

Church Stretton Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM REMOTE MEETING PLATFORM ON TUESDAY 11th AUGUST 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

Those present: *Councillors:* Cllr L Antill, Cllr S Baker, Cllr M Braid, Cllr C Carson, Cllr L Chapman, Cllr H Claytonsmith, Cllr H Luff, Cllr M Morris, Cllr R Hickman, Cllr M Walker, Cllr B Welch, Cllr D Wilks.
Officers: Mr. C. Maclean (Locum Town Clerk), Miss B. Clarke (Responsible Financial Officer), Mr. M. Turner (Amenities and Services Officer)
Unitary Councillors:
Members of the Public: 5

20.019 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the second meeting to be held remotely.

20.020 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Carter and Mr. D. Chetwood (Town Clerk)

20.021 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

To declare any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests (in accordance with the new code of Conduct adopted by Church Stretton Town Council on 26th June 2012). **NONE**

20.022 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

One resident expressed her concerns over the authenticity of the Council's press release relating to the vandalism on the play equipment. She also expressed her concerns over the authenticity of the risk assessment undertaken on Richard Robinson Field and the temporary car parking arrangements. Cllr Welch responded to the resident refuting the allegations and advised that the Council's actions were in order.

Another resident advised of his desire to gain access to the Council to review the books and records. This was noted and the Locum Clerk would make the appropriate arrangements.

20.023 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES taken at the Town Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020 had been circulated.
Proposed by Cllr Braid, seconded by Cllr Carson and

RESOLVED (11 in favour, 1 abstain) to confirm and adopt the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th June 2020 as correct, and these were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

20.024 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) *Russells Meadow and Related Charities*

The RFO reported on the contact and discussions with the solicitor on the review of the charities and their assets and the opportunity to amalgamate these into one charity. It was noted that amalgamation would save costs in administration and financial reporting. There is no suggestion of any sales of assets.

It was also noted that if the Council made the decision to amalgamate the charities it may need to consider donating the Pavilion to the charity. This may be required to address the situation that the Council owns a building sitting on land owned by a charity. Consideration would need to be given to an agreement whereby the Council pays the charity for the benefit of having their building on charity land. In addition, consideration would need to be given to the arrangements covering the football and cricket teams paying the charity to play on the pitch but the Council for use of the showers and toilets.
Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Claytonsmith and

RESOLVED (11 in favour, 1 abstain) to proceed with investigation on the merging of the charities.

Cllr Braid enquired whether grant funds had been provided in relation to the building of the Pavilion and if so whether these would need to be refunded if the Council donated the building to the charity. The RFO would check on this and advise back.

b) **Services At Risk Reserves**

Councillors considered the paper presented to Council summarising the proposals by Cllr Baker and Cllr Welch over the allocation of reserves to support the Library and Leisure Centre. Councillors noted the allocation for the Library and discussed the period of review for the allocation set aside for the Leisure Centre.

Proposed by Cllr Claytonsmith, seconded by Cllr Luff and

RESOLVED (unanimously) the Council transfer 50% of the current At Risk reserve to the ear-marked reserve 'Library' and used in the first instance to support its operating costs. That the other 50% be transferred to the ear-marked reserve 'Leisure Centre' with the proviso that the Council may seek to re-allocate it to other projects if after two years it has not been called upon for similar support of the Leisure Centre.

c) **Withdrawal of Delegated Powers to Locum Clerk**

Councillors noted the proposal by the Locum Clerk to withdraw the delegated powers resolved by Council at the meeting on 17 March 2020. In light of The Coronavirus Act 2020 by Government, the introduction of remote meetings renders the powers appropriate to be withdrawn.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Claytonsmith and

RESOLVED (unanimously) the delegated powers be withdrawn.

20.025 **MARKET**

a) **Use Of Lions Meadow Car Park**

Councillors considered the case for expanding the Thursday market into Lion Meadow car park to enable more stallholders to return. Councillors considered the costs and benefits that may be achieved with the expansion

Councillors noted that Shropshire Council had not confirmed whether any costs would require to be paid by the Town Council to Shropshire Council for the use of the car park. There was also a lack of clarity over whether there would be planning implications with the change of use. Consideration was also given to the impact on parking space availability whilst the market was in situ.

Councillors considered the proposal that two Councillors work with the ASO on the options, benefits and costs of expansion and present a proposal to a future Council meeting. Cllr Baker and Cllr Carson
Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Carson and

RESOLVED (9 in favour, 3 opposed) that Cllr Baker and Cllr Carson work with the ASO to present to a future Council meeting proposals for the future running of the market.

b) **Franchise Review**

Councillors considered the requirement to review the current franchise arrangements along with aspects of any expansion and the viability of an expansion. Councillors also considered the current restrictions placed on trader numbers and the possibility of allowing further traders to return.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Carson and

RESOLVED (9 in favour, 3 opposed) that the current restrictions remain in place.

20.026 **BANNER DISPLAY AND POLICY**

Councillors noted the level of contact from residents and the reaction to the recent display of a religious banner on the park railings which had not been in contravention of the current policy. Councillors considered the proposed Revision of the Policy on Banners and also the option to create a blanket ban on the display of banners.

Proposed by Cllr Luff, seconded by Cllr Claytonsmith and

RESOLVED (5 in favour, 3 opposed, 4 abstained) that no banners be allowed to be displayed on the park railings.

The Locum Clerk advised the Chairman that with the Standing Orders not to hand, it was not clear whether the number in favour was sufficient to move the resolution. Confirmation would be provided post the meeting.

POST MEETING NOTE: Following a review of the Standing Orders it was noted that the number of abstentions does not influence the resolution and the ban will take place.

20.027 **PLANNING**

a) **Draft Local Plan**

Councillors noted the report provided by Cllr Claytonsmith on preparations to prepare the response to Shropshire Council on their Draft Local Plan which requires to be submitted by 30th September 2020. NOTED

b) **Planning Committee During COVID-19**

Councillors noted the report provided by Cllr Claytonsmith and the progress which continues to be made in responding to planning applications. NOTED

20.028 **SANDFORD PARK PROJECT**

Councillors noted the report provided by Cllr Welch and proposal to create a project group to research the range of options for improving the Park. Cllr Luff expressed interest in joining the group which was appreciated and accepted.

It was agreed that the Working Group should proceed to explore the options and take these to the community for their views.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Luff and

RESOLVED that the Working Group be established to research the range of options for improving the Park, including the costs and establish the level of community support for these options. On conclusion, present a business case to Council, which, if approved, will then be subject to formal community consultation.

20.029 **UNITARY AND PARISH WARD ISSUES**

a) **Report from Unitary Councillors**

Cllr Chapman reported that the COVID outbreak in Craven Arms had not yet fully ended but that there had no further transmissions.

The unauthorised planning related activities within the Little Stretton Campsite had resulted in complaints which were being investigated by Shropshire Council Enforcement Team.

b) **Parish Ward Issues**

The campervan parking issue in Rectory Field had been noted and the fact that the owners had not parked overnight was noted.

Cllr Welch advised of a planned visit by the High Sheriff of Shropshire to Church Stretton on 29th September. Details to be advised.

c) **Road Closures/Works**

The short notice provide on road works improvements was noted.

Cllr Chapman noted that a complaint about the behaviour of the Contractors to residents seeking access to their properties had been noted and reported as a corporate complaint to Shropshire Council.

20.030 **SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) 2021-2025**

Councillors noted the survey and encouragement to provide responses. Cllr Carson agreed to review and respond on behalf of the Council. NOTED

20.031 **SHI UPDATE**

Councillors noted the report from Cllr Walker on the current position relating to events within the SHI. NOTED

Councillors also noted the Risk Assessment undertaken on the SHI which excluded reference to the

toilets.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Chapman and

RESOLVED (10 in favour, 1 opposed) that risk assessment include toilets within SHI.

20.032 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

20.033 **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

a) *Dates of next meetings:*

i) Amenities, Finance & General Purposes Committee: 1st September at 7pm

ii) Planning, Conservation and Heritage Committee: 8th September at 6m

iii) Economic Development Committee: 13th September at 7pm

iv) Council Meeting: 22nd September at 7pm

These meetings taking place are subject to the guidance to be received from the Government and the National Association of Local Councils.

The meetings for October and November are subject to review and change to be advised.

20.018 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2), it is RESOLVED (unanimously) that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is in the public interest that the public and press are excluded from these items.

a) Staff Matters

Cllr Welch advised Councillors of recent medical assessments undertaken on the Town Clerk and the options going forward for the Council. The options of waiting and seeing how the Town Clerk may respond to treatment, once available or proceed with a further medical assessment were considered.

The RFO advised Councillors of the tier assessment and grading in relation to the pension scheme.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Claytonsmith and

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Council proceed with a further assessment.

b) Management Meetings

Cllr Welch advised Councillors of proposed changes to streamline management meetings and to create an Executive Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Antill and

RESOLVED (10 in favour, 2 opposed) to create new executive committee

9.10 pm