

Church Stretton Town Council

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SILVESTER HORNE INSTITUTE, CHURCH STRETTON ON TUESDAY 5th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00p.m.

Present: *Councillors:* Cllr L Antill, Cllr C Carson, Cllr N Carter, Cllr S Davies (Vice Chair), Cllr R Foulkes, Cllr J Lawton, Cllr J Luck, Cllr M Morris, Cllr A Munro (Chair), Cllr H Stowell.

In attendance: *Officers:* Dr K Howe (Town Clerk), Mrs H Merrett (Admin),
Unitary Councillors: Cllr D Evans (left the meeting at 8.35pm)
Members of the Public: 1

21.055 **WELCOME**

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

21.056 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

From: Councillor B Welch, Councillor D Hartshorne, Councillor G Lewis, Unitary Councillor H Luff.

21.057 **TO DECLARE DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members are reminded that they are required to leave the meeting during discussing and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered into the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

NONE

21.058 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

NONE

21.059 **UNITARY & PARISH WARD MATTERS:**

*a) **Report from Unitary Councillors** (Cllr Evans)*

Councillor Evans advised Shropshire Council has a new Code of Conduct which comes into effect on 1st December 2021. The Council is considering options for parish boundary changes which should be decided by 2025. The consultation process was not yet established. The flooding issue at Agilent was to be looked at in an upcoming site visit by Severn Trent Water to which Church Stretton Town Council had also been invited. A letter had been sent to the Ambulance service requesting that the paramedic be kept at Craven Arms.

*b) **Parish Ward Issues** (Little Stretton, South, North, All Stretton)*

Councillors noted that there were issues with the streetlight in All Stretton.

Councillors noted concerns arising from fires by the allotments and non-council items being placed on the fires. Councillors noted the need to speak to the landowners on this matter.

c) Road Closures/Works

The A49 is to be closed in sections from 12th October between 8pm and 6am.

21.60 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES TAKEN AT THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th AUGUST 2021

Proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Luck and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to confirm and adopt, the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24th August 2021 as correct, and these were duly signed, initialled and dated on each page by the Chairman as a true record.

21.61 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

a) *Planning*

Councillor Luck explained his methodology and thanked Councillors for their help in dealing with 16 planning applications in the last few weeks. He reported that he was investigating adopting a paperless system. Councillors noted that 50% of planning applications did not appear to display their planning notices. Councillor Evans advised - Jim Rogers at Shropshire Council - as the person to contact.

i. Current List - for comment

Councillors noted the applications for which comments had already been submitted on the Planning portal. 14 Shrewsbury Road and Castle Hill Cottage would be given a 'support' comment in the next few days.

ii. Actions taken – Councillors noted these actions.

iii. Unitary Decisions - Councillors noted these decisions taken by Shropshire Council.

b) *Public Realm*

i. Sensory Garden

Councillors noted the report and agreed consultation with local groups should be undertaken. It was suggested an enclosure might be advisable to prevent small children wandering. Councillor Foulkes agreed to contact the schools and nursery to determine their views.

Proposed by Cllr Stowell, seconded by Cllr Lawton and

RESOLVED (unanimously) that Council supports in principle, consultation with users, seeking additional funding, obtaining 3 quotes, report back on obtaining 3 estimates for replacement wooden play equipment (as an addition) and bringing paper back to a future Council meeting for specific project approval.

ii. Christmas Lights

Councillors noted the report. New lights, if required, need to be ordered by February 2022, Councillor Carter agreed to look into this. Council considered the potential of additional attractions and the need to ascertain how other towns fund and attract stallholders. For Christmas 2021 it was proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Luck and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to approve an additional £2,000 budget for the Christmas 2021 lights event to cover a potential shortfall this year due to stress testing.

Proposed by Cllr Stowell, seconded by Cllr Morris and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to obtain quotations and proposals for replacement Christmas lights and produce a full report for a future Council meeting.

iii. Russells Meadow metal container

Councillors noted the report. It was noted that the area will have to be flattened and large vehicle will have to access the site to bring a container in – neither of which will be possible until Spring 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Stowell, seconded by Cllr Antill and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to approve spend up to a maximum of £1500 towards the costs of a secure metal container, subject to a further two quotations being obtained.

iv. Russells Meadow football dugouts

Councillors noted the reports.

Proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Foulkes and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to allow Church Stretton Football Club to erect 2 permanent dugouts in Russell's Meadow at their own cost as shown in their proposal, subject to: a) gaining planning permission from Shropshire Council, b) the dugouts being painted green, c) formal agreement made with Church Stretton Town Council that the football club will take responsibility for cleaning up the area after matches and take responsibility for rectifying any graffiti and vandalism, d) that security shutters be fitted to the dugouts to avoid potential graffiti and antisocial behaviour.

21.062 TO AGREE REPRESENTATIONS ON EXTERNAL BODIES

	<i>Body</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
a)	Local Joint Committee	Cllrs A Munro and B Welch
b)	Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	Cllr J Luck
c)	AONB Management Board	Cllr J Luck
d)	Energy Champion (Climate Care)	Cllr L Antill
e)	Consolidated Charities	Cllr C Carson
f)	All Stretton Village Society	Cllrs H Stowell and A Munro
g)	All Stretton Village Hall Committee	Cllrs H Stowell and A Munro
h)	Rail Users' Association	Cllr A Munro
i)	Mayfair "Observer"	Cllr J Lawton
j)	Scrappies	No longer required
k)	Allotments	Cllr L Antill
l)	PACT (Police & Communities Together)	Cllr J Luck
m)	Emergency Plan	Working group. Chair Cllr C Carson
n)	St Lawrence C of E Primary School – Governor	Currently have a full complement of governors
o)	Church Stretton School – PTA	Cllr R Foulkes to be proposed if required
p)	Health & Social Care Partnership	In abeyance until CLP active
q)	SALC & Area Committee	Cllr A Munro with Town Clerk
r)	Shropshire Hills Tourism	Working group – Chair to be decided later
s)	Little Stretton Village Society	Cllrs J Lawton and C Carson
t)	Destination Development Partnership (DDP)	
u)	Acton Scott Working Farm	Cllrs M Morris and N Carter - Town Clerk to make enquiries if Acton Scott have requested.

COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a) **Community Matters for Focus** - Chair with Town Clerk's assistance
 b) **Community Messaging Service** - Cllrs Helen Stowell and Sheila Davies

Proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Antill and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to appoint the above representatives on other bodies.

Proposed by Cllr Morris, seconded by Cllr Munro and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to suspend standing orders as the time had reached 9.00pm

21.063 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

Councillors noted the report supplied by the Locum Clerk. The Town Clerk and RFO are currently reviewing Financial Regulations and Standing Orders to be presented to the next Council meeting.

21.064 TO RECEIVE THE INTERIM EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

Councillors noted this report and the significant focus on completing up to date accounts. Gillian Bailey has done much hard work on this for which Council are grateful. It is intended that information on budget and precept requirements will be supplied to December Council meeting.

21.065 TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Agilent letter – Councillors noted the letter from Shropshire Council. Church Stretton Town Council, Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency will meet to discuss further and report back to Council.
 ii) HMRC letter – Councillors noted this letter.
 iii) Market Opening Hours Enquiry letter – Councillors noted the response to this letter.

21.066 TO NOTE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- i) Planning Committee Meeting Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.00 pm
 ii) Council Meeting Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7.00 pm

The Chairman declared the Public Meeting Ended 9:03pm

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.

21.067 TO NOTE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE VERBAL REPORT

Councillors noted the above report and it was proposed by Cllr Antill, seconded by Cllr Davies and

RESOLVED (unanimously) that as a matter of policy all Council Employees be paid as a minimum the Living Wage as set by the UK Government 9th May 2021.

Councillors noted that Gillian Bailey has now joined the council staff as RFO on 6 month / 20 hour per week contract.

Councillors noted that the undertaking of core services directly by the Outdoor Team will be brought to a future meeting for resolution. Councillors also noted that the training and development needs of staff and councillors was currently being investigated and budgeted.

Meeting Ended 9.17pm

Signed by Date

As a true and accurate record of the meeting

Final