



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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The Town Hall
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MINUTES of the MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON ZOOM

ON TUESDAY 18th JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Rippon. Mrs C. Owen

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
1-22	1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Cllrs Du Cross and Hawes
2-22	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None. b) To declare any personal interests. None.
3-22	3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES of 21st December 2021</u> RESOLVED: Accepted. Proposed Cllr Halford; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour. (Matters arising. Item 228-21 – The memorial bench has now been dedicated in a small ceremony and a press release sent to the Shropshire Star and the South Shropshire Journal).
4-22	4	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u> None present
5-22	5	<u>REPORT FROM THE MAYOR</u> The Town Council has been given the go ahead to spend the <u>£5,000 Shropshire Council Welcome Back grant</u> on infrastructure improvements: (tidying up and weeding carparks and other areas, new signage and additional lights). The money must be spent before the end of February.

RESOLVED. The Clerk is authorised to spend the money in advance of the work to meet the deadline. All in favour.

There have been multiple complaints about dog mess.

The Community College celebrates 100 years this year.

The Queen's Jubilee will be celebrated on 5th June. Volunteer Cllr/Subcommittee needed to organise events. Street parties/ Garden Party/ Commemorative coins for school children? Ideas and help needed, please. The Coop is willing to donate £150 worth of food and drink.

BC Newsletter deadline is Friday 21st.

6-22

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REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The Clerk and Cllr Carroll attended a Court Case re the Contempt of Court allegation.

However, the Court failed to send a copy of the appeal to the Clerk so it was adjourned.

Wayfair. In light of the unsatisfactory condition of the first bench delivered for the skate park, Wayfair have sent a complimentary bench of equally poor condition in its stead.

Town Hall Clock. The clock needs repairing by a specialist clock repairer (£427 quote). The Clerk is acquiring a quote from a certified scaffolder (Jarvis Scaffold) to facilitate this and other maintenance, namely gutter clearance, some external painting and weather vane to be done at the same time.

RESOLVED. The clock be repaired. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Dickin. All in favour.

Allotments It has come to light that a tenant of a large plot may need to downsize.

ACTION Cllr Hawes has stepped down from the Allotments Sub-committee. A replacement Cllr is sought.

Party in the Park. The chair woman has asked for permission to hold the event again this year.

Grant success. Congratulations to Cllr Stelman for his hard work in securing a grant of £16,603 for a Play Scheme Officer for the Park.

7-22

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UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Houghton had received some emails in relation to the Business Park which has been long awaited and needed in the town.

RESOLVED The Town Council will put an article in the Newsletter in support of the Business Park.

There have been concerns raised about flooding at the allotments following the groundworks, which have altered the level of the ground and affected the drainage.

RESOLVED Shropshire Council will be asked to dig a gully to drain the water away from the allotments while they have the heavy machinery on site to do so.

Stonehouse Hospital. Cllr Houghton has had no response to emails and letters re the reopening of the hospital, the Outpatients provision or community consultation.

Shropshire Council's budget consultation is available on-line for perusal. The large deficit is concerning as to how it will be managed.

Highways. Cllr Houghton has submitted details of more highway damage.

8-22

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PLANNING

New applications: for information

1. 21/05934/CPE

Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the continued use as a caravan as an overflow office and more recently a covid-safe 'visiting pod'

for friends and family to visit residents at The Pines Residential Home, Colebatch, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5JY.

9-22

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MONTHLY FINANCES

i) To note the Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: Noted. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

ii) Public Works Board Loan.

By request, the Clerk has supplied further details of the public consultation, and has sent screenshots of the comments, and is awaiting to hear the outcome.

iii) To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	January Return	909.37
HMRC	PAYE and NI	January Return	689.94
Staff salaries	4 staff	January Return	2494.97
C. Owen	Minute taker	240.	37.56
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	241.	336.00
Exemplum	Printing	242.	129.74
Blachere	Christmas lights	243.	930.00
Highline	Street Lighting	244.	283.20
Highline	Street Lighting	245.	217.20
Highline	Street Lighting	246.	1545.60
BCBS	Materials	247.	91.70
A. Evans	Grass cutting	248.	510.60
For information			
BT	telephone /broadband	249.	314.17
Waterplus	rates	250.	35.59
Corona	Electricity	251.	818.39
	Total		£ 9344.03

RESOLVED: The invoices be paid. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Dickin . All in favour.

10-22

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TOWN HALL CLOCK

Already discussed in the Clerk’s report. Agenda Item 6-22

11-22

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PLAYING FIELDS

The grass path down to the skate park is very slippery in wet/icy weather.

RESOLVED The path be changed from grass to a more suitable hard surface. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

12-22

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NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Awaiting the go-ahead for the public consultation from Andrea Pellegram.

- 13-22 13 **WEBSITE**
Following recent security issues with a host website, a spare laptop will become the main server working independently of any other website and thus more secure.
- 14-22 14 **PACT MEETINGS**
Actual meetings with the Police have been replaced by extended email communications.
RESOLVED A regular monthly item will be added to the agenda to identify the town's current priorities of concern to be conveyed to the Police. The Police be asked to attend a quarterly meeting. Proposed Cllr Stelman: Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.
- 15-22 15 **VISIT SHROPSHIRE**
Up to date data from the website would now be useful. The Arts Festival and the Weighbridge Project need promoting.
- 16-22 16 **THE HOMELESS MAN AND THE ARMY**
Cllr Stelman sought clarification of potentially compromising his position on the Council if he wrote a letter of complaint to the Army with regard to their unhelpful treatment of a homeless man who was camping on their land.
RESOLVED There would be no conflict of interest if Cllr Stelman wrote in his capacity as Food Bank Co-ordinator.
Cllr Stelman also raised the homelessness issue as something the Council might want to look at in the next few months.
Cllr Houghton raised the connected issue of lack of local affordable housing and suggested that in the new financial year the Right Home Right Place Survey might be re-done to assess the current demands.
RESOLVED The survey be undertaken in the next financial year. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.
The Community Land Trust and Citizen's Advice Bureau would have a helpful input.
- 17-22 17 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**
All of the relevant emails had now been supplied as requested.
- 18-22 18 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**
Enterprise SWS – Rob MacKay is taking a 3 month Sabbatical.
New directors are sought from the Business sector.
Orphans of Leominster will update the Bishop's Castle website with the Covid Recovery Money granted by Shropshire Council. It will need links with Visit Shropshire including.
- 19-22 19 **NEXT MEETING**
Tuesday 15th February 2022, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 8.52pm.