



BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL



Gwilym J Rippon Cert. He CEG, PSLCC
Town Clerk
Tel: 01588 638141
Email: townclerk@bishopscastle.co.uk

The Town Hall
Bishop's Castle
Shropshire
SY9 5BG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ON TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 202 AT 7.30PM

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

GR Rippon, CA Owen and 1 member of the public.

Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item		
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1-25 1 **APOLOGIES.** Cllr S. Morris, Cllr R. Houghton, Cllr M. Gayle (15 minutes late).

2-25 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None

b) To declare any personal interests. Item 21. Cllrs Drake; Carroll; Halford.

3-25 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of 17th December. **RESOLVED** Accepted with slight correction to Item 9. Proposed Cllr Stelman; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

4-25 4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** Ms Daphne Du Cros updated the Council on the Bishop's Castle Food Resilience Strategy, (part of the Climate Action Plan for the town). The strategy was launched in 2021 with a plan up until 2025 and so is up for review and revision. A meeting organised by Lightfoot to discuss the town's food resilience on 20th January 2025 saw 36 attendees from across the local food industry discussing the present situation and how it could mobilise resources and people when crises occur affecting accessibility to food.

A report will be drawn up, based on a review of the last three years, the discussions from the meeting and further research to propose a strategy for the next three years. Ms Du Cros sought a few volunteers from the Council to join a

small task force to this end. It will then be brought back to Council for their scrutiny and approval.

5-25 5 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Sunshine Coast FC International Academy UK, will be holding a meeting in the council chamber at 6:30pm on Wednesday 29th January, please come along if you can, listen to their plans, and ask questions. It really does hold a lot of potential for our Town and surrounding areas.

Town Twinning AGM Monday 3rd February – 6pm

Formation of a new Friends of the playing fields and play areas group Monday 10th February - 6pm

Meeting of town businesses, to look at the year head and listen to any concerns. Monday 17th February – 7pm

Public meeting regarding the Three Tuns Monday 24th February – 7pm

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6-25 6 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The clerk reported that he had been successful in obtaining a grant from the Heritage Lotteries. The scaffolding around the town hall is going up so the chimney can be repaired. The Clock has gone for repair.

7-25 7 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR** Not present

8-25 8 **HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

RESOLVED Item 14 (**ROAD MARKINGS**) should be discussed with Item 8. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

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White lines and disabled spaces.

Following on from the unsatisfactory progress of white lining re disabled spaces and H bars etc. not done after the resurfacing and previous consultation, Shropshire Council has now asked for a spreadsheet containing all the jobs that have not been done. Changes of Shropshire staff and budget issues seem to have conspired into Highways losing all the agreed decisions.

Councillors Dickin; Carroll; Drake and Gayle will meet as soon as possible to recompile the list of requirements.

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9-25 9 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

Councillors who have not yet responded individually to the consultation are encouraged to do so.

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RESOLVED. The Council will send a formal reply to voice its concerns that Shropshire Council should not divest itself of its responsibilities in rural areas by passing on the costs to local parishes who do not have the financial means to raise the extra money, particularly when the moratorium on building houses prevents any expansion of the local population, thus placing an unfair financial burden on the existing residents.

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

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10-25 10 **HR SUPPORT**

It was decided not to pursue this.

11-25 11 **RIVER ONNY**

Cllr Dickin had been unable to contact the relevant people so this will be adjourned to the next meeting.

12-25 12 **AUCTION YARD FIT METER**

The Clerk still hasn't had a reply from the CEO of the company. He will contact the ombudsman if no reply by the end of January.

13-25 13 **SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

£7500 is needed to continue to keep the project going on for a further 6 months from April. The council would like to support the services to young people going forward, but is facing a tight budget. However, there has been some underspend in some areas of this year's budget.

RESOLVED. The Council agrees to underwrite the project up to £7500 from existing 2024-25 underspend to act as a stop gap whilst other funding is sourced. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Gayle. All in favour.

Councillor Stelman is hoping to develop a Citizen's award as a new initiative within the project to attract further grant money. (It is not possible to secure grant funding for existing projects).

14-25 **ROAD MARKINGS already** discussed with item 8.

15-25 15 **PLANNING**

1. 24/04797/DIS Application to discharge of Condition 5 (Drainage) of planning permission 23/01242/FUL Site of Former Countrywide Warehouse Station Street Bishops Castle Shropshire SY9 5AQ

Noted.

16-25 16 **MONTHLY FINANCES**

- i. To note the Bank Reconciliation

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

- ii. To receive the budget 2025-6 together with the precept demand. (An increase of 9.9%).

RESOLVED. The budget and precept demand are accepted. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

- iii. To approve the following invoices for payment:

Shropshire Pension	Pension	329	1334.03
HMR&C	HMR&C	330	831.37
G.J.Rippon	Staff Wages	331	3693.05
Nick Yaxley	Staff Wages	331	
P.Eldridge	Staff Wages	331	
Sarah Smith	Staff Wages	331	
C. Owen	Minute taker	332	60.00

G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	333	500.00
Dan Turner	Grass cutting	334	1338.90
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	335	3.00
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	336	12.15
SSE	Electricity	337	529.56
BT	telephone /broadband	338	518.98
Shropshire Council	Rates	339	187.00
Waterplus	Water rates	340	75.46
Mark One	Fire Safety	341	101.23
High line	Street Lighting	342	152.40
Glynn Roberts	Pump Track	343	86.83
ICO	Subscriptions	344	35.00
Resource for change	Survey	345	1333.75
Blue Stone	Printer lease	346	525.60
Exemplum	Printing	347	2701.01
BCBS	Materials	348	149.32
Halls SMS	Toilets Consumables	349	167.55
G.J. Rippon	Expenses	350	111.29
Tony Baker	Maintenance	351	510.00
Viking	Stationery/Postage	352	148.58
	Total		15106.06

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

17-25 17 **PLANNING FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN** Nothing to report.

18-25 18 **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Cllr Kosciuczyk asked for a couple of Councillors to join the Climate Action Group to suggest the priorities for the next 3 years to present to Council.

19-25 19 **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED** **None** attended.

Cllr Carroll had attended and Enterprise South West Shropshire meeting. It will make a profit this year. Flexible use of staff is being developed. The finance system is being changed. It has taken over the Tourism for the town and is in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company.

Cllr Perry had attended a meeting of the Football Foundation who have pots of money to spend so watch this space.

20-25 20 **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.

21-25 21 **STAFFING AND COMPLAINTS**

1. To agree the recommendation of the staffing group.
2. To discuss the way forward for the first part of the letter of complaint against the Council.

RESOLVED To discuss item 21.2 before 21.1. Agreed. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Stelman. All in favour.

21.2 A tenant had made 2 complaints.

RESOLVED Two Cllrs will meet with the tenant in the Town Hall to discuss the issue. The Clerk will be in the building should any legal clarification be needed.

The second complaint will be handled by Shropshire Council.

21.1 Request for the Clerk's contract to be brought into line with other local authority contracts for the same position. (The Clerk left the meeting).

RESOLVED. The increments relating to qualifications will be approved.

Any increments relating to length of service will be looked at by the staffing committee when the current appraisal process has been concluded and agreed.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18th February 2025. The meeting closed at 20.24pm.