



# 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 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr J. Carroll Cllr J. Dickin Cllr G Perry Cllr A. Stelman Cllr L. Payne Cllr S. Morris Cllr R. Houghton	Cllr T. Halford Cllr R. Bromley

IN ATTENDANCE	
Mr G. Rippon Mrs C. Owen 1 Member of the public <u>Fire Procedure</u>	

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
205-22	1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Cllrs Halford and Bromley
206-22	2	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Item 22 <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> b) To declare any personal interests. Item 14 Cllrs Dickin and Stelman
207-22	3	<b><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></b> of 15 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022. <b>RESOLVED</b> The minutes were accepted. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.
208-22	4	<b><u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u></b> Mr Bernard Edwards gave the council an update of the Climate Action Group, (originally the Sustainability Group). Several initiatives have come out of this with their own identity, e.g., Going Wild in Bishop's Castle, the Heat Network, Food Sustainability etc. The Climate Action Group has become a section of Lightfoot.

Going Wild in Bishop's Castle is putting a bid together and will ask the Town Council for their support in due course next year.

The Climate Action Plan for the Climate Emergency is 12 months' old and out of date. The updated plan will be ready for Councillors to review before the end of the financial year, setting out a plan of action to consider for each of the next 3 years, with the involvement of the Climate Action Group.

209-22 5

### **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Town Crier. Jeff Aldridge is retiring. Andy Evans has agreed to take it on. There will be a thank you and hand over event at the Town Hall at 2pm on New Year's Day.

The Kerry Lane play area will be finished this week. There has been a burst pipe at the water fountain. The water has been switched off now.

Charter/Coronation. The Mayor asked for volunteers from the Council to join other interested parties to form a committee to plan for the Charter and Coronation.

The Mayor and Clerk met with Philip Dunne MP and raised the on-going issues of the pearl mussels, housing, cost of living/transport and Ox Leasowe lighting (lack of). Mr Dunne would bring the matter up at relevant up and coming committee meetings. Connexus subsequently also discussed the street lighting with the Mayor.

210-22 6

### **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The Clerk had received a letter from the Royal British Legion thanking the Council for the donation. They had made over 7,000 grants this year to support people.

211-22 7

### **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

Budget Shropshire Council are looking to make efficiency savings of £50 million and have just opened the consultation. Cllr Houghton urged all Councillors to read and comment on the proposed cuts and to propose questions on how this will impact on rural communities such as ourselves, and on vulnerable individuals. Shropshire Council are proposing to increase the precepts by over 4%, (after no increase of late). The deadline is the end of January. Cllr Houghton asked for a considered response to be sent from the Town Council, also. Deadline is end of January.

Housing Connexus is selling off 4 houses in Lydbury North and offering the tenants houses in Bishop's Castle instead. This will reduce the local housing stock and further compound the local housing need.

Wrekin Housing are terminating the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme at the end of March. Cllr Houghton is meeting with Cllrs Kidd and Hartin to seek more information and to see if anything could be continued on-line.

212-22 8

### **PLANNING**

#### **New applications:**

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

1. 22/05157/FUL

Application for the erection of two-storey side extensions (to replace existing barn) and single-storey rear extension (to replace existing conservatory), and erection of storage/carport block (to replace existing caravan) at the Long House, 17 Bankshead, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5JQ.

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

2. 22/05154/FUL

Application for the erection of single storey extension to rear following demolition of existing lean-to at the Cross Keys Cottage , 8 Castle Green, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5BY

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

Another application had just been received in connection with 8.2.

22/5633/TCA

Application for crown reduction by 30% to below utility wires 1no Purple leafed Plum (T1) & 1no Cherry (T2) within Bishop's Castle's Conservation Area. Cross Keys Cottage, 8 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Shropshire. SY9 5BY.

The Clerk had sought the opinion of the Tree Warden who supported the work.

**RESOLVED** Supported. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour.

213-22 9 **CLIMATE ACTION TO INCLUDE CLIMATE AUDIT**

**RESOLVED** It was agreed to defer agenda items 9 and 16 to the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

214-22 10 **FOOD SECURITY**

**RESOLVED** It was agreed to defer agenda item 10 to the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour.

215-22 11 **RAILWAY BENCHES** (Wooden benches with wrought iron ends.)

2 of the benches in Old Market Square are under repair, (one was donated by Kate Pratt). A 3<sup>rd</sup> will be paid for by the daughter of Flossie and Bill Jarvis. There is a 4<sup>th</sup> in Union St that also needs attention.

**RESOLVED** The bench in Union St should be moved to the Old Market Square and a replacement recycled plastic bench be bought. A budget of £1000 be authorised for a new bench and cleaning up the site in Union St. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

216-22 12 **CHARTER/CORONATION**

The Coronation plans will be similar to the jubilee (possible beacon, Church service, tea party) and follow the national guidelines.

The Charter will be a grander event celebrating 450 years, similar to the celebration in 1973, when there were stalls all down the street and shop staff wore Elizabethan clothes and special beers were brewed.

217-22 13 **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Since the discussion in July, the Mayor has written to Shropshire Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Director of Children's Services, asking for their response, but had no reply, which was disappointing.

**RESOLVED** It was agreed that the Town Council should write again to the organisations, asking what recommendations they have and how we can help address the issues raised. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

218-22 14 **PUMP TRACK**

It has been suggested that the removal of bushes to prepare the site for the track may involve planning permission as the site is in a conservation area. Checks will be made.

**RESOLVED** If required, the Clerk will put in a planning application for the removal of the bushes, and if needed, the Pump Track. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour.

219-22 15 **HOUSING SURVEY**

The cost of printing 1140 Right House, Right Home surveys would be £688.

However, there is still no movement on the river mussel issue. Mathew Mead was attending a meeting in late November at which Shropshire Council were going to discuss doing their own housing survey.

**RESOLVED** The Town Council should wait to hear if Shropshire Council are in fact doing the survey, and also if a solution for the river mussel issue is in place before conducting its own survey. Proposed Cllr Payne; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

220-22 16 **DISCUSS THE COST OF THE COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT**

Deferred until next meeting.

221-22 17 **OLD MARKET SQUARE**

Some decisions have been made: the benches will have panels on the front showing the history of Bishop's Castle and there will be a timeline on the wall. Water and electricity will be connected. The water fountain has been sponsored.

A meeting will be held in January to finalise some detail and then the issue will be put on a future agenda.

222-22 18 **MOBILE PHONE BASED TOWN TRAIL**

**RESOLVED** Our Town Trail Guides provide a valued service to the Town and so this offer should be declined. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

223-22 19 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

The Council notes the current situation following the resignation of Chair and Secretary and awaits an update on its future plans.

The Council will need to review the Community-led plan. (Every 5 years, ideally).

224-22 20 **MONTHLY FINANCES**

- i) To note the bank reconciliation

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

- ii) To discuss and decide the budget 2023-24 and the resultant precept demand.

**RESOLVED** Accepted. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Payne. All in favour.

225-22 21 To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	Dec Return	973.19
HMRC	PAYE and NI	Dec Return	706.46
Staff salaries	4 staff	Dec Return	2,457.06
C. Owen	Minute taker	263.	40.04
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	264.	420.00
PCPS	Window cleaning	265.	45.00
Exemplum	Printing	266.	936.10

Mousemat	IT	267.	480.00
A. Evans	Grasscutting	268.	5495.40
High line	Street Lighting	269.	87.30
Allotment Society	Subscriptions	270.	27.00
Mailroom	Postage	271.	234.00
Halls SMS	Toilet consumables	272.	45.52
P.Eldridge	relief Cleaner	273.	106.20
Manthrig ltd	Scaffolding	274.	3405.00
SLCC	training	275.	564.80
BCBS	Maintenance	276.	88.20
<b>For information</b>			
bt	telephone /broadband	277.	345.46
Corona	Electricity	278.	197.88
Waterplus	rates	279.	187.66
Waterplus	rates	280.	33.06
Unity Trust Bank	bank charges	281.	34.20
Lloyds Bank	bank charges	282.	3.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 16912.53</b>

**RESOLVED** The invoices be paid. Proposed Cllr Payne; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

226-22 22

**PUBLIC HALL**

Cllr Perry was still awaiting the electrical report and costs.

227-22 23

**REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Houghton attended the Enterprise South West Shropshire meeting. The end of year review was positive. Printing and theatre groups were almost back to pre-Covid levels, and Village Outreach was developing. Rob MacKay has given in his notice.

228-22 24

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.

229-22 25

**STAFFING**

**RESOLVED** The Cleaner will be employed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

230-22 26

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm. The Mayor thanked everyone for their hard work and support during the year. The meeting closed at 21.03pm.