



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 16th JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Cllr J. Carroll Cllr A. Stelman Cllr T. Halford Cllr G Perry Cllr B. Drake Cllr J. Dickin Cllr L. Blundell Cllr S. Morris Cllr R. Houghton Cllr M. Gayle	Cllr L. Kosciuczyk Cllr S. Jones
IN ATTENDANCE	

Mr G Rippon, Mrs C. Owen, 1 member of the public
Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
117-24	1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Cllrs Jones and Kosciuczyk.
118-24	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Item 10.3 Invoices. Cllr Perry. b) To declare any personal interests. Item 12. Meetings attended Cllr Dickin as Chair of the Carnival Committee.
119-24	3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of 18 th and 28 th June 2024. RESOLVED 18 th June accepted with correction to the apologies. (Should be Cllrs Dickin, Kosciuczyk, Houghton and belatedly Cllr Gayle). Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour. 28 th June: Accepted Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.
120-24	4	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u>
	12a	RESOLVED Part of Item 12 (Meetings attended) be brought forward. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Blundell. All in favour. <u>Report from the Climate Action Group meeting.</u> 1. Following feedback after the Carnival, the Climate Action Group's aim is to achieve <u>zero waste</u> for all next year's Town Events. Hopefully the Town Council can liaise with various groups to agree a plan to achieve this.

Cllr Dickin, who is chair of the Carnival Committee, recorded his thanks to volunteers, in particular Dave Luckhurst, for sorting the recycling after the Carnival and taking it away. It was apparent that the public did not use the appropriate bins, so need to be encouraged to recycle properly. In future, Festival organisers will need to factor in a cost to have recycling taken away.

Cllr Houghton informed the Council that, from October, households wanting green bin collection, (for compostables), will need to pay £56 per year. Also, as a temporary measure, food waste will need to go in the black bin.

Cllr Perry informed the council that the recycling centre at Craven Arms will stay open but with reduced hours. Customers will need to book a slot.

2. Going Wild Project. This is already in place in a number of areas e.g. Playing fields, Old Market Square, but the opportunity exists to cover other areas. Cllr Kosciuczyk will meet with Bernard Edwards and Dan Hodgkiss, (Project leader), next week.

3. Following a change in Government legislation, the group asked that biodiversity be included on every Council agenda. (Planning for Biodiversity Net Gain).

121-24 5

REPORT FROM THE CLERK

Nothing to report from the Clerk.

Report from the Mayor

Shropshire Council cuts. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor met with other Mayors at the South Shropshire Mayors' Forum. Pete Bamford and Jane Trethewey presented Shropshire Council's planned changes/cuts to services and the need for Local Councils to step up to meet the shortfall. The Shropshire Councillors seemed to have no idea of the impact their management of finances had caused other people. A lot of money had been spent on major projects with little benefit for other areas, especially the rural communities. It is very difficult for the small rural councils to raise extra funds through the precepts because their population is so small. Rural communities are adversely affected, especially in Bishop's Castle and Clun with the ban on new housing. The Shropshire Councillors came to 'consult' the local councils, but their envisaged 'partnership' of working with local councils was only one way. There was no mention of Shropshire Council pressing the Government for extra funding.

Cllr Houghton added that Shropshire Council currently gives a grant of £33,000 to Enterprise South West Shropshire for the library. If Shropshire Council were to cut or withdraw this grant, plans would need to be made to source more revenue to support it. Other parish councils would need to be included in the conversations as the library serves the residents from neighbouring parish councils as well as Bishop's Castle.

The new planters have been installed and look very nice.

The Carnival went well, although the rain was ill-timed. More public support is needed.

Connexus has written to Ox Leasowe residents asking them to pay 45p per week to cover installing the street lights. Drainage is also an issue, after recent flooding.

Unfortunately, there has been more anti-social behaviour in town.

RESOLVED. Invite Inspector Kelly to a future Council meeting to discuss. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

Fan Zone, 28th July. Fund-raiser for SpArC to watch Oliver Morgan's Olympic swim.

122-24 6

UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Houghton will table a question in the Shropshire Council meeting re STWA's suggestion to pipe the foul water from the Bishop's Castle area into the River Onny. Isn't this just moving the problem into another river? The Onny flows into the Teme,

which has just been accredited with safe bathing status. A lot of work has been going on with landowners, the Land Association, Clun Mitigation Project, National Angling Association and Natural England to resolve the pearl river mussel issue. Improving the sewerage works alone won't work. Harper Adams has suggested that improving the sewerage works and extra reedbeds could solve it. Surveyors are talking to landowners.

The Neighbourhood Plan should be approved at Shropshire Council's meeting.

Stone house Hospital opened on Monday. This is great news.

There are discussions happening to try to resume the local phlebotomy service .

High Street resurfacing will start soon, along with the marking out of 2 enforceable disabled spaces outside the chemist and one at the top of the High St). (The Copall Paddock junction falls outside the council's remit as it is unadopted).

The foul water and spring leak in Salop St will be resolved shortly by STWA and Shropshire Council.

Churchyard Extension proposal. Cllr Houghton will follow up.

SpArC has had a lot of support. £162,000 of the £250,000 needed has been raised.

123-24 7

ESWS

Already dealt with last month.

124-24 8

AUCTION YARD TOILETS

Three tenders are required. 2 will be received soon and one is being chased. The quotes will include rainwater harvesting. Costs relating to the use by Halls will need to be revisited as the toilets when inspected after the market were left in a terrible state.

125-24 9

PLANNING Already dealt with last month.

126-24 10

MONTHLY FINANCES

- i. To note the Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED. It is noted that it can't be reconciled at present. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Gayle. All in favour.

- ii. To discuss the final invoice for the pump track of £33216.00.

The track is well used and the parents are pleased with it. The shelter has not been sold on as yet. The young people have raised £700 so far.

RESOLVED. This invoice be paid and the young people encouraged to continue fundraising. (There is another fundraiser planned in the summer). Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

- iii. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	July Return	1033
HMRC	PAYE and NI	July Return	759.32
Staff salaries	4 staff	July Return	3037.05
C. Owen	Minute taker	108	60.00
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	109	500.00
Dan Turner	Grass cutting	110	1338.90
Lennox Electrical	Auction Yard Toilets	111	132.00
The Mailing Room	Postage change	112	84.00
RMTG	Subscription	113	100.00

CR. Hammer	Repair to playground fencing	114	520.00
Enterprise house	News letter	115	650.00
BCBS	Materials	116	34.98
RC Jones	Allotments	117	2640.00
G. Perry	Defib Pads	118	63.54
Janes Petals	Plants for planters	119	322.11
Sue Salisbury	Finance assistance	120	204.45
K. Lloyd	Internal Audit	121	1289.64
For Information			
BT	telephone /broadband	122	487.93
water plus	Water rates	123	35.21
water plus	Water rates	124	49.61
water plus	Water rates	125	14.59
water plus	Water rates These include 9285.69 + 418.05 + 343.54	126	10071.08
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	127	3.00
Corona	Electricity	128	106.46
Shropshire Council	Rates	129	187.00
Shropshire Council	Licence	130	70.00
Shropshire Council	Licence	131	70.00
Total			23,864.17

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

127-24 11 **TO REGISTER THE TOWN HALL WITH THE LAND REGISTRY**

Minutes from the 18th century prove that the Town Council owns the building.

RESOLVED The building should be registered. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

128-24 12 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

a) Climate Action Group already reported in Item 4

b) Enterprise South West Shropshire. Last year ESWS made a loss of only £487 which was very good considering the loss the previous year of over £20,000.

The building is full and the website is going well. It was agreed in principle that the Bishop's Castle and Clun Tourism Company should be absorbed by ESWS. Legalities concerning the transfer of trusteeship of the Town Hall Trust are being checked. (BCCTC supplies 3 out of 9 trustees).

c) Cllr Perry has met with Glynne Roberts. A grant application for a defibrillator at the top of town has been submitted. ESWS will be encouraged to purchase their own to hire out by Village Outreach for public events.

A map of their locations will go on the website and in the BC Newsletter.

129-24 13 **TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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.

130-24 14

STAFFING MATTERS

- a. To receive an office review

This is a review of office systems and how they can be improved, particularly with regard to the different ways information can be communicated with the public, and how different systems might better support the office staff. A preliminary meeting was held to discuss how to proceed. A survey will be constructed.

RESOLVED The Council ratifies the decision to carry on with the review. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

- b. To discuss additional staff to assist with finance.

This suggestion was stimulated by the internal auditor's report. 4 hours per week is suggested, with a start date of August 1st.

The Clerk emphasised the fact that additional hours were required at first to clear the backlog of finance issues highlighted during the internal audit.

RESOLVED. The council accepts the proposal to engage additional staff, 4hrs from 1st of August suggestion also additional hours to resolve issues raised at Audit. Proposed Cllr Perry. Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

131-24 15

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th August. Meeting closed at 21.08pm.