



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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

The Town Hall
Bishop's Castle
Shropshire
SY9 5BG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ON TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2022 AT 7.31PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr J. Carroll Cllr J. Dickin Cllr G Perry Cllr A. Stelman Cllr R. Houghton Cllr T. Halford Cllr B. Hawes Cllr S. Morris	Cllr D. Du Cros
IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr G. Rippon Mrs C. Owen 1 member of the public	

Fire Procedure

1 minute's silence was held to remember Karen Bavastock, former Mayor and Councillor of this council, who sadly died this month.

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
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107-22 1 **APOLOGIES** Cllr Du Cros

108-22 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests
- b) To declare any personal interests.

Name	Agenda Item	Personal	Prejudicial
All Councillors	Item 15 Public Hall		✓

109-22 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES of**

a) **17th May 2022, (Mayor Making)**

RESOLVED Approved. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

b) **24th May 2022 Annual Town Meeting**

RESOLVED Approved. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

c) **24th May Town Council Meeting.**

RESOLVED The minutes were approved after a slight correction to an amount Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

110-22 4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Steve Whittingham presented ideas for developing the unused land next to the Skate Park into Pump tracks. He had met with Cllr Stelman and Matt Maddox, (designer of the shelter in the skate park), and also Cllr Perry. The tracks require specialist foundations with adequate drainage. A drainage system and electricity connection, (should lights be installed) are already in place. Shape & Scape are a company that build pump/mud/skate tracks. The owner went to school here and is willing to donate his time and equipment for free, if £35,000 can be raised for the materials. Ideas to raise money include skate jams and music events. The young people would need to raise a lot of the money themselves.

Mr Whittingham suggested a small working group of Councillors and interested people be formed to look at the options, and appealed for money from the Council to help fund it. Some funding is already available from other projects.

RESOLVED Item 12.2 be brought forward. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

111-22 12.2 **YOUTH**

To discuss and decide on the use of land adjacent to the Skate Park.

Councillors were in support of the idea in principle but this year's youth budget money had already been allocated. However, there was the possibility that, if the project went ahead, any unspent money in the youth provision for 2022-3 could be used, and/or an amount could be factored into next year's budget.

RESOLVED A small advisory group will be formed to discuss the feasibility and financing of the project, and undertake a consultation of the young people. The group will update the council on their progress at the August Council Meeting. Cllrs Stelman and Hawes will represent the Council. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour

112-22 5 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Ms Bavastock's funeral will be at Lydbury North Church on 25th June at 11am. The Mayor will be a pall bearer. The flag will fly at half-mast on the Town Hall.

Jubilee: Celebrations went well. It was a good evening on the park for the beacon lighting. £260 was raised for Rainbow Gang at the Quiz night.

Lord Lieutenant Garden Party. Cllrs Dickin and Stelman attended along with other Mayors.

Lezley Picton (Leader of Shropshire Council) is visiting the town for a Drop-in on 13th July from 10am to noon. Afterwards, Cllrs Houghton and Dickin will accompany Ms Picton around the town to highlight the on-going issues. (e.g. the long-awaited white lining).

Auction Yard toilets. There was a problem with the water supply to the disabled toilet.

113-22 6 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The Clerk has attended the court case and is awaiting the findings. The case has highlighted the need to make a record of all phone calls, as well as emails and letters.

Belvedere Lifts have noted that the emergency power supply to the lift is faulty and needs to be repaired.

The Public Works loan money has been received and play equipment has been ordered.

The Clerk had received a letter complaining about wires that have been installed above The Cobbles to support the festive lights, which are spoiling the view. Permission was given by owners of the buildings to mount the wires. If the wires are taken down after

each event, the contractors need to stress-test and perfectly stretch the wires each time they reinstall them, which will cost. However, this could be budgeted for if necessary.

RESOLVED A small working group will look at the options and costs involved. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

114-22 7 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

Highways: It is now over 5 months since the white-lining and other issues were requested. Highways is not responding to any emails, which is very frustrating.

Harley Jenkins Street Car Park. The 4 parking spaces assigned for the EV chargers are unusable because of the dug-up tarmac. The chargers are promised by the end of July. It has been 2 years in process, which is very frustrating.

The next Shropshire Council meeting is on 7th July. The cost of living crisis and its impact on rural areas, will be discussed. The cap on fuel only applies to gas customers, which unfairly discriminates rural households where gas is not an option. Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance have written to Shropshire Council with their concerns, also.

Business Park: This will be finished in September. Cllr Halford has talked with the management re acquiring tenants. He has informed them that all enquiries/correspondence need to go to the Clerk.

Connexus The properties on Kerry Green are almost ready for use now. Bank House, which is owned by Connexus, is being put up for sale.

115-22 8 **PLANNING**

1. 1. 22/02427/DIS

Application for the discharge Conditions 3 (surface water drainage) and 4 (bat and bird boxes) of planning permission No. 21/04387/FUL | Jesmonite Ltd Units 2 To 3 Challenge Court Love Lane Industrial Estate Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5DW

RESOLVED No objection. Proposed Cllr Perry, Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

116-22 9 **MONTHLY FINANCES**

- i. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	May Return	924.77
HMRC	PAYE and NI	May Return	679.61
Staff salaries	4 staff	May Return	2349.97
C. Owen	Minute taker	83.	40.04
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	84.	420.00
G.J. Rippon	Expenses	85.	73.99
PCPS	Window cleaning	86.	45.00
Viking	Stationery /postage	87.	161.11
A. Evans	Maintenance	88.	3385.80
Belvidere lifts	Maintenance	89.	216.00
Mant Leisure	Playground equipment	90.	36570.36
Mant Leisure	Playground equipment	91.	31192.80
Shropshire Council	Joint energy	92.	618.01
Tony Baker	Maintenance	93.	1050.00
Iain Selkirk	Audit	94.	375.00
For information			
BT	telephone /broadband	95.	345.76
Corona	Electricity	96.	1124.76
SCC	Rates	97.	187.00
SCC	Rates	98.	55.00
	Total		£ 79814.88

In addition, the Clerk asked for the following invoices to be paid:

£100 Shropshire Council (Election)

£192.40 Paul Eldridge (Cleaning)

£321.49 Planters/Planting

£1 Ransfords

£251.30 Maintenance of the Postage machine.

RESOLVED The invoices, plus the extra ones, be paid. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

ii. To discuss an investment strategy.

The interest rate on the Deposit Account is 0.25%. The interest rate on a CCLA account is 0.9023%.

RESOLVED The Clerk will open a CCLA Account and move £150,000 of reserves into it. Proposed Cllr Carroll, Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

iii. To receive the Internal Auditor's report. Iain Selkirk had found no issues.

RESOLVED The Report is accepted. Proposed Cllr Carroll, Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

iv. To agree the annual Governance return.

All internal matters are being dealt with and the internal auditor has checked it. It has been signed by the Clerk and the Mayor.

RESOLVED Agreed. Proposed Cllr Carroll, Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

v. To agree the annual return

RESOLVED Agreed. Proposed Cllr Carroll, Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

vi. To note the bank reconciliation.

RESOLVED Noted. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Morris. All in favour.

The display is not working on the FIT meter at the Auction Yard.

117-22 10 **NEW POLICY**

To consider and adopt a policy on Data Retention and Disposal and to receive a report from the assistant clerk.

RESOLVED Accepted. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

118-22 11 **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Carroll and the Clerk have provided evidence that all 121 statutory consultees have been consulted. Shropshire Council have not responded yet, although the consultation period is now formally closed. Andrea Pellegram will look at all the responses and produce a document by the end of July, which will be sent to the inspector.

119-22 12 **YOUTH**

1. Update from Cllr Stelman.

There has been more obscene graffiti daubed on the shelter in the skate park. This is criminal damage. There should be a sign explaining expected behaviour and consequences of abuse. An article should be put on social media. Cllr Stelman spoke with the Community College LGBTQ Rep after the last incident.

RESOLVED The Clerk will look into making and costing a sign for the Skate Park that explains the rules of use. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

The Council could consider having a Graffiti Board in the Skate Park to encourage artistic, non-offensive graffiti, in the future.

Severn Trent Community Fund (who awarded the grant for the new project), have featured the project in an article in their annual review magazine.

Christine Perkins has been appointed as the new Youth Project coordinator. She undertook a survey at the Community College and had 264 replies.

141 young people are interested in a Youth Drop-in and Café.

68 young people are interested in being on a Youth Forum.

24 of these have given their contact details with regard to being on a Youth Forum.

Based on this Christine is setting up 2 Drop-ins at 3.30-5.30pm. She is hoping to start before the summer holidays and is recruiting volunteers who will receive training.

Adjacent land – already discussed.

120-22 13 **LOVE LANE ALLOTMENT SITE**

Sue Cooper has put in a grant application to plant an orchard on land adjacent to the allotments. This includes levelling the site, putting up a polytunnel, and cutting the tops out of some tall trees, (once a hedge).

Peter Carty has been using the site to dump the grass cuttings following the mowing of the verges.

Residents on Brick Meadow have asked for some trees to be lopped off because they are obscuring their solar panels. However, this land either belongs to the Environment Agency, or Shropshire Council, not the Town Council. Cllr Houghton will look into it.

121-22 14 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENT**

30th July 10am-4pm. Cllr Perry asked for Councillors to be present if possible.

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PUBLIC HALL

A meeting was held on 7th June to appeal for a new committee to be formed. 17 members of the public, (including 3 former committee members), and 4 councillors attended.

It was pointed out that there is a covenant in place preventing the disposal of the land which was gifted for public use. There is no record of this at the Land Registry Office, but the deeds are held at HSBC and will be obtained shortly.

A new committee was formed with 4 members of the public, (one offered after the meeting) and the 4 councillors. It was decided by this group that a report of the state of the current building's fabric, fixtures and fittings be produced before meeting again.

One option also to be considered is whether to replace this building with a purpose-built new one, continuing to accommodate the requirements of young people as a priority. Fund-raising and Grant applications would be needed.

RESOLVED. The Council meeting will be extended in order to finish the discussion. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

The Town Councillors are trustees of the Public Hall.

RESOLVED The Council will convene a meeting of the trustees to discuss the way forward. In the meantime, the Clerk will find out costs for Fire Safety, Legionnaire's Disease testing, and Health and Safety risk assessments in order to make the building compliant. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

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REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

None

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NEXT MEETING

Next - Tuesday 19th July, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

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STAFFING

The issue in relation to the cleaner would be dealt with via the staffing group.