



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 15TH JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT	APOLOGIES	
Cllr G Perry Cllr J. Dickin Cllr L. Kosciuczyk Cllr L. Blundell Cllr S. Jones Cllr J. Magill Cllr E. Embrey Cllr S. Angell Cllr T Halford	Cllr J. Carroll Cllr M Gayle	
IN ATTENDANCE		

Mr G Rippon, Clerk, Mrs C. Owen, County Cllr R. Houghton plus 2 members of the public
Fire Procedure

Minute No.	Agenda Item	
118-25	1	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Cllrs Gayle and Carroll.
119-25	2	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> a) To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. Cllr Dickin, Item 10.1 b) To declare any personal interests.
120-25	3	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> of 17 th June 2025. RESOLVED Accepted. Proposed Cllr Kosciuczyk; Seconded Cllr Embrey. All in favour.
121-25	4	<u>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION</u> RESOLVED Item 7 be moved forward. Proposed Cllr Blundell; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.
122-25	7	<u>PLAYING FIELDS</u>
	7.1	<u>To receive a brief report on the consultation from the playing fields.</u> Mr Alan Walklate spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Playing Fields. There have been weekly gardening sessions since May, assisted by Lizzie Swales. The group shared a gazebo with Going Wild at the Carnival. Assisted by Christine Perkins and the young people, a public consultation about the park has begun, with questionnaires received from 30 young people and 20 adults so far. It is on-going with the results collated in the autumn. They have set up a new Facegroup account (43

members) and an email account. The group have been looking at the fence which is in need of repair/replacement. A lot of the wood could be planed and re-used.

The group is intending to apply for a grant from the council to pay for the consultation and will be looking for other sources of grant funding. It has contacted Shropshire Playing Fields Association for advice.

Cllrs Perry and Dickin thanked the group for their hard work already undertaken and continuing. The questionnaire will be put on the web-site and the fence and grant discussed at Council

To discuss and decide on the report of the tree surgeon.

7.2

RESOLVED The Council will accept the offer from Sanford to reduce the crown and do the remedial work on the red oak as described. Proposed

123-25

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Cllr Stelman has resigned. The Mayor thanked him for his service to the town, and in particular to him as Deputy Mayor. This will be a huge loss to the Council.

There is now a vacancy on the Council. Notice has been served. Prospective Councillors have 14 days to find support from at least 10 people to stand for election. The Council will meet to appoint a new Deputy Mayor.

The Carnival was a great success, thanks to the hard work of a few people, demonstrating what a great community we live in. Well done.

124-25

6

UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Shropshire Council is promoting vaccinations in children and older people.

There is a lot of pressure for funding – only £600,000 is held in reserves.

The NW Relief Road project has been scrapped, leaving a bill of £39 million for preliminary work to be paid by either Shropshire Council or Government.

Ofsted has inspected the Children and Social Care Services. Reports are due in August. There is a great demand for foster carers, with more than 700 children currently in care.

Shropshire's Local Plan (development) has been deemed unfit, but our Neighbourhood Plan remains in force.

There is some CIL money to spend (Community Infrastructure Levy). £300,000 for SpArC and £70,000 for Chirbury School, so far.

The A488 (Hope Valley road) will remain closed until 22nd August. Buses are being rerouted through Stiperstones.

The Parish Council Survey needs completing and returned to Shropshire Council.

Cllr Houghton will contact Connexus re the plan for 2 empty properties in town.

Cllr Houghton left the meeting.

7

PLAYING FIELDS already discussed.

125-25

8

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There is a vacancy on the Library Committee. Cllr Magill volunteered to take this role.

126-25

9

REVIEW OF POLICIES

1. Risk Assessment and Risk Management

The Clerk informed the Council that it was fit for purpose.

2. Complaints Policy – deferred to next meeting.

127-25 10

PLANNING

None received.

128-25 11

GRANT PAYMENT

To discuss the purchase of Health and Safety Equipment to hire out to groups.

(In the wake of Martin's Law and new guidelines for public events). Enterprise House has now bought the equipment. The Mayor will find out more for the next meeting.

129-25 12

MONTHLY FINANCES

i) To approve the following invoices for payment:

July 2025 Payments			
Shropshire Council	Rates	82	187.00
BT	telephone	83	579.66
Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges	84	12.00
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	85	3.00
Shropshire Pension	Pension	86	1243.42
HMR&C	HMR&C	87	853.01
Staff	Staff Wages	88	3454.71
C. Owen	Minute Taker	89	60.00
G. Dudley	Toilet Cleaner	90	500.00
Dan Turner	Grasscutting	91	1338.90
SSE	Electricity	92	536.31
Play Safety	Playground inspections	93	547.97
James Hallam	Insurance	94	11987.45
James Hallam	Insurance	95	483.99
BCBS	Maintenance	96	12.71
Sevenside	Defib	97	1678.80
Waterplus	Rates	98	32.33
A. Evans	Town Pride/Playing Fields	99	101.02
Josh Dickin	Town Pride/Playing Fields	100	233.89
DA & KM Owen	Window Cleaning	101	50.00
MM Fabrications	Handrail in Town Hall	102	796.51
Enterprise House	Printing	103	50.00
Shropshire Council	Licence	104	70.00
Shropshire Council	Licence	105	70.00
Tony Baker	Maintenance	106	200.00
			24,966.71
St John's PCC	Clock Grant	107	2,000
			26,966.71

RESOLVED The invoices be paid, including the Clock grant. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Angell. All in favour.

ii) To approve interim Audit in September

RESOLVED Approved. Proposed Cllr Perry; Seconded Cllr Halford. All in favour.

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| 130-25 | 13 | <p><u>PLANNING FOR BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN</u></p> <p>The meadows are looking good. More understanding is needed about Shropshire's Bio Char project.</p> |
| 131-25 | 14 | <p><u>CLIMATE ACTION PLAN</u></p> <p>Going Wild are working hard. The 3 new management plans identified in the Plan are already underway. (Market Square, Garden Contractors' Guidelines and Planters). Further actions are identified in red, with an approximate timescale assigned. A working group could alleviate some of the work of the council.</p> <p>RESOLVED The (3 year) Action Plan be accepted. Proposed Cllr Kosciuczyk; Seconded Cllr Perry. All in favour.</p> |
| 132-25 | 15 | <p><u>REPORTS FROM MEETINGS ATTENDED</u> - None</p> |
| 133-25 | 16 | <p><u>NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Regular Council Meeting, Tuesday 18th^h August at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 20.21 pm following the item below.</p> |
| 134-25 | 17 | <p>* 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.</p> <p>The post of Town Warden was discussed including starting date of 14th August 2025</p> |