



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 19th MARCH 2024 AT 7PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G. Rippon, Mrs C. Owen, and 3 members of the public

Fire Procedure

Presentation from Community Land Trust

Jonathan Brown updated the Council on the renovations to the old Stars building. Work on a one-bedroom flat and a two-bedroom flat was almost complete. The intention is to accommodate people who have a housing need, a connection to the local community and who can pay the rent. There are six applicants so far.

The old shop is being transformed into a community space and the Trust welcomes ideas from the community as to its use – pop-up exhibition space; pop-up shop/café; activities; training space; open studios; drop in evenings. It is hoped to open in June with an open day and exhibition space.

The Trust thanked the Council for its support (£1500 last year). The Trust is also applying for funding from the Severn Trent Community Fund. Fund-raising continues with plans for sponsoring a tile or brick. Thanks also go to Anthony Jones and Jukes Builders for their work on the building.

A Community Asset Transfer has been agreed for the old abattoir building. The Trust is waiting on a lease to be drawn up before moving forward with its redevelopment.

Cllr Dickin thanked the Trust for its hard work and effort in transforming a derelict building into what will be an asset for the town. Well done.

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
38-24	1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Cllr Drake
39-24	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None b) To declare any personal interests. None
40-24	3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of 20 th February 2024. RESOLVED Accepted after the correction of a name. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.
41-24	4	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u> None present
42-24	5	<u>REPORT FROM THE MAYOR</u> <u>Pump Track Fundraising.</u> The grant application had not been successful with Delamare Dairy. Some donations have been made, including £100 from the Coop. Thank you. <u>Stone House Hospital Campaign.</u> Another successful recruitment day had brought in more staff. There will be a public meeting on Thursday 21 st March to inform the public of the developments to date and also Dr Penney will talk about potential future outpatient services. The decision to re-open or not will be taken by the Integrated Care Board on 4 th April at a meeting in Ludlow. If decided favourably it is hoped the hospital will re-open in the summer. <u>War Memorial.</u> The faculty has been approved. Work will start on 8 th April. £1700 has been donated already and money has already been set aside in the 2024-5 budget. <u>Annual Town Meeting.</u> The date has been set for 23 rd April. Grants will be awarded. <u>Shropshire Council</u> has repaired the wooden handrail on the cobbles and done the work at the crossroads. They have agreed to look at imposing a 20mph speed limit around the Community College to protect students.
43-24	6	<u>REPORT FROM THE CLERK</u> <u>Training of Councillors.</u> Awaiting on a revised date. Graffiti Board is in hand. The Clerk is still chasing the street lighting and street cleaning. <u>Town Hall Trustee.</u> Another Councillor is required.
44-24	7	<u>YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES</u> Unfortunately, there has been another complaint re anti-social behaviour in the skate park. Cllr Stelman has informed Shaun Cullis, Bishop's Castle's Community Support Officer, who will follow it up. Hereford Diocese has secured a £500,000 grant to facilitate two youth hubs in Leominster and Bishop's Castle. It is hoped that any activity will work symbiotically with other youth projects, such as the Going Wild Youth Project, Rainbow, and other youth groups in the town. Cllr Stelman has been in conversation with the Army Cadets organisation re the Cadet Hall which has been empty for 3-4 years. They will be re-starting Cadets later this year, but they have indicated that they would be willing to share the building in the future.
45-24	8	<u>UNITARY COUNCILLOR</u> <u>Highways</u> has produced a list of roadworks/resurfacing this year. The Cabins and Banks Head are not on the list.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed by cabinet at Shropshire Council. The leader of the Council was very complimentary about it. The Character Assessment will be produced as a stand-alone document for future reference. Thanks to Anne-Marie Jackson for her hard work on this. There will now be a referendum on 2nd May. 50% of people have to be in agreement for it to pass.

SpArC The contract has been transferred from Shropshire Council to Shropshire Community Leisure Trust for the next 3 years.

Shropshire Council Budget. A saving of £62 million will probably require cuts to waste recycling, highways, staff posts and more. The Home Point housing list will be closed in the short term. This will exacerbate the housing shortage further, especially in the areas affected by the pearl mussels. There will be consultations.

Connexus. They have offered to meet with the Town Council to discuss how houses are allocated. More stock is being auctioned off.

46-24

9

COUNCILLOR MENTORING, TRAINING AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

1. To discuss and appoint New Councillor buddy system
2. To discuss and suggest suitable dates for Councillor training.

To be confirmed by the trainer.

3. To discuss a system of Councillor portfolio holders and allocate Councillors to the various positions.

Function Service	Councillors
Youth and Safeguarding	Stelman, Jones and Blundell
Climate Action/Biodiversity	Perry and Kosciuczyk
Town Scape (Highways, Parking, Culture, Heritage, Promotion)	Dickin, Perry, Carroll, and Gayle
Newsletter	Halford
Finance	Houghton and Morris
Public Hall	Perry
Planning	Perry and Carroll
Personnel	Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Tourism and Footpaths	Carroll and Halford
Local Housing	Houghton and Dickin

47-24

10

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED. Agreed and adopted. Proposed Cllr Houghton; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in Favour.

48-24

11

PLANNING

1. 24/ 24/00901/LBC

Application for works to replace cement render with lime render, relay the front roof with existing tiles and improve insulation, relay the link extension roof with existing tiles, add lead flashing, replace one roof light and add another, remove chimney fragment, replace guttering at The Old Perukier , 5 Salop Street, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5BW.

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

49-24

12

CCTV

There have been some burglaries in the town recently. The Council discussed whether it would be appropriate to install CCTV cameras at the crossroads at the bottom of

Kennels Bank and Brampton Road (only). They would not be monitored, but would provide information on the movement of vehicles to the Police, if requested. Careful consideration of positioning to ensure student safeguarding would be paramount. A policy would need to be written. Match funding could be available from the Police and Crime Commissioners. Smart Water signs are a deterrent, but our rurality is a factor. Residents need to mark their goods with Smart Water so that stolen items recovered can be returned. A public awareness campaign is needed to promote home security.

RESOLVED. The Clerk should investigate the costs of installing 4-6 cameras on the approach roads and ask what match funding is available. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

50-24 13 and
14

MONTHLY FINANCES

i) To receive the bank reconciliation

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

The new internal auditor is Kathryn Lloyd.

ii) To receive the following invoices for payment.

Payee	Item	Invoice	Amount £
Shropshire County Pension Fund	Monthly pension payment	March Return	1042.29
HMRC	PAYE and NI	March Return	738.06
Staff salaries	4 staff	March Return	3080.64
C. Owen	Minute taker	389.	40.04
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	390.	500.00
D. Turner	Grass cutting	391.	1115.75
BCAS	Membership subs	392.	84.00
Rob Davies Services	Old Market square	393.	180.00
BCBS	Materials	394.	66.87
Kevin Clancy	Allotments	395.	176.00
Exemplum	Printing	396.	10.74
Shropshire Council	Joint energy	397.	1193.40
Food bank	Repayment	398.	2000.00
Lennox Electrical	Change lamps (Town Hall)	399.	144.00
For information			
BT	telephone /broadband	400.	426.98
Siemens	Printer lease	401.	219.62
SSE	Electricity	402.	3389.94
Water Plus	Rates	403.	112.27
Corona	Electricity	404.	120.98
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	405.	3.00
Total			14644.58

Extra Invoices: Mark 1 (Fire Safety) £101.23; Exemplum (Printing) £975.10.

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

iii). To agree training for one Councillor. £35.

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

iv). To discuss and decide a group to discuss grant applications.

Grants of £8460 have been approved by the formed group with two applications requiring further clarification before deciding.

14 **INVOICES** – already addressed in 13 ii).

51-24 15 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Houghton had attended an Enterprise South West Shropshire meeting and a SpArC trustee meeting. Both were very positive and focussed.

52-24 16 *** UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC HALL**

Members were updated with the progress of the public hall

53-24 17 *** ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE CIVIL DEFENCE BOWLING CLUB**

The Town Council will take over responsibility of the site for the time being

54-24 18 *** ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE ALLOTMENTS**

RESOLVED The Council will attempt to resolve the complaint.

55-24 19 **NEXT MEETING** Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm. Meeting closed at 21.23pm.

* 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.