



# 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 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7.30PM

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

GR Rippon, CA Owen and 5 members of the public.

### Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
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62-35

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### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mr Alan Walklett spoke to the Council about the recent activities of the newly formed Friends of the Playing Field. So far, the group had been tidying up some of the flower beds, in conjunction with Going Wild. They had also produced a report of jobs to be done, including the removal and replacement of some damaged equipment. Grants would be needed to pay for some of the repairs. The group were advised to set themselves up as a small group with a constitution and a bank account, which would make it easier to apply for grants. The group were asked to draw up a full list of items for repair/removal, plus costings and send to the Council for their consideration. The more urgent issues had already been brought to the attention of the Council who will liaise with the contractor as appropriate.

Ms Sue Cooper, Ms Helen Fairweather and Mr Martin Howitt reported back on the results of the consultation of the People and Public Spaces Project. There had been a good response, particularly to the on-line survey. Younger people were consulted specifically to make sure their voices were heard. The report concluded that there were a good variety of venues in Bishop's Castle, but a lack of a large venue was identified. (The Public Hall is now out of action and the Church facilities could be much improved). The Church is keen to re-order the building to make it a better, more adaptable, community space and is in the process of going to tender to appoint an architect. The full report of the

consultation will be made available around the town. Sue thanked the Council very much for their support in this project.

**ACTION for the Clerk to put the report on the Council's website.**

63-25 1 **APOLOGIES** Cllrs Dickin; Gayle; Drake and Morris.

64-25 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

b) To declare any personal interests. Item 9.1 Cllr Perry.

65-25 3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of 18<sup>th</sup> March. **RESOLVED** Minutes were accepted after a slight correction. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Jones. All in favour.

**The Clerk will chase a reply in connection with planning permission for the staging outside the Town Hall**

4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** Already done

66-25 5 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor would like to thank the councillors who are standing again.

He would particularly like to thank Cllrs Houghton, Drake and Morris who have chosen not to stand again.

Events for VE Day will be advertised later this week.

There will be a meeting on Friday to finalise the advertisement for the Town Warden.

Councillors are reminded that they need to put in their election expenses claim forms between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May or face a £50 per day fine. .

67-25 6 **UNITARY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Houghton had spent a half day with the CEO of Connexus looking at the properties that have been disposed of or are not currently occupied. It costs Connexus £80-100,000 to upgrade existing properties to the required standards. Consequently, a lot of stock has been sold off. For every 10 properties sold off, Connexus plan to rebuild 1 new one, (although the moratorium on house building in Bishop's Castle prevents this at the moment). Some tenants have the right to buy, which can mean a further reduction in available housing stock. Connexus will look at the land identified for house building in the Neighbourhood Plan.

68-25 7 **FINGER POSTS**

The two finger posts in the Old Market Square and outside Stars were bought by the Tourism Group many years ago and need refurbishing.

**RESOLVED.** The Community Land Trust will be asked who powder-coated the bollards outside Stars in order to get a quote for powder-coating the fingerposts in the same apple green and cream colours. Proposed by Cllr Perry; Seconded by Cllr Halford. All in favour.

69-25 8 **DRINKING TAP ON THE TOWN HALL**

At the moment visitors to the town rely on the goodwill of shops and businesses in the town to refill their water bottles. Providing a water fountain in the Old Market Square proved too costly as there is no water supply there. In order to provide free water to visitors 24/7 it was wondered whether a water fountain on the side of the Town Hall building could be provided.

**RESOLVED.** The Council will investigate whether planning permission is needed and what the cost implication is. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Carroll. All in favour.

70-25

9

**PLANNING**

1. 25/01239/FUL Application for the erecting of a Single storey rear extension 29 Brick Meadow, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5DH

**RESOLVED.** Support. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

2. 25/01195/FUL Application for the formation of gated access following removal of section of car park wall, and erection of roof canopy over part of rear courtyard Castle Hotel, Salop Street, Bishops Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5BN

**RESOLVED.** Support. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Houghton. All in favour.

71-25

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**PUBLIC CONVENIENCE**

To decide whether to apply for a PWLB (Public Works Loan to the PWL board) to refurbish the Public Conveniences in the Auction Yard to the value of £75k.

**RESOLVED.** An application should be made. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Blundell. All in favour.

72-25

11

**MONTHLY FINANCES**

- i. To note the Bank Reconciliation

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

- ii. To approve the following invoices for payment:

PAYMENTS			
Shropshire	Pension	1	1,563.66
HMR&C	HMR&C	2	1,022.66
Staff Wages	Staff Wages	3	4,133.30
C. Owen	Minute taker	4	60.00
G. Dudley	Toilet cleaning	5	500.00
Dan Turner	Grass cutting	6	1338.90
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	7	46.88
Unity Trust	Bank charges	8	10.65
SSE	Electricity	9	524.70
Halls	Toilet Consumables	10	110.16
BT	telephone /broadband	11	551.47
Shropshire Council	Rates	12	188.25
Marc One	Fire Safety	13	401.83
Smiths of Derby	Town Hall Clock	14	3080.16
L G Inspections	Lift Maintenance	15	210.00
Shropshire Council	Meeting	17	150.00
Exemplum	Printing	18	3565.70
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>17,468.97</b>

15.04.25			
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**RESOLVED.** The invoices be paid. Proposed Cllr Carroll; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.

73-25      12      **PLANNING FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN**

Nothing to report.

74-25      13      **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The revised Climate Action Plan has been circulated to Councillors for their perusal.

75-25      14      **REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Cllr Houghton is standing down. She is a member of three groups which will need replacing with other councillors after the election.

76-25      15      **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The meeting closed at 20.53pm.

**Meeting of the Trustees of the Public Hall**

Cllr Perry chaired the meeting.

The trustees agreed to accept the offer of £150,000 (identified independently to represent the current market value), plus any ex-gratia payments offered to purchase the Public Hall site. The deeds state that the proceeds have to be used solely for the use of meeting places in the area. A legacy donation of £2000 has also been received for this purpose.

The trustees will appoint PCB Solicitors to undertake the conveyancing.