windows.

27 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs C. Wesson.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

Cllr. Carroll returned and took the Chair.

d) 1/05/16638/F Planning permission (Full). Erection of a domestic garage (Revised scheme).

Hall Villa, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. R.M.A. & W.H Say.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/04/16455/F Erection of extension to dwelling and alteration to domestic garage.
Aviemore, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs R.G.Jones.
Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/04/16528/TC Felling of an Ash tree.

Llanserth, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs A. Burkill.
Consent granted

(iii) 1/04/16352/F Erection of a domestic garage.

Hall Villa, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs R.M.& W Say.

Permission refused because the proposal is considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the area by virtue of its size and siting and as such fails to comply with policy GP2 and HG10 of the South Shropshire Local Plan.

Also, the proposal is considered to be detrimental to the setting of the adjoining listed building known as Blunden Hall because of its siting and size, and as such is contrary to policy CN7 of the South Shropshire Local Plan.

7. AUGUSTE BOUVARD PAINTING

Updates were given on the research into the history of the painting. Cllr. Wright proposed that Christie's be given permission to sell the painting. They are to be asked to make a print of it. The Mayor and Clerk are to take advice from Christie's on a reserve price. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved with Cllr. Blundell voting against. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the decision of a reserve price be brought back to the next Council meeting and that other advice on the reserve price also be sought. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that item 18 - Town Hall Restoration be brought forward. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

18. TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

The Clerk read a letter from John Wheatley advising that it would be sensible to carry out the work affecting safety matters. He has not completed a detailed specification. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Wheatley asking how much a detailed specification for the roof, sandstone mouldings and Venetian window would cost. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. It was suggested a second estimate be sought. Cllr. Blundell suggested the architect used by the Poppy House. It was also suggested advise be sought from Colin Richards, South Shropshire District Council.

The Clerk then reported that it had been decided at the meeting of the working party to approach a structural engineer to ask how much it would cost to investigate the cistern. Also to approach South West Shropshire Historical and Architectural Society to ask if they would be interested in looking into the history of the cistern.

The working party then discussed possible educational uses of the Town Hall as this would have to be shown to obtain heritage lottery funding. A business plan would have to be formed. The Mayor and Clerk are to draw up a list of jobs that need doing to collect the information required.

Cllr Dr. Penney left the meeting.

8 CLOSURE OF TELEPHONE BOXES

A request from Matthew Green M.P. to Town/Parish Councils for a letter of support to keep telephone boxes open was read by the Clerk. Cllr. Gaffney was concerned that writing a letter could be seen as helping with Matthew Green's election campaign. Cllr. Blundell proposed that a copy of the letter sent previously be sent again. This refers only to the two boxes in Bishop's Castle. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

9. SKATEBOARD PARK IN THE PLAYING FIELD

The Mayor reported that the first meeting had been well supported but there were fewer people at the other two. Concern had been shown by members of the Bowling Club about the safety of their cars while being parked on the playing fields. Mrs Allwood had shown concern over the possible noise level.

The Mayor explained where the preferred position on the playing field would be. It would be a rectangle 27m x 20m to the left of the gate in Kerry Lane. The longer side would be parallel to the road. The tarmac needs to be laid while the path is being laid by the Friends of the Playing Fields. This does not require planning permission. Cllr. Magill proposed that the skateboard park be put in the suggested area. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

10. REQUEST FOR A DISABLED PARKING BOX

Mrs Gillian Bass is carrying out an access survey of Bishop's Castle and she has requested the Town Council to approach the County Council for a disabled box on the road outside the church. Cllr. Wright proposed a box is requested. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

11. DRAFT WORKS PROGRAMME 2005/06

The Clerk read the Shropshire County Councils proposals for highway maintenance 2005/06.

Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to the County Council reminding them of the unsuitability of tar and chippings in the Town Centre, also requesting an explanation of the abbreviations. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

12. TOWN ENHANCEMENT IN THE OLD MARKET PLACE

The Mayor explained that there was some funding available for visitor interpretation in the Old Market Place. Cllr. Wright explained that Bishop's Castle was a working town and any tourist interpretation should be minimal. He proposed a plaque be attached to existing stonework. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

Cllr. Carroll proposed a working group including Cllr. Wright. Anyone wishing to be involved should see the Clerk at the end of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. Cllrs Carroll and Magill to be part of the working party.

13. KERRY RIDGEWAY TOURIST INFORMATION PANEL AT THE CHURCH

Cllr. Pinches proposed that a request be made for a Tourist Information Panel to be placed on the church boundary wall. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

14. PARKING NOTICES

The Clerk reported that 55 slips had been completed. Five cars had received two slips, all the others just one. Four Councillors had completed slips but it was mainly two Councillors. Cllr. Gaffney felt the scheme was working well. The Mayor asked why only a few Councillors were completing slips. Cllr. Blundell explained that often he did not have slips with him and it was easier to speak to the motorist explaining the problem. He said that he was concerned there was no provision for loading and unloading. Other Councillors agreed that the slips were not always available.

15. CARDBOARD COLLECTION

Cllr. Hird reported that the Wasteless Society had not drawn the £250 donated by the Town Council because the South Shropshire District Council has two commercial bids to collect cardboard in South Shropshire from Shropshire Highland Seeds and Parry and Evans, Welshpool. No decision will be made until 17th February 2005.

Cllr. Blundell left the room

16. STREET LIGHTING.

A Resident has suggested that Shropshire County Council should be approached for street lights to be installed at the Kennels Crossroads and the College cross roads. The problems at these junctions were discussed and Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to Shropshire County Council asking them to consider means of making these crossroads safer with the use of different road markings or street lighting. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

Cllr. Blundell returned

17. RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY.

It was agreed by the Clerk and Councillors to move this to the next Agenda so that more work could be done on the Policy.

18. HISTORY OF TOWN REGALIA.

The Clerk advised that she has a sheet showing the history of Bishop's Castle Town regalia. (Written 1949). If anyone would like a copy please ask the Clerk. The Mayor suggested the information should be put in the Council Chamber and on the web site.

20. ACCOUNTS

In addition to the Accounts listed on the Agenda the following invoices have been received.

A. Wallace - £22.00

Zurich Municipal (Painting insurance) £36.75

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney that the Accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Magill and approved.

21 REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Carroll reported from the meeting of Representatives of six Market Towns. She explained that only five towns are attending the meetings. The relationship with area partnerships had been discussed and it had been agreed that a letter be sent from the group to the SSDC expressing the concerns over the contents of the article in the Shropshire Star on this matter.

Some of the other matters discussed were:-

(a) The toilets in Church Stretton - A budget of £4K is to be set for the maintenance of the toilets.

(b) The problems over the continual funding for reprints of maps/brochures.

(c) The idea of the opening up of the Bishop's Castle - Craven Arms railway track as a bridle way. Craven Arms Council is very supportive.

Cllr Magill reported from a Friends of the Library meeting where various fund raisers were discussed. Seating for toddlers and the elderly are to be put in the Library.

Cllr. Hird reported from a meeting of the Partnership of the Heritage Resource Centre. They have asked for a list of the archives kept in the chest. They are forming a management committee and would like someone from the Council to sit on it.

21. CORRESPONDANCE.

a) (i) Mrs Greenwood to Colin Richards SSDC regarding the removal of a four-windowed dormer at the Three Tuns. (a grade two listed building) Cllr. Blundell proposed a letter from the Town Council also be sent to Mr Richards. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

(ii) Letter from Abbi Hemmings requesting use of the Town Square on three occasions.

Cllr. Wright proposed that permission for use on the 1st May be given and that separate applications be made for the other two dates nearer the time. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

(iii) SCC - Hugh Danat - update on the situation on twinning signs, width advise in New Street and box at Three Tuns. Cllr. Blundell proposed a letter be sent to Hugh Danat explaining that the "Keep Clear" box had been painted on the wrong side of the road. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

(iv) A letter from Roger Marston of 5 Bull Street was read giving his agreement to the Town Council installing a handrail on his wall adjacent to the footpath on condition the Council maintain the handrail and any damage caused by it to the wall. He also suggested steps would be better on this footpath.

b) For circulation

(i) Clerk and Council, (ii) Switch on Shropshire (iii) The Playing Field

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

Minutes 05 April 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 5TH APRIL 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J. A. Magill, K.E.C.Pinches

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 11a as his wife is Secretary for the Friends of the Playing Fields.

Cllrs. Davidson-Stanley, Wright, Carroll and Dr. Penney declared interests in item 13 as their properties are adjacent to the surfaces in question.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th March 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record Cllr. Wright with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Item 10b. - The section in brackets should read (Storage is free up to a value of £200, the sum given as a donation.)

Item 17 line 2 should read "Cllr. Wright proposed that the Town Council should approach the County Council suggesting the following areas be taken over by the Town Council."

Item 17, end of line 3. Delete "that" and insert "they should"

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 16 - Letter from Dyanne Humphries explaining the planning situation regarding BCHRC request for sign on Town Hall. Photographs were shown for the suggested position of the sign. Cllr. Wright proposed that provided written confirmation was received from the South Shropshire District Council Planning Dept. there should be no objection to the sign being put on the south facing wall. Councillors thought the eastern side preferable (picture 3) Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 22 - A letter was read from Central Networks regarding the pole at Castle Green. Central Networks have sent Living Villages Trust the quote and associated terms and conditions for the removal of the pole. No feedback has been received which is why the project has not progressed. Cllr. Wright proposed that a letters be sent to Living Villages Trust, copies to Roger Whitehouse and Matthew Green M.P. urging the Living Villages Trust to respond to Central Networks urgently. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/16796/TC Tree works (conservation area). Felling of a Hazel and 4 no. trees from rear garden and 1 small tree in front garden. (delegated matter)

9 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. Mr. A Clarke.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/16628/LB Alterations to dwelling (detailed in schedule) to include installation of 3 x velux roof lights: demolition of 2 x chimney stacks: removal of render to expose stone and point: fixboarding to oak frame and renewal and replacement of windows. 27 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs Wesson. Listed Building Consent Granted.

(ii) 1/05/16629/TC Pruning/loping of a tree.

Land at Laburnum Alley, Bishop's Castle. W.J.Hendley.

Consent granted.

(iii) 1/05/16626/HR Removal of hedgerow.

Land south of Beech-o-Cwmago, Banks Head, Bishop's Castle. Mr. M. D. Hall.

Not proceeded with.

(iv) 1/05/16578/TC Felling of an Ash tree.

Land between 6 Copall Paddock and Bishop's Castle Playing Fields, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard.

Consent granted.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from item 7 on the grounds of confidential nature of the business about to be transacted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr Penney and approved.

7. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There have been two applicants - Mr. L. T. Heasman, The Rowe Farmhouse, Colebatch and Rachael Evans, 24 Church Street. Feedback was given by the Clerk and Councillors who had attended the interviews with Mr Heasman and Mrs Evans on Thursday 31st March. It was felt both candidates would make good Councillors. A secret vote was taken, resulting in Rachael Evans being co-opted. The Clerk to write to both Mrs Evans and Mr Heasman. ACTION TOWN CLERK

8. PUBLIC TOILETS

The Auction Yard toilets will be closed from 29th March until 19th July for refurbishment. The South Shropshire District Council has now formally offered the Town Hall toilets to the Town Council with effect from 19th July 2005. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed that the Town Council take over the Town Hall toilets from the South Shropshire District Council on 19th July with the following conditions.

a) The District Council ensure the toilets are in a good state of repair.

b) The Town Council will not incur extra business rates.

c) The electric supply to the toilets is joined to the Town Hall supply with one meter.

d) The water and sewerage connections from the toilets are incorporated into the Town Hall

system with one bill.

The costs for c) and d) to be covered by the District Council.

e) An article to be put in the next newsletter explaining that the Town Council have had no choice but to take the toilets over if they are to stay open with the finance coming from the Bishop's Castle precept.

Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Carroll proposed that the clerk find out more details about the running of the toilets. eg. opening times, employment conditions of cleaner, servicing etc. To put on next agenda. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Blundell proposed that the Clerk contact Property Services at the District Council to find out how much they would charge for maintenance of the toilets.

Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. TOWN ENHANCEMENT - second phase

Cllr. Carroll reported that the first phase would be completed by the end of May. This was the twinning signs with barrels and planted area, the up the pole planters and the hanging baskets.

The suggested second phase is to purchase eight more planters for the poles for winter planting at an approximate cost of £800 and to purchase two Tourist Information boards for the Harley Jenkins St car park and the auction yard at a cost of £400. These amounts would be refunded by the Town enhancement grant. There is approximately £1500 left. Cllr. Dr Penney proposed that these be purchased. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. NEWSLETTER

A grant of £250 has been approved by the Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership to cover the cost of the printing of the newsletter for the financial year 2005/06

11. YOUTH SHELTERS

a) Council was shown a plan of the proposed youth shelter in the playing fields. It has been designed by the Green Wood Centre and is to be built in July by the Community College with the help of pupils. John Bryan, South Shropshire District Council has been consulted and he approves the design providing it is built by a competent builder using the correct materials. The two high poles over 6m would need planning permission. (Anything over 4m) Councillor Farr explained that these poles would be used to hang flags for various events. Cllr Carroll explained that planning permission would also be required for some of the play equipment over 4m high and possibly for some of the skateboard equipment. It was suggested that planning permission be sought for all three at the same time. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed there be no objection providing the Playing Fields working group approves the construction and materials. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Cllr Carroll reported that the South Shropshire District Council had offered the Town Council a youth shelter free of charge. It can be stored free of charge until the Town Council decide where to put it. The Mayor and Clerk had accepted the offer on behalf of the Council and chosen the colour of green and yellow. Cllr. Blundell requested a picture of the shelter be brought to the next meeting. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. FOOTPATH - OLD BRICK MEADOW

Update on situation after discussion with Cllr. Carroll and Mr Evans. Cllr. Carroll reported that Mr Evans would like the path to remain on its present walked position and he would consider allowing it to be covered in tarmac providing the Town Council is willing to pay for the tarmac and maintain it. Cllr. Carroll explained to Mr Evans that it would still leave a right of way across the middle of the field that could be re-opened if people insisted. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Mr Evans stating that the Town Council is willing to tarmac the walked path and to continue to maintain it. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. SCHEME FOR ENHANCEMENT OF TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND PAVEMENTS

Cllr. Carroll showed Councillors the design statement drawn up by Joe Roberts, Shropshire County Council. She explained that as there was now no money available it was planned to implement the scheme when routine works were being carried out. Cllr. Wright suggested that changes should be considered starting at the bottom of the Town and working up. Therefore the change in priorities at the Boars Head should be implemented first and the effect monitored before other work was completed. Cllr. Carroll explained that the change of colour of the road surface in the conservation area would be easier to implement. Cllr Wright proposed the order of work considered and completed should be :-

a) The change in priority at the Boars Head to send traffic along Station Street.

b) The change of materials used for pavements from tarmac to concrete slabs.

c) The change of colour in the road surface in the conservation area.

d) The Welsh Street changes.

Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

All Councillors were unhappy about the lack of pavements in Welsh Street.

14. BISHOP'S CASTLE HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE

An invitation to Councillors from the BCHRC to a talk by the Curator of Ludlow Museum about the collecting habit on the May 7th. There is an invitation to mount a display on the Town Hall project on this evening. Cllr. Carroll said she was prepared to help with a display. She proposed Council agree to completing a display on the Town Hall project. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

16. LIGHTS IN WELSH STREET

Roger Whitehouse, Shropshire County Council, has written a letter to Days Construction requesting them to replace the lighting columns that were removed during construction of the Welsh Street Gardens development. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed letters be sent to Roger Whitehouse with a copy to Days requesting that lights be installed in Welsh Street in accordance with County Council standards. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

17. ACCOUNTS

In addition to the Accounts listed on the Agenda the following invoices have been received.

Ali Fox (April salary) - £104

J. Ince - expenses - £36.43

J. Ince - Newsletter - £61.82

Zurich Municipal - £1979.25

It was proposed by Cllr Blundell that the Accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Dr. Penney and approved.

The Clerk explained to Cllr. Blundell that the invoices for Mr. Fix it and BCBS were for the handrail on the footpath in Bull Street.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Carroll reported that she had attended a meeting of the Housing Association Vulnerable Adults project. She reported there was now a lot of help for vulnerable adults with a weekly surgery at Enterprise House which is advertised at the Community College. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley suggested an article be put in the newsletter.

19. Correspondence.

a)(i) Two letters were read from Geraldine Burkill regarding the skateboard park. Mrs Burkill and Mrs Allwood would now like the skateboard park following the roadline (Kerry Lane), buffered at both ends by a landscaped raised area. Cllr. Carroll proposed the site be moved back to this position. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

(ii) Community Council of Shropshire - Rural life 2020 annual conference 14th April at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust Building, Shrewsbury.

(iii) Wasteless Society - Invitation to a talk about their forthcoming activities on 18th April 7.30 pm at the Three Tuns.

(iv) Reply from Ofcom regarding closure of telephone boxes reporting all comments will be considered.

(v) Letter from Mr Freeman about the poor state of the footpath from Woodbatch Road to Grange Road. Cllr. Carroll reported that there had been problems for the P3 group due to the ill health of Phillip Giles. Tom Bason has now come forward as being willing to take on the footpath work. With regard to the footpath from The Grange Nursing Home to Church Lane Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Developer of the Old Police Station, with a copy to the planning office asking for the trees to be trimmed. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

(vi) Public Transport news - Bus service 745 now operated by Whittles.

(vii) Invitation to an information evening _ Craven Arms Parish Plan on 20TH April.

Cllr. Carroll reported that the Bishop's Castle Parish Plan was now being published.

(viii) S.W.Shropshire Community Forum - Shrop Doc - Your Questions answered and The Wasteless Society. Meeting on 12th April at the Community College.

b) For circulation

(i) Standards Committee, Agenda 5th April 2005 and Minutes 8th February 2005.

(ii) Salopian recorder.

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

Minutes 08 March 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8th March 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Morris declared a personal interest in item 6b as the applicant is a relative.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in items 10 and 16 as he is a member of the Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre Partnership.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a member of the Wasteless society.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a Director of the Wasteless society.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 15 as she is a member of the Tourism Group.
Cllr. Blundell declared a personal interest in item 28(ii) as he is a member of the Carnival committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
Cllr. Dr Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6e as he owns adjacent property.
Cllr. Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 6d as the structure overhangs his property.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as the tree is directly behind his garden.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as Spotlight is a potential employer of his son.
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 as she her property is adjacent to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8TH March 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell. Seconded by Cllr. Dr Penney.
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 - Letter from Graham Wilson SLCC Legal advisor advising that there may be a problem selling the painting without proof of ownership and that someone could claim title in the future. Cllr. Dr Penney advised that the painting had been with the Council since 1964. The Mayor explained that the Clerk and Mayor are going to Shrewsbury to look at the archives.

Item 11 - Letter from Ian Rutherford explaining abbreviations used in draft works programme. Draft programme and explanation are with the Clerk if anyone wishes to see it.
Item 16 - A reply was read from Hugh Dannatt, SCC explaining the priorities when requests are received.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Adrian Plant - Director of Spotlight.
Mr Plan explained that Spotlight is a new community music group set up in Bishop's Castle. Its aim is to promote arts and culture, particularly music for the benefit of the community. It is particularly aimed at 14 to 25 year olds. It meets fortnightly, alternating between the Church Barn and the Three Tuns. It is a constituted organization with Trustees and is applying for funding from the Arts Council (West Midlands) and South Shropshire District Council
Karen Bavastock
Ms Bavastock spoke about the erection of an open-sided store in Union Street. (item 6d) She explained that they had contacted the planning office and had been told they did not need planning permission, therefore they had put the building up in good faith. The store was required for essential storage and they had tried to build it in keeping with the area. It is the same as the MOT store.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/16629/TC Tree works (Conservation area) Pruning/lopping of a tree.
Land at Laburnum Alley, Bishop's Castle. W. J. Hendley.
Agreed no comment after consultation with three Councillors and the Tree Warden.

b) 1/05/16689/F Planning permission (Full) Use of land as a coalyard, erection of a building and equipment for storage and bagging of coal.
Land at Bishop's Castle Business Park, Bishop's Castle. Mr. J. Sankey, Brow Farm Ratlinghope.
After much discussion Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection on the grounds that new industry should be welcomed. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed an amendment that this application should not be allowed while the children's nursery is on this site. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney.
The amendment was put to the Council and overruled (3 votes for, 7 votes against). The proposition was then put to the Council and approved with Cllrs. Dr Penney and Gaffney voting against.

Cllr. Gaffney left the room.

c) 1/05/16725/TC Tree Works (Conservation area) Felling of a conifer.
36 Union Street, Bishop's Castle, Ms R. Kennedy, Brockton Mill, Brockton, Lydbury North.
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley proposed no objection provided a more suitable tree be planted nearby.
Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
Cllr. Gaffney returned.

Cllr. Pinches left the room.

d) 1/05/16735/F Planning permission (Full). Erection of an open sided store.
Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. S. J. Owen.
A letter of objection was read to Council from Mrs Pinches, whose garden is adjacent.
Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris. Cllr. Wright proposed an amendment that there be no objection if the shed was moved one metre from the boundary wall. (At present it is overhanging an interesting old wall.) Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. The amendment was approved (5 votes in favour, 3 against). This was put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved with 3 votes against.
Cllr. Pinches returned.

Cllr. Dr. Penney left the room.

e) 1/05/16737/RM Approval of reserved matter. Erection of 12 dwellings and garage/carport (3.05-3.15 & 3.19; 3.18).
The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd. 5-7 Castle Street.
Cllr. Blundell proposed an objection on the following grounds.
(i) It is classed as environmentally green but it is not because the car ports are adjacent to the houses.
(ii) It will involve increased traffic at the top end of town and the relief road is still not open.
(iii) The plans were very difficult to understand as north was not marked on them or the boundary roads.
Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved with Cllr. Wright voting against.
Cllr. Dr. Penney returned.

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/04/16511/F Change of use domestic garage to auto parts and spares, retail.
Chapel View, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. G.Price.
Withdrawal of application.

(ii) 1/04/16505/LB Alterations to chimney breast.
Six Bells, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr N.Richards.
Listed Building Consent granted.

(iii) 1/05/16638/F Erection of a domestic garage (revised scheme).
Hall Villa, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. R.M.a. & W.H.Say.
Planning permission granted.

7. PUBLIC PATH ORDER

Diversion and extinguishment of FP 17, Bishop's Castle.
Public Path Order - Public Path diversion Order of FP 17, Bishop's Castle
Shropshire County Council, Community College.
The Mayor explained that this is the two parallel footpaths going through the Community College grounds. One is to be extinguished and the other is to be diverted slightly to allow for the SpArC project. Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

8. SPOTLIGHT

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a donation of £150 be given to Spotlight as it is a very worthwhile cause. Also a letter of support. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. PARKING NOTICES

a) Residents complaints,
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley explained that she had received several complaints from local shop keepers who had received tickets while loading and unloading. It was confirmed that the only place that should receive tickets at the top of Town was outside Autolyus which is a very dangerous corner. Some Councillors felt consideration should be given to local shop owners whereas others felt all cars should be treated equally. Cllr. Gaffney reminded Council that the reason for introducing the scheme was to handle the parking problem as a Town Council issue rather than the District Council controlling matters.
Some Councillors felt the tickets could deter people from shopping in Bishop's Castle. Cllr. Carroll reminded Councillors that this had been a request from the Town Meeting.
b) Are extra areas required.
Cllr. Wright proposed that the matter be left until after the Town Meeting when the opinions of residents could be heard. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Bill Jones at South Shropshire District Council to put pressure on the District Council to tarmac and clearly sign the car park behind the Star newsagents. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. BISHOP'S CASTLE HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE.

a) Request for affiliation fee of £25
Cllr. Gaffney proposed an affiliation fee of £25 be paid to BCHRC, especially as one of the basis of the grant application for money for Town Hall repairs was collaboration with the museums and BCHRC. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.
b) Do the Council wish to store archives at the Centre.- (Free up to £200)
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that advice be sought from the archivist, Mary Mackenzie and retired archivist Marion Roberts as to whether Town Hall papers should be stored at BCHRC. Seconded by Cllr Blundell and approved. Cllr. Blundell requested the Clerk find out how much £200 will pay for.

11. ANNUAL MEETINGS

a) Suggested dates:-
Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday 19th April
Private Meeting of Members of the Council - Tuesday 3rd May (Before Council Meeting)
Annual Council meeting - Tuesday 10th May
Mayor's Sunday - Sunday 5th June.
Cllr. Blundell proposed all dates are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) Format of Annual Town Meeting.

Cllr. Blundell proposed the same format as last year. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

12. VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

An election has not been requested, therefore notices have been put up for co-option. Closing date March 12th.
Cllr. Magill proposed that interviews be held on Wednesday 30th or Thursday 31st March (whenever candidates are available) by all Councillors who are available and wish to attend. Seconded by Councillor Wright and approved with Cllr. Blundell voting against. Full approval of proposed new Councillor will be taken at the next full Council meeting on 5th April.

13. WASTELESS SOCIETY

Request for in kind donation in the form of free hire of Town Hall for the Wasteless society.
Cllr. Blundell proposed free use of Town Hall be given. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

14. ROAD CLOSURE - WELSH STREET TO BISHOP'S MOAT

Application for road closure for eight weeks from 29th March.
Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

15. PLANTERS - (UP THE POLE)

A request from the Tourism Group for a donation of £250 towards the cost of planting up the "Up the pole planters" Cllr. Magill proposed this donation be given. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

16. BISHOP'S CASTLE HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTRE - SIGN ON TOWN HALL

A request from BCHRC for permission to place a sign on the Town Hall. The Clerk advised that Listed building consent would be required and maybe conservation consent. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that more information be requested. Maybe a diagram. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

17. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Suggested areas of work that the Town Council could take over from the County Council were read. (see below). Cllr. Wright proposed that all these areas be put to the County Council. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. The Mayor suggested that if Council could think of any other areas that contact the Clerk.

a) Cutting of verge Bishop's Castle to Crowgate, (Both sides)
b) Cutting the verges in Love Lane between the two entrances to Bishop's Castle.
c) Cutting verges from the kennels up to the Town.
d) Cutting verges at Banks Head.
e) Cutting the triangle of grass at the junction of Castle St and Welsh St.
f) Cleaning of road signs annually.
g) Cleaning drains after storms.
h) Removing branches from in front of signs.
i) Cutting grass in gully in Welsh Street.

18. a) USE OF OLD MARKET PLACE

Request from Bishop's Castle Parish Church for use of Old Market Place on 20th and 25th March.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) USE OF PLAYING FIELDS

Request for free use of the Playing Fields by the Michaelmas fair on 24th and 25th September.
Cllr. Morris proposed no objection proving they have their own insurance and that it does not involve camping. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

19. STREET CLOSURE

Request for street closure by the Parish Church on Sunday 20th March for Palm Sunday and 19th June for Midsummer Rejoicing.
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

20. CARDBOARD COLLECTION

Cllr. Hird reported that South Shropshire District Council had agreed to a cardboard and plastics collection in Bishop's Castle for 2005/6.

21. TOWN CRIER

Request by the Town Crier for a refund of the subscription to the Loyal Company of Town Criers. - £25
Cllr. Magill proposed £25 be refunded. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

22. WINTLES DEVELOPMENT

a) Suggestion to write a letter to Mr Caird objecting to the price of affordable housing at the Wintles Development.
Cllr. Wright proposed the letter be written with a copy to Heather Kidd. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.
b) Suggestion to write a letter to Matthew Green M.P. expressing concern about the continued failure to open the Wintles Road and installation of the roundabout.
Cllr. Gaffney proposed letters be sent to Matthew Green M.P., County Councillor Peter Phillips and the Daily Telegraph expressing serious concerns about the impact on the local community and infrastructure, the lack of affordable housing and the greenness of the Wintles development. It was also proposed a letter be sent to Central Networks asking for detailed information concerning their plans to move the telegraph pole. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved with Cllr. Dr. Penney abstaining.

23. RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

Acceptance of Risk Assessment policy -
To be deferred to the next meeting.

24. GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS

Heath Farm Garden Services £2100
E.L.D. - £994
Sodexho £1040
JDM Accord - £241.24 per cut. (Approx £2894 per annum)
Cllr. Morris proposed that Sodexho be offered the grass cutting contract for 2005. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

25. HANDRAIL IN TOWN HALL

A short discussion about the type of handrail required in the Town Hall. The Clerk to seek more quotes. No decision reached.

26. ACCOUNTS

In addition to the Accounts listed on the Agenda the following invoices have been received.
It was proposed by Cllr Dr. Penney that the Accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Magill and approved.
Enterprise South West Shropshire £13.08
Viking Direct - £88.48
A. Wallace - £22
Links electrical - £171
SCC (Newsletter) - £68
Tourism Group - £100.

27. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be extended by ten minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

28. Correspondence.

(i) Letter from Mrs Allwood objecting to the skate park.
(ii) Letter from Bishop's Castle Carnival asking for use of the playing fields and comments on skate park.
(iii) Mrs Green - Baising the question of parking in Station Street. The bus could not get through on two consecutive days.
(iv) Mandy Price in support of the skate park.

The letters concerning the skate park were discussed. Cllr. Carroll explained that the area had now been pegged out and had been turned round so that it is further from Mrs Allwoods house. Banks will be built on the side of Kerry Lane and by the Allwoods house. Cllr. Davidson - Stanley proposed that sound proofing boarding be looked into. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. It was agreed that this site had been chosen as the only possible site.
A letter of explanation will be sent to Mrs Allwood.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the carnival be allowed to use the playing fields free of charge on the 2nd and 3rd of July. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

With reference to Mrs Greens letter Cllr Carroll reported that Ian Rutherford, District Surveyor had said that when the road surface in Station street is redone the traffic scheme requested involving new road markings will be implemented.

b) For circulation

(i) South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council - Agenda and Minutes.
(ii) Local Council review
(iii) Town and Parish Standards 03
(iv) Defra Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment bill.
(v) Standards committee - Agenda of meeting 8th February, Minutes of meeting on 7th December.
(vi) Craven Arms Parish Plan
(vii) ODPM Vibrant local leadership
(viii)ODPM Citizen Engagement and public services: Why Neighbourhoods matter
(ix)Doorstep Greens
(x) West Midlands @ 2021 - A guide to the regions spatial strategy
(xi) West Midlands Regional Assembly - Speaking Out
(xii) Shropshire Ambulance Service - Serving our Community
(xiii) Minutes of Bishop's Castle Partnership Group meeting - Housing Association

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.09p.m.

Minutes Special Meeting 19 April 2005

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD BY BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2005 AT 7.30 PM

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

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, R.A. Evans, S.A. Farr, J. A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G. N. St J Penney and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Pinches.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Notice must be given prior to the commencement of the meeting. (Maximum of three minutes per person).

Cllr. Wright proposed that Mr Marston be allowed to speak at item 3b. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

4. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT

a) 1/05/16874/F Erection of an extension to a dwelling and alterations to a conversion of adjoining barn/garage to provide additional living accommodation. Tudor Cottage, 36 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs R. S. Kennedy.

Cllr. Dr. Penney advised that the Civic Society were objecting to this application on the grounds that there would not be any where to park a car on the property.

Cllr. Magill asked if the garage was used to park a car. Cllr. Dr. Penney replied "no, but it could be in the future".

Cllr. Davidson - Stanley proposed no objection but believed there should be off street parking provided on the property. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

b) 1/05/16911/F Planning permission (Full) & 1/05/16912/CA Conservation Area Consent. Erection of a building and demolition of a building. (delegated matter) . 3A Bull Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J Charters.

A letters of objection was read from David and Jay Wilkinson. .

Two letters of objection have been received from Mr Marston. He summarised the letters by saying his main objections were:-

1. The extension to the rear would double the width of the property and be just 1.2m from two of his windows.

2. He had been told the extension was for a two up two down property and that he would be shown the plans before submission. This was not the case.

3. The front of the present house added to the quiriness of Bull St. He felt the new design would destroy the overall appearance of Bull St.

Cllr. Wright proposed an objection on the following grounds:-

1. The front elevation would have an adverse effect on the appearance of Bull St. (Cllr. Wright explained that although the individual houses were not particularly appealing the overall effect was very attractive)

2. The increase in height and the size of the extension to the rear would have a detrimental effect on adjacent properties with loss of light.

Cllr. Wright said that he would like the Conservation Officer to thoroughly investigate the house and site before a decision is made.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Davidson - Stanley and approved. Cllr. Dr. Penney abstained.

c) 1/05/16909/TC Tree works (conservation area). Felling of 5 no. Fir trees. (delegated matter)

New burial ground at Bishop's Castle Churchyard. C. Pritchard.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Minutes Annual Town Meeting 19 April 2005

MINUTES OF THE THIRY-SECOND AANUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19TH APRIL 2004 AT 8.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Present: Councillor J. M. Carroll, Mayor in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson Stanley, R. A. Evans, S.A.Farr, N. Hird, J.A.Magill, Dr. G.N. St John Penney and R. D. Wright

County Councillor P. Phillips and 16 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Pinches and District Cllr. Heather Kidd.

1. Matters arising from the thirty - first Annual Town Meeting.

The minutes of the thirty-first Annual Town Meeting were approved as a true record by full Council on Tuesday 27th April 2004.

Report on last meeting

(i). The Council were asked to help find a permanent Skate Board facility.

An area has now been earmarked in the playing fields and tenders have been sought for the tarmac base. There have been three presentations of skateboard equipment.

(ii) The Council were asked to help to provide a climbing wall.

A letter was written to David Hinves at South Shropshire District Council suggesting a climbing wall being part of SpArC. The recommendation was not to proceed for the following reasons:-

a) A separate room would be the recommendation which would cost £60,000.

b) It would be too difficult for Bishop's Castle with no previous reputation in the activity.

c) A potential mine field of litigation.

d) The District would prefer to support existing clubs rather than focus on a new opportunity.

(iii) A request for more dog waste bins, and more "Clean up" notices.

More Clean up notices were put in Station Street and notices have been put on ordinary rubbish bins to say dog waste can be put in them.

(iv). The Council were asked for information on the situation regarding the Town Hall toilets. The current situation is that the Auction Yard toilets will be closed until 19th July for refurbishment after which the District Council will cease to run the Town Hall toilets. The Town Council have agreed to take over the running of these toilets from this date.

(v). The Council were asked to put pressure on the Minister for Culture, Media and Sports to improve digital signals.

A long letter has been received from Tessa Jowell saying that she understands the Town's concerns and terrestrial analogue broadcasting signals will be maintained until everyone who can currently get main public service broadcasting channels in analogue form can receive them on digital signals.

(vi) The Council were asked to look into the road situation at Castle Green.

The Traffic lights have been removed and a white line scheme put in place. The Town Council are still putting pressure on various bodies to have the electricity pole removed and the complete road scheme finished

(vii) The Council were asked to have the emissions at the bark mill checked.

South Shropshire District Council has assured the Town Council that it is not a potentially significant source of pollution and therefore it is not identified as a matter of concern.

(viii) There was a request for the repair of the ramp in Welsh Street.

This has now been completed.

(ix) There was a request to have Oak Meadow landscaping finished. Seeding work has now been completed but there are problems between Day's the developers and the District Council before further work can be carried out. The Town Council are continually monitoring the situation.

(x) A request for bollards outside Black lion House.

The bollards are now in place.

Councillor Wright expressed concern that the Living Villages Trust had still not organised the taking down of the telegraph pole and consequent opening of the Wintles road.

2. Questions and comments from residents.

a) Mrs Gwen Green - School Lane

Mrs Green expressed her concern over the parking in Station Street. The bus was unable to pass on more than one occasion because of parking on both sides of the road. She expressed concern that the proposed change of priority at the Boars Head would make things worse. The Mayor, Cllr Carroll advised that Roger Drummond, Shropshire County Council had drawn up a scheme for Station Street involving white lines and allowing parking on one side only. This should be implemented this summer. The Clerk will contact the County Council asking for the work to be completed as soon as possible.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Bill Hendley - Garden House, Union Street.

Mr Hendley was concerned about the piecemeal approach to parking in Bishop's Castle. He commented that cars parked on pavements, alongside the bollards and on double yellow lines. He felt a complete traffic management scheme was needed as the present system did not work for pedestrians and public transport. The Mayor Cllr. Carroll explained that the Town Council were operating a ticket system and putting notices on cars parked in certain places. It is working reasonably well as no car has received more than two notices. The problem was that it only covered a small area and some Councillors were not happy at putting notices on resident's cars. Bishop's Castle preferred an attitude of responsibility rather than enforcement. She explained that the County Surveyor had looked around and drawn up a highways and pavement scheme. This involved a change in priority at the Boars Head and a shared surface in Welsh Street and Market Square for cars and pedestrians. It was reported that at the last Council meeting Councillors had shown that they were not happy with the idea of a shared surface. Cllr. Dr. Penney suggested details of this report should be put in the next newsletter.

Pascoe Needle explained that in some areas of the country the pavements have been enlarged and the roads narrowed so that cars cannot park and this has worked very well for pedestrians but causes parking problems.

Ray Pahl commented that mothers with young children and pushchairs from Oak Meadow had great problems walking along Welsh Street safely.

c) Ray Pahl - Welsh Street.

Prof. Pahl commented that he felt there were difficulties with civic pride and civic spirit. He explained that there was an important meeting at the Church on the same evening as the Annual Town Meeting. Action should have been taken to avoid the clash of these meetings as it was undermining the Town Councils sense of responsibility. He felt that the centre of the Town's activities should be the Town Hall. He was also concerned about the way the Church Tower Appeal had been operated. He felt it should have been seen as a general Town Appeal and not a Church appeal. The surplus money should go to the Town and not to the Church.

Prof. Pahl suggested that the surplus money had gone to the

Re-Pitching the Tent Appeal. Cllr. Carroll responded that the Rev. Paul Collins was very civic minded and that the Church Newsletter, the Link, was e-mailed weekly to the Clerk. She said she had been given definite assurances that no money raised for the Church Tower Appeal would go into the Re-Pitching the Tent Appeal.

She continued that she was not in favour of the Church and Town Council sharing a newsletter as the Town Council should not be associated with one particular religion but the Town Council did support the work on the tower.

d) Kaye Chambers - Welsh Street

Kaye Chambers expressed concern over the amount of dogs mess on the pavements on the Oak Meadow approach to the school. Cllr. Carroll explained that if the dog owner can be identified the District Council will take action. It was agreed that the Clerk would put notices on the fence and that it might be possible to have a bin installed. ACTION TOWN CLERK

e) Pat Morrison - New Street

Mrs Morrison expressed concern over the amount of water pouring down Station Street. Mrs Gaynor Pinches of High Street informed the meeting that it was a natural spring which comes out of the rock below the old school. The Clerk will bring the problem to the attention of Ian Rutherford at the County Council Highways Department. ACTION TOWN CLERK

f) Pascoe Needle - Church Street.

Mr Needle expressed concern about the young car drivers who meet Auction Yard. They make a lot of noise with radios and engine noise and then race round the town at great speed. He believes there is a competition to see how fast they can go. He believes there should be restrictions on the meeting place with maybe a lockable gate. Cllr. Dr. Penney commented that these incidents must be notified to the police as at the Community Safety Committee Meeting the Police said that no incidents had been reported since October. Before they can take action there has to be a print out of several complaints. Cllr. Carroll emphasised the importance of ringing the Police to report any incidents and if possible to take registration numbers. The Council agreed to make representations to the Police. ACTION TOWN CLERK

g) Mrs Gwen Green - School Lane

Mrs Green requested a street sign for School Green. Cllr. Carroll replied that signs had been ordered for several streets. The Clerk will chase them up. ACTION TOWN CLERK

h) Laurie Stanley - Market Square

Mr Stanley suggested a Town Plan should be drawn up so that any future developments could be looked at as an entirety, rather than piecemeal. This would include new roads, new development, lighting, drains etc.

Cllr. Carroll informed the meeting that a Parish Plan had been drawn up in draft form and was about to be published in its completed form. This could be used as a starting point.

i) Bill Hendley - Garden House, Union Street.

Mr Hendley suggested a Town Plan should look to see where would be the best place for civic life to happen. He suggested a design statement could be drawn up.

j) County Cllr. Peter Phillips

Cllr. Phillips reported that he had copies of his annual report if people would like one. He said he had enjoyed the close relationship with the Town over the last four years.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Minutes 3 May 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 3rd MAY 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, R. A. Evans, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird,
J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Apologies were received from Cllr. M. Davidson - Stanley, Cllr. W. J. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 6a as Norman and Rosie Reid are B & B colleagues.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 6c as his wife works with Mr Ashwell.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as Mr Ashwell is a good friend.
Cllr Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 as she rents land along Laburnum Alley.
Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 as he is the street lighting contractor for the Town Council.

Cllr. Wright proposed that, in view of the number of residents in attendance, item 7 be brought forward and discussed next. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

7. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OFF GRANGE ROAD.

The proposed new build scheme involves the building of
7 homes for affordable rent.
6 homes for shared ownership tenures.
7 homes for equity mortgage.

It would involve the demolition of an existing house and community centre.
The demolished house will be replaced and a site allocated that could potentially accommodate a community centre.
After much discussion Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to George Stoyan of South Shropshire Housing Association making the following points:-
a) When the idea of affordable housing was discussed by the Mayor and Deputy with Mr Biggs and Cllr. Heather Kidd it was envisaged various sites around the Town, each having 8 - 10 houses would best suit the needs of Bishop's Castle. Larger developments can have adverse affects on local residents, traffic, services and loss of amenity.
b) The Town Council sees no reason why a development in this area cannot be via Church Lane. Grange Road is a cul-de sac and residents believe they already suffer too much from traffic movements.

c) The proposed demolition of the community centre with no define plans to rebuild has caused great consternation among residents and concern to the Council. This Community Centre is heavily used by many groups. Some of the residents of the nearby bungalows rely on it for their laundry facilities. Even if a new community centre is rebuilt there would be a serious gap in provision.
d) The Town Council supports the policy of affordable housing but believes that the field nearer to Church Lane, which is also owned by Mr Dawson would be more suitable.

Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th April 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Farr.
b) Minutes of the special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2005. having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Carroll with the following corrections.
Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.
Apologies should have been shown from Cllr. Blundell.

c) Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 19th April 2005. having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill. Seconded by Cllr. Farr.

All three sets of minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 - (Item 22) Letters from Central Networks and Living Villages were read, each giving different reasons as to why the work at the Wintles / Castle Green junction had not been completed. Cllr. Blundell commented that the situation in this area is a safety issue and proposed that letters be sent to the Highways Department at Shropshire County Council and to the Health and Safety Executive explaining that this area was now unsafe as roundabout signs had been erected but the work had not been completed. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Item 12 - Cllr. Carroll reported that she had spoken to Alan Evans about F.P.22 and that he is willing to pay for the extinguishment of the definitive path and is willing for the Town Council to pay to have tarmac put on the walked path. He has passed on to his solicitor all the paperwork.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Norman Reid spoke on item 6a. The Old Brick House. He explained that as there had been objections to the removal of the yew hedge it was now felt that pieces on each end could be kept. A letter was shown from the Highways Department, Shropshire County Council stating that they had no objection in principle to the proposal.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/16922/F and 1/05/16923/LB. Planning permission (full) and Listed building consent for formation of vehicular access and associated works.

The Old Brick House, 7 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. N & R Reid.

A letter was read from Bill Wright, 12 Church Street, objecting to the proposed plans.

Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection, and he welcomed the addition of off street parking. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

b) 1/05/16932/TC Tree works (conservation area). Felling of a pear tree.

17 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney left the room.

c) 1/05/16841/F Planning permission (full) Erection of extension to dwelling to provide annexe and garage (existing garage to be demolished)

Fields Cottage, Fields Lane, Bishop's Castle. M.H. and M.Z. Ashwell

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney returned.

d) 1/05/16959/F Planning permission (full) Change of use domestic garage to auto parts and spares retail.

Chapel View, Station St., Bishop's Castle. G.Price

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

e) 1/05/16992/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of an extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Beech Cottage, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle. S & M Leawesky.

Cllr. Hird proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/16725/TC Felling of a conifer.

36 Union St, Bishop's Castle. Ms R. Kennedy

Consent granted

(ii) 1/05/16689/F Use of land as a coal yard, erection of a building & equipment for storage and bagging of coal.

Land at Bishop's Castle Business Park. Mr J. Sankey.

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/05/16796/TC Felling of a hazel & 4 no trees from rear garden & 1 small tree in front garden.

9 Copall Paddock, Bishop's Castle. Mr. A. Clarke.

Consent Granted.

8. ACCESS FOR USERS

Because of dog fouling problems in the area it was suggested at the Town Meeting that a litter bin should be put in the area of the primary school. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Head Teacher of the primary school be consulted and if she was in agreement a bin to be installed on the fence. The South Shropshire district Council would need to be consulted regarding the emptying. Cllr. Blundell seconded the proposition and said he had a bin available. The motion was approved.

a). Pavement either side of entrance to Auction Yard in Station St.

b). Pavement at the Kerry Lane end of Corporation Street.

c). Pavement into Corricks Rise.

d). Pavement either side of entrance to the Primary School.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that all the areas above should be put forward and that if Councillors thought of any more they should let the Clerk know within one week. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. CHURCH BELL RINGERS REQUEST FOR DONATION.

While the Church Tower is closed the bell ringers would like to use the training tower at Hopton. They are applying for grant aid but are asking the Town Council for a donation. Cllr. Blundell proposed a grant of £100 be given. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

10. LITTER BIN IN THE AREA OF THE SCHOOL.

Because of dog fouling problems in the area it was suggested at the Town Meeting that a litter bin should be put in the area of the primary school. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Head Teacher of the primary school be consulted and if she was in agreement a bin to be installed on the fence. The South Shropshire district Council would need to be consulted regarding the emptying. Cllr. Blundell seconded the proposition and said he had a bin available. The motion was approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AQND TOWN COUNCILS

Does the Council still wish to belong? A representative is needed to attend meetings. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the membership is not renewed. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Blundell left the room.

12. STREET LIGHTING - HARLEY JENKINS STREET, UNION STREET.

Tenders have been received for the above. Only two tenders had been received. Deferred to next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

Cllr. Blundell returned

13. SKATEBOARD PARK

Council were informed that the Skateboard association have obtained a grant from Awards for All

Tenders were to be discussed for the tarmac area but only one tender has been received. Deferred to next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

14. BOUVARD PAINTING.

The Mayor advised that although Council had agreed that the Mayor and Clerk should look for a second opinion on the reserve price it was usual to accept the Auction House reserve price. The acceptance of a reserve price was to be discussed but this has not yet been advised. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that if an urgent decision was required the Mayor could have the authority to take this after consultation with two other Councillors. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Defer to next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

15. CROWGATE CHILD CENTRE

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter of support for the Crowgate Child Centre's move to the Primary School site be sent to the local Education Authority. The letter should refer to the nursery conducted by the Child Centre, the keenness of the Primary school for the nursery to be adjacent and the inappropriateness of the recent adjacent to a coal yard. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Cllr. Hird suggested that the Pines could be used as temporary accommodation. Copy to be sent to Francene Stock, Chairman of the Governors of the Primary School ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr/ Carroll left the room and Cllr. Magill took the Chair.

16. LABURNUM ALLEY

The resurfacing of Laburnum Alley and the path along the bottom of Oak Meadow was discussed. Cllr. Wright commented that it should be tarmac rather than scalplings. Cllr Blundell proposed that the work be put out to tender. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Carroll returned. ACTION TOWN CLERK

17. TRAFALGAR DAY - FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER

There is a move to hold a national Trafalgar weekend to celebrate the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. It is suggested that Market Towns hold a Trafalgar Day dinner or lunch or party.

Cllr. Hird proposed that there should be some sort of celebration in a low key way. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. WHEELED BINS AND ALTERNATIVE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

A meeting is being held on Thursday 12th May 2005 at Bishop's Castle Community College in the Fletcher room at 7.00 pm to communicate the District Council's plans for the introduction of wheeled bins and alternate weekly collections later in the year. Six Councillors showed an interest in attending.

19. TOILETS

Information has not been received regarding the running of the toilets. (Follow on from last meeting.) NEXT AGENDA

20. AUCTION YARD.

Suggestion to put a litter bin in the Auction Yard. Cllr. Magill proposed that two large litter bins are put in the Auction Yard. Seconded by Cllr. Wright. Cllr. Blundell proposed a CCTV camera be installed in the Auction Yard in the vicinity of the street light. Seconded by Cllr. Evans.

The amendment was put to the Council and overruled. The proposition was then put to the Council and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK The suggestion to move Auction day to Friday was discussed. Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to Hall,s the Auctioneers to say that there is some dissatisfaction among farmers with Wednesday as the market day as it is early closing day in town. The Farmers are asking the Auctioneers if they could consider a return to the traditional Friday market day now that regulations have been relaxed and it is possible to hold Friday livestock sales. If Friday is not possible maybe another day of the week could be used. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. .

21. TOWN PLAN

At the Town Meeting it was suggested a Town Plan should be drawn up to look into the

co-ordination of future development. Could this follow on from the Parish Plan? Is it required? How could it be achieved? It was agreed that this should be put on a future agenda after the Parish Plan has been published.

22. ACCOUNTS Accounts. -

Approval of annual accounts 2004/5. Cllr. Hird proposed that the annual accounts having been distributed are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

It was proposed by Cllr Magill that the Accounts listed below are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

23. REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Mayor, Deputy and Clerk had attended a meeting of the five Market Towns in Craven Arms. Affordable housing and the take over of public toilets had been discussed.

24. CORRESPONDANCE.

a)(i) Shropshire County Council - FP17 (part) diversion and extinguishment order.

(ii) Shropshire County Council - Change of date of Emergency Planning Briefing. - Now 28th September.

(iii) South Shropshire District Council. Reply to our letter about litter by the fish and chip shop.

b) For circulation

(i) South Shropshire Access Group.

Minutes of meeting on 9th November 2004 and Agenda for meeting on 8th March 2005.

(ii) Bishop's Castle Marches Partnersh Group - Minutes of meeting on 7th March 2005.

(iii) Bright Futures - The Children's Society

(iv) Path Times - Shropshire County Council

(v) Clerks and Councils Direct

. The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Minutes 31 May 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 31st MAY 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R. Evans, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St J. Penney and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Farr, Cllr. Pinches, Absent Cllr. Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 15 as he is a member of the skateboard committee.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 16 as he works with Mr Hendley on the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Magill and Cllr. Blundell declared personal interests in item 21(vi) as they are friends of Mr Lennox.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Davidson - Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 6b as she is a personal friend of Mr & Mrs Grieg.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6b as he is a personal friend of Mr & Mrs Grieg.
Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 as she has an allotment in Laburnum Alley.
Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in items 11 and 21 (v) as he is the street lighting contractor.
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 10b as she lives adjacent to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.
Item 16 should read "The resurfacing of Laburnum Alley between Union Street and Oak Meadow but not the stretch to Welsh Street and the path along the bottom of Oak Meadow was discussed."
Item 20 should read "Cllr. Blundell proposed that two large bins are put in the Auction Yard and the price of CCTV investigated. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved" There was no amendment.

b) Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 (item 12) Letter from Mr. Evans Solicitor stating that Mr Evans is willing for the extinguishment of footpath 22 and for the walked path to be designated a public footpath. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that action be taken to implement this. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK
Item 17 - Trafalgar Day. Cllr. Hird confirmed that he had booked the Church Barn for 21st October. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Cllr. Hird organize the celebrations on behalf of the Town Council. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mr. Bill Hendley spoke about item 16, Laburnum Alley. He explained the possible problems of flooding in extreme storms and that the wild flowers in the area should be conserved. He agreed that the part by Oak Meadow gets rather muddy and suggested scalplings would improve this area. He said the residents of Laburnum Alley were willing to put down the scalplings.
Cllr. Carroll then gave Mrs Jill Thomas permission to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Mrs Thomas said she thought it was a very expensive way of urbanizing a footpath.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17049/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a stage with seating under. The Playing Fields, Kerry Lane. Bishop's Castle Town Council. A letter was read from the Shropshire County Council explaining that footpath 7 runs across where the shelter is to go. This has been passed on to the "Friends"
A letter was read from South Shropshire District Council planning department asking for more information as objections have been received. This has also been passed on to the "Friends".

Cllrs. Davidson-Stanley and Gaffney left the room.

b) 1/05/17064/LB Replace ground floor window on front elevation.
58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs J. Greig.
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.
Cllrs. Davidson-Stanley and Gaffney returned.

c) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/05/16737/RM Erection of 12 dwellings and garage/port (3.05 - 3.15 & 3.19; 3.18)
The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd. Planning approved.

(ii) 1/05/16909/TC Fe4lling of 5 no. Fir trees.
New Burial Ground at Bishop's Castle Churchyard. C. Pritchard.
Consent granted.

(iii) 1/05/16735/F Erection of an open-sided store.
Union Street Garage, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr S. J. Owen.
Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/05/16932/TC Felling of a pear tree.
17 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard
Consent granted.

(v) 1/05/16911/F and 1/05/16912/CA Demolition and Erection of a dwelling.
3A Bull Street, Mr. J. Charters.
Application withdrawn

7. BOUVARD PAINTING.

The Mayor, Deputy and Clerk visited the archives and found the following entry in the minutes on 3rd October 1944. "Major Sykes and the Hon. Mrs Sykes attended the meeting and presented to the Corporation an oil painting (The Grand Canal at Venice by Bouvard) for hanging in the Mayor's Parlour in memory of the safe return, though wounded, of their eldest son Major A. P. Sykes. The Mayor returned thanks and expressed the pleasure of the Council and Town at his safe return" It was also discovered that Major Sykes contributed to the purchase and laying out of the playing field in 1922 and the purchase of the Old Market Hall in 1934. He was given the Freedom of the Borough in 1935. There is a plaque in the Mayor's Parlour that goes with the painting.

The painting has been given a reserve price of £9, 000. The sale is on 15th June.

8. DRIVERS SPEEDING AROUND THE TOWN.

Concern has been expressed about young drivers collecting in the Auction yard and outside Tuffins and speeding around the Town. General discussion took place about possible solutions to the problem with Sergeant Rees advising. It was generally agreed that the cars may not be exceeding 30 m.p.h but this is too fast for the town. Sergeant Rees said that numbers need to be taken and reported to the Police. The problem is that at night people do not get to the window in time to see the registration. Sergeant Rees explained that Church Stretton is having the same problem. When the Police are in the area they do not do it. The Police have issued some tickets on the poor condition of the cars and this has helped. He explained that the Police do not have the resources or manpower to stop it but they will work with the public if they can provide names or numbers. A visit from the Police usually eases the problem as often the young people do not realise the problems they are causing. If they persist the Police could ultimately, as a last resort confiscate the vehicle. He explained it is better to create an environment that is not conducive to racing. For example speed humps as they damage the cars if raced over. As the drivers gather in the Auction Yard maybe this could be locked or a CCTV camera installed. The environmental health department could be contacted to measure the noise level.

Cllr. Blundell advised that in the past an unmarked car had come and stopped one person. This had a good effect on the others. Cllr. Wright said that Councillors should remember that these are members of the community. We should ask why they do it and could we encourage them to do other things.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley said we should consider speed bumps. Cllr. Magill reminded Councillors that it was often two young drivers from Clun and their names should be given to the Police. Cllr. Gaffney said he thought a speed bump should be put by the school but the High Street would not be suitable because of the gradient. Cllr. Carroll suggested a bump be put at the Boars Head when the new priority scheme comes into effect. Cllr. Blundell asked if it was possible for the Community to buy a radar gun and take it in turns to use. Sergeant Rees said this was possible Cllr. Wright suggested that a reduced speed limit should be introduced. Cllr. Penney said changes in speed limits and speed bumps would take a long time to put in place. Cllr. Gaffney proposed an article be put in the newsletter asking residents to keep their eyes open and make statements to the Police. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Cllr. Dr. Penney said numbers could be passed to the Council if Residents did not wish to approach the Police. It was agreed a decision on a speed limit and speed bumps should be made at the next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

9. PARKING ON THE PAVEMENTS.

Concern has been expressed regarding the number of people who park on the pavements in Bishop's Castle. This is in areas like Oak Meadow, Corporation Street and Station Street where there is room for traffic to pass if cars park on the road.
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley suggested that there be an article in the newsletter, a press statement and flyers could be considered. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a request be made to the Shropshire County Council for hatching marks on the pavement outside Tuffins. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved. Cllr. Wright proposed that an article be put in the newsletter requesting that drivers consider whether pedestrians have the ability to pass without obstruction. Also that a letter be sent to the South Shropshire Housing Association requesting them to write to residents in Oak Meadow explaining that cars should not be parked on the pavement. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. NEW LICENSING LAWS

a) Concern has been expressed as to how the Town Council can give opinions on applications for extended hours, eg. Kings Head. The Clerk advised that under the new laws the Town Council are not notified about licensing applications. They are published in the press and outside the premises in question. If the Town Council see these requests they can send in an objection. Cllr. Dr. Penney agreed as District Councillor to find more information on how the Town Council can find out about applications for the next meeting. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to the District Council asking that the Kings Head should only be able to stay open until 12 midnight. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley left the room.

b) How the licensing laws affect the Town Hall.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Town Council apply for an entertainments licence for the Town Hall. It is free for public buildings. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. It was noted that an alcoholic license could be applied for by the Clerk when necessary (up to 8 times a year). The cost could be met by the person booking the venue.
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley returned.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that item 16 Laburnum Alley be brought forward and discussed next. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr Magill took the Chair.

16. LABURNUM ALLEY

Letters have been received from Mr & Mrs Hendley, Jill Thomas, the Civic Society and a verbal objection from Susie Diggle objecting to the laying of tarmac in Laburnum Alley. A letter was read which has been drafted in reply. There was much discussion with the following points being made.

(i) Tarmac would threaten wild flowers.
(ii) Tarmac caused more water run off.
(iii) A hard surface route is needed from Oak Meadow to the Town to avoid the use of cars.
(iv) The biggest obstacle for walking the path at present is the drain and kissing gate at the Oak Meadow end.
(v) Good access to the Town is important.

Cllr. Blundell proposed that as builders are working on the playing fields at present, they put a small amount of scalplings on the main path and with the assistance of residents they are rolled in. Tenders to be sought to lay a drain and tarmac the area from the kissing gate to Abbey Fields. The Kissing gate to be removed. The situation to be reviewed in six months. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
Cllr. Carroll returned and took the Chair.

Cllr. Blundell left the room.

11. STREET LIGHTING - HARLEY JENKINS STREET, UNION STREET.

Tenders have been received for the above.
Central networks - £ 9,200.00 (No cost for design)
V & W Electrics Ltd - £15, 886.97
Pirelli - £8650.11
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Central Networks bid be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.
Cllr. Blundell returned.

12. PROPOSED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OFF GRANGE ROAD

Feedback from the meeting with Paul Sutton and George Stoyan, South Shropshire Housing Association, Council Members and residents held on 26th May 2005. The Housing Association are to hold an open day on Thursday 9th June between 3.30 pm and 6.00 pm at the Community Centre.
Cllr. Gaffney said that the residents primary concern was the replacement of the community room. They were not convinced about the hub.
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley said that residents were concerned about the cost of affordable houses. It was suggest that the Clerk ask Cllr. Kidd to advise on the expected prices of these houses. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. WHEELED BINS

Feedback on the meeting with South Shropshire District Council on 12th May 2005, with regard to the introduction of wheelie bins to the Town. The Mayor reported that two wheelie bins would be available at Enterprise House for residents to look at and wheel.

14. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Suggestion by Cllr. Dr. Penney to change the dates of Council meetings so that they are prior to the planning meetings. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the next Council meeting be Tuesday 21st June and then every four weeks until the January meeting which will be on 10th January 2006 (five weeks), then three weeks to the next meeting on Tuesday 2nd February 2006, then every four weeks. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

15. SKATEBOPARD PARK

To discuss tenders for tarmac area.
K. J. Watkins - £14, 056
Rampmetal - £16, 717.87
S.D.Williams - £10,400
Walsh - £15,342.64
David Leopold - £12, 940
Cllr Blundell advised that S. D. Williams was cheaper because he already has plant on the playing fields.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the bid from S. D. Williams be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

17. TOILETS

Information on the employment terms for Andrew Broom, the toilet cleaner is now available but no information has been received from the District Council. To be discussed at next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

18. THREE TUNS INN AND BREWERY - DRAINAGE

Letters have been received from Mrs Pat Morrison and the John Roberts Brewing Co. regarding the drainage from the Three Tuns. Cllr. Carroll proposed a meeting be arranged with the Threes Tuns representatives, Cllr. Phillips, Shropshire County Council and Town Council representatives. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be extended for five minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

19. ACCOUNTS. -

A copy of the Planning Field Accounts 2004/5 is available.

20. REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

21. CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) South Shropshire District Council, Planning and Building Control. Reply to letter regarding affordable housing at the Wintles.
(ii) English Heritage - Refusal of grant for Town Hall roof.
(iii) BT Payphones. Confirmation that the Kerry Lane phone box is to stay for the present.
(iv) BBC - Regarding radio reception.
(v) Peter Phillips with regard to lighting on the Oak Meadow, Corporation Street Footpath.
(vi) Alan Rice re: proposed affordable housing and other problems in Woodbatch Road. Cllr. Wright proposed the District Council be asked to look into the planning matters regarding Mr Lennox. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.
(vii) John Rainey - Copy of letter to the District Council with regards to dog problems.
(viii) Reply from Shropshire County Council with regard to Town Centre Enhancement and support letter from Peter Phillips.
(ix) Letter from Rev. Paul Collins with regard to the surplus money from the Church Tower Fund. He states " I wish to refute most strongly Prof Pahl's suggestion that funds raised in the Save the Church Tower Appeal are or might be used for other purposes, and specifically for our re-ordering and development work on the interior of the building known as Re-Pitching the Tent."
(x) South Shropshire District Council - Allocation of gypsy sites.
(xi) SSDC Road Closures, High Street, Market Square, Welsh Street.
(xii) Tess - Open days to promote 49 Link Service.
(xiii) Shropshire Waste Partnership - Standing Conference 12th July 2005.

(b) Circulation

(i) Information from The Arts Council.

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

Minutes 30 August 2005

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD BY BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 30th AUGUST 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, R.A. Evans, S. A. Farr, N. Hird, J.A. Magill,
Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Blundell, Cllr. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 3e as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 4 as she has a known interest in allotments.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 3e as it is a neighbouring property.

3. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17282/F Planning permission (full). Erection of a building for retail warehouse, workshop & offices with toilets, car parking and delivery provisions. (existing buildings to be demolished)

Charles Ransford & Son Ltd, Station Street, Bishop's Castle.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

b) 1/05/17353/F Planning permission (full). Erection of an extension to residential care home accommodation.

The Grange Residential Care Home, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. G.Tilling

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

c) 1/05/17352/CM County Council Matter. Erection of 2 no control kiosks, 1 no chemical dosing kiosk and 1 no emergency shower unit.

Bishop's Castle Sewage Treatment works, Bishop's Castle.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

d) 1/05/17383/TC Tree works (conservation area) Reducing height of four leylandii to 3.6m (12ft) and reshape crown of cherry.

19 & 21 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. C. Pritchard, 36 Kerry Green.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Cllr. Pinches left the room

e) 1/05/17390/F Planning permission (full). Siting of a biodiesel tank, Union Street Garage, Bishop's Castle. Wasteless Society. 51 Welsh Street.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Pinches returned.

f) 1/05/17396/F and 1/05/17397/CA Planning permission (full) and Conservation area consent. Erection of an extension to a dwelling and external alterations.

3A Bull St, Bishop's Castle. Mr J Charters. Application to be discussed at the next meeting after Councillors have looked at the property. There is to be a site visit at 7.15 pm before the next meeting.

g) 1/05/17406/F Planning permission (full). Use of land for the temporary siting of a caravan.

Former RWA Depot, Woodbatch Rd., Bishop's Castle. G.T.Thomas

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

h) 1/05/17407/TC Tree works (conservation area). Felling of 1 x laburnum and 1 x fir.

2 Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr. C. Pritchard., 38 Kerry Green.

Cllr. Pinches proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

4. LAND AT CROWGATE BUSINESS PARK

Cllr. Carroll explained that discussions had been ongoing with the County Council and the District Council regarding an acre of land next to the Bike Track on the Crowgate Business Park. The land is owned jointly by the County Council and District Council but not Advantage West Midlands. The suggestion is that the Town Council lease the land for a peppercorn rent for community use. Allotments could be considered. The Town Council could receive a rent for its use. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley asked if there is water on site. Cllr. Carroll replied that it would have to be piped from near to the vets. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Council back the scheme to acquire land for community use. The most suitable use should be discussed at the Town Council meeting after the decision of the Executive Committee of the District Council is known. Before this meeting the public should be made aware of the situation and suggestions for use sought. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Minutes 21 June 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 21st June 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: R. A. Evans, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Blundell,
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

The Mayor explained that Councillors did not have a prejudicial interest in the playing fields due to the ownership by the Town Council as suggested at the last meeting because Councillors do not gain by the improvements any more than any other resident.

a) Declaration of personal interest:

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 as he is a friend of Prof. Ray Pahl.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Magill. The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 - The Bouvard painting was sold for £9, 000. The way the money is to be spent will be put on the next Agenda when the exact income from the sale is known.

Item 10 - The Clerk explained that under the new licensing laws good reasons have to be given if an objection is made to a license being issued. These come under the headings of a) The prevention of harm to children, b) to prevent a public nuisance, c) To prevent crime and disorder d) Public safety. Cllr. Wright proposed that an objection be made under the category to prevent a public nuisance. This is because there would be late night noise in a residential area and the premises have been a source of trouble in the past. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved. The Clerk explained that Council would not be advised of forthcoming applications. They are posted outside the building and in the press. Cllr. Wright advised that they were to be found in the Shropshire Star.

The Clerk advised that she now has an application form for a public entertainments license. An electrical safety certificate is required. The Clerk will consult with Cllr. Blundell for advice.

Item 13 - The Clerk advised that the bins are now at Enterprise House.

Item 18 - The Clerk advised that a meeting has been arranged for 30th June with Ian Rutherford, (SCC) Gareth Parson of the Environment Agency, County Councillor Peter |Phillips, The Three Tuns Brewery and the Three Tuns pub to discuss the drainage problems.

Item 21(vi) - The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the District Council planning department saying that they were inspecting the property to see if any action need or can be taken.

Matters from the previous meeting.

a) Litter bins - A letter has been received from Mrs Bayliss, Headteacher of the primary school agreeing to a bin being put on the school fence. A letter has been received from the District Council agreeing to a bin in the Auction yard and a letter has been received from the District Council saying they will empty the bins.

b) Crowgate childcare - A letter has been received from the Early Years and Childcare Manager at Shropshire County Council giving support to the move to the primary school. Unfortunately they cannot help with funding.

c) Halls Market Days - A letter was read from Halls regarding the change of market day. They have considered the Council's suggestions and decided that the current arrangements are still preferable. .

e) Pole at the junction of Castle Green/ Wintles development. The Clerk explained that she had been instructed to write to the Health and Safety Executive but this is purely a general advisory body and does not deal with individual cases. Cllr. Morris spoke of the danger to motorcyclists at this junction. Cllr. Morris proposed that letters be sent to Roger Whitehouse of the Shropshire County Council and to the Health and Safety Enforcement Officer at the South Shropshire District Council explaining the dangerous situation at this junction due to the fact the run off area has been built before the pole has been removed or the roundabout built.

Also that the pavements, which were considered so important for safety, have not been completed. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17147/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a Nitrate Removal Building, a High Lift pump building and a Transformer, construction of estate roads. (delegated matter)

Oakley Farm Pumping Station, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. Severn Trent Water.
Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) Notice of Planning Meetings.

There are planning meetings on Wednesday 22/6/05 at 2.00 pm at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

(i) 1/05/16874/F Tudor Cottage, 36 Union Street.

(ii) 1/05/17049/F Playing fields, Bishop's Castle.

(iii) 1/05/16992/F Beech Cottage, Bankshead.

(iv) 1/05/16923/LB The Old Brick House, Bishop's Castle.

7. NAIADS WELL

Request to use Old Market Place on Sunday 7th August for Lammas celebrations.

Cllr. Magill proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

8. X-RAY MACHINE AT BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter of support be sent to the Shropshire County Primary Care Trust asking that an x-ray machine be provided if practicable. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. CIVIC CEREMONY (MAYORS SUNDAY)

The Mayor explained that only five Councillors had been in attendance. There were now very few uniform groups in the Town, therefore there were very few people in the parade. The Mayor suggested an informal meeting be arranged to discuss the best date and format for the future. She would especially like Councillors to attend who do not normally take part in the parade. She felt it would be useful to invite the Rev. Collins as the ceremony involves the church and he has been involved with other civic ceremonies and might have an opinion. Cllr. Wright proposed a formal meeting be called to discuss the next Mayors Sunday. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. PARKING

The Clerk reported that she had compiled an updated data base of the parking tickets and sent it to the Police asking if action could be taken on those drivers with more than two tickets. This involved nine motorists.

A general discussion took place on Councillor participation. Councillors had not been participating because they had very little time to commit. The Mayor explained that if there was a traffic warden they would only work a few hours a week and that if Councillors could place tickets on badly parked cars when they were walking in the Town this would be helpful.

A letter was read from Karen Bavastock regarding the parking opposite their garage by Stone House and a letter was read from Mrs. Jarvis about the problems in Salop Street. Additional parking problems were discussed and Cllr. Magill proposed that the junction of New Street and Church Street be added to the list of places where tickets are placed. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Carroll proposed a white line be requested between the two Stone House entrances. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Morris proposed that a sign for the car park behind the Star shop be requested. Also a white line at the entrance to stop cars parking and hatching on the pavement to warn pedestrians. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. GRASSED AREA IN OAK MEADOW.

The Mayor reported on a meeting she had with Prof. Ray Pahl, Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, John Bryan, Property Services Manager (SSDC) Councillor Heather Kidd.

Cllr. Carroll reported that the District Council has agreed to pay to move the brook to the edge of the land and either culvert it or fence it. The area where it is now will be filled and leveled. The SSDC will tarmac the footpath to the south of the land, which runs from the road to Laburnum Alley and the footpath that runs across the land will be diverted onto the road. The land will then be handed to the Town Council to maintain, receiving an annual sum for grass cutting etc. Prof. Pahl will be allowed a path on the north side to give him access but there will be a charge for this. When this work is completed it is proposed to hold a meeting with residents and the Housing Association to see what they would like to do with piece of land. Cllr. Carroll explained that it was thought that Day's would do this work but the legal agreement was so poor that the District Council could not enforce Days to do the work.

Cllr. Magill proposed that these recommendations be ratified. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

12. TOWN HALL TOILETS.

The Clerk explained that a meeting has been arranged with John Bryan, Property Services Manager (SSDC) on 27th June to discuss the general running and maintenance of the toilets. At present Biffa have a contract with SSDC to cover the employment of the cleaner and the maintenance. The cleaner is at present employed 11 hours per week to clean and open the Auction Yard and the Town Hall toilets. Cllr. Carroll said she would like Councillors to agree to continue to employ Andrew Broom when the Town Council takes over the running of the toilets at the same rates of pay as the street cleaner. To be discussed at the next meeting. The District Council are now willing to continue running the toilets until the beginning of September.

13. SPEEDING IN THE TOWN

A letter was read from Cllr. Phillips requesting that speed bumps be considered for Bull Street.

There was considerable discussion with some Councillors in favour of speed limits and others against. It was generally felt that speed bumps were expensive and would not solve the problem Cllr. Magill proposed that the Clerk contact the Highways Department to find out the procedure and costs for installing speed limits. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

15. YOUTH SHELTER

A picture of a youth shelter similar to that purchased by the South Shropshire District Council. was passed round. Cllr. Carroll explained that she had spoken to Irene Stelfox of the Youth Service who suggested Oak Meadow. She felt the younger children and young Mums and toddlers might like to use it. Cllr. Morris proposed that it is sited on Oak Meadow as soon as the work involving the brook agreed by Graham Biggs is completed. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

17.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr. Carroll reported that she had attended a meeting of the Board of Enterprise South West Shropshire. There has been a health check on the Company which is to be circulated. A three year business plan has been drawn up. The company made a slight loss last year but its income has increased this year although it is working hand to mouth. The centre is very dependent on one private tenant and the County Council who award a substantial grant and pay for the library to use the premises.

18. Correspondence.

a)(i) Shropshire County Council - Access for users - dropped curbs to be installed within three months.

(ii) Civic Society - Concern over drink cans left in the street. Cllr. Hird agreed aluminium cans are quite valuable. It was suggested that a container for aluminium cans could be placed outside Whittles. Cllr. Hird will raise the issue with the Wasteless Society.

(iii) Letter from Gavin Watson 19 Castle Street and copies of letters from Mr Watson to Ian Rutherford, SCC, regarding his boundary with the road.

b) For circulation

(i) Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

(ii) Shropshire Hills AONB - News and Views

(iii) Salopian Recorder

(iv) Testing Times

(v) E.S.W.S. Income and expenditure Account.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Minutes 16 August 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, R. A. Evans, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, and Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Davidson - Stanley, Cllr Farr, Cllr. Pinches, Cllr. Wright.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: None

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 as he holds the lighting contract for the Town Council.
Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 as she rents an allotment in Laburnum Alley.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that due to the number of the public present Item 5 be moved to after item 6 when Cllr. Phillips would like to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th July 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell with the following correction. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Item 11, second sentence should read "Cllr. Blundell proposed that no decision be made until after Cllr. Blundell had brought a demonstration model to show Councillors."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10 - Road Closure outside the Town Hall. The Clerk reported that the power cut had nothing to do with the work. It was a local fault. A letter of apology was read from Enterprise regarding the other points.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17315/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of 20 dwellings and formation of access road and associated works. (No 21 Grange Road to be demolished) Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association.

Cllr. Dr Penney made the point that although no one wished to oppose low cost housing, the community room should not be demolished. Elderly residents needed the community room for its laundry facilities. He suggested demolishing no 17 and 19 to make way for access or an access passed the fire station in Church Lane.

Cllr. Blundell commented that the drains in Grange Road were in a poor state and would not cope with the extra traffic. There is also a parking issue.

Cllr. Hird commented that it was not a good idea to knock down sheltered housing or the community room.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that the public be allowed to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Dr Penney and approved.

Hugh Jones commented that the community room was used for other organisations in the Town not just the elderly residents. Also that Kerry Lane was too narrow to take the additional traffic.

Royston Hatfield commented that the drains were collapsing and would not take the additional use.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed there be an objection on the grounds that the community room should not be demolished and another way should be found to gain access to the site that did not involve the knocking down of the community room or sheltered bungalows.

He also proposed that Cllr. Philip Dunne M.P. be asked to assert pressure on the Housing Association to change the access.

Both propositions were seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) 1/05/17278/RM Approval of reserved matter. Erection of two dwellings.

Former RWA Depot off Woodbatch Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr G.J.Thomas.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

c) 1/05/17279/F Planning permission (Full) Cladding of part of gable with weather boarding.

1 Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Miss C. Batson

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

d) 1/05/17309/F & 1/05/17310/LB Planning permission (Full) and Listed Building Consent. Erection of an oak framed conservatory with store under existing glazed link corridor to be demolished, and associated internal works. (delegated matter)

Three Tuns, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle. Havana Taverns.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

e) 1/05/17327/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a conservatory,

Mynd View, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs I.C.Rowson.

Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

f) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/17147/F Erection of a nitrate Removal Building, a High Lift Pump Building and a Transformer; construction of Estate roads.

Oakley Farm Pumping Station, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. Severn Trent Water.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/05/17202/LB and 1/05/17202/LB Alteration to the external fenestration and internal works.

63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. The Co-Operative Group.

Planning permission and Listed Building Consent granted.

g) Planning Meeting.

Erection of a dwelling; conversion of (existing) building to domestic garage and store; use of land for the temporary siting of a mobile home.

The Bakery, Church Street.

Wednesday 17/8/2005 at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

County Councillor Peter Phillips made the following points.

a) He would be making the same representation as the Town Council on the Old Bakery.

b) It was nearly a year ago that the plan had been drawn up for Bishop's Castle's highways and pavements. Cllr. Phillips is having a site meeting with Cllr. John Everall, the County Councillor holding the portfolio for Environment and sustainability, on 31st August to discuss the plan. All Councillors welcome. Cllr. Phillips will also take Cllr. Everall to the Wintles / Castle St junction to show him the problems there.

c) Cllr. Phillips explained that he is negotiating with the District Council and County Council for an acre of land at the Crowgate Business Park for possible community use.

d) A resident has complained about the overgrown state of the footpath from Brick Meadow to Bowling Green Close. Cllr. Phillips will report back to residents that the matter is in hand.

Cllr. Blundell left the room.

7. STREET LIGHTING IN GRANGE ROAD

To reconsider tenders in the light of new information. Central Networks have revised their price to ensure it is like for like. They now quote £3546.84. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the lowest bid be taken. (Pirelli) Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Blundell returned.

8. YOUTH FORUM

Request by the Youth Forum to give a presentation on Youth Participation to the Council.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed they be invited to give a presentation at 9.15pm at the next Council Meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

9. DEFRA CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

To discuss implications of the new law. Cllr. Blundell proposed that this item be put on an agenda as soon as more information is received. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

10. UPGRADING OF LABURNUM ALLEY

Cllr. Carroll advised that regarding the grassed area in Oak Meadow a letter of confirmation has been received from Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council reiterating the points given to Councillors at a previous meeting. There was no mention of a £200 remuneration for grass cutting. This will be investigated.

Cllr. Carroll also advised that the ownership of the piece of no-man's land on Welsh Street by the culvert is being investigated with a view to improving the state of it.

The Laburnum Alley footpath at the back of Oak Meadow is being cleared at present. This will be paid for by the P3 group.

Cllr. Carroll left the room.

Consideration of quotes for resurfacing Laburnum Alley.

As only two quotes had been received the section to be covered in tarmac could not be considered. Quotes were discussed for the laying of scalplings. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that scalplings should be ordered and a roller from the playing fields organised. The offer by residents to lay the scalplings to be taken up. Cllr. Blundell to co-ordinate the roller and laying of the scalplings. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Carroll returned.

11. SALC - TRAINING PROGRAMME

Forthcoming Training Programme for Councillors and Clerk.

Wednesday 7th September 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Law and Procedures

An update on Local Council Law & Procedures, Duties of a Parish Councillor and the Role of the Clerk.

Tuesday 4th October 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Chairmanship

Looking at what is involved in the role of Chairman, Councillor, Clerk and the Council as a Corporate Body.

Tuesday 18th October -7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Community Planning

Looking at Community Action, Working in Partnership, Funding Sources and Active Groups within the Community.

Wednesday 23rd November 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm Budgeting, Precept and Income

A presentation focusing on Budgeting, Precept, Finance and VAT

All the courses are at Shirehall and cost £15 per person with a maximum cost to each Council of £50.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that Council meets the cost for any Councillors wishing to attend. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. Councillors to notify the Clerk if they wish to attend.

12. PARKING

A letter from Cllr. Magill was read regarding suggestions made about her at the last meeting.

a) Clarity of parking areas where tickets are placed at

(i) Boars head junction and (ii) New Street/ Church Street junction.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that notices are put on cars parked within 5 metres of each of the junctions. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

b) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that tickets be put on cars parked within 5 metres of the following junctions

(i) Salop St / Station St

(ii) Castle St / Welsh St

(iii) Bull St / Bull Lane

(iv) Bull St / Market Square

(v) Bull Lane/ Castle St/Castle Green

Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved

Notices are to be displayed in the Town showing these areas and explaining Council policy. Also an article in the Newsletter.

13 AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON EXCEPTION SITES.

South Shropshire District Council is seeking the views of Town Councils on additional villages/rural communities where affordable housing on exception sites may be permitted.

Cllr. Philip Dunne M.P. commented that he would like to see exception sites permitted in as many villages as possible if a suitable need arose. If a village is not on the list it prohibits any building.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Colebatch and Bankshead be added to the list of villages where affordable housing on exception sites may be permitted. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

14. CASTLE GREEN / WINTLES JUNCTION

A letters from Cllr. Philip Dunne M.P. was read saying that he is taking the matter up with the County Council.

A letter was read from Roger Whitehouse, Shropshire County Council saying that the problem was with the supply company. He expressed surprise that there is a problem with motorcyclists and said that he would arrange for inappropriate signs to be covered up.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Whitehouse asking him to make contact with the supply company to establish the reasons for delay. Also, asking that the paved areas be completed.

Cllr. Dr. Penney also proposed that Cllr. Phillip Dunne M.P. be invited to speak to Central Networks to try to resolve the situation. Both propositions seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Blundell proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Whitehouse informing him that the Wintles Development has made the transformer overloaded and reduced supply to various houses.

Cllr. Blundell will advise the Clerk of the addresses of these houses after he has consulted with residents. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

15. ENTRANCE TO THE AUCTION YARD FROM CHURCH STREET

This area is privately owned but there is a one metre right of way across it. This right of way is in a very dangerous condition. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to the Shropshire County Council, Highways department asking for the surface of the right of way to be improved.

16. MAYOR'S SUNDAY

The suggestion from the meeting held on Tuesday 9th August was that Mayor's Sunday should be brought forward so that it does not coincide with half term week and to make it an inclusive ceremony as much as possible. Hopefully more Councillors will attend. If it is not successful then it could be combined with mid-summer rejoicing the following year.

18. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.

None

19. a) Correspondence.

(i) Carroll & Williams - Report on investigation into the cistern.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that Cllr. Morris be asked to lift a few floor boards to enable Mr Williams to look underneath. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

(ii) Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Whitehouse asking for the closing hours of the Kings Head.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that a reply be sent to the letter. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

b) For circulation

(i) Doorstep Greens Newsletter

(ii) Wasteless Society Newsletter

(iii) Shropshire County Council - New Planning system

(iv) Neighbour noise

(v) Letter from Cllr. Peter Phillips to Penny Spencer, Chief Executive SCC regarding plan for Bishop's Castle pavements and highways.

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

Minutes 13 September 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor Dr. G N. St J. Penney in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R.A. Evans, S.A. Farr,
J.E. Gaffney, W. J. Morris. K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Carroll Cllr. Magill

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Blundell declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is Health and Safety Officer for the Michaelmas Fair.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as the tree is in the neighbouring garden.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th August 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell. Seconded by Cllr. Morris.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th August 2005, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 6a - A letter was read from Cllr. Phillip Dunne M.P. saying that he has written to the Chief Executive of the South Shropshire Housing Association voicing the concerns of the Town Council in respect of the proposed site for affordable housing in Bishop's Castle.

Item 12 - A list of parking places where tickets are to be placed was given to each Councillor.

Item 15 - Ian Rutherford is contacting Brewmaster with a view to improving the walking service between the Auction Yard and Church St.

He has asked Ian Martin to organize a white line at the entrance providing Glyn Shaw approves.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

6. Town & Country Planning Act:

a) 1/05/17407/TC Tree works (Conservation Area) Felling of 1 x laburnum and 1 x fir. (delegated matter)

2 Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr C. Pritchard.

This application was to be reconsidered on the new information from the Tree Warden that the fir is a very fine scots pine. The Tree Warden has now advised that the tree in question is not a scots pine. Cllr. Blundell proposed that an objection be made if the tree is a scots pine. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

b) 1/05/17396/F & 1/05/17397/CA Planning permission (full) and Conservation area consent. Erection of an extension to dwelling and external alterations.

Demolition of existing lean to and front elevation.

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

Councillors to meet at 7.15 pm before the Council meeting, at the Town Hall, to go on a site visit.

Cllr. Dr. Penney explained that Councillors had spoken to Mr Marston, the main objector to the previous application and that he is happy with this new application.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed no objection providing there is no damage to the scheduled ancient monument. (The Town wall) Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney left the room.

c) 1/05/17432/TC Tree works (conservation area) Felling of an Ash Tree (delegated matter)

The Porch House, 33 - 35 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J. Lucas

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney returned

d) Any other plans received. - none

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/17216/F Erection of an agricultural building for storage of fodder.

Banks Head, Bishop's Castle . F. T. Bedell & Son

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/05/17205/F Erection of a dwelling; conversion of (existing) building to domestic garage and store; use of land for the (temporary) siting of a mobile home.

The Bakery, Church St., Bishop's Castle. Mr. P Thorpe & Ms J. Bath.

Planning permission refused.

(f) Planning meetings

(i) 1/05/17315/F Erection of 20 dwellings at Grange Road.

(ii) 1/05/ 17278/RM Erection of two dwellings at former RWA Depot off Woodbatch Road.

Both applications to be considered on Wednesday 14/9/05 at 2.00 pm at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

7. SHROPSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT CONFERENCE.

This will take place in Shrewsbury on 12th October 2005 from 10 am to 4 pm in Shrewsbury. Councillors were asked if anyone wished to attend. No interest in attending was shown. Cllr. Dr. Penney suggested Councillors contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.

8. STREET CLOSURE ORDER.

Request for Street Closure for the Michaelmas Fair on 24th and 25th September.

from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

24th and 25th September - Union St from the junction with Church St to junction of Corporation St and Market Square.

24th & 25th September - Salop St, High St, Church St, Station St, New St and Kerry Lane from 11.45 am to 1.45 pm.

24th September from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Church St and High St.

25th September frpm 9.00 am to 5.30 pm. High St and Church St.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr Blundell asked that the Michaelmas Fair be made aware that there must be free access for the Fire Service at the bottom of the Town.

9. LABURNUM ALLEY

Quotes cannot be considered as only two have been received.

10. SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING SIGNS

Suggestion to put "slow, children playing" signs in Oak Meadow and Brick Meadow. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the Shropshire County Council be approached requesting "slow children playing" signs in Oak Meadow and Brick Meadow. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

11. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SURVEY

Draft IRMP Action Plan 2006/7 - Consultation Questionnaire. (Copies with Agenda.) Councillors completed questions 1 to 3. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed that question 4 be left to the next meeting after the Firefighters had been consulted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

12.ACCOUNTS -

Cllr. Dr. Penney wished to put forward a proposition regarding the finances of the playing fields but Cllr. Gaffney said that as this is a substantive matter not on the Agenda Councillors had not had time to consider it or to consider whether they needed to declare an interest. He felt the matter needed to be discussed in some depth and therefore should be put on the next agenda. Cllr. Wright proposed that the finances of the playing fields be put on the next agenda. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

13. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr. Dr. Penney summarised a report given by the Mayor on a meeting by

Cllr. Carroll and Cllr. Dr. Penney with Cllr. Peter Phillips, Penney Spencer, (Corpoate Director, Economy and Environment, Shropshire County Council), Roger

Whitehouse and Cllr. Everall to discuss the scheme to improve highways and pavements in the Town. Cllr. Wright expressed his concern over the time being taken in implementing these changes. He proposed that the matter be put on the next Agenda to discuss any action that can be taken.

18. CORRESPONDANCE

a) (i) Letter from Beth Hendley congratulating the Friends of the Playing Fields.

(ii) Letter from Pat Dawson regarding the Auction Yard entrance from Church Street.

Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to Mrs Dawson saying that as the land belongs to the Pub a gate could be installed as we understand there is no right to vehicular access but there is a pedestrian right of way. Several Councillors can remember a gate. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

(iii) Notice of application for transfer of licence. Off-licence 59/63 Church St.

(iv) SSDC A New Planning Policy - Questionnaire to be available for next agenda.

(v) Letter from Cllr. P. Phillips advising that Mr Richard Thomas in the Shirehall is looking for a Marriage room. Cllr. Blundell proposed that the Council Chamber be offered as a Marriage Room. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) For circulation

(i) Changes to Shropshire's Registration and Celebratory Services

(ii) South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

(iii) HMCS Consultation paper on proposed merger of the existing two local justice areas.

(iv) South Shropshire Access Group - Agenda and minutes of last meetings.

(v) Local Council Review

(vi) Standards Committee - Agenda 13th September, minutes 5th July 2005.

(vii) South Shropshire Furniture Scheme.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

The formal meeting was followed by a presentation by Tim Evans on Youth Participation, asking Councillors to consider how they engage with young people.

Minutes 11 October 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R. A. Evans, S.A. Farr,
J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney,
K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

Members of the Public in attendance: Harriet Carty, Catherine Farrington, Lynne Farr, Caroline Stephenson, Pippa Halliday, Robert Gwyther, Ian Wall, Fiona Robertson, Peter Bamford.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
No apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Magill declared a personal interest in item 6a as her niece lives at the property at times.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in items 7, 8 and 9 as his wife is a member of the "Friends" committee.

Cllrs. Davidson-Stanley, Gaffney and Carroll declared personal interests in item 16 as they are members of the Christmas lights committee.
Cllr. Evans declared a personal interest in item 22 as her children attend the childcare centre.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 22 as he is a fund raiser for the childcare centre.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
Cllr. Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as a close friend owns the adjacent property (4a)

Cllr. Blundell declared a possible prejudicial interest in items 7 & 8 as he has worked on the playing fields and installed the lights.
Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 as he is the advisor for the Town Hall electrics.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in items 10 and 11 as she lives adjacent to the Town Hall.
Cllr. Blundell declared a prejudicial interest in item 15 as he is the street lighting contractor.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 13TH September 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Item 15 should read "Ian Rutherford, Divisional Surveyor, Shropshire County Council."
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING
Item 4 (15) A letter has been received from Chris Fisher, Shropshire County Council re the right of way from Church Street to the Auction Yard. It is not owned by the Kings Head and they are trying to establish who owns it.

Item 18 (v) Reply from Mr Thomas, Shropshire County Council, advising that the Town Hall could not be used as a marriage room as it is not DDA compliant.
Item 10 - Letter from Glyn Shaw, Senior Traffic Engineer, Shropshire County Council re "Slow, children playing" signs. Mr Shaw said that "slow children crossing" signs could only be put in the vicinity of a school or playground. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to Mr Shaw explaining that we said "slow children playing" and asking if the regulations are the same. If they are the same there is a school and play area in Oak Meadow so could signs please be put there. In Brick meadow could they please put "slow" markings on the road. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:
a) Robert Gwyther spoke about the Michaelmas fair. He wished to speak after the adverse publicity of the Fair. Most traders had no problem with trade but did have a stressful day. He felt that the people involved in the fair, especially the stall holders had not considered the shop keepers. He felt a lot of work had gone into the fair and the traction engine rally had brought trade and atmosphere to the Town. He wished to congratulate the organizers of the traction engine rally.

b) Harriet Carty spoke on behalf of the "Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields". - Copy attached (see end of minute)

c) Fiona Robertson spoke about the skateboard Park. She explained that she had applied for a grant from South Shropshire District Council and that she had asked for the bill not to be paid before this grant money came. She also explained that the Skateboard Association were paying Clive Jones to move the bunds back and they would put a small fence round the area. This will hopefully be completed by the end of the month. Prickly bushes will be planted on the bunds.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:
Cllr. Wright left the room

a) a) 1/05/17518/F Planning Permission (full) Refurbishment and conversion of existing two storey building to form annex.
The Limes, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. B. Evans
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.
Cllr. Wright returned.

b) 1/05/17543/TC Tree works (conservation area) Removal of low boughs from Wellingtonia trees (delegated matter).
Tall Trees, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr Jones
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection with the comments from the Tree Warden. "Only the lowest branches to be removed and not flush with the trunk." Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

c) Reports of Planning Applications.
(i) 1/05/17315/F Erection of 20 dwellings and formation of access road and associated works. (No 21 Grange Road to be demolished)
Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association.
Planning permission refused on the grounds of the loss of community facility and the additional traffic in Grange Road.

(ii) 1/05/17278/RM Erection of 2 dwellings.
Former RWA Depot, Woodbatch Rd., Bishop's Castle. G.T.Thomas
Planning approval granted.

(iii) 1/05/17279/F Cladding of part of gable with weather boarding.
1 Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Miss C. Batson
Planning permission granted

(iv) 1/05/17327/F Erection of a conservatory,
Mynd View, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs I.C.Rowson.
Planning permission granted.

(v) 1/05/17383/TC Reducing height of 4 leylandii to 3.6m (12ft) and reshape crown of flowering cherry.
19 & 21 Church St. Bishop's Castle. Mr C Pritchard.
Consent granted

(vi) 1/05/17309/F & 1/05/17310/LB Erection of an oak framed conservatory with store under existing glazed link corridor to be demolished, and associated internal works. (delegated matter)
Three Tuns, Salop Street, Bishop's Castle. Havana Taverns.
Planning permission and listed building consent granted.

(vii) 1/05/17406/F Use of land for the temporary siting of a caravan.
Former RWA Depot, Woodbatch Road, Bishop's Castle. G. T. Thomas
Planning permission granted.

(viii) 1/05/17390 Siting of a biodiesel tank.
Union St Garage, Union St., Bishop's Castle. Wasteless Society.
Planning permission granted.

(ix) 1/05/17396/F and 1/05/17397/CA Erection of an extension to dwelling and external alterations.
3A Bull St, Bishop's Castle. Mr J Charters.
Planning permission and conservation area consent granted.

(x) 1/05/17282/F Erection of a building for retail warehouse, workshop & offices with toilets, car parking & delivery provisions (existing building to be demolished)
Charles Ransford & Son Ltd.
Planning permission granted.

(xi) Erection of 2 No control kiosks, 1 no chemical dosing kiosk and 1 no. emergency shower unit.
Bishop's Castle Sewage treatment works. Severn Trent Water Ltd.
Planning permission granted.

7. PLAYING FIELDS
Presentation of playing fields accounts.

The Mayor, Cllr. Carroll reminded Councillors of the following points.
(i) They had signed a legal agreement with the "Friends" saying that all accounts would be paid through the Town Council.

(ii) The £10,000 budgeted by the Town Council for the "Friends" was the average normal playing fields expenditure for three years. It was a conservative estimate as money would have had to be spent on the play equipment following the Rospa report.

(iii) The Town Council is prudent with Council money and when it does have a large surplus it purchases High Interest Bonds. This enables the money to earn high interest. The Council only has large surpluses because of the projects in the pipeline. The Town Council is not supposed to be in the business of investing tax payers money and therefore it is perfectly acceptable to cash in bonds to pay legitimate expenses.

(iv) At the time of consultation the public expressed the opinion that they did not want the skateboard park on the playing fields. The Council only agreed for it to go on the playing fields if it did not jeopardise the "Friends" project.

(v) Agendas should show what is to be discussed so that the public can attend if they wish and Councillors have time to consider before making a decision.
Therefore, the memo circulated at the end of the last meeting could not properly be discussed.

Cllr. Carroll then read a letter from Alice Coleman saying that she had visited the project and was very impressed with what she saw. The claim for £23 868 will be processed shortly.

Cllr. Hird asked questions relating to the Playing Fields accounts, why so much money had been paid by the Town Council without any grant money being received. Mrs Farr explained that grants could only be claimed on paid invoices and only at certain stages of the project.

Cllr. Wright referred to the issued raised by Mrs Carty, asking her why, when the Friends' who had done such an excellent job there was a problem. Mrs Carty explained that for most of the project there had been a very good relationship with the Town Council but in the last month certain Councillors seemed to want to jeopardise the project. She referred to a memo stating that the Town Council would not pay any more invoices. Cllr. Wright asked what the memo was and where it had come from. Cllr. Farr replied that the document referred to was the memo circulated at the end of the last meeting.

Cllr. Carroll explained that the idea of not paying invoices and other matters on the memo was not discussed at the last meeting, as it was not on the agenda and therefore no decision made.

Peter Bamford explained that he had a great deal of experience with external funding for play areas and congratulated the "Friends" and the Town Council for the work they had done. Empowering the local community to do a project was a positive initiative which had now turned into a negative one. Without the accountable body of the Town Council the project would never have been completed.

Cllr. Gaffney thanked the "Friends" for what they had done. He felt that all the Town Councillors wished to support the community, that's why they were Councillors but it was legitimate and proper to raise questions about finance.

Cllr. Dr. Penney asked when the project would be finished and the £33,000 from Living Spaces paid. Mrs Farr answered that the "Friends" hoped to finish the project in approximately six weeks depending on the weather and a claim could then be put in for the grant..

Cllr. Wright proposed that the Town Council write to each member of the "Friends" congratulating them on their work. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

8. EXCESS LIGHTING ON THE PLAYING FIELDS
Cllr. Dr. Penney reported that he had received complaints from Miss Shackleton at 9 Copall Paddock regarding the bright lights in the playing fields. Cllr. Blundell advised that the lights will be hooded to keep the light onto the ground. He advised that three of the culprits who had vandalised the lights had been caught and were paying for the repairs. Cllr. Pinches asked why the lights were on all night and was advised that it was because they were photocell.

9. LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS REGARDING NOISE/VANDALISM/LITTER ON PLAYING FIELDS
The problem was discussed and the following suggestions made.

a) Fencing should be put round the skateboard park.
b) Andrew Wallace could be paid extra hours to pick up litter. To be investigated.

c) Letters could be sent to the Community College and Primary School making them aware of the problem.
d) A sign could be put in the playing field saying no cars, pick up litter, no drinking of alcohol etc. To be discussed with Friends.

Cllr. Gaffney commented that the problem was not the improved playing fields. This is just the theatre, The problem is a small minority of not well socialised young people.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Mrs Allwood and Mrs Burkill saying the problem is being looked into and to contact us again if there is no improvement. Also letters to be sent to the Primary School and Community College making them aware of the problem. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley left the room.

10. TOWN HALL
The need to bring Town Hall up to Health and Safety standards. The Council were advised that for emergency lit exit directions and smoke alarms the following were required.
7 emergency lights
4 smoke alarms
9 RCD sockets.
The cost would be in the region of £1000. Cllr. Wright proposed it goes out to tender. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley returned

11. CISTERN IN THE TOWN HALL
A report from Mr Williams the structural engineer was read. He advised that approx 485m x 305m of space is suitable for use.

12. LABURNUM ALLEY
Consideration of quotes for tarmac on section at the rear of Oak Meadow.
Andy Mellor - £2465
Simon Williams - £3910
Ken Watkins - £1735

Cllr. Dr Penney proposed that the quote of £1735 be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney. An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Blundell that Simon Williams quote be accepted as he had much experience tarmac work in Bishop's Castle and had shown a high standard of work on the playing fields. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley. The amendment was carried (6 votes for, 5 votes against) and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved. (Cllr. Magill abstained) ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAYS AND PAVEMENTS SCHEME ORIGINALLY DEvised BY JOE ROBERTS.
a) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Penny Spencer, Corporate Director, Economy and Environment, Shropshire County Council expressing concern over the time being taken to implement the scheme. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. A letter has been received from County Councillor Phillips supporting this action. ACTION TOWN CLERK

b) Cllr Gaffney proposed the following improvements in Chapel Yard.
(i) The tarmac path leading from the High St to Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre should be improved and increased in size to accommodate wheelchair users.
(ii) The area of tarmac under the arch at the High St end should be improved.
(iii) Scalping should be put on the road area.
Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE
The Consultation Questionnaire on the draft IRMP Action Plan 2006/7 was completed. Proposed by Cllr. Blundell, seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

Cllr. Blundell left the room
15. RENEWAL OF STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the street lighting contract with Jeremy Blundell and Justin Whittall be renewed for another twelve months with the additional clause that records of repair to lights should be passed to the Clerk within one month of the repair. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. Cllr. Magill proposed an additional clause be added giving a time span for the completion routine repairs. The period of time written into the contract to be agreed between the Clerk and Cllr. Blundell. Seconded by Cllr. Wright at approved.
Cllr. Blundell returned ACTION TOWN CLERK

16. REQUEST FOR £400 FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
The Christmas Lights Festival Committee wishes to make a special feature of the Town Hall with lighted Christmas trees on all sides. Cllr. Magill proposed a donation of £400 be given. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

17. WORKING PARTY REQUIRED TO CLEAR THE CUPBOARD UNDER THE STAIRS.
It is proposed to clear all the rubbish out from under the stairs, put down floor covering and store chairs in it. A new padlock will be put on the door. Cllrs Carroll, Magill, Davidson-Stanley, Gaffney and Blundell agreed to help if they are available. A date to be set by the Clerk. ACTION TOWN CLERK

18. OLD MARKET PLACE
Cllr. Wright explained that local residents had requested that the planted areas on the east and south sides of the Old Market Place be tidied up. Cllr. Wright proposed that someone be employed to do this work. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved. The Clerk will arrange for a groundsman to liaise with Cllr. Wright to discuss the work required. ACTION TOWN CLERK

19. ANNUAL MEETINGS
Following the recent meeting to discuss Mayors Sunday the following dates are suggest for 2006.
Annual Town Meeting - 14th March 2006
Private meeting of Councillors - Before the Council meeting on Tuesday 25th April.
Annual Council Meeting - Tuesday 9th May
Mayors Sunday - Sunday 21st May
Cllr. Carroll proposed that these dates are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

20. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN OAK MEADOW.
There was a discussion about the way commercial vehicles are parked in Oak Meadow.
Cllr. Magill proposed that a letter be sent to the Housing Association asking what their policy is on the parking of commercial vehicles in Oak Meadow. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved
ACTION TOWN CLERK

21. SIGN FOR WELSH STREET GARDENS.
There have been problems reported with post for Welsh Street going to Welsh Street Gardens. Cllr. Dr. Penney suggested a sign saying Welsh St Gardens with an arrow be put under the Welsh Street sign. Cllr. Carroll proposed a site visit by the Mayor, Clerk and Cllr. Dr. Penney to find the most appropriate position. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Magill proposed the meeting be extended by ten minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

22. REQUEST FOR A GRANT OF £195 FOR THE CROWGATE CHILD CENTRE
This is to assist with the move to the Primary School site.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a donation of £195 be given. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

21. CONSULTATION ON THE NEW PLANNING POLICY SYSTEM
To be circulated.

22. SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICE
Do Councillors know of any community groups that may be being missed by the Children's Information Service. NEXT AGENDA

23. Accounts -
Presentation of half year accounts for Town Council. The accounts were discussed. Cllr. Hird queried the adequacy of the balance held. The Clerk responded that grant income for the playing fields was expected in the near future and the balances already in hand were more than adequate to cover expected expenditure.

17. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.
Cllr. Carroll reported on a meeting of the board of E.S.W.S. The board of E.S.W.S. has agreed to investigate the possibility of taking over responsibility for an integral operation involving SpARC, the community operation at the Community College and ESWS. It has been agreed that an independent body such as a trust could run SpARC more cheaply than the County Council. It is important that it will be open for use by the community and not just the Education Services. The SSDC has put £100,000 into the scheme for community use. All three bodies are dependent on local authority funding which is to some extent uncertain and there could be major advantages in having one body responsible for all of them.

b) Cllrs Carroll, Dr. Penney and Magill had attended a meeting at Stone House. Coverage Care is to make improvements at Stone House to give improved services. Cllr. Dr. Penney advised that there is no chance of saving Stone House as a hospital. The beds in the building will be no longer by Coverage Care.

18. Correspondence.
(i) R. Williams - re Michaelmas Fair.
(ii) A. Hemmings, L. Heasman - Michaelmas Fair.
These two letters will be circulated to all Councillors and the Michaelmas Fair put on the agenda and discussed - Michaelmas Fairing. Town Clerk to acknowledge letters.

b) For circulation
(i) South Shropshire Sport and Leisure Advisory Council
(ii) Village Halls and Community Venues News
(iii) Wasteless Society newsletter
(iv) South Shropshire District Council Consultation on the new planning policy system

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Statement by Harriet Carty (Chair of Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields)

I should like to take this opportunity to relate to the Town Council our experience of involving ourselves with the Playing Fields. This project has been going on for a long time now; we first discussed it about 4 years ago and have been actively busy on it for about 2 years now.

This project has been very hard work, mainly good fun. We have enjoyed working together and have been delighted with how many people have become involved with the field or stopped to talk about the playing field in the street etc. In particular we have been delighted with the sound and sight of children playing on the new path and play area. Families were picnicking there in the summer holidays; at least one child's birthday party took place there. Wheel chair users have been able to enjoy the new path.

Certainly the Countryside Agency are delighted with the project as is shown in the recent letter received by the town clerk. They are happy both with the work on the ground and also with the way we are allocating the funds.

We have, of course needed to have a working relationship with the town council throughout this project and have worked with Jane, Jeremy, Janet and Julie has been to a couple of meetings - all the J's. This has been an excellent relationship and we have felt really supported and able to discuss any problems, which may have arisen on either side. There have been problems but these have been resolved either at our weekly meetings or by phone or on site. We are now in the last few months of this project and felt that, by and large, this has been a success and that the people of Bishops Castle are pleased with the changes we have made and that the project has really reflected all aspects of the public consultation carried out.

Throughout this project we have welcomed all volunteer contributions and been happy to explain what was going on to anyone who showed an interest. With the exception of the town councillors mentioned, we have had a surprising lack of interest from other councillors. None of us have been to our volunteer days or our meetings, or even stopped for a chat in the street. This puzzled us from the start as this is, after all your main (or only?) piece of land.

For about 6 weeks now councillors Hird and Penny have taken a belated interest in the project.

Since then we have felt that we are being accused of misusing public funds and jeopardising the town councils financial base. The easy, constructive relationship of open discussion when problems arise seems to have been replaced by one of grumpy memos and plans to scupper our project by refusing to pay invoices. The Countryside Agency are frankly puzzled by your approach at this stage in the project.

This has totally altered our experience of volunteering for the town. We now feel under attack, angry and that our valuable time and effort is completely un-appreciated. Of course all councillors have the right to gain information about our project, its finances and aims. We are happy to supply this. We would have been happy to have had your involvement from the start of the project. You do not appear to wish to help with this project, rather to hinder and we are left at a loss as to what your motive for this could be.

Certainly we are all very unlikely to become involved with a community project, which involves the town council again.

Minutes 08 November 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R. A. Evans, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Farr.
Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Magill would be late

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is involved with the Old Castle Land Trust.
Cllr. Blundell declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is safety officer for the Michaelmas fair.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 16 as she is known publicly to be in favour of allotments.
Cllrs. Carroll, Davidson - Stanley and Gaffney declared personal interests in item 14 as they are on the Christmas Lights Committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as her property is adjacent to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell with the following corrections. Seconded by
Cllr. Dr. Penney.
Before item 7 insert "Cllr. Wright proposed the public be allowed to speak. Seconded by
Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved."
Add to item 2a "Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is a fundraiser."
The last line should read "The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.10 pm."
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 (Item 10) Letter from Glyn Shaw, Shropshire County Council, Senior Traffic Engineer explaining about the restrictions in using "slow children crossing" signs and offering to come out for a site meeting. Also a copy of a letter from Cllr. Peter Phillips to Mr Shaw asking if there are any "legals" preventing what the Town Council wishes to do. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a further letter be sent to Mr Shaw asking him to put up the signs as they are seen all over the Country. Also to say that a site meeting would waste everyone's time and was not necessary. Seconded by
Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. It was suggested by Cllr. Dr.Penney that there be a delay before the letter is sent for people to look for an example of these signs locally. ACTION TOWN CLERK
Item 8 - A payment of £20 317.54 has been received from the Countryside Agency as a grant for the playing fields.

Item 9 - A copy of a letter from the Friends of the Playing Fields to Mrs Allwood has been received offering to raise the fencing around the play area on her side.

Item 13 - Reply from Penny Spencer, Corporate Director at Shropshire County Council regarding the improvements to pavements and highways scheme. She has asked Chris Edwards, Highways Network Manager to bring forward a revised scheme and a timetable for implementation.

Item 17 - The Clerk reported that the cupboard under the stairs had been cleared by there is a thick layer of compacted coal on the floor. This needs a skip or a person with a trailer to clear it. The cost of a skip is £82. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Mayor and the Clerk make a decision as to the best way forward. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

Item 20 - e-mail from George Stoyan regarding commercial vehicles in Oak Meadow. Mr Stoyan suggests it is daytime and they are vehicles of heating and electric installation workers. The Clerk has replied that she is referring to vehicles parked day and night owned by local residents.

Cllr. Carroll reported back on the Land at Oak Meadow, an item on a previous agenda. John Bryan from Property Services, South Shropshire District Council had reported that it has been agreed to culvert the stream and to hand over the land to the Town Council to manage with a grant of £200. Professor Pahl would be granted a license for pedestrian access for a sum of £10 per year. The Town Council to organize the license when the land had been handed over.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Joan Grant spoke as Chair of the Bishop's Castle branch of the Royal British Legion. She said they were very much against the knocking down of the community room, a room used by themselves and many other groups. They were also very worried about the noise caused by increased traffic. On a personal note she stated that there was a need for local affordable housing but felt that everyone should try to think of another way round.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

(i) 1/05/17600/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of 20 dwellings, formation of access road and associated works (Community Centre adjoining No 21 Grange Road to be partly demolished) (Committee matter)
Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association
Cllr. Blundell proposed that the public be allowed to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Mr Hatfield of Grange Road spoke. He pointed out that at the previous planning meeting it had been said that it was too expensive to upgrade Church Road as an access for the proposed affordable housing. He felt that knocking down the Community room and installing the access in Grange Road would be much more expensive. He felt the plan was to build more houses in the future. He also stated that the Wardens house was too small to convert into a Community room. Cllr. Dr. Penney confirmed that the Wardens house was too small. Mr Jackson spoke and made the following points.

The overall residential development was to be to the west of the High Street.

Kerry Lane is a major traffic hazard.

Bishop's Castle attraction is that it is a contained town. The proposed residential development will be visible from the top of the Town.

A letter was then read from Tracy Magill on behalf of Bishop's Castle Fire Station stating that there was a need for affordable housing in Bishop's Castle to keep young professionals in the Town. Because of the lack of housing young people were moving away where salaries were higher therefore it is difficult to recruit for the Fire Service.

Cllr. Gaffney said that he is a great believer in affordable housing but believes that these plans bring the affordable housing policy into disrepute by the size of the scale. An affordable site should be 6-10 houses. He proposed an objection to the plan on the following grounds.

(i) The original objections have not been met.

(ii) The Community room is still to be lost. The alternative of the warden's house is not adequate.

(iii) There would be a severe traffic problem.

(iv) Too many houses on one site.

(v) The cost of providing an access via Church road could not be greater than the cost of demolishing the community room, converting the warden's house and providing the access shown on the plan.

(vi) The houses would be visible from the top of Town. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Cllr. Dr. Penney commented that he felt a lovely calm road for elderly people would be ruined.

Cllr. Carroll then made the following points.

(i) George Stoyan from the South Shropshire Housing Association had been invited to the meeting but could not come due to previous commitments. He had communicated with the Mayor to explain that he was putting in a revised plan, converting the warden's house to a community room.

(ii) Affordable housing was the top priority on the Parish Plan.

(iii) Council should recognize the need to keep young people in the Town.

Mrs Hatfield then spoke asking what would happen while the conversion of the wardens house was going on.

The proposition was put to the Council and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney commented that it should be made more public that farmers can receive up to ten times the price of agricultural land for land used for affordable housing.

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/17518/F Refurbishment and conversion of existing two storey building to form annexe.
The Limes, Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. B. Evans.
Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/05/17432/TC Felling of an ash tree.

The Porch House, 33-35 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. J. Lucas.
Tree preservation consent granted.

(iii) 1/05/17407/TC Felling of 1 x laburnum and 1 x fir.

2 Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr C. Pritchard.
Tree preservation consent granted.

(iv) 1/05/17353/F Erection of an extension to residential care home accommodation.

The Grange Residential Care Home, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. G. Tilling.
Planning permission granted.

7. MICHAELMAS FAIR.

Letters from R.F.Williams and A.Hemmings and L.Heasman have been circulated regarding the Michaelmas fair. Robert Gwythers comments from the last meeting to be considered.

Cllr. Davidson - Stanley explained that the letter referred to by Mr Williams was a letter that she had written to the Journal as an individual not as a Councillor. It Councillors felt it was not right for a Councillor to express their opinion in this way she was willing to resign. Cllr. Carroll said she felt that what Cllr. Davidson-Stanley had done was quite proper and that there was no need to resign.

Cllr. Wright felt that the letters should have been written to the Michaelmas Fair Committee with a copy to the Town Council. Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to the Festivals Officer asking that festivals ensure that they adhere to the times stated on the closure order and that drivers realise that outside these times they can drive into and park in the town. Seconded by
Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

8. THE TOWN HALL - WAY FORWARD WITH RESTORATION PROJECT

(a) Report on meeting with David Dickinson - architect. Mr Dickinson has submitted a costing sheet for overseeing the work on the roof, window and sandstone mouldings. The total fee for 142 hours work would be £5680. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Mr Dickinson be appointed on these terms. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

(b) Report on meeting with Sue Cooper. Cllr. Carroll reported on the meeting with Sue Cooper who suggested that a Project Planning Grant should be applied for. She was willing to lead assist the Council in this application but she did not have time to help further. She explained there were three possible ways to organise this.

(i) Form a sub-committee of the Council.

(ii) Invite the Civic Society, SWSHAS, Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre and other interested parties to form a partnership.

(iii) Hold a public meeting for anyone interested and then set up a group.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that the second option be taken. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Blundell asked if the final decisions would rest with Council. The Mayor confirmed that it would.

9. VACANCY ON THE PLAYING FIELDS WORKING PARTY

Resignation of Cllr. Pinches

Cllr. Evans volunteered to become a member of the Playing Fields Working Party.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Item 12 be moved forward. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Wright proposed that the public have permission to speak. Seconded by
Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

12. STONE HOUSE - FUTURE PLANS

Jackie Ingham, Project Manager, Coverage Care was unable to attend due to ill health but on her behalf the Mayor read her report on the Feasibility Study to explore the redevelopment of services on the Stone House site. This is available on request from the Clerk.
Cllr. Carroll explained there would be a public meeting in December at the Public Hall.
The following concerns were expressed by Councillors.

(i) Will it remain an 18 bed hospital.?

(ii) Will there be hospital beds in a ward environment?

(iii) Will it be staffed by qualified nurses and doctors?

(iv) Although current staff, both nursing and ancillary, have to be paid their current PCT rates will they eventually be replaced by staff paid at the lower Coverage Care rates.

(v) Will all current services and facilities be retained.

Cllr. Hird advised that Coverage Care is not a charity or a trust but a Friendly Society. He has asked for their accounts but not yet received them.

Cllr. Wright advised that although Stone House will not be able to call itself a hospital it can act as a hospital.

Carol Griffiths an administrator from Stone House Hospital spoke. She advised that Stone House is the most cost effective and reliable of the four community hospitals. If the change to Coverage Care does not happen then the hospital will close but she feels the fight should be to keep hospital type beds in a ward environment and to keep the 18 beds which are at present always full.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley asked Ms Griffiths if the hospital needed modernising. Ms Griffiths agreed it did.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that Jackie Ingham be invited to attend a meeting after Christmas. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. CONSIDERATIONS OF APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It was resolved that the following donations should be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

(i) House on Crutches Museum. - £200

(ii) Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre - £200

(iii) West Shropshire Talking Newspapers - - £25

(v) Hope House Children's Hospices - £25

(ix) Dial a Ride - £250

(x) Old Castle Land Trust - £400

Cllr. Blundell proposed the above are all awarded with the same conditions as last year. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

(iv) Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme be awarded £25 and a letter sent asking about their work in Bishop's Castle. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

(vi) Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed a donation of £25 be given to Relate. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

(vii) Cllr. Gaffney proposed a donation of £100 be given to the Severn Hospice. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

(viii) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no donation be given to Shropshire Peer Counselling and Advocacy Services. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

11. SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDREN'S INFORMATION SERVICE.

Request to provide details of any community groups which may not be aware of their services.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Children's Information Service asking who they do know about. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

13. THE PINES, BISHOP'S CASTLE - FUTURE PLANS

Cllr. Dr. Penney explained that he was a trustee and that the Pines had to be sold because of increasing losses. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Norman Stott, Chair of the Pines Trust. He had explained that over the last 3-4 years there had been increasing losses due to increased competition. This was partly due to the DDA enabling disabled people taking holidays with mainstream providers. The Pines will cease operations on 31/12/05. There will be intensive discussion with South Shropshire District Council and the Walker Trust, both of whom provided finance initially. Decisions will be made as to how to proceed to obtain the maximum proceeds for the benefit of other charitable needs. When a plan is formed it will have to be approved by the Charity Commission. It may be sold on the open market or it may be sold to another charity. It may even be transferred to another charity. If it is sold on the open market it will be up to the SSDC planning department what happens to it. Nothing can be decided until after the end of December 2005.

14. STREET CLOSURE ORDERS

(a) Remembrance Sunday Parade - Sunday 13th November 2005

High Street and Church Street. 10.40 am to 11.00 am and 11.55 am to 12.15pm

(b) Christmas Lights Festival - Saturday 26th November.

Church Street, High Street, Market Square and Salop St. 2.00 pm to 11.00 pm.

Harley Jenkins St - 12.00pm to 3.00 pm.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

15. MOVEMENT OF LORRIES TO THE CO-OP, CHURCH STREET

Concern has been expressed regarding the length of lorries delivering to the Co-op in Church St. A letter of concern from Cathy Batson was read.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed a letter be sent to the Transport Manager at the Co-op depot asking them to ensure that all drivers are aware of the most suitable route into town. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

16. ACRE OF LAND AT CROWGATE.

Cllr. Carroll reported that there were no other suggestions for the community use of an acre of land but there had been 9 requests for allotments. The South Shropshire District Council had agreed to the request for an acre of land but on a 7.5 year lease. The County Council had imposed a break clause of 6 months. Cllr. Carroll explained that under the allotment act the Town Council was obliged to provide allotments if there were more than 6 requests. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to the Cabinet of the County Council requesting them to remove the break clause to enable the land to be used for allotments. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

17. 11 WELSH STREET

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Robinson of 11 Welsh Street asking him to repair his gutter as it could be a danger to passers by. The letter should explain that if it is not repaired the Town Council will have an obligation to report it to the District Council.

Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

18. FOOTPATH IN MONTGOMERY ROAD

Cllr. Carroll explained that there seemed to be enough verge on the houses side of Montgomery Road from Castle Mynd down to the houses in Castle Green to form a footpath. Cllr. Davidson Stanley proposed that the Shropshire County Council be asked to strike the grass and tidy the area so that it could be walked. Also a letter should be sent to residents in this stretch of Montgomery Road asking them what they would like done as a footpath in the long term. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

19. CULVERT IN WELSH STREET.

The owner of this land has now been traced and is Sharmin Aria Cory of 4 Welsh Street.

Cllr. Blundell proposed that a letter be sent to Ms Cory asking her to arrange for this piece of land to be maintained. The Town Council could, on payment of a sum to be negotiated, deal with the matter on her behalf. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

20. NEWSLETTER

Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection to an article in the Newsletter asking for Volunteers for the "Home from Hospital" service run by Age Concern. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

21. LITTER IN THE PLAYING FIELDS.

Should the Street Cleaner be offered extra hours for collecting the extra litter in the playing field.

Cllr. Blundell proposed no action at present until all the bins are in place. Seconded by

Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved with Cllr. Davidson-Stanley voting against.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be extended for 5 minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

22. ACCOUNTS. -

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

23. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives. - none

24. Correspondence.

a) (i) Letter from Cathy Batson regarding the planning application notices. To be circulated.

(ii) Letter from Cllr. Carroll on behalf of the Christmas Lights Committee asking for free use of the Town Hall, including electricity on Saturday 26th November and requesting the Mayor switch on the Christmas lights. Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved

b) For circulation

(i) Shropshire Ambulance Service - serving your Community

(ii) West Mercia Police Authority Police Service Restructuring

(iii) South Shropshire Matters

(iv) Shropshire County Council annual performance report.

(v) South Shropshire Access Group - Minutes of AGM on Tuesday 9th Nov. 2004.

(vi) Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Annual Review 2004-5.

(vii) Salopian Recorder.

(VIII) South West Shropshire Community Forum - Minutes of AGM held on 10th October 2005.

(ix) SSDC Standards Committee - Agenda 9th November 2005 and minutes of Tuesday 13th September.

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

Minutes 06 December 2005

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2005 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill,
W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Davidson-Stanley,
Cllr. R. Evans, Cllr. Gaffney (unavoidable delay., would be late)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 13 as his wife is a "Friend of the playing field"

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Blundell declared prejudicial interests in items 7(iv), 12 and 15 as he is the street lighting contractor.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Hird.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 (Item 4) "Slow, children playing" signs. Glyn Shaw, Shropshire County Council has agreed to put a blue sign by the children's playground in Oak Meadow and one in Brick Meadow when the road has been adopted.

Item 4 (Item 17) The cupboard under the stairs has now been cleared. It just needs another vacuum by Mr Turnbull, the sweep.

Item 8 - Letter from Jack Collier, Corporate Director (Community Services), Shropshire County Council regarding funding for the Town Hall roof. He suggested a Village Hall Grant be applied for.

Replies have been received from the Railway Museum, SWSHAS, Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre and The House on Crutches Museum Trust, all saying that they would be pleased to send a representative to sit on a committee.

Item 10 - Letter from South Shropshire Furniture Scheme explaining their work in Bishop's Castle. (23 deliveries and 67 collections)

Letters of thanks from Hope House Children's Hospices and West Shropshire Talking Newspapers for the donation.

Item 12 - Reply from Jackie Ingham regarding the closure of Stone House Hospital. Copy on request from the Clerk. Cllr. Dr. Penney informed Council that it was proposed to offer the doctors a surgery on the Stone House site with two years rental paid in advance. The doctors were unlikely to take up this offer as they at present own the surgery and receive rent from others.

A letter was received from Mrs Middleton suggesting the new hospital be built on the Crowgate Business Park. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the suggestions in the letter be put on the next agenda. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches. An amendment was proposed by Cllr. Wright that a reply be sent to Mrs Middleton but no further action taken. Seconded by Cllr. Magill. The amendment was put to the Council and overruled (3 votes against). The proposition was then put to the Council and approved. NEXT AGENDA

Item 15 - A letter from Mr & Mrs Furber regarding the Co-op lorries was read.

A letter from Cathy Batson regarding the Town Council's reply to her about the co-op lorries has been received. Cllr. Carroll, the Mayor has sent a reply. Cllr. Pinches informed Council that he had spoken to two Co-op lorry drivers who said that they had not been given the suggested route into Town.

Item 16 - Reply from Councillor Hirst-Knight regarding the acre of land at Crowgate. He gives reasons for the break clause and states that Officers of the County Council will liaise with Officers of the District Council to identify the location.

Minutes of the County Council Cabinet meeting where the decision was reached have been received. To be circulated. The subject of the acre of land to be discussed at the next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

Item 18 - Footpath in Montgomery Road - Telephone call from Morris Phillips, Mynd View, and letter from Geoff Grimes, Magnolia, Montgomery Road in support of a tarmac footpath.

Letter from Phil James, Shropshire County Council saying they are willing to strim the land and that there has been a request for a footpath in the system for some time but it is low on the priority list. Cllr. Carroll reported that the longstanding request was for a footpath on the other side of the road which would be very costly. Cllr. Carroll proposed a site meeting be requested with Terry Titley, Shropshire County Council. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Fiona Robertson spoke on behalf of the skateboarders association.

She informed the Town Council that it is her intention to resign as secretary in May 2006. She requested that the Town Council consider taking over the maintenance of the skateboard park when all the equipment is in place and if necessary before. She thanked the Town Council for its funding this year and requested £2000 for equipment and £1000 towards maintenance in the next financial year. The maintenance grant would include funding a proposed project whereby the Council would employ a youth worker for 36 hours per year to coordinate the young people. This is to be considered at the next Council meeting.

Tim Evans spoke about the skateboard facility and the importance of project planning. He recommended that a youth worker be employed at approx. £1,000 per year to work with young people to manage the project. He circulated a project plan.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17660/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of clorination kiosk, erection of an extension of pump station building; erection of a 2m fence; construction of estate roads and widening of existing access and 1 x access. (delegated matter)

Oakley Farm Pumping Station, Bishop's Castle, Severn Trent water Ltd.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) No other plans

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/05/17543/TC Permission for the works trees. Removal of lower boughs from Wellingtonia trees.

Tall Trees, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr Jones.

Consent granted.

d) Planning meeting for 1/05/17600/F Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle on Wednesday 7/12/2005 at 2.00 pm at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

7. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The following need considering to enable the 2006-7 Budget to be set.

Any changes will take place from 1st April 2005 unless agreed otherwise.

a) Town Hall Cleaners salary. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) Street Cleaners salary. Cllr. Blundell proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

c) Town Clerks salary (i) Hourly rate (ii) annual increment. Cllr. Blundell proposed NALC rates be applied. Budget for 3%. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

d) Mayors allowance. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed £350. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

e) Training costs for Clerk and Councillors. Cllr. Blundell proposed budget £100. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

f) Hire of Town Hall. Cllr. Wright proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

g) Hire of Friday Market stall. Cllr. Wright proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

h) Hire of Farmers market stall. Cllr. Wright proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

i) Mace and Pike Bearers. Cllr. Blundell proposed an increase to £10. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

j) Reserves - Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed all reserves are carried forward. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

k) Repair and renewal of street furniture. Cllr. Wright proposed £1000 be budgeted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

l) Expected expenditure over and above the normal Council running costs. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the following budgets be set. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

(i) Town Hall improvements - To be considered at precept meeting.

(ii) Footpaths - £1500

(iii) Allotments - £1000

(iv) Bowling Green Close street lights - £1500

(v) Skateboard park - £2000

(vi) Floral decorations in Town - £200

8. CONSIDERATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AWARDS

a) Crucial Crew - Cllr. Magill proposed a sum of £96 be given to Crucial Crew. Seconded by Cllr. Dr Penney and approved.

b) Citizens Advice Shropshire- Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a sum of £204 be given to Citizens Advice, Shropshire. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell. Cllr. Wright proposed an amendment that a sum of £250 be given. The amendment was put to the Council and overruled. The proposition was then put to the Council and approved.

9. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

It was suggested that the declaration of interests book be left on the table before the meeting so that Councillors, if they choose, can fill it in before the meeting. The Clerk will read all declarations out and ask if there are any others. It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that this suggestion be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

10. SIGNING OF CASTLE LAND SITE

It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that direction signs be put on Bank House and the wall as you enter the castle land saying "To the Old Castle Land". Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Morris left the meeting.

11. TOURIST INFORMATION SIGN

The suggestion that the Tourist Information sign that was in Harley Jenkins Street Car Park be put in the Old Market Square was discussed. Cllr. Wright thought that it might be possible to put it at the lower end but he would need to look. Cllr. Wright proposed that Council give authority to himself, the Mayor and the Clerk to make the decision as to whether the lower end of Old Market Place was suitable. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

12. LIGHTING

Lighting Contract - At the October meeting it was proposed that a clause was added to the lighting contract giving a length of time between the reporting of a fault and the completion of a repair. The Lighting Contractor likes to do 4 or 5 lights at a time to reduce costs. Lights can usually be repaired within a month. They could be repaired within 7 days but it would necessitate a £40 call out charge.

Councillors were asked how they would like the contract worded. Cllr. Wright proposed that the lighting contractor should aim to get lights repaired within two weeks. Seconded by Cllr. Magill. Cllr Dr. Penney proposed an amendment saying that the lighting contractor should aim to get lights repaired within three weeks but in a special case the Clerk can authorise the light to be repaired within a week at a special call out rate. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches. The amendment was carried and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved.

PLAYING FIELDS - MAY FAIR

Mr & Mrs Wynn of the May Fair are unsure if it can fit onto the Playing Fields now that the changes have taken place. They are requesting the use of the top part of the field for caravans if necessary and if possible the dip in the middle of the lower field to be infilled with soil. The Clerk reported that the "Friends " are happy with caravans on the top field.

Cllr. Carroll thought it was too late in the year to do anything with the dip but proposed that caravans be allowed on the top field for the next May Fair and the whole situation be reviewed later next year. Seconded by Councillor Wright and approved.

14. CASTLE GREEN / WINTLES JUNCTION

Following a letter from Roger Whitehouse, Assistant Director, Traffic and Transport, Shropshire County Council to Geoff Grimes of Montgomery Road

Regarding the problems at this junction, Council discussed ways to improve the situation. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter of dissatisfaction with the situation be sent to the local government Ombudsman. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney arrived at the meeting.

15. LIGHTING IN WELSH STREET.

Council discussed the problems associated with lighting situation in Welsh Street.

Cllr. Pinches proposed a letter be sent to the Planning Office of the South Shropshire District Council asking if a retainer for lights was in place in Day's planning application. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

16. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cllr. Gaffney explained that he felt the document was long and involved and very difficult for the Community to understand. He proposed that a letter be sent to Mark Tinsley, Assistant Policy Officer, Shropshire County Council saying that this is the Council's opinion. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

17. ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr. Blundell that the following accounts are accepted except for the Rampmental invoice. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved. The Clerk to go back to the Skateboarders Association to discuss whether using the £2000 earmarked by the Town Council for the Association is the best way forward or whether it would be better to keep it for match funding.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Carroll met with Cllr. Peter Phillips, Chris Edwards (Shropshire County Council) and Glyn Shaw (Shropshire County Council) to discuss the scheme to improve highways and pavements in the Town. Chris Edwards has promised to come up with a plan for the Boars Head junction in January with work to start in the new financial year.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the meeting be extended for 10 minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

19. Correspondence.

a) (i) Letter of receipt and thanks from the Crowgate Child Centre.

(ii) Correspondance with Veronica Calderbank, Monitoring Officer, South Shropshire District Council. Ms Calderbank sent a formal letter saying "she had been advised that one of our projects is greatly overspent." The Clerk responded with some financial information and

Ms Calderbank replied saying "she may have misheard information which she often picks up from meetings." Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Ms Calderbank be invited to the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches. Cllr. Wright commented that it was quite extraordinary that such an accusation be made without any foundation. Cllr Wright proposed an amendment that a letter be sent to Ms Calderbank with a copy to the Chief Executive of South Shropshire District Council. Seconded by Cllr. Farr. The amendment was carried (5 votes for, 3 against) and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved.

The Clerk informed Council that a letter from Cllr. Hird has been received regarding his dissatisfaction with the management of the Town Council finances. The letter needs to be read carefully before being discussed.

b) For circulation

(i) South Shropshire Sport and Leisure Advisory Council

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm