



# BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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

At THE TOWN HALL AND ON ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 AT 7.30PM

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
Cllr G. Perry Cllr R. Houghton Cllr J. Dickin Cllr J. Carroll Cllr D. Du Cros Cllr T. Halford Cllr S. Morris Cllr B. Hawes	Cllr A. Stelman

### IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Rippon Mrs C. Owen  
7 Members of the public, (+2 via Zoom)

### Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
198-21	1	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b> Cllr Stelman.
199-21	2	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None. b) To declare any personal interests. None.
200-21	3	<b><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Accepted. Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.
201-21	4	<b><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u></b>  Mr Dave Green spoke with regard to the proposal to install a low carbon heat pump and wind turbine in Bishop's Castle, and the request for it to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. He welcomed Andrea Pellegram's reply in principle. Of the 3 options she had suggested, his group preferred Option 2, which would give them more time to produce the heritage, ecological, landscape and AONB consultations and reports and therefore delay submitting the Neighbourhood Plan, possibly to Easter.
202-21	17	Item 17 <b><u>THE NDP (NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN)</u></b> was brought forward. All in favour.  The Councillors expressed their views. They were reluctant to delay submitting the

Neighbourhood Plan any longer as it was important for the criteria determined in the plan to be considered by Shropshire Council when deciding on any future housing development in the town. The Neighbourhood Plan needed to be submitted before the end of the year in line with the rest of Shropshire's Development Plans. Delaying the submission of the town's Neighbourhood Plan would allow Shropshire Council to permit developments that might be contrary to the wishes of the town as outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Council can ask for the Neighbourhood Plan to be reviewed after submission anyway, when deemed necessary to do so.

**RESOLVED.** Option 3 be adopted. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

203-21      5      **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Rotary Club and jubilee tree planting will be advertised in a future newsletter.

Council benches. The benches will be put in Bebb's Auction in the new year.

Traffic Management Cllrs Perry and Houghton met with Shropshire Council Officers re the painting of white & yellow lines, disabled spaces, mark-ups on roads etc, which will be completed over the Winter and Spring. Consequently, the display on the results of traffic survey will not be put up yet, to allow time for people to see if this has helped.

CCTV article will go in a future newsletter.

Mayor's Robes Unfortunately moths have damaged the robes, which are being assessed for repair.

War Memorial Restoration Quotes have been sought.

Drews Leasowe Enquiries are on-going re the house for sale and compliance to the Section 106 agreement.

204-21      6      **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

Following the annual check of the fire safety of the Town Hall by Mark 1, the emergency lighting was found to be faulty. It will cost £975.

**RESOLVED.** The lighting be replaced. Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

205-21      10      Item 10 **BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** was brought forward. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

District Cllrs Houghton, Kidd and Hartin had written an open letter to Shropshire Community Trust to seek answers re the temporary closure of the Stonehouse Hospital before the up and coming Public Meeting. Edgton, Lydbury North and Mainstone Parish Councils were also writing to the Chief Executive and the Health Committee. In the meantime Community Support will help people when discharged from hospital and in the home, and/or patients will be temporarily housed in Nursing Homes. However, Outpatient Clinics will return, e.g. Diabetes and Eye Clinics.

There appear to be no dates for re-opening or consultations. It is unclear why there is a shortage of staff and what is being done to address the situation. Cllr Houghton encouraged people to write to the Trust to express concern.

**RESOLVED.** The Town Council will send a letter to ask when the Hospital will re-open, what recruitment is being undertaken and highlight the impact on the town for staff and residents if it doesn't. Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

206-21      7      **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

Land for Housing Development. Eddie Fisher (SC Planning Dept) had been asked what is being done to solve the local mussel problem that is preventing land being released for development. Currently no housing can be built, including a lot of affordable

housing scheduled for the area. Shropshire's 5 year plan cannot be implemented until this is sorted. The lack of affordable housing is affecting the job markets in these areas. The Planning Inspectorate is putting pressure on Shropshire Council to sort it out. In other areas of the UK 2 hectares of wetlands have been set aside to resolve the issues.

207-21 8

**PLANNING**

1. 21/05067/FUL

Application for the erection of rear single storey extension and closed front porch, alterations to access to include dropped kerb and provision of one parking space | 21 Kerry Green Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5AR

**RESOLVED.** No objection, Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

208-21 9

**MONTHLY FINANCES**

- To note the Bank Reconciliation  
**RESOLVED:** Noted. Proposed Cllr Dickin; Seconded Cllr Hawes. All in favour.
- To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	November Return	909.37
HMRC	PAYE and NI	November Return	846.86
Staff salaries	4 staff	November Return	2340.31
C. Owen	Minute taker	205.	37.56
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	206.	336.00
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting	207.	846.00
Andrew Evans	Grass cutting	208.	1500.60
Exemplum	Printing	209.	10.74
Exemplum	Printing	210.	10.74
Exemplum	Printing	211.	84.38
Blachere	Christmas lights	212.	2192.40
Halls SMS	Toilet consumables	213.	35.35
BCBS	Materials	214.	13.83
Shropshire Council	Rates	215.	163.00
Highline	Street Light repairs	216.	1545.60
<b>For information</b>			
BT	telephone /broadband	217.	313.06
Corona	Electricity	218.	2.00
Corona	Electricity	219.	35.44
Corona	Electricity	220.	343.31
Shropshire Council	Licence	221.	70.00
KBS Depot	Bench	222.	662.40
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 12296.69</b>

In addition, 2 invoices have been received from Gary Cooke for sockets and LED lights for £462 and £180, one from Mark 1 for the fire safety inspection for £90, and one from Shropshire Council for the Public Hall for £70.

**RESOLVED:** The invoices be paid, including the four additional payments. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Hawes. All in favour.

10 **BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL** already discussed.

209-21 11 **ALLOTMENTS**

To approve minor revisions to the Allotments Inspections Appeals Policy and Procedure as circulated, in line with the Allotment Society's taking on more responsibilities relating to inspections.

Cllr Carroll reported that the policies and procedures were still being worked on.

**RESOLVED:** Adjourned to next meeting. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

210-21 12 **BISHOP'S CASTLE 10k**

For information. A group is intending to organise a 10k run around Bishop's Castle.

211-21 13 **OLD MARKET SQUARE**

Next Meeting is in 2 weeks. Connections for water and electricity are being costed. A feasibility study for water supply will cost £155.34.

**RESOLVED:** The feasibility study for water is undertaken. Proposed Cllr Halford; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

212-21 14 **YOUTH PROVISION**

The family were pleased for the shelter to be named in memory of their son. Further updates next month.

213-21 15 **TOWN HALL WATER HYGIENE PROPOSALS**

It is a legal requirement to have public toilets and hand basins tested for Legionella and other pathogens. The Clerk has received a quote for £573 and thereafter £900 per year. A second quote will be sought. Few companies undertake this specialist work.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk will be authorized to proceed with the lower quote once the second one is received. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

214-21 16 **PUBLIC HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The constitution has been amended to allow the Town Council to be the Manager of Last Resort in an emergency. The new committee will be formed in Spring.

17 **THE NDP (NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN)**

Already discussed.

215-21 18 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

SpArC. £90,000 of gym equipment is being purchased which can be programmed for personal fitness requirements.

BC Partnership meeting. A moodle platform has been set up to connect people to local services on offer, focusing on mental health issues, befriending and youth.

SWS Broadband There has been a presentation and leaflet promotion to assess the demand for broadband to be delivered through fibre to property, which would increase internet speeds.

216-21 19 **ITEMS FOR FACEBOOK / WEBSITE**

Hospital Concerns.

217-21 20 *By the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press were excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.*

**PLAYGROUNDS**

Councillors discussed the 2 quotes received for repairing and upgrading the 2 playgrounds in the town and associated financing.

**RESOLVED**

Mant Leisure Ltd's quote be accepted and implemented and financed with a Public Works Loan over 15 years. (This would result in a cost of £12.43 per band D household per year). Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Hawes. All in favour.

It was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £110,000 over the borrowing term of 15 years for the purchase on new play equipment to refurbish the play area. The annual loan repayments will come to around £8059.72

218-21 21 **BUDGET**

To discuss the budget for 2022 - 2023 and the resultant Precept demand.

Only 1 quote had been received so far for the refurbishment of the Auction Yard toilets. 2 more quotes were being sought and then there will be a public consultation. A Public Works Loan will be obtained to fund this which will need factoring into the budget, along with the financing of the playground equipment outlined in Item 20.

**RESOLVED** The Town Council will set a budget of £165,000 which will result in a precept of £252.01 per household. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 5.5% which is the equivalent of an additional £13.08 a year. This will be subject to a precept increase consultation.

219-21 22 **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 7.30pm.      The meeting closed at 9.20pm.