

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 08/01/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8TH JANUARY 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and M. Stanley.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr. Pinches and Cllr. Wright. Proposed by Cllr. Furber, seconded by Cllr. Holton.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllrs Gaffney, Stanley, Magill and Carroll all declared personal interests in item 6a as they are a friend and neighbour of the applicant.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he is a personal friend of the applicant and an objector to the application.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th December 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Magill.

Item 19, line 4 delete "not".

- Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th December 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill. Seconded by

Cllr. Carroll.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

a) Meeting of 4th December 2007

Item 8 - Letter of congratulations on Quality Status from Paul Collins.

Item 10 - Reply from Kate Adams, SSDC regarding street cleansing. If Councillors or residents see litter problems they should report them to the District Council.

Item 13 - Letters from Shropshire Waste Partnership and Veolia Shropshire Ltd regarding Crowgate Recycling Centre. Cllr. Hird requested that a Council representative meets with Mark Hunter when he visits the recycling centre.

b) Meeting of 18th December 2007

The Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney explained that David Bone has now written saying he will not be taking up the post of Town Clerk. After consultation with all members of the interviewing panel the Clerk has approached Madeleine Denton and offered her the position, subject to ratification at the next Council meeting. She has gladly accepted. It was agreed by a show of hands that this is acceptable to Councillors. Councillors were also in agreement that Mrs Denton shadow the Clerk in January.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Heather Willis item 6a - Castle Street section. Mrs Willis explained that she is in favour of affordable housing. She has no objection to the three houses on Castle Street as they are an extension of the houses already on the street. She objects to the other three houses as they will be visible from a distance. She went on to explain that Bishop's Castle is unique in its position as it sits in a dip and cannot be seen from a distance. The position of these three houses would change that.

Mr Townshend - item 6a - Mr Townshend explained that he is a newcomer to Town and surprised by this development. His objections were that the houses were too tall, the junction of the access road with station Street would be very dangerous and that there is only one car space per house. Also the design of the houses is not very attractive. He went on to say he felt the Town needed affordable houses.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

To consider response to:-

a) 1/07/20188/F Planning permission(Full) Erection of 12 x dwellings (including 6 x affordable dwellings); formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and alterations to existing vehicular access.

Land to the rear of 34-36 High Street and Sumach, Station Street and land at Castle green, Bishop's Castle. Mr R Davies and Mrs J Davies.

Letters of objection were read from Judith Hollier and John Townshend, Margot Daniels on behalf of the Civic Society, Mr & Mrs Cooke, Matthew Evans and Mrs Green.

The Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney explained that he has spoken to Alan Davies at the Planning Policy Unit, South Shropshire District Council. Mr Davies has said that having the two sites on one application was a way of getting the 50% for affordable housing. The South Shropshire Housing Association will own the affordable houses when built. Cllr. Gaffney said he has also spoken to Stuart Taylor, our Planning Officer at South Shropshire District Council. Mr Taylor said there will be a drainage plan to address the concerns of Mrs Green and a cross section showing issues of height of the ground, addressing concerns about retaining walls etc. Planners have asked for landscaping for the Castle Green site.

Cllr. Stanley said it was a difficult moral dilemma. We need to see more affordable housing but she feels this is an over development of the Station Street site. She feels 4 x 2 bed houses with the use of the existing road would be better. She does not like the division of affordable and open market housing. Cllr. Carroll said she welcomes the affordable housing on Castle Street. It is a small site on exception land but wonders why this particular piece of the applicants land was chosen as access onto Montgomery Road is not good. She said she is opposed to the access road onto Station Street as there will be poor visibility. Use of the existing lane would be preferable. Cllr. Magill said she is opposed to the Castle Green site as the access onto Montgomery Road is very dangerous. There is a need for affordable housing but the Station Street site is over developed. The three bed houses have very small gardens. Cllr. Holton feels the access to Station Street will be very dangerous.

Resolved (unanimous) An objection on the following grounds:-.

- Division of application across two sites.
- Station Street is an over development.
- Station Street access is dangerous.
- The development will be an intrusion on neighbours.
- Very little garden space.
- Concerns regarding the retaining wall adjacent to Prospect House.
- Concern over storm drainage from site.
- Only one parking space per property.
- Castle Green site - safety issues regarding access,
- Elevated position of Castle Green site.

Proposed by the Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

b) 1/07/20173/LB Listed Building Consent. (Delegated matter) Removal of bay window and insertion of entrance door and steps; replace window. 26A High Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr I A Frost.

A letter was read from Mrs Daniel on behalf of the Civic Society.

Resolved An objection on the grounds that this application does not comply with the original planning application and continues to be unsafe.

Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

c) 1/07/20230/TC Tree works (conservation area) Felling of a leylandi.

Castle Cottage, 1 Castle Street, Bishop's Castle. G Hamer.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Farr.

d) Application by the County Council seeking planning permission.

Installation of 10-bay demountable building to provide "early years" childcare and "childrens's centre" facilities, with parking area, play areas and security fencing at Bishop's Castle Primary School, Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Stanley. Concerns were expressed on the limited size of the building for the Crowgate nursery compared with the large parking area.

e) Any other plans - none

f) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/07/19924/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a conservatory,

The Grange, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr Tilling.

Planning permission refused.

(ii) 1/07/20146/F Planning permission (Full) (Delegated matter) Erection of an extension and alterations to dwelling and erection of a domestic garage.

Brooklyn House, Woodbatch Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr R. A. Kimber.

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/07/20114/F Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling.

14 Corporation Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs D Collins.

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/07/20069/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a log store with roof top seating area. (delegated matter)

10 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Lynn Townsend.

Planning permission granted.

(v) 1/07/20112/TC Tree works (conservation area) (Delegated matter) Felling of an acacia, a western hemlock, a silver birch and two pine trees, lopping a maple.

The Middle Bailey, Bull Lane, Bishop's castle. Mrs G Roberts.

Consent granted.

12. AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY

Paul Sutton, Managing Director, South Shropshire Housing Association spoke to Council about the Affordable Housing Policy. He explained that although the successful applicants for Drews Leasow are subject to local criteria the three Housing Association properties that subsequently fell vacant on oak Meadow are not subject to this criteria. The Housing Association has a statutory obligation to hold a waiting list and allocate property on a Choice based lettings scheme. He then went on to explain the letting procedure for Drews Leasow. He explained that of those properties allocated by the Housing Association 76% of the applicants travelled less than 10 miles to their new home and 39% less than one mile. Several questions were asked about individual lettings in the Town which Mr Sutton could not answer because of Data Protection but said if queries were sent to him he would make enquires. He went on to explain that two of the at cost equity mortgage properties were still unsold because of mortgage difficulties. Only Nationwide is willing to lend and they don't want to be only lender. If these cannot be sold they will be converted into rented properties. This has serious financial implications for the Housing Association. The properties for rent were over subscribed.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Georgie Ellis reported on the following:-

Crowgate recycling centre. She has spoken to Bill Jones, South Shropshire District Council about the Town Council organising the recycling centre. He was not very keen but Cllr. Ellis is trying to convince him that Bishop's Castle gets things done. She asked if a programme could be drawn up as to how it would be achieved.

Crowgate Nursery - Cllr. Ellis explained £350,000 of Government money is available for nursery provision. If it is not spent by June it will be taken back.

Primary school reorganisation - Cllr. Ellis suggested that any lobbying should be to Jim Knight, Schools Minister, especially on the unfair funding for Shropshire.

Abattoir - A feasibility study has been commissioned as to how easy it will be to get it up and running. There are local people with money available to do it.

Cllr. Ellis then congratulated the Mayor on the work he has done for the setting up of the Community Land Trust.

Cllr. Ellis has been selected as a member of the Joint Implementation Board for Unitary. She is to work on the Local Framework Development Plan.

8. CLERKS CONTRACT

Resolved Approval of the revised contract for the Clerk recommended by NALC. (see attached) Proposed by Cllr. Magill, seconded by Cllr. Furber.

9. SLOW SIGNS

Resolved To ask the County Council for "slow" signs along the A488 between the far entrance to the Community College and the far side of the kennels junction.

Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

Cllr. Magill asked that the request for lights on the junctions of the A488 be followed up. Cllr. Dr. Penney asked the Clerk to contact Ian Rutherford, Shropshire County Council to request the removal of the signs for the Pines Trust.

10. YOUTH COUNCIL

Resolved This Council moves towards setting up a Youth Council. Cllr. Carroll to investigate with the help of Irene Stelfox, Youth leader. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

11. ACCOUNTS -

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

13. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Stanley reported on a meeting of Enterprise South West Shropshire - It is restructuring the Board. The main board will have 32 directors and meet three times a year. It will represent the arts, sport, education, six formers at the College, Land Trust etc. It will represent all the interests of Bishops Castle. There will be an Executive Committee with six members. They will be the "doers". It will consist of Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Peter Phillips, Rev. Paul Collins, Grant Perry, Ray Pahl and one other. The Town Council has not been invited to supply a representative on the Executive Committee. The full Board will come up with a strategy which will address the regeneration role.

14a) CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) West Mercia Police Authority - re meetings on policing policy 2008.

(ii) SALC Courses for Councillors.

(iii) Letter from Cllr Peter Phillips re gritting at Bankshead.

b) Circular

(i) Agenda and minutes of Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils.

(ii) LCR

(iii) West Mercia Police Authority - Your Views Count.

(iv) The Town hall, Bishop's Castle by Patricia Theobald

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 29/01/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 29TH JANUARY AT 8.00 PM.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apology was accepted. Cllr. Gaffney. (Away on business)
Proposed by Cllr. Magill, seconded by Cllr.Farr.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllrs Carroll and Magill declared personal interests in item 6a as they have known the applicant as an acquaintance for many years.
Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as the applicant is a personal friend.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as the applicant is a neighbour and friend.
Cllr. Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he owns neighbouring property.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th January 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Magill.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 - (Item 13) Crowgate recycling centre. A meeting has been arranged with Mr Hunter of Veolia Environmental Services, Shropshire for 3rd March 2008. Cllr. Wright pointed out that Veolia is only the contractor. The responsibility still lies with the District and County Councils.

Item 12 - A follow up letter has been received from Paul Sutton, Managing Director, South Shropshire Housing Association. Cllr. Dr. Penney noted that Mr Sutton promised to find out if there were any sanctions that could be used if it was found that the Housing Association had been deceived. All agreed a letter should be written to this effect. **ATC**

Other meetings:

A letter of acknowledgement has been received from the Definitive Map Orders Officer, Shropshire County Council regarding the footpath from Church Street to the Auction Yard.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:Councillors Pinches and Penney left the room and Councillor Carroll took the chair during this discussion.

a) 1/07/20188/F Erection of 12 x dwellings (including 6 x affordable dwellings); formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and alterations to existing vehicular access. Land to the rear of 34-36 High Street and Sumach, Station Street and land at Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Mr R Davies and Mrs J Davies. (Additional plans)

A letter of objection was read from the Civic Society.

Resolved An objection on the previous grounds. Proposed by Cllr. Magill and seconded by Cllr. Farr.

ATC

Resolved A letter be sent to the Planning office requesting that information on heights of buildings and construction materials be supplied in future. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr. Farr.

Councillors Pinches and Penney returned.

ATC

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/07/20230/TC Tree works (conservation area) Felling of a leylandi.

Castle Cottage, 1 Castle Street, Bishop's Castle. G Hamer.

Consent granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Georgie Ellis reported on the following:

Schools closure programme.- The schools to be closed have now been named. Lydbury North is the closest school affected. It is to merge with Clunbury. There are petitions in the Town that can be signed.

Possible upgrading and refurbishing of the Town Hall toilets. Cllr. Ellis explained that she voted against the request for money for these toilets as she had no idea of costs involved. She explained there is money available in the District Council at present so it would be worth applying but more details need to be included.

Play area in Brick Meadow - This area is not to be upgraded. The money that would have been paid by the developer will go to somewhere else in the Town.

8. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

Resolved To appoint Madeleine Denton as Town Clerk from 1.2.08 on the NALC recommended pay scales spinal column point 15. At the end of a three month probationary period consideration to be made whether the spinal column point should be increased.

Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

9. FUTURE DATES

Resolved Following dates for 2008

Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday 11th March

Annual Council Meeting - Tuesday 27th May

Mayors Sunday - Sunday 1st June or Sunday 8th June after consultation with Rev. Collins.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

10. PARKING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

Parking problems in Bishop's Castle were discussed and letters read from the Civic Society and Robert Gwyther. It was agreed that cars in parking places with "for sale" boards on them were a Police matter. It was also agreed that some publicity should be put in the newsletter requesting people who work in the Town to park in the car parks. The matter could not be discussed further as the agenda item was not specific, also, decisions on yellow lines have been made within the last six months. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

Next Agenda

11. DONATION REQUESTS

a) **Resolved** Under section 137 of the Local Government Act to offer a grant of £92 to Crucial Crew. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

b) **Resolved** To write to the Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus explaining there is no money in the budget at present for offers of financial assistance but suggesting they reapply after 1st April if the money is still required. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Wright.

12. FOOTPATH FROM BOWLING GREEN CLOSE TO BRICK MEADOW

Complaints have been received about the muddy condition of this footpath. The Clerk explained that the diversion of the footpath has been stalled because the developers of Brick Meadow require a large sum of money for the footpath to be diverted onto their land.

Resolved

a) To ask Morgans Solicitors if this Town Council can be kept informed of progress.

b) The Clerk to check with the County Council to see if the Brick Meadow Development roads and pavements have been adopted.

c) To write to Sue Howells, Brick Meadow residents representative suggesting the residents petition the County Council and the Developers for the footpath to be diverted speedily. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

13. LIGHTING IN BULL LANE/CASTLE STREET

The Clerk explained that Central Networks are to put the cables fixed to the pole at the Castle Green/Wintles junction underground. Some of these cables feed the Town Council's street lights in Bull Lane and Castle Street. Central networks will pay for the connection charges but the Town Council will have to pay for new columns.

Resolved (6 votes to 4) A letter to be sent to Wse Ltd, (representative for Central Networks) requesting a financial contribution for renewing the columns. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Holton.

Resolved Peter Emberton, Shropshire County Council be approached to draw up a lighting scheme for this area at an approximate cost of £1,000.

The lighting will then be able to be upgraded to County Council standards and consequently adopted by the County Council. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

14. MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved To agree to South Shropshire District Council placing a block advertisement in the press to conform with legal requirement to notify the public of changes to the Code of Conduct. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Wright.

15. TOWN HALL TOILETS

Resolved To write to South Shropshire District Council requesting £60k to enable the Town Council to upgrade its public toilets. A plan of the intended Town Hall renovation to be included. To explain to the District Council that detailed quotes will follow. The Clerk to obtain three quotations for the work. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

16. UPKEEP OF WEBSITE

The design and upkeep of the web site was discussed. Mike Ashwell has done this free of charge in the past but now wishes to charge £500 per year. This would include improving the web site.

Resolved To enquire further from Mr Ashwell what this price includes and can it be reduced. To make enquiries of charges by other providers. To bring back to the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ATC, Next Agenda

17. REPORT

OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

18a) CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) SCC - closure of Clun Bridge 11/2/08.

(ii) NHS Stone House redevelopment.

(iii) South Shropshire Housing Association - Properties at Drews Leasow. Two applicants for "local criteria" were considered. It was agreed a letter should be written to Paul Sutton pointing out that procedure (i) explained in his letter was not complied with

(iv) SALC courses for Councillors.

b) Circulation

(i) South Shropshire Police - Community Consultative Group.

(ii) Speaking Out

(iii) The Playing Field

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 26/02/2008

Draft

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 26TH February 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: S.A.Farr,(Family Commitments.) Proposed by: Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Penney.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr: Gaffney declared personal interests in item 6a as he has known the applicant as an acquaintance for many years.

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6a as she has been a personal friend for many years.

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as the applicant is a personal friend

Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 10 as she is a director of ESWS.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 11 as he has property adjoining the footpath.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he is the owner of adjacent property. Cllrs Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as they are neighbours and friends.

Cllr Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he has adjacent property.

Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as she owns an attached building and has an income from it.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record Cllr Penney with the following amendments:

Item 2b) Add: Cllr Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he owns neighbouring property.

Item 3 line 3 add Deputy

Item 4 Line 3 should read : The responsibility now lies with the Shropshire Waste Partnership.

Item 6. Line 1 and 13 Add Cllr Wright

Seconded by Cllr Pinches.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 (Item 12) a letter was sent to Paul Sutton who is currently on leave and will respond when he returns.

Item 6a Letter received from Jake Berriman suggesting the clerk emails his office if we need any clarification.

Item 10 The local police advised us that as long as cars have tax discs, they can have For Sale signs. Vans parked for long periods were either local or working close by. It would be impossible to police yellow lines, and Parkright is not a preferred option.

Item 12 Brick Meadow roads have not yet been adopted. The Clerk is in touch with the solicitors, there still appears to be an impasse.

Item 13 A spokesman for Wse appreciated our problem but felt that they could not help and suggested the Clerk writes to the developer. This action was proposed by Cllr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Magill. **Resolution.**

Item 15. The Clerk has received a favourable reply from Graham Biggs who wished to know more details about the renovation, and three tenders for the toilets. **ATC**

Cllr Georgie Ellis (Item 7 and Item 15) reported that with the change to Unitary authority we need to apply for any monies for projects as soon as possible. Some suggested projects were:

Improvement to the allotments: perhaps the Town Council could take ownership.

There is also need for a new kitchen in the Public Hall.

Proposed that the Clerk should include some of these projects in letter to Graham Biggs. Proposed by Cllr. Wright Seconded by Cllr. Stanley. **ATC**

Cllr Stanley spoke on behalf of the Farmers' Market. The provision of electricity in the Market Square would be a huge boost to the market.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gaffney that Cllr Stanley should explore the possibility of providing power in the market Square and seconded by Cllr Carroll.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT: Cllrs Wright, Pinches and Penney left the room .

a) 1/08/20376/CA Demolition of a dwelling and barn/storage utility building to the rear of 34-36 High St. and Sumac Station St.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll Seconded by Cllr Magill. **Unanimous decision.**

Cllrs Wright, Pinches and Penney returned.

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/07/20225/F Erection of a horticultural building and alterations to existing vehicular access. OS Field no 8467 Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY7 0EL N & A Coull

Permission Granted subject to conditions.

(ii) 1/07/20173/LB Removal of bay window and insertion of entrance door and steps; replace window. 26A High St. Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY9 5BQ Mr. I.A.Frost

Listed Building Consent Granted subject to conditions

(iii)1/07/20031/F Erection of replacement dwelling(delegated matter). The Pines, Colebatch, Nr Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY9 5JY Miss Hicks

Permission Granted subject to conditions.

(iv) 1/07/20188/F Erection of 12x dwellings (including 6x affordable dwellings); formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and alterations to existing vehicular access (Re-advertised- additional plans.) Land to the rear of 34-36 High St and Sumach Station St. and land at Castle Green

Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY9 Mr R Davies and Mrs J Davies.

Permission Refused

c) **Resolved** To write to the District Planning concerning their apparent ignoring of Town Council's proposals. This seems to happen particularly on delegated matters. With the unitary authority almost upon us, it is even more important that they listen to the Town Council as we have local expertise.

We would like to know their reasons for rejecting our proposals in order that the Town council gains a better grasp of planning considerations.

Proposed by Cllr Gaffney, seconded by Cllr Carroll. **Unanimous vote in favour.**

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT OFFICERS

Cllr. Georgie Ellis reported on the following:

The Unitary Authority went through Parliament, and its first meeting will be on Friday 29th February.

Town and Parish Councils have a greater part to play in liaising with Shire Hall.

Concerning the winding up of finances, most will pass on to the unitary authority but there will be some available for any projects, there is also some money from the reserved funds.

Each Council is now able to spend money on the Youth Council as it likes.

One suggested project is a new kitchen in the Public Hall.

(See other suggestions in Item 4 Matters Arising)

8. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Cllr Stanley left the room.

A letter of rejection has been received on the grounds of conservation and education. Surprise was expressed concerning conservation as we had consulted the best advice available and had also shown that there would be an educational aspect to the building.

The Council felt it must pursue this matter. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney that we contact Chris Tomlins and Colin Richards for advice. We should continue with plans for the final work, clarify exactly where we failed and retrieve our original application. Call a meeting of the Renovation Partnership then re-apply. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll. **ATC**

Cllr Stanley returned.

9. KERRY LANE LIGHTING TENDERS

The clerk explained that E-On, contractors for Central Networks, only work on the cables. Because we had only two tenders for the columns we could not discuss this. The Clerk is to get another tender. **ATC**

10. UPKEEP OF WEBSITE Cllr. Stanley left the room during this discussion.

Two letters have been received, from ESWS, and "All About Resources". Several points were made:

- The mayor wondered whether we were comparing like with like and perhaps more information is needed. The on-going support and maintenance for the website, and for the Council's IT arrangements which has been provided by Enterprise House may not be on offer from "All About Resources".
- Cllr Wright pointed out the advantages of close links to the other Bishop's Castle websites.
- Cllrs Carroll, Wright and the Mayor had all inspected the website maintained by: "All About Resources" and concluded that it was not at an equivalent standard to our existing one.
- Cllr. Hird pointed out that the BC Group's website had been set up at a cost of only

£35.00 the mayor felt that this involved a short term, voluntary commitment and was not comparable to the on-going professional maintenance that we need.

- The mayor said that the achievement of Quality Council status included a very positive response to the quality of the website maintained for us by Enterprise House.
- Cllr Carroll added that Enterprise House has managed our website for seven years free of charge and she felt it was high time that the council demonstrates its support and appreciation for the services offered by Mr Ashwell and Enterprise House to the Council and to the community.

Cllr Carroll proposed we agree to pay Enterprise House £200.00 for maintenance, the amount to be reviewed annually. Seconded by Cllr Magill .

Resolved Unanimously.

11. FOOTPATH FROM BANKS HEAD PAST THE LONG HOUSE

This is an on-going matter which needs to be resolved. In a popular walking area, this path is causing problems. Although it is accepted as a right of way by all parties, the part that is in Shrops does not appear on the definitive map. This prevents it from being included in, for example, walking guides. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll that the Clerk should write to the County Council asking them to get on with including it on the definitive map as soon as possible.

Seconded by Cllr Magill.

ATC

12. PARKING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

No new decision can be made on this matter as it is less than six months since the last decision was made.

13. GROUND'S MAINTENANCE, GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk suggested that we could go out to tender for grass-cutting . Proposed by Cllr. Penney, seconded by Cllr Wright.

ATC

14. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Carroll reported that she had attended a Six Towns Meeting. Ludlow felt they ought to have more than one member on this committee as it is so much bigger than the other towns. Town and Parish Councils should be much more involved with decision making under unitary authority. Some towns are unhappy with "Parkright" as they are over zealous and some thought they were ruining business. It was agreed that "Parkright" should be under greater control.

Cllr Carroll had also attended a "Better Welcome" Meeting. She reported that there is £25,000 of West Midland money available, some of which could be spent on tidying up and re-furbishing the information panels in the auction yard, and some could perhaps go to help the museums in the town. We may be able to access some money for the walkway between the Auction yard and Church St. which the District Council could match fund.

15. a) Correspondence.

i) Transfer of Oak Meadow

ii) Larger Councils Forum

iii) Post Office Closure

iv) Street Closures

v) Introduction of the Standard Planning Application Form, moved to Circulation

vi) Bus route no 553. Need to respond to this. **Proposed that Clerk and mayor take up this issue for the council.** Proposed Cllr. Wright, seconded Cllr. Magill

vii) School Closures

viii) Flooding. Moved to circulation

b) Circulation

1. Standard planning form

2. Flood Report

3. Letter from prospective buyers from Drews Leasow to Shropshire Housing Association

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

Bishop's Castle Annual Town Meeting 11/03/2008

MINUTES OF BISHOP'S CASTLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY MARCH 11TH 2008 AT 8.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Councillor Jim Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M.Davidson Stanley, M.E.Holton, R.D.Wright, J.A.Magill, J.M.Carroll, M.. Furber, W.J.Morris, K.Pinches, Dr.G.N.St.J. Penney.
Six members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs M. Denton, Town Clerk.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hird and Farr, and District Councillors Ellis and Phillips.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2007.

Item 2 a: The culvert has been cleared on Welsh St.

b. The spring in Welsh St. still has not been attended to. ATC to contact Ian Rutherford.

c. Piece of land adjacent to footpath from the Ridge to Grange Rd. Assurances have been received that no work has been authorised there.
d. Success with the Hospital, indeed they are now embarking on a "makeover" in which some councillors are involved. The hospital has £250,000 to spend on this. Cllr. Dr G.N.St. J Penney, informed the meeting that they are also building up a fund for new equipment; whatever the final amount reaches will be match-funded by the NHS. So far £11,000 has been collected. Anyone who wishes to see the Plans for the hospital, there is currently an exhibition in the library.

e Unitary Authority. The District Council ceases to be at the end of March 09. There was some discussion as to why the Unitary Authority was imposed when there was a vote against. There may be some money available as a result of the District Council going. There should be a lot more local accountability.

f Biomass incinerator / generator. Planning Application was withdrawn as the District Council wanted more information on supply of combustible material and whether it would come from renewable sources. They were also concerned about the impact on local people, and whether there would be local contracts for material. As far as atmospheric tests were concerned, the nearest site at Shawbury could not be evaluated as it is too far away. The problem of heat and how it would be used up was un- answered as there was nothing in the original application.

g Reducing the hours that street lights are kept on. A request was made that some lights, perhaps two thirds could be switched off at say 2 a m, this would be beneficial as it reduces light pollution and use of electricity. Some concern was expressed that vandalism and crime would rise with darkness. Perhaps we could do some research into the subject. The clerk to look into.

h) Jonathan Greig Church Street. Wondered why such things as plastic windows and satellite dishes were not included on planning applications especially in the conservation area. Clerk to pursue this with District Council.

i) The Boars Head junction, although raised at the last meeting and generally thought to be odd, it is working .

j) Cars parking on the pavements. This has been discussed at council meetings. September 11th 2007 A copy of the discussion is below:

9. PARKING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE.

The Clerk read a letter from Phil Crossland, Assistant Director, Transport and Highways, Shropshire County Council suggesting that the only way to solve traffic problems in Bishop's Castle is double yellow lines on Salop Street, Market Square, Welsh Street, Boars head junction and Station Street, enforced by ParkRight. Also letters from the Police and fire Service to Mr Crossland.

Cllr. Stanley reported on the difficulties with parking in Market Square.

There was considerable discussion when the following comments were mad.

(i) Cllr. Stanley commented that the yellow lines were very confusing and that one can safely park on some yellow lines but in other areas with no yellow lines it is very dangerous to park.

(ii) The Police are obliged to come out if there is an obstruction, especially if a car is parked on a white line.

(iii) White lines are guide as to whether cars are at risk.

(iv) Cllr. Magill felt double yellow lines were a good idea.

(v) Cllr. Gaffney explained that Park Right enforce law indiscriminately. People who park outside their house on the pavement in Welsh Street would be fined.

(vi) It was generally felt that a single yellow line did not achieve anything.

(vii) It was commented that it is important for buses and the fire service to get through.

Resolved (a) Ask Mr Crossland to come to Bishop's Castle to discuss the problems.

(b) To ask for assistance from the local Police at the PACT meeting.

(c) For a working group of Cllrs. Stanley, Magill, Pinches Gaffney and Carroll to walk the area and mark on the map where lines are, or are not required. Cllr. Stanley to organise.

Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

k) The idea to have setts at the top of High Street has been withdrawn

l) Blocked drains on High St and Church St: the situation seems to be improving.

Heather Willis Bull Lane

Mrs Willis asked how houses can be built outside the planning envelope. The mayor explained that District Council policy is that if the plan is for 100% affordable houses, then they will give consent. It's is called "exception" land and is very contentious. The scheme has been dropped in Craven Arms and Ludlow.

Mrs Willis asked about the arrangement for 50-50 planning which means that any plans submitted for new houses have to have a 50% affordable element .

Mrs Willis wondered why the planned new houses at Castle Green are L shaped, could this open the way to developing the rest of the field.

Mrs Willis would like to know what the District Council's affordable housing policy is. The clerk will pursue this.

Jim Pratt Welsh St.

Mr Pratt asked about the salt bins on Union St. about which nothing has happened. We put in a request for wooden ones. The clerk will pursue this. The problem with broken play equipment is being dealt with.

There was then a discussion about the threat to Lydbury North School and general support for their very difficult situation.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 25/03/2008

DRAFT:
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON March 25th 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M.Denton

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr M Furber (Unwell) Proposed by, Cllr Dr Penney, seconded by Cllr J Magill.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6i as she is a friend and neighbour.
Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6i as she has been a personal friend for many years.
Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 6i and ii as she has been an acquaintance for many years, and in Item 15 as she is on the committee of the Tourism group.
Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 6i as he is a friend.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 8 as she owns and earns an income from attached buildings.
Cllr. St.J.Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6i as he is a friend and neighbour.
Cllr: Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 6i as he has adjacent property
Cllr: Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 6i as he has adjacent property

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th February 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr St J Penney with the following corrections. Item 2 a) Insert: "& item 6a" in Cllr Carroll's declaration. Item 3: insert "by". Item 6c insert " This would also help the" in the third sentence. Item 10:delete, "Cllr Stanley left the room". In all places where "ATC" the clerk should insert : "Resolved".

Seconded by Cllr: M Holton

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Item 6c, we have received a reply from Mr Berriman advising us that if we are worried about our proposals being ignored, we only have to ask for an explanation.
Item 7 & 8 With Sula Rayska's help we presented the application form for funding for the toilets/Town Hall renovation.
Item 9 The Clerk contacted a firm who seemed able to carry out the work we needed, and were very interested in quoting but after receiving the specifications had to refuse as they have never worked to County specifications before.

Item 11. Cllr Carroll pursued this matter with the Footpaths dept. and it would appear that all paperwork for this has been sent to another dept. dealing with "lost ways".
Item 16a vi The Clerk has tried to contact the Integrated transport group but has made no progress.

The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for 37 minutes to enable members of the public to speak on planning applications, and to enable Councillors to question them.

5. **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:**

Concerning:
Planning application:1/08/20502/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a Biomass Power Plant and alterations to existing vehicular access. Bishop's Castle Business Park, Bishop's Castle Biomass Power Ltd.

Karen Baverstock: Chair of the Bishop's Castle Group.

- Important to stress that their decision to object to this proposal has not been taken lightly. They are all mindful of responsibilities and are not against green projects but following extensive research, have to object strongly to this proposal.
- There are still unanswered questions and incorrect information from the developers.
- They have visited Mr Day's plant at Eccleshall and whilst there noticed a plume of smoke falling straight down to the ground.
- The plant was operating on a Saturday and making a lot of noise.
- The developers of the Bishop's Castle plant are not all local.
- The group cannot see any benefit from the plant but it will change and harm the town for ever.

Dr A Lempert:

1. Previous submissions were light on detail concerning toxins which will be emitted. All burning facilities emit toxins but we still don't know how many this plant will emit.
2. Many assertions made by the developers are unscientific.
3. Wood burning is a significant contributor to the amount of dioxins in the air. More dangerous are the particulates and particularly the small particulates which do the most damage.
4. Dioxins and other effluents have a half life of 10-15 years. Without regular monitoring, how will we know exactly what harmful substances are being emitted.
5. The plant is likely to bring potential illness and unhappiness.
6. The onus to prove that there will be no harm is on the owners of the plant.
7. They have established a reputation for many broken promises.
8. The graphs they have produced in all submissions are different and do not make sense.
9. The developers should stop hiding behind pseudo-science and come clean.

Mr Andrew Cunningham:

1. He hoped to bring a full report about the air quality but it is not in the public domain.
2. The developer's figures for air quality are based on a study of Birmingham Airport.
3. Mr. Cunningham has himself been running wind speed tests at the site.
4. The climate here, especially the wind speed is much less than that experienced at Birmingham Airport. Therefore, the use of such figures is completely inappropriate.
5. The developers' idea of valley depth is wrong. The developers claim that the temperature inversion occurs mostly at 40-60 m. It does not. It usually occurs about the height of Oakley Mynd, i.e. 150m. above the proposed site. The topography around Bishop's Castle is complex.
6. The developers' model is based on theoretical study and is badly flawed. Simulations use data which is extreme: the wind speed is extreme, the valleys are too low. The issues are too complex for such an amateurish model.

Cllr Wright asked whether the heat produced would be sufficient to push pollutants through the cloud. It seems that 50% would go through according to their graph. Sometimes inversion is much higher than the developers are claiming.

Mr. Harry Round

This site is unsuitable for such a plant. Suggested sites should be:

1. "As far as possible from residential areas in all directions." This proposal is approximately 200 metres.
2. "As far as possible from schools". A school is 300 metres away
3. "As far as possible from playing fields" 300 metres away
4. "As far as possible from crops and livestock." There are 4 dairy herds surrounding the plant.
5. "As far as possible from allotments." They are adjacent.
6. Not in a valley or terrain which restricts dispersal of air pollutants. Bishop's Castle suffers from climatic inversion.
7. Should not be above an aquifer. It is.

This plant could not have been planned in a worse place. The developers are also unlikely to be able to afford local woodchip as their preferred fuels so what fuels are they going to burn.

Mr Hugh Band

1. Twelve months ago the group was told about a similar plant in Portugal yet the developers still refuse to divulge its name.
2. Central networks have repudiated the claims made by the developers about improving the supply of electricity.
3. Staffordshire Borough Council has called to shut down the Eccleshall plant due to breakdowns..
4. Real data should be taken and used from Bishop's Castle valley floor.
5. They have said the will not burn waste that includes plastics and timber impregnated with known carcinogens, and never will; yet they refuse to give that undertaking.
6. It is wrong and unproven technology.

Mr Michael Dawes

1. It's the same application
2. Serious concerns about the way this has been handled.
3. The air quality and pollution control figure have not been in the public domain.
4. Last December, the Environmental Health Dept. of Staffordshire Borough Council received complaints about the smoke from the Eccleshall plant which was "dribbling out". The smoke was found to contain 300ml/cu metre of particulates.
5. Environmental Health closed the plant claiming that the cyclone system used to disperse the smoke is inadequate. This was only discovered due to a complaint, but is a basic design failure. Journalists who wanted to visit the site were told they couldn't as it was "too dangerous".
6. Eccleshall has also had problems with fuel supply and have had to fall back on wood chip.
7. As for the heat main and electricity supply to the industrial estate, no-one has been made an offer, and no heat supplies have been provided at Eccleshall.
8. The supply of heat is a marginal operation.
9. They have noted some of the group's concerns but not many.

Mrs Paula Middleton

1. Her family lives close to the plant and has concerns about the carcinogenic affect of the burning. (There could be a link between foot and mouth pyres and cancer.)
2. Concerned about the future of the local economy as increasingly it is based on tourism, which could be put at risk.
3. Personally, they are already planning to develop their farm into a conference centre and outdoor pursuit venue. This will create many new jobs but will be put at risk if the Biomass plant goes ahead as it is on adjacent land.
4. Wanted to express her thanks for all the work of the Bishop's Castle group.

Cllr Dr St John Penney commented that the proponents of this plan have been allowed a lot of time to make their case, it seems to be biased against Bishop's Castle.

Planning Application 1/07/20188/F Erection of twelve dwellings; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and alterations to existing vehicular access. (Re advertised-additional plans) Mr. R and Mrs J Davies.

Mandy Green

1. Concerns mainly about noise. Both the Vaults and the Three Tuns have licenses for music at certain times over the year which is an important facility for young people in the town. It is possible that the future homeowners on this development would complain about the noise.

Mr John Townsend.

1. He lives opposite at the Old Manse.
2. He is not against the proposal per se but does feel it should not go ahead.
3. Concerned about the height of the development. There has been a reduction of 425mm on the height of one house and not 1 metre.
4. A second building has been raised by 400mm.
5. Two extra parking spaces have been created.
6. The driveway is dangerous, the average car would have to come out by 2 feet before it would have clear vision of the road.
7. The site is over-developed.
8. Lowering the total site would be an improvement to the plans.

Mr Ron Davies

1. These plans are for high quality new residential accommodation.
2. There has been careful consideration given to the design, which makes the best use of land.
3. It will bring new life to this plot through the removal of dilapidated building and an unsatisfactory residential property.
4. There is a pressing need for affordable houses.
5. Feedback from the Town has been positive and enthusiastic.

Cllr Holton asked about the road and the Cooke's house. Mr. Davies replied that the Highways department, when they came to visit it, suggested making the exit where it is in the plans; there will be no damage to the Cooke's house.

The Mayor thanked all the contributors to this discussion. The meeting was resumed at Item 6.

6. **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:**

Cllrs Penney, Wright and Pinches left the room.
i) 1/07/20188/F Erection of twelve dwellings; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access and alterations to existing vehicular access. (Re-advertised additional plans.)

Cllr Carroll had changed her mind about this site. Although still not happy about the shape of the development on Castle Green, affordable housing is desperately needed. She doesn't like the entrance to the parking area but accepted that Highways have chosen this as preferable. She has no objection to the over-development of the site as many houses in Bishop's castle are close together.

Cllr Stanley still feels it's over-developed. It may be better if it could be reduced in side or turned around.

Cllr Gaffney is not satisfied that the only way to achieve affordable housing is by this sort of plan. Linkage between two developments is inconsistent with planning policy.

Cllr Stanley proposed the motion to object on the grounds stipulated by Cllr Gaffney. Seconded by Cllr Magill.

Voted: those in favour: 5
against: 2

Resolved
Cllrs Penney, Wright and Pinches returned.

ii) 1/08/20502/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a Biomass Power Plant and alterations to existing vehicular access. Bishop's Castle Business Park. Bishop's Castle Biomass Power Ltd.

Many letters have been received which echo what we have already heard.

Jonathan Gregg's points out that the drawing of the plan is not to scale therefore we cannot pin down the size of the plant.

Cllr Carroll spoke in favour of the development. She feels there is an element of "nimbyism" going on despite the Town's green credentials. Plants such as these are quite common in Europe, and the technology is available to stop pollution. She didn't understand the complaint about lorries, as this is an industrial estate. She also felt that we put up with pollution, which comes at the moment from our wood and coal burners, we are not governed by Clean Air acts as cities are. She thinks the idea of Heat energy is an interesting one. The planners have assured us that the company will not be able to burn anything undesirable without going back to them for permission.

Cllr Hird pointed out that currently six out of seven states in Australia do not allow Biomass plants.

Cllr Wright has some sympathy with what Cllr Carroll says however he feels he has to object. The plans are all so very vague, imprecise and ambiguous, to the point of obfuscation. It seems that the potential viability of the plant could only come about by subsidies. The heat main is an irrelevance. He wondered whether there would be adequate fuel locally, and was not qualified to decide whether the quotes of water usage, 1 cu. metre every hour, was accurate. He thought it sounded a lot. There is genuine concern about pollution and noise. He doesn't feel we have the guarantees from the company and has no confidence in the District Planners having the necessary technical expertise to make any decision. The whole thing should be researched further.

He therefore wished to object on the grounds that the plant is:

1. Not viable because:
2. The air situation is not adequate
3. Pollution, both noise and air
4. Imprecise application.

Cllr Gaffney

He seriously questioned the reliability of the company's figures. On pg 13 of the application, item 5.2, the figures for the amount of fuel used are 20,000 tons/year or 2.5 tons/hour. These figures don't match. He wondered how we could have confidence in other figures or data.

The viability of this plant crucially depends on whether the fuel is renewable, it also has to be local. Those crops have not been available in plants that are already working in this country.

It's a proposal that wants to take the Government's grants.

The application makes no reference to using the heat. It has pretensions to be green, but is in fact not.

Cllr Penney

The company boasted previously that water at 60 degrees would leave the plant and only have lost one degree when it reached the school.

Cllr Pinches said it would be interesting to see costing on the plans.

Cllr Wright supported what Cllr Wright had said.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that we object to these plans. Seconded by Cllr St.J.Penney.

Passed 10/1

Resolved

7. **CONDITION OF TOWN HALL**

Cllr Stanley left the room.

Cllr Magill reported that slates had come off the roof during recent storms. The roof is in need of urgent attention. £30,000 has been ear-marked towards renovation some of which could be used.

Cllr Carroll suggested asking Mike Morris of South Shropshire Roofing to inspect.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright that Mr Morris would make an assessment of the roof as a whole as patching might be inappropriate.

Cllr Magill suggested that storm damage may be covered by insurance.

Cllr Holton suggested that Colin Richards should be invited to have a look and that the Town Hall Partnership should be reconvened.

Proposed by Cllr Holton that the mayor and clerk should take action and seconded by Cllr Wright.

ATC Resolved

Cllr Stanley returned.

8. **UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Report in circulation to be discussed at next meeting. The mayor urged all councillors that it is very important for Bishop's Castle to be represented on these committees.

9. **ANNUAL INSURANCE**

Proposed by Cllr St J Penney to accept the quotation from Norwich Union subject to checking by Cllr Farr that they are the same. Seconded by Cllr Carroll

All in favour

Resolved

10. **STUDY OF POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR A CAR CLUB IN BISHOP'S CASTLE**

A letter was read from Kaye Chambers referring to a report she has produced which is in circulation. She would like the Council to support her proposal. To be discussed at the next meeting.

Resolved

11. **PLAYDAY ON THE PLAYING FIELDS.**

A letter was read out from Mike Plunkett asking for a donation and permission to use the playing field.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that permission was granted and that a grant of £50.00 to be given.

Seconded by Cllr St.J.Penney

All in favour

Resolved

12. **LOCAL CONNECTION VERIFICATION**

Council were asked to verify three applicants for the Housing Association. All were confirmed as being local. The clerk to inform South Shropshire Housing Association.

Resolved

Cllr: Wright proposed we take an extra 10 minutes, seconded by Cllr Magill.

13. **BETTER WELCOME**

A request from the tourism group for use of the town crest, and permission to put a small symbol, probably a tile, on historic buildings, was granted subject to the Council seeing it first. Proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Cllr Farr.

Resolved

14. **WALKERS ARE WELCOME AWARD**

The tourism group would like the Council to show commitment to the above scheme, and to give a donation. Cllr:Gaffney proposed the Council should give £200.00, seconded by Cllr. Farr

Against 2 in favour 7

Resolved

15. **REQUESTS FOR FUNDING**

15. See item 12 Mike Plunkett and Playday:

ii) Cllr Penney proposed giving Playing Fields £35.00 seconded by Cllr. Magill.

iii) Spotlight has not sent any details so will be on the next agenda.

iv) Tourism Group: see Item 15. Awarded £200.00

Resolved

16. **PLAY AREA IN OAK MEADOW**

The mayor explained that this area belongs to the District Council at the moment. The District Council is prepared to transfer ownership to the Town Council and give £7,600 for the Town Council to look after it. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll that we take this on, seconded by Cllr. Hird

Resolved

17. **REPORT OF FUNDS EARMARKED FOR PLAY EQUIPMENT IN OLD BRICK MEADOW**

The developer of this area put in £15,000 or so for a play area. Following a District Council survey, it was revealed that only three residents wanted the play area. Following legal advice, all residents had to agree to release the funds. The three residents have now agreed to that, so the money is coming to the Town Council, to be spent in ways related to the provision of play facilities. Our thanks go to Lisa Bedford for arranging this.

Cllr: Gaffney proposed another five minutes, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

18. **GRASS CUTTING**

Two quotations have been received. Cllr. Carroll proposed we should accept the quote from Fastrack, seconded by the mayor.

All in favour

Resolved

19. **REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.** None

20a) **CORRESPONDENCE**

i) Unitary Authority electoral review.

ii) Post Office review of Shropshire Post Offices.

iii) Road Closure Clun

iv) SALC Courses Unitary preparation event.

v) Footpath: King's Head Yard -Auction Yard

vi) Mr. Hill requesting "Animals" warning sign on road. The Clerk to ask Highways Department.

vii) SALC

b) **CIRCULATION**

i) Sub-County Working Issues Paper

ii) Electoral review of new Shropshire Unitary Authority.

iii) Study of the Potential demand for a car club.

iv) E-On Traffic Management Act

v) SALC Unity Preparation Event Forms

vi) Parish Pump

vii) LCR Magazine.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.20 pm

-

-

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 22/04/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON April 22nd 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr W.J.Morri Proposed by,
Cllr St.John Penney seconded by Cllr. Magill

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr Magill declared an interest in item 6b as she is a friend of the applicant.
Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6c as she is a friend of the applicant.
Cllr Farr declared a personal interest in item 6c as he is a referee for the Local Land Trust.
Cllr. Holton declared a personal interest in item 6c as she is the Council's representative on the board of the Land Trust.
Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6c as she is a member of the board and a friend.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 6c as she is a member of the board.
All Councillors declared an interest in Item 6d as applicant is a fellow councillor.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 16 as she is treasurer of the Tourism Group.
Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 18iv as he is a member of the board of Spotlight.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as he is chair of the Land Trust which will benefit from this application.
Cllr Hird declared a prejudicial interest in item 6d as he is the owner of the caravan.
Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 17 as she owns the building and derives income from it.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections: in Item 6i, the word "side" should be "size", a mis-spelling in Item 6ii Gregg should be Greig, Seconded by Cllr Penney

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 Mr Mike Morris from Shropshire Roofing Service is going to look at the roof and assess what needs doing.
The proposal for a car club. The report was in circulation but has not yet returned. Meanwhile, a letter could be sent showing the council's support in principle.
Letter from Environment and Development Dept. concerning the meeting on 30th April in Ludlow about the Biomas proposals.
Problems with matters in circulation. They are not returning. It was suggested there should be two envelopes, one for urgent matters another for lighter reading. The Clerk to investigate.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:
Mr Jonathan Greig. Spoke about his planning application Item 6c. This application has been enabled by the Land Trust, Mr Greig hoped that the Council could support this first venture. The houses are small, affordable dwellings to be rented to local people. Although in close proximity to the auction yard, noise and smell issues have been carefully tested. The conditions of rent will be clearly spelt out to the tenants so there would be no "public nuisance" complaints following tenure.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:
a) 1/08/20594/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a replacement roof over existing cubicle shed; erection of a roof over existing silage pit. The Cottage Farm Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY9 5ET. Mrs Jayne Beamond. Proposed: No objection by Cllr. Carroll, Seconded by Cllr Pinches
Resolved

b) 1/08/20595/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a conservatory. Leura Cottage 32A Union St. Bishop's Castle SY9 5AJ Mr Christopher Jones.
Proposed: No objection by Cllr Pinches, seconded by Cllr Holton
Resolved

The Mayor, Cllr Gaffney left the chamber. Cllr Pinches, Deputy Mayor took the Chair.
c) 1/08/20643/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of two affordable dwellings. Land behind 58 Church St Bishop's Castle. Clare & Jonathan Greig.
Proposed Support this application by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Carroll.
Resolved

The Mayor returned and took the chair. Cllr Hird left the chamber.
d) 1/08/20645/CE CLEUD (Delegated Matter) Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of a caravan as a mobile home and intermittent use as a holiday home. Bank's Head Bishop's Castle. Mr N. Hird. Proposed no objection by Cllr. Pinches, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.
Resolved

Cllr. Hird returned.

6c) REPORTS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS
1/08/20376/CA Demolition of a dwelling and demolition of a barn/storage utility building. Land to rear of 34-36 High St Bishop's Castle and Sumach Station St. Mr & Mrs Davies. Planning Consent granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS
District Cllr Ellis firstly wanted to congratulate the Council for its support for affordable housing and secondly on the speedy application for funding from the District Council for the Town Hall restoration. This fund has been heavily over-subscribed but a decision is to be expected at the end of April.
The boundary consultation has started and Bishop's Castle and the Onny Valley are to be linked with Lydbury North and Edgton.
Closure of rural post offices. The District Council has decided to support rural shops when there is only one shop in the community which would struggle to survive without the post office within. This could apply to Wentnor and to Lydbury North, the latter being too close to Bishop's Castle to retain its P.O.
School closures/amalgamation is on-going, there is still time to write to Ann Hartley at Children's Services.

8. DATES FOR THE DIARY
Dates were noted and Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the private meeting for councillors on the 20th May should commence at 7.15 pm. Seconded by Cllr Wright.

9. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
The minutes for the Annual Town Meeting held on 11th March having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections: item 1,(2d) Insert after "equipment".. there is a willingness to match-fund with the Primary care trust if required. and delete from "whatever..to NHS" Item 2 (9) Police officers wished to make clear that the police always have to deal with parking which causes obstruction. They are not necessarily going to be influenced by whether there are white lines or not.
Seconded by Cllr. Magill

10. LIGHTING QUOTATIONS KERRY LANE
The council had two quotations to consider. It was proposed by Cllr. Carroll that they should accept the lowest and seconded by Cllr Magill.
Unanimous vote.
Resolved

11. APPROVAL OF INTERNAL AUDITOR
It was proposed by Cllr Carroll that they approve Mr John A Nicholls as auditor and seconded by Cllr Penney
Resolved.

12. COUNCILLORS ROLES
The mayor felt that the council was generally functioning well but could perhaps be more efficient. He felt that some councillors could take responsibility for a specific role, as for example Cllr Stanley does over the Farmers' Market. Other Councillors are vigilant with parking in the town, although it should be all councillors who do that. Two areas, which the mayor felt needed councillors to be more pro-active, were lighting and liaising with the allotment society. Cllr Pinches agreed to take on lighting whereby complaints about street lights could be made to him and to ensure the smooth running of this to communicate with the clerk.
Cllr Carroll proposed that we end discussion of this until May 20th. at the private meeting. Seconded by Cllr Magill.

13. TOWN COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN RUNNING THE ALLOTMENTS.
The proposal was that the council would collect the rents as now with the same terms and conditions, but that half of the money should be given back as a grant to the allotment committee to do with what they wish. This would be reviewed in a year's time.
Proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Wright. All in favour.
Resolved

14. NEW KITCHEN FOR THE PUBLIC HALL
The council was asked to support the Public Hall's request for funding which they are pleased to do. Proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Pinches.
Resolved

15.UP THE POLE PLANTERS.
Two quotations were considered Cllr Penney proposed that Mrs Latchford's quotation be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley
Resolved

16. APPLICATION FOR TOURISM GROUP: BETTER WELCOME PROJECT.
Cllr Carroll explained that the Tourism Group are trying to access £25,000 for which they have to raise £5,000. The District Council have offered £2,000 and Opportunities FM? £2,500 so they have a shortfall of £500. This money will be spent on tidying up the auction yard making it both more pleasant for tourists and safer as the path between the auction yard and High St is in a dangerous condition especially for disabled people. The County Council has now agreed to put this path on the definitive map as it is in such a poor condition and needs improving. Cllr Gaffney proposed that we advance £500 which was seconded by Cllr. Magill. 8 in favour 2 against
Resolved

It was also proposed by Cllr Carroll that as Punch Taverns own the land, the District Council could serve a section 215 order on them as the path is unsightly and detrimental to the appearance of the Town, however the Town Council would have to request the District Council to do this. This was seconded by Cllr..... Voted 7 in favour, 4 against.
Resolved

17. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN THE MARKET SQUARE
Cllr Stanley left the room.
Electricity for the Farmers' markets and other festivals which use the Market Square has historically been provided free of charge by the houses around the square. The proposal is to place a metered supply with external sockets on some of the buildings in the square. This was proposed by Cllr Pinches and seconded by Cllr. Gaffney. Passed unanimously.
Resolved

18.REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS.
i) Shropshire Hills Shuttle Bus: Cllr Carroll proposed £200.00 seconded by Cllr. Gaffney. All in favour.
Resolved
ii) Castle Community Leisure. Cllr Gaffney explained that this group run amongst other things the Young Promoters Group, and the Council should show support at this time.
Cllr. Magill proposed £100.00 seconded by Cllr Penney. Cllr Carroll proposed an amendment to £250.00 but as there was no seconder the amendment fell.
Resolved

iii) Mencap. Cllr Dr Penney proposed we gave nothing, as there was no seconder this proposal fell. Cllr Wright proposed £50.00 which was seconded by Cllr Carroll.
Resolved

iv) Cllr. Gaffney explained that Spotlight had reduced their application. He proposed that they should be given £100.00 which was seconded by Cllr. Wright.
Resolved

19.YOUTH COUNCIL
Cllr Carroll reminded the council that the development of a Youth Council had already been approved in principle. There is £14,000 available for this proposal within the area of the District Council. The Town Council via Cllr Carroll is applying to Lisa Bedford to get the money to set it up and develop it to the state where it can hold an election. The age group concerned is 13-21
Cllr. Gaffney reminded the council that we had made available £1000 through the precept. Cllr Stanley suggested that a member from each council, town and youth should attend each others meetings. The proposal that the Council agrees Irene Stelfox and Cllr. Carroll apply for some of the £14,000 from the District Council in order to set up the Youth Council and work towards holding elections in October 2008. The money allocated from the Town Council would be made available. Proposed Cllr Gaffney, Seconded by Cllr Magill. Vote: 1 against.
Resolved

20. SEWER IN CASTLE GREEN.
This sewer is a private sewer. The District council will pay for it to be added to the main sewer, but as it's private Severn Trent will not take on the work. No-one really knows who owns it and the man-hole is in a field. However there is a possibility that it could be linked up to the main sewer when the new houses at Castle Green are built. The residents would like the Council to write to the District Council planning department informing them of this situation and pointing out that the sewer as it is now would not be able to bear any extra capacity. Cllr. Carroll proposed that she write on behalf of the Council to the District council. seconded by Cllr. Magill
Resolved

22.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.
Cllr Stanley had been to a meeting of Buy-Local Shropshire, where she felt Bishop's Castle was poorly represented on their web site. Enterprise South West Shropshire (ESWS) were reportedly worried as to why the Town Council has no representative on the executive of ESWS Council. There was some consideration of a vote of no confidence in the Chief Executive. Cllr Carroll has similar qualms.
Cllr Penney proposed ten minutes longer seconded by Cllr Magill
Cllr Carroll felt that ESWS is very good for our Town so there is a need to engage in this matter.

23. CORRESPONDENCE.
i) District Cllr Peter Phillips Localism and Boundary review.
ii) Letter from Margaret Griffiths concerning discussion of Biomass project was read out .
iii) New monthly magazine The Shropshire Woman
iv) S. Shropshire local plan: saved and expired policies.

b) CIRCULATION
i) Town and Parish Standard
ii) Planning Portal Questionnaire
iii) SALC Courses
iv) Clerks Clippings
v) Jan Snell Award
vi) Speaking Out
vii) Unitary Matters
viii) SALC How can you influence your association
ix) Unitary Briefing Sheet
x) Six Market Town Councils Minutes
xi) Cllr Magill put her report from Land For People in circulation.

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 20/05/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MAY 20TH 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, J. Morris

Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Carroll declared an interest in item 6 (2) as she is President of the Tennis Club.

Cllr Furber declared an interest in item 6 (6) as he is a friend.

Cllr Morris declared an interest in item 6 ...as he is related.

Cllr Gaffney declared an interest in item 6 (4) as he knows the applicant.

Cllr Magill declared an interest in item 6 (6) as she knows the applicant.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd April 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill with the following corrections: , Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

Item 4, line 6, spelling correction, should read "Biomass"

Item 16, last line should read "Cllr. Magill"

Item 19 , Last line should read "Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Magill and resolved with one vote against.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

A letter of thanks from "Flicks in the stix" for donation.

Letter from South Shropshire District Council offering a grant of £25,000 towards the cost of the toilets refurbishment.

Item 16 - Cllr. Carroll gave an update on the "Better Welcome Project". The project has been approved by Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership and Advantage West Midlands. The aim is to tarmac the piece from Church Street, alongside the Kings Head, to put scalplings down on the area from the Kings Head to the Auction Yard gate and to landscape the Auction Yard. This will involve tree planting on the Station Street side, the metal bars removed from near the toilets and interpretive signing at the entrance and by the toilets. The project needs to be bank rolled as the grants will only be released on paid invoices. South Shropshire Housing Association is willing to bank roll the scheme. Cllr. Carroll said that it had been suggested that the Town Council was missing an opportunity for not bank rolling this type of Community Project.

Item 20 - Cllr. Gaffney reported that the Castle Green residents should soon be receiving a letter from South Shropshire District Council, Planning Office advising them what action they can take.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

To consider response to:-

a) i) 1/08/20670/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a dwelling. Land at Turnpike Cottage 10 Kerry Lane Bishop's Castle. SY9 5AU Mrs P Matthews
The Clerk advised that this application has been withdrawn.

ii) 1/08/20648/F Planning Permission (Full) (Delegated Matter) Change of use of agricultural land to an extension to the Bishop's Castle Tennis Club. Erection of 4 floodlights. Tennis Court off Love Lane Bishop's Castle SY9 5DW . Bishop's Castle Lawn Tennis Club.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr. Hird. Resolved

iii) Planning permission (Full) (Delegated Matter) Replacement of existing single glazed structure with a tiled roof conservatory. Shelsley Castle St Bishop's Castle SY9 5BU Mr JP Evans Shelsley Castle St Bishop's Castle SY9 5BU
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris. Resolved

iv) 1/08/20678/F Planning Permission (Full) (Delegated Matter) Erection of a glazed extension to Residential home. The Pines Colebatch Bishop's castle SY9 5JY. Miss Rachel Hicke T/As Castle Haven Residential Home, The Pines, Colebatch SY9 5JY
Cllr. Carroll proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley. Resolved

v) 1/08/20683/VA Variation of Agreement. (Delegated Matter) Variation of condition 4B of planning permission 1/05/17600/F dated 16th January 2007 to include occupancy under equity mortgage provision. Land at Grange Road Bishop's Castle. Mrs Claire Hughes South Shropshire Housing Association The gateway, Auction Yard, Craven Arms, SY7 9EF

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll. Resolved

vi) Planning permission (Full) (Delegated Matter) Change of use to Natural Health Clinic. Office D Challenge Court, Love lane Industrial Estate

Bishop's Castle SY9 5DW Miss L Gray, Yew Tree Cottage, The Yeld, Clee St Margaret, Craven Arms, SY7 9EF

Cllr. Carroll proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley. Resolved

vii) 1/08/20717/F Planning Permission (full) Charles Ransford. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection . seconded by Cllr

..... Resolved

viii) 1/08/20744/F Planning Permission (full) G Bryan- Jones Ltd Cllr. Carrol proposed no objection providing there is no nuisance by noise or smell. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Resolved

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Peter Phillips has provided copies of his Annual Report which were circulated to Councillors.

District Cllr. Georgie Ellis reported that there has been an important meeting concerning the abattoir. £700,000 has been secured for the purchase and the first years running costs. £400,000 will come from the farming community in the form of shares. The rest will come from grants and bank loans. The abattoir will be used for high quality meats in and out with a local branding name. Residents of Brick Meadow are concerned about the smell from the blood bank when it reopens.

Cllr. Ellis also reported that she was disappointed that the Community Land Trust had failed in its bid for funds for the Auction Yard site. She said there may be another chance in the autumn. There is money available at the District Council for the Public Hall kitchen.

Cllr. Ellis also reported that the new County and Unitary boundaries had been agreed and sent to the Boundaries Commission.

She reported that the County Council have said that the Clunbury and Lydbury North Schools merger cannot proceed further until a site is found for a new school.

Cllr. Ellis explained there is a meeting about Post Office closures at Shirehall on Wednesday 21st May.

8. REQUEST TO USE PLAYING FIELDS

Cllr. Pinches proposed that the under-8 football team should have use of the playing field.

Seconded by Cllr. Magill. Resolved.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL WEEDKILLING

What is their policy and do townspeople want weeds killed along the roads outside their properties. Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to South Shropshire District Council, Kate Adams, asking them not to weed kill for one year. The situation to be monitored. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Resolved

10. TOWN HALL FLAG POLE

Request from residents that the flag pole should be put back. Cllr. Gaffney explained that the area where the pole sits is unsafe and cannot be improved until the roof is mended. It was agreed that G Bryan-Jones should be approached to see if he has a spare fibreglass pole.

11. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

Request for clarification on recent licensing applications: Cllr. Wright explained that the Web Hamper Company have applied for a licence to sell alcohol retail. Cllr. Carroll proposed that the Licensing Officer, South Shropshire District Council be asked why Web Hampers are requesting this type of licence. If people are to buy from the premises this Council objects. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

12. ACCOUNTS.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed the annual accounts be approved subject to a more detailed presentation of the break down of the income and expenditure. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

- To show clearly the how much of the income from the Farmers market was grant money.
- To show how much of the Farmers market expenditure was spending of the grant money.
- To separate the playing fields maintenance from the grant money spent by the Friends of the Playing Field.

13. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Carroll reported on a meeting of the E.S.W.S. Executive Committee. Cllr. Carroll attends as a member of the Tourism Group. Cllr Stanley, the Council representative was unable to attend. Mr Iain Skewiss, Chief Executive has resigned. He will not be replaced and his responsibilities will be given to other members of staff.

Cllr. Carroll also explained that another office has been created which will be used by Sam Hine working as Regeneration Officer for the County and District Councils. This will bring in extra income.

Cllr. Carroll also reported on a meeting of the Bishops Castle Marches Partnership. £14,000 has been allocated for youth.

14. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Invitation to Councillors to the Annual General Meeting of the Public Hall Committee on Thursday 22nd May at 8.00pm at the Castle Hotel. Cllr. Pinches agreed to attend as representative of the Council.

The mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.19p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 27/05/2008

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27th MAY 2008
IN THE TOWN HALL AT 8.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. G. Furber, J. E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. Holton, J. A. Magill, Dr G. N. St J. Penney, Cllr Stanley, Cllr Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton, Town Clerk, Mr. M. Shanahan, Town Crier
Approximately 45 guests were in attendance.

Cllr. Gaffney took the Chair.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR.

Cllr. Penney proposed Cllr Gaffney as Mayor. Cllr Holton seconded the proposition. There being no further nominations the Council approved without division that Cllr Gaffney should be Mayor for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR.

Cllr Holton proposed Cllr Pinches as Deputy Mayor. Cllr Hird seconded the proposition. There being no further nominations the Council approved without division that Cllr Pinches should be Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Mayor was robed and accepted the chain of office.

Cllr. Gaffney took the Chair.

3. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE/ DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr. Gaffney took the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

Cllr. Gaffney has asked the Rev. Paul Collins to be his Chaplain. Rev. Collins has gladly accepted but unfortunately he is unable to be present but has asked Rev. Michael Plunkett to deputise.
Rev. Plunkett read a prayer.

5. APPOINTMENT OF CONSORT

The Mayor had pleasure in asking his wife Diane Gaffney to be his Consort for the ensuing year. She confirmed her willingness. The Clerk presented Mrs Gaffney with her badge of office.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAYOR'S SUNDAY

The date of Mayor's Sunday was confirmed as 1st June 2008. The procession will meet at the Town Hall at 10.30 am as usual.

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that there be no change in the frequency of Council meetings and they continue to be held every fourth Tuesday. Except for January 2009 which will be a week later. All meetings will commence at 8.00 p.m. Additional meetings will be called as deemed necessary by the Mayor. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

8. THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Cllr. Gaffney began by thanking Councillors for their support. He went on to comment on the demands of the job which have made him realise that Bishop's Castle has become what it is today due to the hard work of all its residents, including his predecessors. He then reminded us of the issues which concerned the Town last year: the hospital, the Biomass, the future of Crowgate and the threat of withdrawal of the bus service.

The Hospital's future is now much more secure, the council voted to object to the Biomass application, a new pre-school facility is to be built at the Primary School for which Crowgate is tendering, and the buses continue to run. He went on to thank the retiring clerk, Janet Ince for all her hard work and to welcome the new clerk.

Matters which are of concern are the Town Hall and its future, the lights, footpaths and play areas. He also commented on the move to a Unitary authority with elections in 2009. He finished by saying that the Town Council deserves to have the resources and the right to do more for our residents. He feels very honoured to have served as Mayor for the past year, and will do his best in the year to come.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. The Town Crier invited everyone to join the Mayor for light refreshment in the Market Hall.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 17/06/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Stanley (Illness), Cllr WJ Morris (Working) Proposed by Cllr Magill, seconded by Cllr Holton.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Wright declared a personal interest in item 6i as he is a friend and neighbour.

Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in items 6i & 6iii as he is a friend.

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6ii as her husband is closely involved.

Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in Item 14 as she is the Treasurer of the Tourism Group.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest: None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections. Item 7 the word "bank" should be "tank". Item 13 should read: ".another office has been created which will bring in extra income. Sam Hine, working as Regeneration Officer for the County and District Councils, will help to write a business plan with ESWS.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

- i) Weedkilling 20.5.08 item 9. The clerk has contacted District Council who explained that they had a statutory duty to keep towns clean, which includes weed control. They have already been round once this year and it is a very friendly herbicide.
- ii) Sewer at Castle Green. 22.4.08 Item () The clerk has received a letter from Mr Steven Baker the Pollution Control Officer advising the residents on what to do about their sewer. The clerk wrote to the planning department on the 30.4.08 and has not yet received a reply.
- iii) Lights: 27 High St has been reported several times but nothing has happened yet. The clerk has discussed with Mr P Edwards at the County Council about streets being over lit and will write outlining our proposals viz: that wattage could be reduced, that some lights could be switched off during the night, that we could consider solar lighting.
- iv) Playing Field: The equipment in the play area is being repaired.
- v) The audit has been passed by the internal auditor.
- vi) The licensing application made by Web Hampers 20.5.08 Item 11. The clerk contacted the licensing office. It is thought that Web Hampers will not be selling from that location but will be putting alcohol in the hampers.
- vii) Cllr Carroll reported that ESWS haven't yet got the money to extend village outreach and the development of new offices.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

To consider response to:

a) 1/08/20737/F Planning permission(Full). Erection of two extensions, 7 Salop St Bishop's Castle. R.T.& A.J Price. Cllr Penney proposed that due to the high density of building, there should be a site meeting before deciding. Seconded by Cllr Holton. All in favour .

Resolved

b) 1/08/20747/F & 1/08/20748/CA 1. Planning permission (Full) 2. Conservation Area Consent.

1. Erection of a drill tower

2. Demolition of existing drill tower. Bishop's Castle Fire Station Church Lane SY9 5AF Shropshire Fire and Rescue.

Cllr. Penney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Carroll. All in favour. Resolved

c) 1/08/20804/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a conservatory. 10 Rees Piece The Wintles Bishop's Castle Shropshire SY9 5BF Mr. M Jarratt. Cllr Penney proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Pinches. All in favour. Resolved

d) 1/08/20799/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of an extension 23, Brick Meadow Bishop's Castle SY9 5DH Mr Carlyle Palmer. Cllr Magill

proposed no objection seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

6 b) REPORTS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

i)1/08 20595/F Erection of a conservatory Leura Cottage 32a Union St Bishop's Castle. Refused.

ii) 1/08/20594/F Erection of replacement roof over existing cubicle shed ; erection of a roof over existing silage pit. The Cottage Farm Bishop's Castle. Granted Subject to conditions.

iii) 1/08/20655/F Replacement of existing single glazed structure with a tiled roof conservatory. Shelsley Castle St Bishop's Castle SY9 5BU. Granted subject to conditions.

iv) 1/07/20188/F Erection of twelve dwellings; formation of vehicular access and alterations to existing vehicular access. Mr & Mrs Davies. Granted subject to conditions.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

District Councillor Georgie Ellis reported a meeting between District Councillors and Mr. John Heeley, MP Minister for Community Affairs, concerning the transfer to a unitary authority which seems to be progressing well. There will be redundancies but at the moment these are voluntary. It is seen as being very important to decide on the siting of offices as soon as possible to prevent workers from having to move house.

There are no consultations for the unitary project, but there could be a move to have higher budgets for those Parish and Town councils who so wish. As Bishop's Castle has Quality status, other councils could look to us to give guidelines.

In future County is going to rely on Email as their preferred method of communication. There will be an enormous amount of papers to download.

Some concern has been expressed about the need for all councillors to have good and compatible, computer equipment to be able to access the information. It will be very important that councillors can read these documents as the system will be reliant on all area committees and wards having direct feed to Shire Hall. Perhaps these documents could be made available at ESWS.

Concerning SPARC. On the 13th June District Council will decide whether Sparc will be run through Team Leisure or ESWS.

Housing: There is pressure being exerted for more local people to get housing through the Housing Association.

Planning Decisions: All Town and Parish councils say that they are not being listened to concerning these decisions. District Council is trying to address the problem.

8. STREET LIGHTING SCHEME:BULL LANE AND CASTLE STREET.

The clerk reported that the new scheme has been drawn up for these roads. Some concerns have arisen as nearly all complaints recently have been about lights that are too bright. Cllr Penney proposed that the plan should be circulated and reported on at the next council meeting then presented to the residents before the scheme is finalised. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. All in favour Resolved

9. OFFER OF GRANT FOR TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENTS.

The clerk advised the council that the grant has been accepted. There is a codicil which states that the money could be used for another scheme if necessary, if for example the roof were in greater need of repair. Cllr Gaffney proposed that the Town Hall Renovation Partnership should be reconvened to reapply to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. All in favour. Resolved

10.ELECTRICAL INSPECTION OF THE PLAYING FIELDS.

The inspection reported that there are some problems with the electricity supply. Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk be given the power to seek estimates, accept the lowest and sort this problem out. Seconded by Cllr Gaffney. All in favour. Resolved

11.ALTERATIONS TO THE WALL IN OAK MEADOW PLAY AREA.

Following consultation with the children who use this area and the community support officer, it seems the wall is in the way and is not wanted. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney that the wall be removed and that the council will seek suggestions to make the area of sloping ground more usable. Seconded by Cllr Pinches. All in favour. Resolved

12. THE WINTLES: CONCERN OVER THE NEW PHASE.

After some discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Penney that a letter should be sent to District Cllr Ellis outlining this council's concerns:

1. What drawings were passed and what conditions were attached to the original permission.
- 2.Does the height of the house currently being built at the north east of the development conform to those drawings passed.
3. Could the plans for that house be sent to this council.
4. Have any modifications to plans of the development been made, if so could we have notice of these.
5. Were any planning enforcements, vis a vis the road, made.
6. Was planning permission sought for the large mound of soil excavated.

Seconded by Cllr Wright. All in favour.

Resolved

13. BENCH FOR SMALL OAK MEADOW PLAY AREA.

Cllr Carroll proposed that we purchase a bench, seconded by Cllr Wright.

All in favour.

Resolved

14.BANK ROLLING

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll that this council be prepared to bank roll small community groups. The following conditions would be made:

1. No VAT reclamation
2. The treasurer of the group concerned fills in the claim forms.
3. Only grants from unimpeachable sources would be considered.
4. Only do so if the grant is paid on invoice.
5. Never to be decided without full council agreement.
6. Although this council would bank roll a scheme in principle, but will look at each case on its merits.
7. The council must have confidence in a scheme's completion.

Seconded by Cllr. Penney. All in favour

Resolved

15. FINGER POST SIGN AT THE HEBLANDS

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll that we ask Highways to provide a new sign as the current one is rusty, which could be similar in design to the one at the Kennels, and would have more information on. Seconded by Cllr Magill All in favour. Resolved

16. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

17. a) Correspondence

i)Council had no objections to street closures for Carnival and Michaelmas Fairs.

ii) Council had no objections to Carnival and Michaelmas Fair to use the Playing Fields.

iii) Cllr Gaffney completed the Youth Survey.

iv) The clerk to inform residents of Castle Green/Bull lane of the advice from Steve Baker.

The mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.46p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 15/07/2008

Draft, subject to confirmation.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY JULY 15TH 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for 40 minutes, to allow a presentation from Mr. Simon Mallam and to allow members of the public to present their views and queries.

The Mayor introduced Mr Simon Mallam ,architect,from Insall& Associates whose work is mainly in refurbishing listed buildings as sympathetically as possible. He wanted to present the drawings for a proposed planning application. The application will cover three developments: Haining Croft off Church Lane where it is proposed to build twelve high value houses and one affordable, Williams butchers shop on the High St, which is a listed building, where it is proposed to turn the shop part into accommodation, and restore the other half and other buildings on the site to develop nine affordable apartments. The other site is behind Salop St where it is proposed to develop existing building into a community workshop.

Several issues were raised: the size of the development on Haining Croft and the existing infrastructure, the ancient trees which are on the site, the difficulties with access, there may be a covenant restricting the nature and scale of any development; the increase in traffic on a small lane and whether there would be a market for such houses.

Williams Butchers development: as this has listed building status, any work would be careful and would restore the part of the building, which is not the shop, to its original state. The main problems concerned the apartments at the rear: the lane connecting Union St with the proposed development is very narrow, residents were very concerned about the potential increase in traffic on a lane which is less than 3m wide. Parking would also be very problematic. There is also a right of way through the shop for the residents of this lane to reach the High St. Mr. Mallam was unaware of that and ensured the meeting that it would be looked into.

The Council meeting commenced at 8.40

1. There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6a as she is a friend of the applicant.

Cllrs Gaffney and Hird declared personal interests in item 14 as they are members of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest in item 8 as a family member lives on Bull Lane.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 as she is Treasurer of the Tourism Group.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th June 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Penney. Seconded by Cllr Pinches.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

i) The clerk read out a letter from Carmen Parker, Planning Compliance Support Officer, addressing our concerns over the Wintles Development. She assures us that all is as it should be. However, the siting of three additional properties currently being proposed for the boundary with the Burgage are at variance to those which have been approved and a new application will be required. The Mayor and Clerk to write requesting drawings with a copy to the monitoring officer.

ii) The problem with the electricity supply on the playing fields is being sorted by Roger Lennox and Gavin Cooke.

iii) The Clerk has received an email from Mr Crossland concerning the parking restrictions in Bishop's Castle. He has suggested a meeting on July 28th 10.am with Mr Shaw to look at proposals on the ground and then to commence work. It is important that the police are happy with the proposals, the clerk is to email Jonathan Summerfield.

iv) The clerk has received a reply from Samantha Hine about the Toilet improvements and the request to spend some money on the roof. The Council needs to provide further information and quotations for the roof.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) i) 1/08/20843/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a conservatory 32a Union St Bishop's Castle Mr C Jones Cllr Penney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Morris. All in favour

ii) 1/08/20910/LB Listed Building Consent Upgrading/replacement of various items of brewery plant (boiler,kettle/underback, hot liquor tank) and associated structural works/temporary enabling works. The Three Tuns Brewery, Salop St Bishop's Castle John Roberts Brewing Company. Cllr Stanley proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Magill. All in favour

b) ii)With reference to planning application: 1/08/20648/F Bishop's Castle Tennis Club Erection of 4 Floodlights. The Council noted that the conditions did not mention this Council's concerns about the time the lights will be on, and for how long. Proposed by Cllr Penney that the clerk write to the District Council as they seem once again to have ignored our comments. Seconded byCllr Pinches. Resolved

Cllr. Wright expressed his concern with the potential problems that could arise when putting multiple sites on one application. For example councillors would be barred from discussing the whole matter if their house bordered one of the sites under discussion. Cllr Penney proposed the Clerk write to the Standards Committee asking permission to have separate sites on planning applications. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. All in favour Resolved

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

None

8. REPORT ON NEW LIGHTING SCHEME(BULL LANE/CASTLE ST.)

Councillors have looked at the report in circulation. They reached a consensus that there were too many lights, especially at the Castle Green/Bull Lane junction. Cllr Stanley felt we ought to look at types of lanterns more in keeping with the conservation area. Cllr Hird thought we could reposition the lights at 33m intervals and still have the scheme approved. The Clerk has arranged an evening on the 21st July for residents to see the plan. Cllr Pinches will attend that meeting. Cllr Gaffney proposed that the clerk investigate: i) attractive and appropriate styles of lights ii) the minimum necessary that the County Council will be prepared to adopt.

Seconded by Cllr Hird. All in favour Resolved.

9. PROPOSAL FOR A PATH TO RUN FROM OAK MEADOW TO STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL.

The Clerk read an Email from Bill Hendley proposing this path on behalf of the Friends of the Stone House Hospital. They would like the council to support this plan in principle and with some financial assistance.

The Mayor had received a letter from the PCT who have asked their architect to look at the proposal. It is therefore being explored. Some concerns have been expressed by Hospital staff relating to increased noise/security issues. Cllr Penney proposed that this should be left on the table.

Seconded by Cllr Hird. 11 in favour 1 against.

10. TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE COUNCIL'S LIQUOR LICENSE TO INCLUDE THE PLAYING FIELDS.

The clerk explained that it would be easier for festival organisers if they didn't have to apply for a license each time. Cllr Carroll proposed that this should go ahead, seconded by Cllr Stanley. The Clerk to contact Mr Leadbetter. Resolved

11.TWO REQUESTS FROM THE MICHAELMAS FAIR COMMITTEE.

i) They would like to support the long banner down the front of the Town Hall by dropping a rope from the clock tower.

ii) They would like to build a temporary stage below the Town Hall for theatre and dance groups.

Councillors were happy for this to go ahead as long as the Michaelmas Fair Committee are aware of the dangers inherent in dropping the rope down from the roof. Proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Magill. Resolved

12.CELEBRATION OF 400 YEAR CHARTER.

Councillors were told that it is not known whether there was a charter in 1609. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney that the clerk would investigate the matter and report back at the next meeting, seconded by Cllr Holton. Resolved

13.SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LINKING WEBSITES.

Cllr Carroll explained that the County Council has a policy that it will not directly link to a website which may have uninspected accommodations. The problem arises in the interpretation of the word "direct". The proposal is to request the SCC to link its website to the Bishop's Castle website specifically the activity parts of the websites. Potential visitors to the area may not be aware of the activities that are available in Bishop's Castle so SCC's reluctance is damaging tourist development. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Clerk write to SCC asking them to link their website with Bishop Castle's and other small towns, seconded by Cllr Penney. Resolved

14.REQUEST FOR A NOTICE BOARD.

This request came from the Wasteless Society. The town clerk also felt a more central notice board would be advantageous for Council notices. Councillors felt that each had to be separate but the problem is finding somewhere to put them. The clerk is to investigate the old notice board outside the Co-op Newsagents and report at the next meeting.

15.PRELIMINARY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE NEW TOWN CRIER UNIFORM.

Cllr Hird reported that the current uniform is wearing thin. He proposed the Council ask Mike Shanahan and Deborah Croom-Johnson to get an estimate for replacing the uniform. Seconded by Cllr Penney Resolved

16. OBSTRUCTIONS TO THE PAVEMENT IN WELSH ST.

Cllr Hird felt that part of the pavement in Welsh St was in a dangerous state with motorbikes, pallets and building material on it. Cllr Stanley proposed that she had a word with the person concerned, seconded by Cllr Penney

Cllr Penney proposed ten minutes extra, seconded by Cllr Gaffney. Resolved

17.SPARC SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEME.

Castle Community Leisure is planning an activity scheme over four weeks of the summer holidays. They would like permission to use the Skateboard park as well as some financial contribution toward the experts they wish to bring in for master classes. Cllr Gaffney proposed that we give permission plus £150.00 for the whole event. Seconded by Cllr Wright. Resolved

18.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Carroll reported from a meeting of the Stone House Forum that they had received £40,000 from the King's Fund. This is to go towards improving the care of the dying.

19. a) Correspondence.

i) Mr and Mrs Hemming concerning the proposed development at Haining Croft

ii)Lets Talk Local Meeting

b) Circulation

i) i) Community Capital Grants Procedure

ii) SALC Courses: Quality Parish Scheme Briefing

Councillor Training Programme Mod 1&2

Budgets and Precept Setting

iii) Boundary Committee Report

iv) LCR

v) Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme

vi) Clerks and Councils Direct

vii) Local Works

viii) SALC Special Meeting Boundary Recommendations

ix) Independent Policy Commission on Primary School Organisation

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.08 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 12/08/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON AUGUST 12th 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, K.E.C. Pinches,
M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr M Furber (family matter), Cllr J. Morris (work) Cllr Dr S.J.Penney (appointment elsewhere)
Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Hird.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 15 as she is the wife of one of the donors.

Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 6a iv as he is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 15 as he would be bidding for a charity.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Pinches, with the following corrections: In the explanation by Mr Malam, the penultimate sentence in the first paragraph should read: "...restore the other half and other buildings on the site to develop seven affordable apartments." And the final sentence in the first paragraph should read: "...Salop St where it is proposed to provide an affordable dwelling." The last sentence of the second paragraph should read: " Residents asserted that there is a right of way....Mr Malam was unaware of that and assured..."

Item 2 a) Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 13.

Seconded by Cllr Stanley.

b) Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 27th May 2008, having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections: That Cllr Wright seconded the proposal for the Mayor, and Cllr Holton proposed that Cllr Pinches be deputy mayor.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll.

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. The bench at Oak Meadow: the clerk reported that she had been recommended the company of Glasdon which provides sturdy benches, and is continuing to seek out other possibilities, especially local joiners.
2. The Wintles: The clerk has received an email from the Living Villages developer Mr Tomlinson which confirmed the temporary cessation of work on the Wintles, the impending strategic review of the development, and the hope that work will continue in a few weeks time.
3. The clerk has ascertained that the Co-op Newsagents is about to reinstate the notice board in the former position. The clerk will look into the possibility of having a secure, free standing board outside the Chemists.
4. The clerk has been sent a copy of the playing field management plan, and recognises the need to develop a rota for inspecting the equipment on a regular basis.
5. The 400 year celebrations are not for a charter, rather for the making of a new seal. Plans are being considered to make a new 2009 seal.
6. The Kerry Lane street lighting plan has had to be revised. However the clerk has received assurance from the County Council that they will honour their commitment for the grant and the adoption of the scheme.
7. There has been more vandalism in the playing fields. A new dog bin was destroyed by fire.
8. The clerk received today a copy of a covenant concerning the land at Haining Croft, which seems to negate the possibility of developing houses on that land.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) i) 1/08/20923/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a car port, Heathfield House School House Lane Bishop's Castle. Mr A Evans. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Pinches. All in favour

ii) 1/08/20895/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a dwelling. Land at Turnpike Cottage, 10 Kerry Lane Bishop's Castle. Mrs P Matthews. Cllr Wright proposed objection as there seemed to be no difference from previous plans. Seconded by Cllr Magill. Vote 7 in favour, 2 against.

iii) 1/08/20954/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of an extension to dwelling 31, Corporation St Bishop's Castle Mr D Price. Cllr Stanley proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Farr. All in favour.

iv) 1/08/20969/LB Listed Building Consent. Insertion of Velux windows. 53 Church St. Bishop's Castle. Mr Ross Anderson. Cllr Stanley proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Wright. All in favour

v) 1/08/20981/AD 1/08/20982/LB

Advertisement Consent and Listed Building Consent . Display of illuminated and non-illuminated signs. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle Shropshire. Punch Taverns. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection with the comment that this council understands that these are to be externally illuminated, to be taken into account. Seconded by Cllr Pinches. All in favour. Cllr Stanley pointed out that an oak post has been poorly installed at the side of this listed building.

vi) 1/08/21007/F 1/08/21008/LB

Planning Permission (Full) and Listed Building Consent. Erection of a smoking shelter and external alterations to public house. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle. Punch Taverns.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Magill. All in favour.

b) Any Other Plans. None

c) REPORTS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

i) 1/08/20804/F Erection of a conservatory. 10 Rees Piece The Wintles Mr M Jarratt.

Granted

ii) 1/08/20748/CA Demolition of existing drill tower. Bishop's Castle Fire Station. Conservation Area Consent,

Granted.

iii) 1/08/20799/F Erection of an extension. 23 Brick Meadow Bishop's Castle Mr Carlyle-Palmer.

Granted.

iv) 1/08/20737/F Erection of two extensions. 7 Salop St Bishop's Castle. R.T. & A.J.Price.

Refused.

v) 1/08/20843/F Erection of a conservatory. 32A Union St Bishop's Castle. Mr C Jones.

Granted

vi) 1/08/20744/F Erection of extension to existing workshops. Love Lane Industrial Estate. G Bryan Jones Ltd. **Granted.**

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Georgie Ellis began by saying that the District Council has approved the money given for the refurbishment of the Town Hall toilets can to be used to make repairs on the Town Hall roof although it was hoped there would be some spent on the toilets. There will also be £20,000 for business dispersal coming in the autumn, to encourage local employment. She encouraged Councillors to consult the Local Development Frame topic papers as meetings were being held where interested parties could have their say. The next was on the 14th August and concerned Schools' policy. She was disappointed with the reply this council had received from the planning office over concerns about the Wintles development and recommended that councillors should speak to Bill Jones and that she would help if this council so wished.

8. STREET LIGHTING: KERRY LANE, CASTLE ST/BULL LANE.

The clerk explained that the lighting plan for Kerry Lane has had to be modified. Since it was drawn up trees have grown and some lights would have been obstructed by foliage. The engineers have proposed fewer lights, which will still be acceptable to the County Council who will ultimately adopt the scheme. Cllr Carroll proposed that the lighting scheme be accepted provided that a letter and the new plan are sent to residents.

Seconded by Cllr Wright. 8 in favour, 1 against. Resolved

The clerk is to verify with the County Council the number of lights on Bull Lane and Castle St. which would be acceptable, and whether there are still grants available for new schemes.

ATC

9. BCBS PLANTING FOR SCREENING BUILDING.

BCBS are happy to do this but have not received any instructions from the enforcement officer. Cllr Magill proposed that the clerk write to the enforcement and monitoring officers asking that they instruct BCBS to comply with planning permission, and that any planting should be of native species. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. All in Favour Resolved

10. THE NEWSLETTER ADVERTS AND INFORMATION.

Concern was expressed that there were too many adverts in the newsletter. Perhaps they could be smaller, or fewer. The clerk is to investigate.

11. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The Council accepted that bills should not be paid to third parties in future, and that the clerk should ensure the play equipment and A boards are on the list of assets, and insured.

Resolved

12. WEBLOGS AND QUALITY STATUS.

Cllr Carroll proposed that some councillors should meet with Mike Ashwell at ESWS on a fact finding mission and report back to the next meeting.

Seconded by Cllr Stanley.

Resolved

13. ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS CONFERENCE.

The Action For Market Towns aims to bring together market towns in order to lobby Government more effectively concerning grant funding. ATM will lobby on behalf of all market towns, which will be important when the Unitary authority takes over.

The AMT conference in Skipton is a big event which is preceded by the Rural Network Conference.

District Council is prepared to give £50.00 to a delegate, AMT will also give some money if the Town Council will put some in. Cllr Carroll proposed

that the town council should provide some money to support Cllr. Stanley to go to Skipton, and also that the Town Council should join the AMT.

Seconded by Cllr Wright. All in favour

Resolved

14. REMOVAL OF BOLLARDS IN WELSH ST.

When considering parking problems, there were some questions about these bollards. Councillors felt these were very useful in keeping the junction with Union St clear and that they should remain. The clerk pointed out that the County Council felt the same. Cllr Hird proposed that no bollards should be removed, seconded by Cllr Holton.

All in favour Resolved

15. CHARITY DONATION.

Cllr Carroll proposed that Laurie Stanley, Jim Pratt, and Tom Randall could donate their money to the Stonehouse Equipment Fund. Seconded by Cllr Hird. All in favour.

16. COUNCIL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll that the meeting after the 2nd December 2008 should be the 6th January 2009. Seconded by Cllr Gaffney

-

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

18. Correspondence.

i) Tree safety survey

ii) The Wintles. Area Development Control Officer

iii) Extraordinary Scrutiny Committee Meeting

iv) Gambling Act 2005 Consultation Statement of Principles, Licensing act 2003 statement of licensing policy, Taxi and Private hire licensing policies.

v) ROSPA report on Play Area.

b) Circulation:

i) Urgent with green sheet: Shropshire Housing Strategy.

ii) ROSPA Report

iii) Shropshire Council Update.

iv) Central Networks Burial of overhead power lines: consultation

v) The Edge Effect.

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

Bishop's Castle Special Town Council Meeting 09/09/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON SEPTEMBER 9th 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 11 as she is treasurer of the Tourism group.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th August 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Holton with the following corrections:

Item 13 "...that the council should provide up to £150.00 to support..."

Item 15 The donation is to be made to "Bishop's Castle Hospital" Seconded by Cllr Pinches.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

- The Clerk reported that a new nest swing would cost £767.00
- The external audit has been completed.
- The Grit bin on Union St is to be replaced with another plastic bin as the County Council feel that wooden bins are too expensive and don't last as long.
- The Clerk has insured the play equipment.
- Mr Morris of Shropshire roofing has had a look at the roof and will come for a more detailed look after his holiday.
- The clerk is awaiting a price for the bench in Oak Meadow.
- The clerk has received an answer from the District Council Planning department about the Wintles development, letter to be read out in correspondence.
- Cllr Carroll reported that Punch Taverns have agreed to make the path between the Auction Yard and Church St a public right of way. The County Council will draw up the agreement, Punch Taverns may ask us to meet the small legal costs which will arise.
- Cllr Carroll reported that the County Council has agreed to allow Bishop's Castle's activities to be linked to the County Council's website.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

A) 1/08/21050/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of extensions and alterations to existing building Stone House Hospital Union St Bishop's Castle . South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Cllr Carroll proposed that this Council should support this application, seconded by Cllr Wright.

Unanimous

B) Any other plans

Cllr Wright proposed that a special meeting of the Council should be called to discuss the plans for the Haining Croft development, which have only just arrived, so that members of the public can attend. He suggested the 23rd September. Seconded by Cllr Penney.

Resolved Unanimous

C) Reports of Planning Applications:

i) 1/08/20910/LB

Upgrading/replacement of various items of brewery plant (boiler,kettle/underback,hot liquor tank, cold liquor tank) and associated structural works/temporary enabling works. The Three Tuns Brewery Salop St Bishop's Castle. John Roberts Brewing Company. Granted subject to conditions.

ii) 1/08/20969/LB Insertion of Velux windows. 53 Church St Bishop's Castle Mr Ross Anderson Granted

iii) 1/08/20923/F Erection of a car port Heathfield House School House Lane Bishops Castle Mr A Evans. Granted

iv) 1/08/20954/F Erection of an extension to a dwelling 31 Corporation St Bishop's Castle. Mr D Price. Withdrawn.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

None attending.

8. STREET LIGHT AT THE TOP OF UNION ST.

This light has always been a bone of contention. It is in the middle of a narrow pavement which already has a grit bin. Could the light be removed and placed on the adjacent building. The clerk is to pursue this with the County Council. Cllr Penney proposed that the matter should be brought to the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Holton. ATC

9. REPORT ON WEBLOGS

Cllr Farr reported that three councillors who attended the meeting at Enterprise House with Mike Ashwell, are experimenting with the system. All Councillors should be able to log on and see what is there. Councillors will put into place the usual checks i.e. no anonymous or scurrilous comments will be tolerated.

They will be reporting back at the next meeting.

10. THE PINES TRUST.

Cllr Penney explained that the Pines Trust was set up by £60,000 from the District Council, with the Walkers Trust and some local people. The Trust has now been wound up and the building was sold for £720,000. £60,000 plus some interest went back to the District Council. The Lord Lieutenant of the County put it in to providing a barge for the use of disabled people. Some of the money was put to local use. Cllr Penney proposed that a letter should be sent to the County Secretary asking what the situation is now, and that this Town could have some call on the money for disabled people in the Town.

Seconded by Cllr Pinches.

Unanimous

11. EFFECTS OF TOURISM IN BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Cllr Magill explained that she has been talking to the providers of food and drink in the Town. There is a dearth particularly on Sunday nights and Bank Holidays, of places to eat. There is also more demand on Saturdays than the present providers can cope with.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that he would bring up this problem with the Business Network, and that Cllr Carroll could pursue some ways of improving the situation through the Tourism group. Seconded by Cllr Carroll.

12. EXTENSION OF ALLOTMENTS.

The clerk explained that there is a short waiting list for allotments but she has been approached by a resident about using some of the uncultivated land within the boundaries of the allotments. It was generally agreed that there would not be enough space and that the present allotments could not be re-jigged.

The Clerk also read out an email which was sent about this agenda item. The subject of the email was the purchase of land on the Crowgate site. Apparently there is no land available at the moment. Cllr Pinches proposed that the clerk should ask the District Council whether this was so and how long a purchaser of land can hold the option without planning permission.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll.

ATC

Cllr Wright proposed that this matter should be on the next agenda. Seconded by Cllr Penney.

13. REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS.

Cllr Wright proposed that all requests for donations should be heard at the meeting in November. Seconded by Cllr Gaffney.

Resolved

Unanimous

14. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Carroll reported that she had attended a Partnership meeting on behalf of the Town Council. The Partnership won't continue in the same way after Unitary it will become an LJC and have a budget of £20,000. to spend.

15. CORRESPONDENCE.

i) C. Cllr Peter Phillips Localism under Unitary.

ii) Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Invitation to an Agency Network Event.

iii) From C. Cllr. Peter Phillips to Planning, and reply from Jake Berriman.

iv) Confirmation from SSDC on Town Hall improvements.

v) Invitation to Shropshire Waste Partnership Meetings: Shrewsbury 15th Sept. Council Chamber Shire Hall 5.00pm-8.00pm. Or Ludlow 7th October (Council Meeting here)

vi) South Shropshire Housing Association. Request to cut grass and prune trees at the corner of Kerry Green.

Countryside Access Strategy available on www.shropshire.gov.uk/countryside.nsf

(Chapter 5 is of particular interest)

b) CIRCULATION

i) Consultation Paper on the Future Level Of Parking Enforcement In Shropshire.

ii) Shropshire Bus Fares (SCC Subsidised routes) - Proposed Increases.

iii) LCR

iv) Clerk And Councils Direct

The mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Bishop's Castle Special Town Council Meeting 23/09/2008

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, M. Furber, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Hird and Cllr Dr Penney (on holiday), Cllr Farr (Work commitments) Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Holton. Unanimous

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Wright declared a personal interest as he is part owner of the yard where the Coach House is situated. However, he objects strongly to these two plans being submitted as one and intends to speak.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT.

To consider response to:

1/08/21109/F &

1/08/21110/CA

1. Planning permission (Full)
2. Conservation Area Consent

1. Erection of 17 residential units and associated outbuildings and formation of access and driveway
2. Demolition of dwelling (Haining Croft) and outbuildings

Haining Croft Church Lane Bishop's Castle SY9 5AF

Mr Paul Jefferson

The mayor read out several letters from residents of Bishop's Castle opposed to this application.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Graham Hemmings: He strongly objects to this development feeling that it is a speculative application which questions the way in which planning proceeds.

Access to the site is poor for both vehicles and pedestrians. It is a single track cul de sac, in poor condition, and could not safely cope with the amount of construction traffic.

There is a Fire Station on the Lane and he would be interested to hear the views of the Fire service on this application.

The Church Barn is an important building for the community having many functions for old and young alike. Access and egress are both difficult at the moment and would become even more problematic.

The residents of the Pines often use this road as the safest way into the Town. It is very important that this Lane is not obstructed. (The footpath from the Pines to Church Lane has recently been upgraded for disabled access and is often used)

There is a Listed wall on the bend where the road is narrow and it seems quite possible that large construction vehicles negotiating the road could irretrievably damage this wall.

There has already been development at this end of the Town, at Bells Court and Grange Court, both of these sites have experienced difficulty in selling the properties.

This proposal for seventeen houses is like dropping a mini estate into a conservation area.

Grenville Jackson:

He supports all the comments made so far and would like to raise some other issues.

Firstly this application will generate a 150% increase in road traffic assuming 28 new parking places provided.

The Church Lane / Kerry Lane junction is not a good one as the sight lines are poor, indeed the County Highways Engineer objected to the development at the Grange due to lack of sight lines at this junction.

There is a blind junction at Field Lane, which some people use as a passing point, however Field Lane is a private Lane so cannot be used as a passing point. The proposed new access would also be blind, which is why the developers would have to "move" the vestiges of an ancient hedge.

The new residential developments require footpath access which would not be possible as the road is not wide enough.

New developments are required to be sustainable, Haining Croft is a relatively new property so the planning authorities have to take into account the energy costs that have gone into that development.

Concerning Wild life and Bio diversity, this is an extremely important foraging area for bats, why has no bat survey been sought?

The ancient hedgerow is also an important nesting place, but the application has no nesting survey.

Some of the trees are to be retained but all of those trees are part of the ancient woodland which used to surround Bishop's Castle.

This is one of the dark areas of the Town, any new development will lead to light pollution. The Sparc complex had to have low emission lighting which is switched off early.

Finally, the density and scale of the proposed houses, especially considering the height of these buildings, is out of keeping with the existing area.

The Mayor then stated that County Cllr Peter Phillips has said that he will be objecting to this application.

Cllr Wright agreed with what had been said but did point out that some objections would have to be discounted: the drainage, which would be part of the plans, the over-supply of houses which is a temporary issue and not a planning matter, and the restrictive covenant which is a matter between the holders of the covenant and the owners of Haining Croft.

However, he was in full agreement with the objections referring to access and the removal of trees. Large numbers will be removed which did not really come across on the plans, and although they may replace some, these will be young replacing ancient. He felt that the density of the housing is extreme, and reminded the meeting that when a proposal was put forward to develop the gardens of the Old Vicarage, objections were upheld on the grounds that these well established old gardens break up the town and are crucial for wildlife. He too emphasised the importance of the area for bats.

Cllr Wright also felt that the Planning Application mentions issues which are not quite correct: firstly it is stated that there has been "local consultation". It is true that the architect made a presentation to the Council but this could not be construed as public consultation. Secondly the application states that there are no nature conservation issues, but there are.

Cllr Gaffney felt that the planners' attention ought also be drawn to the relationship between the new housing and the infra-structure of the Town. He feels it would be worthwhile to look at the summary of the Housing Policy Documents.

Cllr Carroll stated that the Structure Plan for Bishop's Castle is for local growth. The Town has had a number of big developments: Brick Meadow, The Wintles, Grange Court, yet the local need is for affordable housing. Her main objection is that this development would completely destroy the character of this part of the Town.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the council strongly objects to this application on the grounds of:

- Access, both vehicular and pedestrian, the close proximity of the fire station and the Church Barn.
- The trees, even if not felled, the roots are going to be damaged.
- The character of the area.
- The density, which is inappropriate.
- The visual appearance and the quality of life.
- It is absolutely against the SSDC local housing policy, which is for 50% affordable. The ratio here is 10:7
- Putting the Coach House on this application is questionable as the changes there would not require planning permission, so why is it on?
- This is in the conservation area.
- There are wildlife and conservation issues: ancient trees and hedges, birds, insects and especially, bats.

Seconded by Cllr Wright.

Unanimous

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 07/10/2008

(Draft)MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 7TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Magill, Cllr W.J.Morris (Work commitments) Proposed by: Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in Item 8 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in Item 10 as he is a member of the Bishop's Castle Land Trust.

Cllr Dr St.J. Penney declared a personal interest in Item 12 as he lives on the Lane.

Cllr Gaffney declared personal interests in Item 10, as he is a member of the Trust's Board, and Item 9 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6(iv) as he is a good friend of the applicant.

Cllr Hird declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6(ii) as he is the owner of the land where the mobile home stands.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches

b) Minutes of the special Council Meeting held on September 23rd 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections: that District Cllr. Ellis should be included on the attendance list. That the second paragraph of the final page, second sentence should read: " It is true that the architect made a presentation to the Council but the changes since made to the application were such that this could not be construed as..." Seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. The Grange Rd lighting scheme has been adopted by the County Council.

2. C.Cllr. Peter Phillips contacted the clerk with his strong objections to the proposed Haining Croft development.

3. The Clerk has received a letter of thanks from the Bishop's Castle Community Hospital Equipment fund for the donation from Laurie Stanley, Jim Pratt and Tom Randall.

4. The clerk has received a reply from the Chief Executive who explains that: "the developers of the Biomass plant do not, and never have had an option from the Council in respect of any of the land at the Bishop's Castle Business Park."

5. The clerk has had a reply from Cllr. John Hurst-Knight agreeing to the proposals with regard to website links.

6. The playground equipment has been included in the Insurance.

7. The clerk has received a reply from the Corporate Director of Community Services which cannot find any evidence of the Pines Trust.

8. The Clerk has been approached by a member of the public concerned about dog mess on some of the local footpaths. The clerk is to provide notices for the relevant paths.

9. The second phase of the precept has been received along with the grant for Town Hall improvements.

10. Some concern about the lack of historical accuracy on the new boards at the King's Head has been raised.

Cllr Wright moved that the meeting be adjourned, and that Item 11 should be brought forward as a member of the public wished to speak.

Seconded by Cllr Pinches and approved.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: (Item 11)

Kate Evans: The Anaerobic Digester. This community does not want the biomass incinerator, yet, some form of local energy production needs to happen for reasons of economy and conservation. Dependency on foreign oil and gas makes us vulnerable, and both have limited life spans. This community is particularly dependent on oil and electricity so must look hard at local energy use and production.

The proposal is to form a Bishop's Castle Energy group/company representing local business, environmental and agricultural interests. This community energy production company would initially include:

A community owned anaerobic digester on the edge of the town to process sewage, domestic and commercial town food waste, farm slurry and garden waste which in turn would produce: a) Methane, providing: electricity, domestic heating fuel and vehicle fuel. b) Liquid fertiliser c) Solid soil conditioner for use as fertiliser/compost which is nitrate free.

A project for installing subsidised and affordable domestic and small scale commercial solar water heaters and photovoltaic panels for suitable BC buildings.

A proposal for a small community wind farm consisting of two or three turbines, strategically placed.

This would run concurrently with a Town Energy Conservation campaign along the lines of the HES project.

No business plan has yet been formed or discussed. The only objective is to receive the support of the Town Council.

A steering group is to be set up. If anyone is interested contact:

Kate Evans: katetheplate@googlemail.com or

Geoff Grimes: geoffgrimes@yahoo.com

For information on farm digesters contact James Murcott at: info@methanogen.co.uk

or the website at: www.fre-energy.co.uk

Other sites are: http:// www.anaerobic-digestion.com

http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/anaerobic.html

Resolved. Proposed by Cllr Wright that this Council supports this proposal, seconded by Cllr Hird. The vote was unanimous in favour.

The Council meeting recommenced.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) i) 1/08/21062/O Outline planning permission. Erection of a dwelling. Plot at North East end of Station St Bishop's Castle. J Bateson Resolved: No objection provided that there is no interference with the public right of way to the back of the building. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Carroll. Vote: unanimous in favour.

Cllr Hird left the room and took no part in the discussion.

ii) 1/08/21123/CE Cleud. Use of land for siting of a mobile home (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) O.S. Ref: 308899 Banks Head Bishop's Castle. Mr Neil Hird. Resolved: No objection proposed by Cllr Gaffney, seconded by Cllr Carroll. Vote: unanimous in favour.

Cllr Hird returned .

iii) 1/08/21124/O Outline planning permission, erection of a dwelling. Land to the north east of Station Road, Station St Bishop's Castle. Mr A Evans Resolved: No objection provided that there is no interference with the public right of way to the back of the building. Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Carroll. Vote: unanimous in favour.

Cllr Gaffney left the room and took no part in the discussion. Deputy Mayor Cllr Pinches took the chair.

iv) 1/08/21055/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of an extension to a residential home. The Pines Colebatch Bishop's Castle. Miss Rachel Hicks resolved: no objection proposed by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

Vote: Unanimous in favour.

Cllr Gaffney returned and took the chair.

b) Any other plans

None

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/08/20981/AD Display of illuminated and non-illuminated signs. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle. Granted

1/08/20982/LB Display of illuminated and non-illuminated signs. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle. Granted

1/08/21008/LB Erection of a smoking shelter and external alterations to public house. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle. Granted

1/08/21007/F Erection of a smoking shelter and external alterations to public house. The Kings Head Church St Bishop's Castle. Granted

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

District Cllr. Georgie Ellis explained that the local development framework group would be consulting with all district councillors about the vision for this area. All would be invited to a meeting, which is to take place in December or January.

From the "Let's Talk" meeting councillors were asked to improve or move, the footpath from Colebatch to Bishop's Castle. The County Council is considering this in association with the Ramblers' Association.

Concerning Cllr Hird's request for credits from Mr Bill Jones, we have already received a grant and need to discuss with Veolia the matter of the credits.

A hedge, which is intruding on the road at the Woodbatch Rd junction with Kerry Lane, needs to be cut back as it is interfering with sight lines.

BT is currently disposing of red phone boxes, at the moment the ones in Bishop's Castle are safe.

8.SSDC. CCTV SYSTEM AT CROWGATE.

Cllr Hird explained that the SSDC purchased a system for £8,000 which has not yet been erected. Cllr Hird proposed that the Council write asking that this be rectified. Seconded by Cllr Stanley . Resolved. Vote: unanimous in favour.

9.WASTE RECYCLING CREDITS.

Cllr Hird explained that when the South Shropshire Waste Partnership ceases, all waste will be handled by the County. He would like to be reassured that the current grants received by the Wasteless Society for all their work, will continue. Cllr Hird proposed that this Council supports the Wasteless Society's continuing to receive the credits. (See item7)

Seconded by Cllr Stanley. Resolved Vote: unanimous in favour.

10.COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.

Cllr Gaffney explained that this item was for information only and no decision was sought. He wanted Councillors to consider what level of support was appropriate for the Council to make. Should it be a donation, or, should the Town Council consider the notion of being a share holder in the Trust.

11.ANAEROBIC DIGESTER.

This item was considered in item 5.

12.TRAFFIC CALMING IN SCHOOL LANE.

Cllr Dr Penney explained that the traffic on this lane is increasing, and often moving at an inappropriate speed for such a narrow lane. Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk should write to the Highways department to ascertain their suggestions. Seconded by Cllr Holton Resolved. Vote Unanimous in favour

13.REPORT ON WEBLOGS.

Councillors who have been trialling these feel it is a good idea, although it would need to be moderated. It was proposed by Cllr Carroll that a six month trial should be launched with the December edition of the Newsletter. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney. Resolved

Vote Unanimous in favour. ATC

14. STREET LIGHT AT THE TOP OF UNION ST.

The clerk explained that she had received a communication from the County Council about the possibility of moving this column replacing it with a wall mounted light. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk should seek the price of this and bring it to the next agenda. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. Resolved.

15.MISSING LIGHT IN WELSH STREET AND DAMAGED COLUMN IN STONE HOUSE GROUNDS.

The clerk explained that a light, which used to be wall-mounted, has been removed. Residents are complaining that the junction of Welsh St and Castle St is very dark. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk write to the occupiers of the house to see what has happened to the light. Seconded by Cllr Hird. Resolved.

16.TRANSITION TOWN MEETING INFORMATION.

Cllr Gaffney explained that the idea behind Transition Towns is that communities need to plan for the future lack of cheap oil. However, this meeting was postponed due to illness.

17.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Gaffney met a number of people prepared to attend the Transition Town meeting and was encouraged by the level of concern shown.

Let's Talk Meeting: Cllr Gaffney thought that the mood of the times was that the District and County councils should stop saying no to parish and town councils who want to take over and run assets.

ESWS Board Meeting: Cllr Carroll reported that there was some technical business to do with representation on the Board. Reps have been asked to put board business first and not Town Council business. This leads to a difficulty with declaration of interests.

18. Correspondence.

i) Footpath 30 closure notice.

ii) Reply concerning street lights at Kerry Lane, Bull St./Castle St.

iii) Invitation to Shropshire Housing Group's Event. 29th October.

iv) Street closure notice for Remembrance Sunday.

v) Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils: Area Committee Meeting 13th October.

vi) West Mercia Police: White/Yellow lines.

vii) SALC Courses.

b) CIRCULATION

i) West Mercia Police: Combined Equality Scheme.

ii) Town & Parish Standard.

iii) The Making and Enforcement of byelaws. A consultation.

iv) Developing Health and Health Care.

v) Southern Shropshire Partnership

vi) SALC Visioning for the future.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.58 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 04/11/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON NOVEMBER 4TH 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

The Mayor adjourned the start of the meeting for 30 minutes to enable members of the Bishop's Castle Group, to put forward their case for a public inquiry into the Biomass generator.

Mr Michael Dawes spoke:

- Everyone agrees that Carbon Dioxide emissions must be reduced, but any scheme must be well thought out, doing it in the haphazard way in which this scheme has been delivered is not going to encourage people to become involved in the thrust towards cleaning up this planet as they will see failed technology on their doorstep.
- Bishop's Castle is actively considering anaerobic digesters, which seem to be a far better proposal.
- The Bishop's Castle group, which is fighting this proposal, on behalf of the whole town, has had to seek professional advice to substantiate their evidence before the 12th November. This is as a direct result of the failure of the SSDC to do its job properly.
- The main problem is with the planning officer who originally wanted a public inquiry, but later changed his mind, selling Bishop's castle down the river.
- The SSDC is the only body which can ask for a public inquiry. An Inquiry where the applicants can be cross- examined, and their assertions tested is being denied to the town of Bishop's Castle. It appears that the SSDC planners have not called a meeting on this proposal, so how can councillors possibly judge the issue. The SSDC planners have manifestly failed to test this application.
- The planners claim that the only issues in dispute are of a "narrow and technical" nature. This is untrue, but if the applicant can't be tackled it is very difficult to expose the tenuous nature of the proposal.
- When the Unitary authority takes over, will small, local communities have to take on these sorts of issues? They are hardly in a financial position to do so.

The Group is asking the Council for financial support to enable them to seek professional advice in fighting their case. They also urged everybody to write again to the Inspectorate, and to the Secretary of State to ask that a Public Inquiry, not a written inquiry, be the correct way forward. Writing to every District Councillor was also urged to ensure that they knew the strength of feeling in Bishop's Castle.

At 8.30 pm the Council Meeting began.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright. D

Cllr Georgie Ellis

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved. The following apology was accepted: Cllr Keith Pinches (holiday) Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney seconded by Cllr Holton.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is the Hon treasurer of the Bishop's Castle Group.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a shareholder in the Land Trust.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 15ai as he works with Andrew Broome at Crowgate.

Cllr Holton declared a personal interest in item 13 as she is a shareholder in the Land Trust

Cllr Holton declared a personal interest in item 16 (5) as she is a Trustee of BCHRC

Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 16(1) as she is on the Christmas Lights Committee.

Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a shareholder in the Land Trust.

Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest in item 16 (6) as he is Treasurer of the Trust.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in Item 15b x) as she has a business attached to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2008, 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

a) Item 4 (7) The Pines Trust. There is some money to be distributed, trustees are waiting notification from the Charities Commission.

Item 5. The Anaerobic Digester. A group called :The Bishop's Castle Community Energy has been formed and will work in partnership with the Wasteless Society. They intend to call a public meeting in late November/December.

Item 12 Traffic Calming measures in School Lane- A letter from Mr Glyn Shaw suggesting a site visit.

Item 14 Street Light at the top of Union St. A letter from Mr Phil Edwards outlining the difficulties and potential expense of moving this light.

b) Landscaping at BCBS. Mr Matthews has failed to cooperate with the SSDC's requests and the matter will now go to the next development control committee to secure a landscaping scheme.

Amount of land currently available at the Business park. A letter from Mr John Bryan states that there are approximately 3.4 acres of land currently available.

Allotment site tenure. A letter received from Mr John Bryan outlining the SSDC's refusal to alter the term of tenure for the allotments.

King' Head Path. Council has been asked to contribute to legal costs of putting pathway on definitive map. To go on next agenda.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) i) 1/08/21174/F Erection of a shower block and use of land for siting 10 further caravans. Foxholes Montgomery Rd Bishop's Castle Mrs Wendy Jones. Resolved no objection proposed by seconded by

ii) 1/08/20895/F erection of a dwelling (Revised Scheme) Land at Turnpike Cottage 10 Kerry Lane Bishop's Castle.

Resolved objection on the grounds that although the site was lower, it was still too overcrowded and overlooked the neighbours. Proposed by Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr Carroll

b) Any Other Plans: None

c) Reports of Planning applications:

1/08/21050/F Erection of extensions and alterations to existing building. Stone House Hospital Union St Bishop's Castle. Granted.

Cllr Wright proposed that Item 8 be brought forward and discussed. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

8. BIOMASS PLANT APPEAL

Cllr Wright began by reminding everyone that this Council has had continuing problems with the Planning Officers especially with matters of enforcement. Due to this background, he considers that the failure of the planning officer to do the proper thing as far as a Public Inquiry is concerned, is a professional lapse of duty.

Cllr Wright also wondered whether the District Council could ensure that in the event of the building ever being erected, it would be in accordance with the plans. Indeed, he is unsure as to whether the SSDC Environment officers are capable of dealing with such a plant.

Cllr Carroll proposed firstly that the Town Council makes a donation of £1000 to the Bishop's Castle Group. seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.**

All in favour.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that any legal action sought should be in the name of this Council and be invoiced to the Council. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **approved.** All in favour

Cllr Gaffney proposed that any legal action sought should be in the name of this Council and be invoiced to the Council. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **approved.** All in favour

Cllr Carroll proposed that the Town Council makes an official complaint about the handling of this matter by the planning officers and that a copy of this letter should be sent to all District Councillors requesting their support and asking them to look seriously at all the mistakes that have been made in this application as well as others. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.** All in favour.

Cllr Carroll proposed that a Town Councillor should support Mr. Dawes at the meeting on the 6th November. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.**

All in favour

Cllr Hird said he would be prepared to do this.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this Council write formally to the Inspectorate that the matter should go to a Public Inquiry. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.** All in favour

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

District Cllr Georgie Ellis began by informing Councillors that notification had arrived from the Government that all Local Elections will be in 2013.

There is a meeting on the 12th November which will deal with the ways in which Town /Parish Councils will work under a unitary authority.

Cllr Carroll will attend that meeting.

The footpath at Colebatch is not intended to be along the A488, but to be redirected around the farm.

8. See Above.

9. TRACK TO THE ALLOTMENTS.

Councillors approved £1000 for this track. The Clerk has received two quotations for this work, from R.C.Jones for £2320, and from JP Brayford for £2500, both excluding VAT. The second of these includes the laying of a Geotextile membrane. This will preclude weed growth. Councillors felt that this would reduce the cost of upkeep. It was proposed by Cllr Wright that we should accept the quotation from JP Brayford. Seconded by Cllr Holton and **resolved.**

10. GRIT BINS IN THE CONSERVATION AREA.

Cllr Carroll explained that we should pursue the possibility of wooden bins which could either go around the plastic bins or stand alone with some modifications to prevent salt damage. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk should seek a quotation. Seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.**

11. FOOTPATH FROM LOVE LANE TO KENNELS CORNER.

This footpath should go from the Industrial Estate to Kennels Corner. The clerk is to write again to the County Council. Proposed by Cllr Hird, seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.**

12. KINGS HEAD SIGN.

BCHRC are concerned about the derivation of the legend alluded to on the sign. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Clerk write to Punch Taverns to enquire about the story. Seconded by Cllr Holton and **resolved.**

13. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.

Cllr Gaffney explained that the Town Council should take a share in the 25% of shares held by residents in the Town, that would mean a holding of £1,000. Cllr Stanley proposed that the Council take up this suggestion, seconded by Cllr Carroll.

Cllr Dr Penney suggested an amendment that the Council should put in £500, seconded by Cllr Hird. Vote: in favour of the amendment 4, against 5.

The amendment falls.

Those in favour of Cllr Stanley's proposal: For: 5 against 4

The proposal was carried. **Resolved.**

14. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE.

Councillors were reminded to gather at the Town Hall by 10.30.

15. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS.

All changes to take effect from April 1st 2009

a) i-iii) Cllr Carroll proposed an increase of 5% for all cleaners' wages. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved

iv) Cllr Carroll proposed the Mayors Allowance should remain at £350.00, seconded by Cllr Hird and approved

v)-vii) Cllr Wright proposed that all hire charges should remain the same. Seconded by Cllr Farr and approved.

b) **Resolved** that the following are recommended by Council for the preparation of the budget:

i) Training costs for Clerk and Councillors. £250.00 budgeted for this year and not spent to be carried forward. Proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Holton.

Cllr Wright proposed an extra 5 minutes, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

ii) Repair and renewal of street furniture should remain the same.

iii) Town Centre Enhancement, it was suggested that this could be increased.

iv) Playing Field Supervision and v) weeding it was suggested that this could rise to £6000

vi) Footpaths- Surfacing and lighting) It was suggested that £1400 budgeted for this year but not spent should be carried forward.

vii) Allotments: it was suggested that the £1000 budgeted for this year but not spent should be carried forward.

viii) Donations: Cllr Carroll proposed that this should be increased to £2000. Cllr Dr Penney amended this to £1500, this did not receive a seconder.

.The amendment fell. Cllr Farr seconded Cllr Carroll's proposal which was passed by 8 votes to 2.

ix) Reserves: All reserves should be carried forward.

x) Town Hall Renovation: Council decided to leave this on the agenda until the budget is finished.

xi) Additional Expenditure: Nothing has been decided as yet.

Cllr Gaffney proposed an extra 10 minutes, seconded by Cllr Wright.

16. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council donate :

Christmas Lights: £300.00

West Shropshire Talking Newspaper for the Blind: £50.00

Hope House: £50.00

The House on Crutches: £150.00

BCHRC: £150.00

The Old Castle Land Trust: £400.00

Seconded by Cllr Wright and **resolved.**

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

18.a) CORRESPONDENCE

i) Standards Committee Agenda: www.southshropshire.gov.uk/static/page5651.htm

ii) SALC course: Unitary Preparation Event.

b) Circulation:

i) Community Working in Unitary Shropshire

ii) NALC Annual report.

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 02/12/2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON DECEMBER 2nd 2008 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Farr (illness), Cllr Morris (work), Cllr Pinches. Cllr Furber (holiday) Proposed by Cllr Carroll seconded by Cllr Dr Penney

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6a as she is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 17 as he is on the Digester Steering Committee.

Cllr Hird declared an interest in item 19 as he is Treasurer of the BC Group.

Cllr Wright declared a personal interest in item 11 as he has a bus pass.

Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest in item 11 as he has a bus pass.

Cllr Holton declared a personal interest in item 11 as she has a bus pass.

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 17 as she is on the steering committee.

Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 17 as he is on the steering committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr hird declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6d) 2 as he owns the caravan.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Carroll with the following corrections:

In item 8 a sentence is repeated, in item 9, the first sentence should read: "Councillors had budgeted.." Seconded by Cllr Wright.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

1. Fastrack, the company which has the contract for the playing fields, has asked if, when we tender next year, we could offer a three year contract.
2. The clerk has received a quotation of £70.00 for a small wooden grit bin cover.
3. Mayors Sunday will be on the 7th June 2009

4. The clerk has received a reply from the planning inspectorate following the letter about the Biomass inquiry. The letter is a copy of that sent to Mr J Berriman outlining which documents will be needed from him for the inquiry. The letter is in circulation.

5 The Clerk has received a phone call from Carol Morgan who would like an allotment. She directed the clerk to view the website of Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall, which the clerk has done. There are many innovative programmes around the country concerning self-sustainability, eg the Todmorden project. Ms Morgan suggests that Bishop's Castle ought to be more proactive in these developments.

6. The Clerk reported that the Town Hall roof is being repaired at the South end and around the clock tower. South Shropshire Roofing is going to provide a quotation for other necessary work.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Cllr Carroll proposed that Item 15 could be moved and discussed here. Seconded by Cllr Wright.

Mr Robert Bunting wished to speak about the Multi-cultural Music Festival in Bishop's Castle.

Mr Bunting explained that this is going to be a one-day festival in May which would encompass a variety of cultures. There would be workshops during the day, followed by a concert in the evening. The venue for the workshops, which will be open to as many members of the public as possible, will be the Community College.

The project, initiated by the South Shropshire Inter-faith Forum whom Mr Bunting represents, was originally based on encouraging dialogue between faiths. It has now developed a wider cultural angle.

The total cost of the event is £3100. £1000 is to be raised from ticket sales, £1000 from Shropshire Equality and Diverse Society. This has to be match-funded. They have received £600.00 from diverse groups in Craven Arms and are looking to the Town Council for a grant of £400.

Cllr Dr Penney suggested that this should be a one-off sum. Cllr Wright agreed and proposed that the Town Council would offer a grant of £400, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

Cllr Wright proposed that standing orders should be suspended to allow Mr Bunting to speak, seconded by Cllr Gaffney. Mr Bunting felt that 100 people could take part in workshops, and there would be more coming to the concert.

Cllr Magill hoped that many local people would be involved.

A vote on the proposal was taken and carried unanimously.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/08/21339/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of an extension to dwelling 31 Corporation St Bishop's Castle. Mr Darren Price.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

b) 1/08/21366/F Planning Permission (Full) erection of extension to dwelling The Mount Bull Lane Bishop's Castle. Mrs Heather Willis.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Wright.

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

1. 1/08/21055/F Erection of extension to residential home The Pines Colebatch, Bishop's Castle Miss Rachel Hicks Granted.

2. 1/08/21123/CE For Information Only. Certificate of Lawful Use Or Development Mr Neil Hird.

3. 1/08/21110/CA Demolition of dwelling (Haining Croft) and outbuildings. Haining Croft Church Lane Bishop's Castle Mr Paul Jefferson. Granted Conservation Area Consent

4. 1/08/21109/F Erection of 17 residential units and associated outbuildings and formation of access and driveway. Haining Croft Church Lane. Mr Paul Jefferson Refused permission.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

None attending

8. KINGS HEAD PATH PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES.

Cllr Carroll hoped that the Town Council would pay the legal costs for Punch Taverns in respect of turning the path between Church St and the Auction Yard into a public right of way for perpetuity. Cllr Carroll explained that Punch Taverns has agreed to it becoming a right of way but are not prepared to spend any money on it. The County Council has invested some money in this and it is in the interest of the Town to settle the matter.

The maximum cost would be £800.00

Cllr Carroll proposed that the Town Council would pay these legal costs, seconded by Cllr Magill. Voting was 5 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

The proposal was carried and resolved.

9. PRECEPT.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the precept of £44,320 should be left as it is, although she would like to see the Youth Council receive £2000 next year.

Cllr Gaffney supported that amount for the Youth Council. Cllr Dr Penney seconded the proposal that the precept stays as it is, and that the Youth Council should receive £2000. Unanimously carried and resolved.

10. CLERK'S SALARY INCREASE.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council approve the increase in the Clerk's salary back dated to April 2008 in line with NALC recommendations, seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

11. ANOMALIES WITH TRAVEL PASSES ACROSS BORDERS.

The Town Council has been asked to support a change in the eligibility criteria to include all bus services which travel between England and Wales. Cllr Wright supports the extension which should make all provinces interchangeable vis a vis buses. He feels the Town Council should press for this and unification of the criteria. Seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

12 WOODEN GRIT BIN COVERS.

The clerk has received a quotation of £70.00 from Adams of Onibury for a small grit bin cover. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council should try one, seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

13. SHOULD THE TOWN COUNCIL SEEK TO ACQUIRE LAND IN THE BUSINESS PARK.

Cllr Stanley introduced this item as she feels it could be useful, especially under a unitary authority, that the Town Council owns and manages the business park. The Town Council is more able to respond to local needs and wishes. She pointed out that North Shropshire Community Assets Trust was formed by Wem Town Council when North Shropshire was disbanded.

Cllr Stanley proposed that this Council investigates all options with the Unitary Authority after April. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

14. DONATION TO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FROM SOUTH SHROPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (SSDC).

Cllr Carroll explained that the SSDC has decided that each of the partnership areas would receive £1000 to help retail traders at Christmas. £500 will go to Clun, and £500 to Bishop's Castle to help with the Christmas lights. This initiative needs the approval of the Town Council.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the Clerk write to the SSDC to approve this, seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

15. MULTI-CULTURAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN BISHOP'S CASTLE.

See Item 5.

16. SPOTLIGHT REQUESTS THAT THE "UNDERGROUND" BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE TOWN.

Cllr Gaffney explained that Spotlight is very busy with lots of activities which are being limited at the moment due to a lack of space. They need dedicated premises. It was pointed out that part of the original funding for the Underground specified that it would be for young people. The Public Hall Committee are reasonably open to this as long as the snooker club can find a suitable home.

17. SHOULD THE TOWN COUNCIL APPLY FOR OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR AN ANAEROBIC DIGESTER.

The steering group has decided that they are not at the stage yet to make this sort of decision and would like to withdraw this item from the agenda.

18. ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS (AMT) NETWORKING EVENTS TRAVEL EXPENSES.

Cllr Carroll asked whether the Town Council would pay travelling expenses to those AMT events in the Midlands which did not include an overnight stay. Cllr Gaffney proposed that the Council would pay travelling expenses with a ceiling of £50.00, seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

19. BIOMASS PLANT HEALTH IMPACT.

Cllr Hird proposed that the Town Council should write to Dr Jane Hovey for a health impact assessment. Seconded by Cllr Magill. Vote with 1 abstention, all in favour. Resolved.

20. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

1. Cllr Carroll reported that she had attended the Stone House Hospital Forum meeting and that everything was going smoothly. Tenders are going through in January and it is expected that work can start in February 2009. They will have fewer staff although not less than 12, and will relocate and train nurses to work as outreach. It will be opening in the summer.

2. Cllr Carroll had also attended a training meeting in Shrewsbury in preparation for unitary. She felt it had little if anything relevant for South Shropshire and that a letter should be sent to Malcolm Pate asking him to think more carefully about the relevance of countywide meetings.

3. Cllr Stanley had attended an Enterprise South West Shropshire meeting. She reported that they were now voting on decisions, and are very concerned with cross interests.

4. Cllr Stanley had also attended the cross borders meeting in Knighton which was very interesting.

21a) CORRESPONDENCE.

1. The Planning Inspectorate (Copy in Circulation)

2. Application for Road Closure

3. Developing Health and Health Care Briefing 9 www.ournhsinshropshireandtelford.nhs.uk

b) Circulation

1. NALC Revised scales of pay

2. Independent Policy Commission Primary School Organisation

3. Shropshire Hills AONB Annual Review

4. Clerks & Councils Direct

5. Cascade 4

6 SALC Annual Report

7. SALC feedback from Area Committees

8. Membership of Standards Committee

9. Electoral Review final recommendations.

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