



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

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

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
187-22	1	APOLOGIES
188-22	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Item 16 <i>Written request for dispensation: The Clerk reminded members that he had received a written dispensation from all Councillors in respect of the Public Hall as the Council corporate was the custodian trustee of the Public Hall. Without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business.</i> Item 15 Cllr Cllr Perry and Dickin b) To declare any personal interests. Item 11 Cllr Du Cros Item 14 Cllr R Houghton
189-22	3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of 18 th OCTOBER 2022. RESOLVED The minutes were accepted with a correction to a name. Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.
190-22	4	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u>

None present

191-22 5

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Actions carried forward:

Housing Survey. The Clerk is still awaiting information on costings for a housing survey from Mathew Mead.

Weather Vane. The cost of a cherry picker is £1000

Michaelmas Fair request for funds. The accounts had now been received.

Traffic Survey. Following the meeting with Andrew Keelands, and a review of the traffic survey, more junctions need to be taken into consideration with the new signage.

Mayor's Sunday and Remembrance Sunday went well. (It was good to have the parade).

Town Crier. Jeff Aldridge wishes to retire after 10 years in the role. Andy Evans has agreed to take it on. There will be a thank you and hand over event at the Town Hall on New Year's Day.

The new play area was almost finished.

Kerry Lane will be open tomorrow.

Charter/Coronation. The Mayor had met with Cllr Halford re the coronation.. will form a committee to look at the Charter, including 2-3 Councillors.

Christmas Lights Festival is coming together. The lights will be switched on at 6pm on 3rd December.

192-22 6

REPORT FROM THE CLERK

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Geach (Bell Tower Captain), thanking the Council for the letter of thanks acknowledged by the Council of the bell-ringers' service to the town. He will display the letter in the tower.

193-22 7

UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Shropshire Council have a budget deficit of £35,000,000. There will be cuts ahead but the Council was waiting on the Autumn Statement from the Government before finalising the budget.

The Coop's planning application on Station St has been declined because there were not enough parking spaces in the plan.

The Boar's Head planning appeal has been dismissed.

The cost of living crisis is a concern to Shropshire Council. South Shropshire has been identified as an area of high deprivation.

The Electrical Chargers sited in Harley Jenkins St car park are finally active.

A date has been set for the inspectorate to look at the Shropshire Plan (with regard to housing.) Eddie West is hopeful that Severn Trent have a possible solution for Bishop's Castle for the river mussel issue.

194-22 8

PLANNING

New applications:

(Responses are Object, Support, or Representation, submitted with comments if required)

1. 22/04610/FUL | Conversion of redundant brewery buildings into three flats for staff of public house | The Six Bells Brewery Church Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5AA
2. 22/04581/LBC | Conversion of redundant brewery buildings into three flats for staff of public house | The Six Bells Brewery Church Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5AA

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

195-22 9

WEATHER COCK

The weather vane due to be installed whilst the scaffolding was up was stolen. The cost of a tall cherry picker to install a replacement vane will be £1000.

RESOLVED The Clerk is authorised to spend up to a maximum of £1000 (but hopefully a lot less) and ask Highline if they would install it when they put up/take down the Christmas Lights. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour bar 1 abstention.

196-22 10

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE GROUP IN RELATION TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The finance committee have not yet discussed this.

197-22 11

TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ON A LETTER OF SUPPORT AND A GRANT IN RESPECT OF THE GOING WILD GROUP

RESOLVED. The Clerk will write a letter of support to the Going Wild committee and invite them to apply via the annual grant allocation process which is about to be launched. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

198-22 12

TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE ACTIONS IN RELATION TO THE HOUSING SURVEY

The Clerk is awaiting a response from Mathew Mead.

199-22 13

A PROCEDURAL QUERY REGARDING VALIDITY OF A PREVIOUS DECISION

There was a discussion as to whether the Nolan Principles of openness and transparency had been adhered to in the last meeting regarding a decision being taken on an issue which was not on the agenda for that meeting. Councillors cannot rescind the decision made (for six months), but have the option of voting against the payment being made when the invoices are presented for approval.

RESOLVED. It is noted and acknowledged that the Councillor's procedural query is a valid one. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

200-22 14/15

MONTHLY FINANCES

- i) To note the bank reconciliation

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

- ii) To agree the National pay award which has been agreed for £1 per hour for all salary scales.

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

- iii) To discuss a grant to Castle Carols

RESOLVED. The Clerk will write to the Castle Carols committee and invite them to apply via the annual grant allocation process which is about to be launched, plus any

other grant scheme that might be relevant. Proposed Cllr Morris; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

- iv) To discuss and agree that Mr. I Selkirk is re-appointed as the internal auditor for the year 2022-2023

RESOLVED Agreed. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

- v) To discuss a grant to SpArC – Not relevant
- vi) To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	Nov Return	924.77
HMRC	PAYE and NI	Nov Return	679.61
Staff salaries	4 staff	Nov Return	3626.20
C. Owen	Minute taker	209.	40.04
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	210.	366.00
SOS	training	211.	55.00
A. Evans	Grass cutting	212.	194.40
A. Evans	Grass cutting	213.	780.00
Exemplum	Printing	214.	561.78
Exemplum	Printing	215.	16.68
Grant Perry	Cllr expenses	216.	69.64
Josh Dickin	Civic expenses	217.	66.00
Three tuns	Civic expenses	218.	53.33
BCBS	Materials	219.	43.36
G. Jones	Art copyright	220.	110.00
Allotment Society	Subscriptions	221.	54.00
Visit Shropshire	Subscriptions	222.	3000.00
Allotment Society	Grants	223.	650.00
PWLB	Loan	224.	4489.93
Tony Baker	Maintenance	225.	85.00
For information			
BT	telephone /broadband	226.	355.29
Corona	Electricity	227.	520.86
	Total		£ 16828.21

There was an extra invoice for £600 from Wendy Oakley for the Mayor's Sunday lunch buffet.

There was a query over invoice 221 so it was withdrawn from the list for further verification.

Invoice 220 was to be voted for separately.

RESOLVED The invoices except for invoice 220, plus the extra one, be paid. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

RESOLVED The invoice 220, be paid. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Morris. All in favour bar 1 against and 1 abstention.

201-22 16

PUBLIC HALL

The fire and risk assessments had been undertaken and the report circulated to the Public Hall Committee. Once the electrical testing assessments had been done and report circulated a committee meeting will be called to discuss the way forward.

Councillors asked to see a copy of the fire and risk assessment reports

202-22 17

REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED

Old Market Square. The group were about to apply for grants. Cllr Halford will prepare a report for the next meeting.

Community Partnership AGM. Unfortunately, there was a low attendance for a variety of reasons. Keith Whiddon is stepping down as Chair after 6 years. Shrinking membership is an issue. The Community Partnership is a useful body bringing together the different groups of the town and being in a position to apply for grants. It would be a loss if it were lost. The Town plan is due for review (5 years).

203-22 18

To resolve that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting on the grounds the business to be discussed involves the likely disclosure of confidential information as defined in the Acts.

204-22 19

OWNERSHIP OF LAND

RESOLVED The Clerk will speak to Steve Law at Shropshire Council to see if he can identify the owner of the said land, and make an enquiry to the Land Registry Office, also.

204-22 20

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th November, 7.30pm. (possibly with mince pies)!

The meeting closed at 21.15pm.