



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



Gwilym J Rippon Cert. He CEG, PSLCC
Town Clerk
Tel: 01588 638141
Email: townclerk@bishopscastletowncouncil.gov.uk

The Town Hall
Bishop's Castle
Shropshire
SY9 5BG

MINUTES of the VIRTUAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD USING ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr G. Perry Cllr J. Dickin Cllr A. Stelman Cllr J. Carroll Cllr S. Morris Cllr B. Hawes Cllr J. Magill Cllr. R Houghton Cllr T. Halford	

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Rippon

Mrs C. Owen

5 members of the public

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
------------	-------------	--

212-20 1 **APOLOGIES** None

213-20 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests

b) To declare any personal interests.

Name	Agenda Item	Personal	Prejudicial
Cllr B. Hawes	No. 9 monthly finances	✓	✓
Cllr G. Perry	No. 11 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr J. Carroll	No. 11 Town Hall Trust	✓	
Cllr A. Stelman	No. 11 Town Hall Trust	✓	

214-20 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 17th November 2020**

For clarification: The email to Shropshire Council (Item 11) will be sent before Christmas. The new email system (Item 12) will be explained to Councillors in a Zoom

session the following day.

RESOLVED: Minutes accepted. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

215-20 4

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Mr David Inman, the Director of the Rural Services Network outlined the purpose of the network and hoped that the Town Council would join. Currently 149 market towns are members, but there are over 600 Market Towns altogether in the country. Rural areas pay more Council Tax but receive less services in return than urban areas. The network gives a collaborative voice to rural issues and promotes rural services. Subscription is £110 per year, with a free trial until July.

Mr Jamie Furber and Miss Lizzie Biggs spoke in support of their planning application to build an affordable home.

Mr Glynn Roberts spoke in support of a BBC Countryfile and Woodland Trust 2-year project to plant 150,000 trees in community woodlands. (1 per child starting school in 2020). 105 trees costs £115; 420 trees costs £395. Free for Community groups and schools. Trees are allocated in March and November.

Mr David Luckhurst was unable to speak to the Council because of technical difficulties, so The Clerk will circulate his accompanying email to Councillors.

216-20 5

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Newsletter was well-received. Thanks to those who distributed door-to-door.

The BC Support Group was still available in the background should people need it.

The Mayor had received an email from St John's PCC with regard to the condition of the graveyard. The responsibility may well lie with the Council to keep it safe.

217-20 6

REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The Allotments had been broken into and tools stolen. The Allotments Society would like to put up a battery operated camera and accompanying signs.

Hope House Hospice had applied for a grant.

The External Auditor had spotted a few administrative errors in the accounts which have been corrected.

Old Market Square refurbishments. A resident had offered to produce a report to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a £600 fee. Sue Cooper had agreed to offer her services free of charge, also. Improving the square would be beneficial to the town.

218-20 7

UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Houghton had received a Press Release to say that the Business Park will go ahead. £1.7 million of the £4.3million allocated came from EU funding. Work will start in Spring 2021 with a view to opening in Spring 2022.

At the Shropshire Council Meeting the collection rate had been reduced. This will have a knock-on effect to the Town Council's budget.

Also Shropshire Council wanted to reduce the number of questions asked by members in a full Council Meeting to 6. Cllr Houghton will object to this.

The Community Land Trust has made an offer for the Stars Newsagents building.

Cllr Houghton has asked the Economic Recovery Group to include Enterprise SW Shropshire with the Federation of Small Businesses in its planning.

Councillor Houghton asked for The Town Council to discuss joining the Visit Shropshire Tourism Group in conjunction with the Town Hall Trust. £250 plus VAT for

full membership.

219-20

8

PLANNING

1. 20/04925/TCA Application for Crown reduce by 30%-45% one Ash Tree and one Hawthorn within Bishops Castle Conservation Area | 11 New Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5DQ

RESOLVED: The tree warden is in agreement. No objection. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Magill. All in favour

2. 20/04815/TCA Application for the reduction of 4.6m holly tree back down to Holly hedge within Bishops Castle Conservation Area | Castle Hotel Salop Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5BN.

The tree warden has advised the tree be pruned by a third only and reshaped.

RESOLVED: To follow the Tree Warden's recommendation. Proposed Cllr Magill.; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

3. 20/04421/FUL Application for the erection of one affordable dwelling and detached garage with storage above and new vehicular access | Proposed Local Needs Exception Site Dwelling East Of Field Lane Bishops Castle Shropshire.

RESOLVED: The tree warden is in agreement. No objection. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

220-20

9

MONTHLY FINANCES

i. To note the Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: Approved. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr. Halford. All in favour.

ii. To receive the report from the External Auditor. (see Report from the Clerk, Agenda Item 6).

iii. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	December Return	909.37
HMRC	PAYE and NI	December Return	846.86
Staff salaries	4 staff	December Return	2340.31
C. Owen	Minute taker	250.	37.56
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	251.	336.00
M. Gwilliam	Work from home allowance	252.	24.00
G.J. Rippon	Work from home allowance	253.	24.00
Exemplum	Printing	254.	612.49
Bamber Hawes	Grant	255.	866.80
Belvidere Lifts	Lift Maintenance	256.	139.20
Shropshire Council	Joint Energy	257.	664.16
Shropshire Council	Rates	258.	304.00
Highline	Streetlights	259.	179.10
Nick Yaxel	Expenses (repair of 3 flags)	260.	50.00
For information			
SG Equipment	Printer Lease	261.	322.80
BG	Electricity	262.	27.48
Water Plus	Electricity	263.	40.61
Corona	electricity	264.	142.84

Shropshire Council	rates	265.	141.00
	Total		£ 8018.06

A further invoice had been received for £480.80 from the External Auditor and £1692.00 from Andrew Evans.

RESOLVED:

The invoices including the invoices for the Auditor and Mr Evans, be paid. Proposed Cllr Magill; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

- 221-20 10 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**
The group sought permission to progress onward with questionnaires and consultation with residents through the BC Newsletter.
Cllr Halford offered to work with the group and produce a draft article for the Newsletter
RESOLVED: The working group can move forward with an article in the Newsletter, questionnaire and survey. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr. Hawes. All in favour.
Cllr Houghton will also chase Highways to install safety barriers at the entrance of the Playing Fields, (now and after the survey, if necessary).
- 222-20 11 **TOWN HALL TRUST**
The Farmers' Market is carrying on Enterprise House Carpark when COVID rules allow. Furlough is continuing for staff.
Staff are trying to open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays but will close if too quiet.
- 223-20 12 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**
A directory has been produced. Local Shopping promoted. The Action Plan had been updated. Food Resilience Group meeting. The new manager for Enterprise SW has some good ideas.
- 224-20 13 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**
Clothes Bank: Cllr Stelman had attended a meeting. There will be a clothes bank on Friday 18th at Enterprise House.
Food Resilience Strategy Group A press release was being updated and re-circulated.
Cllr Stelman had met with the manager of the South Shropshire Youth Forum.
Community Land Trust. Cllr Magill reported that the Trust had put in an offer for the Stars News Agency building and is awaiting a reply.
- 225-20 14 **ITEMS FOR FACEBOOK / WEBSITE**
Business Parks news
Cllr Perry pointed out that the website needs updating re change of personnel.
Also, the bench in memory of Mary Pullen is now in place.
- 226-20 15 **NEXT MEETING**
Tuesday 19th January 2020, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.03pm.