



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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The Town Hall
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SY9 5BG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2022 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr J. Carroll Cllr J. Dickin Cllr G Perry Cllr A. Stelman Cllr R. Houghton Cllr T. Halford Cllr B. Hawes Cllr D. Du Cros Cllr L. Payne* Cllr R. Bromley*	Cllr S. Morris
IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr G. Rippon Mrs C. Owen	

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
142-22	1	APOLOGIES Cllr Morris
143-22	2	<u>CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS*</u> RESOLVED Mr Lloyd Payne and Ms Rachel Bromley are accepted as Councillors. Proposed Cllr Dickin; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.
144-22	3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Cllr Halford. Agenda Item 11.2. b) To declare any personal interests. None
145-22	4	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of 19 th July. RESOLVED The minutes were accepted. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.
146-22	5	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u> PCSO Calvin Brown introduced himself. The Police's priority at the moment is dealing with burglaries from outbuildings and sheds. Please be vigilant. SMART Water had proven useful, particularly in returning stolen goods. He encouraged councillors to read the newsletter and sign up to the messaging service.
147-22	6	<u>REPORT FROM THE MAYOR</u>

Mayor's Sunday will be on 18th September. The parade will leave the Town Hall at 10.30am and process down to the Church for the Civic Service. After the service the Civic Awards will be presented by the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Jenny Wynn DL will present the Awards to the chosen volunteers nominated for their service during the pandemic.

The Mayor had emailed Lezley Picton (Leader of Shropshire Council) to remind her that the streetlights etc still had not been fixed.

The Poppy Appeal has a new leader and will be going ahead again this year.

148-22 7 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The clock has been reinstalled and the scaffolding can now be removed.

The cost of removing the reinstalling the wires for the lights is £488, with storage £480.

149-22 8 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

On-going issues re white-lining, streetlights etc. Lexley Picton has replied to the complaints re long-outstanding work. She's looking into the issues, but no action yet. Cllr Houghton has also contacted Andrew Keeland from Shropshire Council.

Business Park Open Days are scheduled in August and September. A press release is imminent. There are some potential tenants. Cllr Houghton was thanked for her hard work.

Housing. Connexus has decided not to refurbish properties at Lydham, Lydbury North, More and Clun and flats in Bank House, Bishop's Castle, but to sell them instead. (In the past Connexus houses have been sold in London by auction, not locally). Many of these houses have been empty awaiting refurbishment for 3 years. The cost to bring them up to standard is more than Connexus want to spend. Connexus will rebuild with the proceeds but the stock will be affordable housing, not social housing, and could be anywhere in Shropshire. This is a greatly disappointing development when there is such a demand for social housing locally.

150-22 10 **HOUSING NEED**

RESOLVED This item be brought forward. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

Cllr Houghton is receiving at least 3 queries a week. Cllr Houghton asked for a housing need survey to be undertaken because once the river mussel situation is sorted, housing builds will resume. We need to know what type of accommodation is needed.

151-22 9 **PLANNING**

The tree warden has been consulted where appropriate.

New applications:

1. 22/03317/TCA

Application for crown reduction of 3 Portuguese laurels by 2 meters within Conservation Area, Castle Gate House, Salop Street.

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

2. 22/02676/FUL

Application for conversion of joinery workshop/former school into dwelling (re-submission) the Old National boys School, Station Street

RESOLVED Supported. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

3. 22/03076/FUL

Application under S73A of the Town and Country Planning Act for the raising of ground levels to enlarge the farmyard. Erection of an extension to an existing agricultural building for dairy herd | The Cottage Lydbury North Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5ET

RESOLVED Supported. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour.

4. 22/03378/TCA

Application to reduce overgrown mixed hedge to 6ft within Bishops Castle Conservation Area | E G Burton & Sons Ltd Garage Station Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5AQ

RESOLVED Supported. Proposed Cllr Halford; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

152-22 11

MONTHLY FINANCES

i) To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	Aug Return	924.77
HMRC	PAYE and NI	Aug Return	679.61
Staff salaries	4 staff	Aug Return	2349.97
C. Owen	Minute taker	152.	40.04
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	153.	420.00
SALC	Training	154.	120.00
LG Inspections	LOLER lift statutory	155.	210.00
Play Safety	RoSPA checks	156.	365.40
PCPS	Window cleaning	157.	45.00
Belvidere lifts	Maintenance	158.	168.00
Exemplum	Printing	159.	528.06
Exemplum	Printing	160.	73.48
Shropshire Council	Rates	161.	55.00
For information			
BT	telephone /broadband	95.	345.76
Corona	Electricity	96.	1124.76
SCC	Rates	97.	187.00
Water plus	Rates	98.	45.09
	Total		£ 76814.94

In addition, the Clerk asked for the following invoices to be paid:
£216 for a skip to clear out the Public Hall; Heritage Centre Subscription £25; Rural Market Town Group £114 and Statutory Inspection of Lift **£ 210.00**

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

ii) Purchase of COVID Awards.

RESOLVED. 24 glass bowls engraved with the Town Council Logo be purchased. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

iii) To note the budget performance

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

153-22 12 **COVID VOLUNTEER PANEL**

The panel will comprise of Cllrs Dickin, Stelman and Hawes. The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire will hand out the awards on 18th September.

154-22 13 **TELFORD CHILD EXPLOITATION REPORT**

Cllr Stelman had prepared a summary for councillors and was thanked for his hard work.

There had been a surprising growth in exploitation of various kinds: sexual; far-right infiltration; county lines etc.) The Council needs to address the issues and recommendations raised, and in addition three issues not represented in the 47 recommendations, namely issues of race, looked-after care and treating victims as if they were the criminals.

Cllr Stelman suggested the Council writes to Shropshire Council. (Two years ago Shropshire Council cut all youth funding).

Cllr Du Cros asked for digital safeguarding to be included in the recommendations.

155-22 14 **POLICIES**

i) To discuss and decide on a Child Protection Policy.

RESOLVED Adopted with a review date of 12 months. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

ii) To consider and adopt the revised Co-option Policy.

RESOLVED Adopted with a few amendments. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

156-22 15 **BUSINESS PARK UPDATE**

Shropshire Council are providing grant funding for a sculpture to be made and sited at the Business Park. The closing date for applications is 1st September. Shropshire Council will make the preliminary selections, and then a panel of 3 Town Councillors and 2 others will choose the winner.

Cllrs Hawes, Halford and Payne will sit on the panel.

157-22 16 **ALLOTMENTS**

It was suggested that the Allotment Society reported back to the Council twice yearly.

RESOLVED In view of the current cost of living crisis it was decide to keep the rent at the same price. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

158-22 17 **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

There is a need to higfhlight parking issues through the newsletter and social media. (Illegal to park on pavements, please don't park in passing places, etc.)

159-22 18 Duplicate Agenda Item in error

160-22 19 **YOUTH**

Connexus have paid the £2000 grant.

Christine has held 2 drop-in sessions at the Underground.

Cllrs Stelman, Dickin and Hawes met with Steve Whittingham and Johnny Groves re the Pump Track. Johnny has agreed to create the PUMP Track at Cost. Ransfords will donate the hardcore.

161-22 20 **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVENT**

30th July. The networking among the groups was excellent. The Town Council had agreed to underwrite the event to a tune of £1500, but in the end only £500 was requested by the organisers.

162-22 21 **SITING OF LARGE PERIOD PORTRAIT OF THE PAST MAYOR, Garnet Botfield.**

RESOLVED It will be hung in the stairwell facing the chamber. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour. Cllr Hawes offered to hang it.

163-22 22 **MAYORAL DAIS**

RESOLVED A cupboard will be purchased to fit under the desk for the Town Hall Trust staff to use for temporary storage of items needed for exhibitions, book sales, etc. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

164-22 23 **PUBLIC HALL**

PAT Tests and Fire Risk Assessments have been booked. A booking diary is being set up; currently Cllr Perry is managing this. Some painting and decorating had been done by the Underground and a cleaning party will be held. The reformed committee will meet in September. Cllr Perry was thanked for all his hard work on this.

165-22 24 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

None attended, but SWS were holding an information session with coffee and cake at the Castle Hotel.

166-22 25 **NEXT MEETING**

Next - Tuesday 20th September, 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.21pm