

# Church Stretton Town Council

## MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SILVESTER HORNE INSTITUTE, CHURCH STRETTON ON TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

**Those present:** *Councillors:* Cllr L Antill, Cllr N Carter, Cllr S Davies, Cllr Foulkes, Cllr D Hartshorne, Cllr J Lawton, Cllr J Luck, Cllr M Morris, Cllr A Munro, Cllr H Stowell, Cllr B Welch.  
*Officers:* Mr. C Maclean (Locum Town Clerk), (Mrs H Merrett (Admin Officer), Miss R Gwilliam (Amenities Officer)  
*Unitary Councillors:* Cllr D Evans  
*Members of the Public:* 8

**21.009 WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

**21.010 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Miss B Clarke (Responsible Finance Officer), Cllr C Carson, Unitary Cllr H Luff.

**21.011 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012). **NONE**

**21.012 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident expressed concerns over the actions of people allowing dogs to foul the Play Area in All Stretton and not clearing up afterwards. He enquired whether there were protection orders in relation to the grounds. It was noted that signs previously placed by the Town Council advising dog owners to clear up any mess had disappeared.

Cllr Munro thanked the resident for raising the matter and advised that investigations would be undertaken to identify what protection levels may be in place and if there were none, discussions would be held with Shropshire Council to identify a suitable solution.

A resident shared with Councillors his desire to establish a Pétanque terrain on Russell's Meadow. An application submitted to the Council in April had not been progressed but Councillors noted that this would have been during the period the Town Council was transitioning around the election and would have delayed progress. The resident advised that he had spoken to other clubs using the facilities and that no concerns had been raised. He also stated that there was considerable interest from members of the public. Cllr Munro advised the resident that the new Town Council required to give serious consideration to the proposal especially in relation to the location and the materials to be used and that an immediate response could not be provided. Councillors would follow up on the proposal and get back to the resident.

A resident reported that the site involved in Planning application 19/02026/FUL has been considerably expanded and was particularly busy at weekends and holidays. This created adverse conditions in the area through increased traffic. The resident requested that the Town Council update its objection to the application. Councillors noted the concerns that had been raised with Shropshire Council. It was acknowledged that the

greater the number of objections lodged with Shropshire Council, the stronger the case for refusal to the application.

21.013 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS REVIEW**

Councillors noted the applications received and considered each in turn.

***a) 21/01944/PIP – Proposed Residential Development Land North of The Longmynd Hotel, Cunners Road, Church Stretton***

Councillors noted the application for permission in principle for residential development. Councillors observed that the site is outside the Town Development Area but within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Councillors considered the application to erect 14 properties to be a major development. Whilst the application states that the precedent is set by outline consent being given to a proposed development at Springbank Farm Councillors noted that such approval was not correct.

Councillors expressed concerns over the financial opportunities the owners were seeking to exploit from the site.

All Councillors agreed to the Town Council objecting to the application.

***b) 21/01955/FUL – Proposed Dwelling Adjacent The Levons, Hazler Road, Church Stretton SY6 7AQ***

Councillors noted the application to erect a detached single garage.

Councillors noted that outline planning permission had been given in 2018 to the erection of a 4 bedroomed property. It was observed that there appeared to be insufficient space for vehicles to turn around on site which would result in vehicles reversing blind onto Hazler Road.

Councillors also noted the requirement to replant a hedge had not been met and which could not be done under this proposal.

Councillors shared concerns over such a request to undertake further build that was not factored into the original application.

All Councillors agreed to the Town Council objecting to the application.

***c) 21/02095/FUL – The Nestings, Cunners Road, Church Stretton SY6 6AH***

Councillors noted the application to erect a single storey extension.

Councillors reviewed the application and all Councillors agreed to the Town Council supporting the application.

***d) 21/02336/FUL – Fellside, Sandford Avenue, Church Stretton SY6 7AA***

Councillors noted the application to erect a side and rear extension with balcony and replacement windows.

Clr Morris declared an interest in this application by virtue of the applicants being clients of his business.

Councillors noted the lack of visibility of the site from the road.

Following a vote Councillors agreed to support the application.

***e) 21/02360/FUL – Minden, 93 Ludlow Road, Church Stretton SY6 6RA***

Councillors noted the application to erect a single storey extension

Councillors noted that the application is discretely positioned.

Councillors agreed to the Town Council supporting the application.

*f) Unitary Decisions*

Councillors noted the list covering the period 18<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

*g) Actions Taken*

Councillors noted the list presented to Council.

*h) Current Planning List*

Councillors noted the list presented to Council.

**21.014 WAYS OF WORKING**

Councillors noted the paper presented by Cllr Munro setting out the detail behind fixing the past, living in the present and planning for the future.

Councillors also noted the draft terms of reference for a Personnel Committee

Proposed by Cllr Lawton, seconded by Cllr Davies and

<b>RESOLVED (unanimously) to set up a Personnel Committee with the stated Terms of Reference.</b>
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**21.015 THE MARKET**

Councillors discussed the situation surrounding the earlier set up of the market which was causing concerns with residents in the surrounding properties.

Cllr Munro and Cllr Stowell advised that they would monitor the market and its activities.

Councillors shared concerns over the advised behaviour of the traders in their set up and toward the members of the council team.

Councillors noted that the location of the market needs to be reviewed to consider its possibilities for the future.

**21.016 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

*a) Shropshire Hill Shuttle Bus*

Councillors considered the grant of £1,500 to be provided towards the shuttle bus linking the town with Carding Mill Valley and the merits of the route being diversified to maximise the benefits of the service.

Proposed by Cllr Munro, seconded by Cllr Stowell and

<b>RESOLVED (unanimously) to make the payment of £1,500 for the next financial year and to discuss with partners the route options.</b>
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*b) Current Grant Fund Arrangements*

Councillors noted the applications that had been approved by the previous Council. Cllr Welch advised that the grant to be provided to a resident to attend a scout jamboree was no longer to be paid as the event had been cancelled.

Councillors considered the level of interest expressed in the grants and it was agreed that consideration be given to their promotion next year, given the capacity for the Council to provide more funds.

**21.017 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

*a) Council's Financial Affairs*

Cllr Munro advised Councillors of recent reviews and discussions with Locum Clerk and the Internal Auditor. He stated that he and Cllr Davies have seen original bank statements which have balances in excess of the historical known reserves and this year's Precept. However, they we have not yet seen accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and therefore they currently cannot be categoric about the exact year end position.

The Internal Auditor has agreed to start his audit work and Cllr Munro agreed to meet with him on 15<sup>th</sup> June to discuss early findings. It is known that there will be issues reported. It is expected that a draft set of year end accounts will be available at that time. Progress with the internal control weaknesses identified in the previous year's Internal Audit reports and the AGAR, as amended, has not occurred because staff did not find time to address them. Addressing staff resources was acknowledged as urgent and the formation of a dedicated Personnel Committee has been agreed and will start this work. The AGAR statements for this and the next year will necessarily be negative because the Council is already well into the 2021/22 reporting year. The target of a clean audit report (AGAR) is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The Council did not receive management accounts during the last financial year, and it is expected that the Council will receive its first management accounts for Q1 in July 2021.

***b) Council Funds Held With Financial Institutions***

Cllr Munro advised Councillors of the work required to manage the funds held across financial institutions and the Council's reserves. Councillors noted that a review of the budget was required before consideration could be given to identifying the future level of the Precept.

**21.018 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Councillors considered upcoming events and requirements for meetings. Councillors agreed that an internal meeting of Councillors be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to consider the financial position of the Council.

Councillors noted the reporting deadlines for submission of the AGAR to the external auditors of 1<sup>st</sup> July and consideration would be given to the requirement to seek an extension to the submission deadline.

Councillors agreed that the next meeting of Council should take place on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**20.019 UNITARY AND PARISH WARD MATTERS**

***a) Report from Unitary Councillors***

Cllr Evans advised that he is Chair of Shropshire Council's Southern Planning Committee, as well as being Chair of Shropshire Council's Standards Committee.

Cllr Munro enquired on the allocation of CIL monies to Church Stretton and the levels allocated towards highways issues. Cllr Evans advised that enquiries would be raised within Shropshire Council and the numbers clarified.

***b) Parish Ward Issues***

Cllr Lawton noted that vehicles were parking on Ashes Lane in Little Stretton opposite Brook House. Shropshire Council Highways to be requested to address this.

Councillors noted the effort to address the condition of the All Stretton Play Area.

Councillors shared concerns over the traffic lights in Church Stretton at the A49 junction and the recent vehicle accident. Cllr Evans agreed to seek an escalation of these concerns within Shropshire Council and to Highways England.

Councillors noted concerns arising from vehicles being parked on pavements.

Cllr Stowell reported that increased numbers of vehicles were being parked in Batch Valley, especially when the Carding Mill Valley car park is full.

Cllr Welch reported on continued concerns of residents in Churchill Road over the parking restrictions and arrangements. Cllr Munro advised Councillors that he is scheduled to meet with representatives of National Trust and would raise these concerns.

Cllr Welch stated that the Sheriff of Shropshire is seeking nominations for candidates for awards for outstanding communities and suggested that Church Stretton consider submitting an application. It was agreed that Cllr Welch draft a submission for consideration by Councillors.

Cllr Luck enquired on progress to address the poor state of the footpath at Coppice Leasowes. Councillors noted that revised quotes to undertake the work had resulted in a shortfall of available funds to cover the works. Further discussion to be held on how this work can be progressed.

Cllr Evans gave his apologies and left the meeting at 9:27pm.

*c) **Road Closures/Works***

None

The Chairman declared the Public Meeting Ended 9:35pm

**20.020 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) **Staffing***

Following agreement in the public meeting of Council to create a Personnel Committee Councillors considered its membership. It was agreed that Cllrs Davies, Stowell, Lawton, Hartshorne and Munro be members and that they progress the recruitment of the new Town Clerk.

Councillors noted the applications for the role and agreed the candidates to be taken forward for interview. It was agreed that interviews be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Meeting Ended 9:45pm

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