



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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MINUTES of the MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL

ON TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT		APOLOGIES
Cllr J. Magill	Cllr G. Perry	Cllr Whittingham
Cllr R. Houghton	Cllr A. Stelman	Cllr K. Bance
Cllr J. Carroll	Cllr J. Dickin	Cllr N. Morris
IN ATTENDANCE		

Mr G. Rippon Mrs C Owen

There were 6 members of the public present and Sgt Ram Aston of West Mercia Police.

Crime Prevention

Sgt Aston spoke to the Town Council about the Towns and Villages Initiative. This is a comprehensive approach to preventing crime: working with communities, petrol stations, charity shops, Parish Councils and individual members of the public. In particular, Sgt Aston explained the benefit of issuing Smartwater packs to households as a deterrence for crime, which he hoped the Town Council would purchase for at least 80% of the Town's households (at a discounted rate for a limited period). This will be discussed in January.

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
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241-19 1 **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Bance, Whittingham and Morris.

242-19 2 **TO CO-OPT NEW COUNCILLORS**

None

243-19 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests
- To declare any personal interests.

Name	Agenda Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Cllr Houghton	Item10 iii Finances		✓
Cllr Perry	Item 14 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr Carroll	Item 14 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr Magill	Item 14 Town Hall Trust		✓

244-19 4 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

In item 16, it had been omitted from the minutes that it had been agreed that a plaque in commemoration of Mary Pullen be installed on the new street furniture. **RESOLVED:**

The minutes were altered accordingly and accepted. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in Favour.

245-19 5 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Christmas Lights went well and was well attended. A letter from a resident said it was the best ever. Thanks to all who contributed to its success.

246-19 6 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

Would the Councillors who had put up the poppies please retrieve them and return to the Town Hall.

247-19 7 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

- Shropshire Council Cabinet had met to discuss their financial strategy. This year there has been an over-spend, caused by some savings not being made and an increased demand on education and other services. Cllr Houghton expressed concern for frontline services to be protected. Shropshire Council is introducing a £200 Council Tax charge for properties that have been empty or unfurnished for more than 5 years.
- Highways: Cllr Houghton is reporting pot-holes to Highways once a week, but priority is being given to main routes.

248-19 8 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

The Allotments Society spoke for the need for a compost loo (DDA compliant) and a shipping container for storage and had supplied the Council with the details of their requirements prior to the meeting. They had secured a grant of £9, 896 towards a herb and sensory bed, a mower and a Barbecue area.

Keith Whiddon addressed the Council on behalf of the Arts Festival and Elephant Heritage Trail. Helen Robinson has designed a stained glass window of a carnival elephant. She would make the pieces for children to paint and then construct it. an oak frame would be constructed to support it and secure it in the Town Hall window at the top of the Town Hall stairs. (It would be removable for cleaning). Estimated cost £500. The Town Hall Trust has money which could support this. The Arts Festival Committee sought permission from the Town Council to start the project.

It was proposed that items 11 and 12 were brought forward. Proposed Cllr Magill; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

249-19 11 **ALLOTMENTS**

In a failed Leader Grant application earlier in the year, the Town Council had agreed to match-fund up to £11,000. Now, the Town Council was being asked to spend less than this amount (approximately £10,000). The Allotments Society was asking for the following items:

Compost Toilet (DDA compliant for disabled access) £4,625, + 109.99 for shipping.

(Nearly New) Shipping Container £2,005 including delivery and VAT, + £50 for a large weatherproof padlock and £1,000 for a concrete base.

Wooden beehive shaped compost bin.

RESOLVED: Approved as above. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour. (This would be budgeted for across this year and next).

Management of the Woodland Copse. Originally planted by Shropshire Council, this area comes under the auspices of the Town Council and needs managing. There is a

strip of vacant land adjacent to the copse on the allotment site. The Town Clerk has applied to DEFRA for auto-planting – free trees for a community orchard.

250-19 12 **REQUEST FROM BISHOP'S CASTLE ARTS FESTIVAL AND ELEPHANT TRAIL**

Following the presentation made earlier: **RESOLVED:** The project should go ahead. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

251-19 9 **PLANNING**

1. 9/05095/FUL Application to build a partly one and two storey extension after demolition of existing extension at Little Woodbatch.

RESOLVED: No objection. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

2. 19/05099/TCA Application to fell a beech tree at 2 Pound Close.

RESOLVED: No objection. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

252-19 10 **MONTHLY FINANCES**

- i. To note the Bank Reconciliation.
RESOLVED: Noted. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.
- ii. To discuss the budget for 2020/2021. Figures were presented but it was agreed to defer the final decision to the next meeting, when the Smartwater Towns and Villages initiative would be decided, as this would affect the budget.
RESOLVED: Noted. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.
- iii. To discuss and decide on splitting the SpArC grant 2/3 SpArC; 1/3 SpArC theatre. **RESOLVED:** Confirmed. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.
- iv. To discuss and decide on awarding a grant to House on Crutches Museum to replace a broken audio device. **RESOLVED:** Confirmed. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.
- v. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	December Return	669.82
HMRC	PAYE and NI	December Return	784.74
Staff salaries	4 staff	December Return	2249.08
C. Owen	minute taker	278.	75.12
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	279.	336.00
A. Wallace	Street cleaning	280.	36.08
M. Males	Cleaning	281.	30.00
Exemplum	printing	282.	886.74
BCBS	Materials	283.	14.68
BCBS	Materials	284.	78.38
G.J. Rippon	Expenses	285.	44.64
Lavander	Boiler repair	286.	40.00
Blachere	Christmas lights	287.	2248.00
Blachere	Christmas lights	288.	345.00

Shropshire Council	Rates	289.	121.00
BT	Telephone and	290.	407.14
ICO	Data registration	291.	40.00
Water Plus	Water rates	292.	33.74
Water Plus	Water rates	293.	16.30
British Gas	Electricity	294.	31.87
Eon	Electricity	295.	64.80
Eon	Electricity	296.	23.51
Eon	Electricity	297.	158.34
	Total		£8735.76

RESOLVED: Confirmed. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

Items 11 and 12 already discussed – see earlier

253-19 13 **COUNCIL LOGO**

OWHA Environmental had asked for permission to use the Council Logo on market research publications re recycling needs. **RESOLVED:** Confirmed. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

254-19 14 **TOWN HALL TRUST**

No news other than it was the Christmas Party on Thursday!

255-19 15 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Climate Crisis Terms of reference had been forwarded to the Town Council. **RESOLVED.** Adopted. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in Favour.

256-19 16 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllrs Houghton and Carroll had attended a PACT Meeting. Minutes would be circulated to Councillors.

257-19 17 **ITEMS FOR FACEBOOK / WEBSITE**

Allotments news: Elephant project: Thank you to Mrs Bird and Ms Paula Gwyther for their service to the town for many decades as retailers.

258-19 18 **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 21st January 2019, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 8.22pm.