



# Church Stretton

Town Council

## Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in the Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 commencing at 7:00pm

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

**In attendance:** Officers: Mrs G Bailey (RFO & Locum Town Clerk)

Unitary Councillors: Cllr D Evans  
Members of the Public: Two  
PCSO David Baron

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

### 22.112 Apologies

There were no apologies.

### 22.113 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they are required to leave the meeting during discussions 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.

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

### 22.114 Questions from members of the public

There were no questions asked by members of the public.

### 22.115 Unitary and Parish ward matters

a) Cllr David Evans gave a verbal update.

- Verge cutting in the area will begin in the next 7 days
- Shropshire Council has been successful in a funding bid for charging points, two are allocated to Church Stretton.
- Shropshire Council are dealing with 9 applications for solar farms.

- 106 agreements have now been signed for Crown House. The Mayor advised that the development required a stopping up order.
- There is no timetable for a decision about the future of Acton Scott.

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

- **All Stretton**

Excavation work has started on an application for fishing pools. The site is subject to enforcement action as it was believed that planning approval has lapsed. This is disputed. It was also noted that the site was larger and in a different place to the original proposal. Works have ruptured a water main.

- **Little Stretton**

Consultation on a proposal for yellow lines will be going out before the end of December. Cllr Carson advised this had been ongoing for 2 years.

**22.116 Policing**

Cllr John Luck gave an update from his attendance at Local Policing Charter meetings with the Chief Constable of Shropshire as representative for Church Stretton Town Council.

- Shropshire has highest incidences of county lines in the country. There are 8 gangs being actively investigated.
- There are no Organised Crime Gangs
- Crime has increased 20% since lock down
- Only 15/155 Local Councils were represented at the meetings
- The Local Policing Charter sets priorities based on feedback from Local Councils. In the past Councils were invited to choose from a pre-determined list. This has now changed so that, following a discussion with their local policing team, Councils can set their own priorities.

PCSO Dave Baron gave an update on local policing issues.

- There are 3 PCSO and 1 officer in the Church Stretton and Craven Arms Team. A new Sgt has been appointed who will cover the South Shropshire Area.
- It is hoped that a member of the SNT can attend Town Council meetings more regularly
- Incidents the team have attended: four assaults, one theft from business, ASB at Cardingmill Valley, four highways incidents, one incident at the railway.
- PCSO Baron confirmed there are no active county lines in Church Stretton or Craven Arms.
- The police are happy to attend events (they will be present at the fireworks display).
- In response to a question from Cllr Luck, PCSO Baron advised that the team are still hoping to receive fast road training.

**22.117 Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Carson, seconded by Cllr. Stowell and **RESOLVED** unanimously **FC 22/23 070** to confirm and adopt, as amended, the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on **27<sup>th</sup> September 2022** as correct, and these were duly signed, initialled and dated on each page by the Chairman as a true record.

**22.118 Public Realm Committee**

Cllrs noted the minutes taken at the Public Realm Committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**22.119 Community Events**

Members received a report on community events. It was agreed that these are important occasions for the Town. It was proposed by Cllr. Stowell, seconded by Cllr. Davies and **FC 22/23 071 RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the recommendations made in the report.

**22.120 Rectory Wood**

Councillors received a report from Ed Andrews, Shropshire Council on work required to the historic structures in Rectory Wood. The Town Clerk advised that there were earmarked reserves for Rectory Wood of £39,522.

It was proposed by Cllr. Munro, seconded by Cllr. Luck and **FC 22/23 072 RESOLVED** to accept the report and to:

1. Approve expenditure of up to £6,000 for the work to be undertaken to repair the bank collapse and if expedient to undertake work to stabilise the supporting pillar to the trash screen. It was agreed that this specialist work was urgent and to delegate the decision to continue with additional works to the Locum Town Clerk / RFO.
2. Issues relating to the Ice House Pool, Pump House and Summer House were noted. The town council will be grateful to receive a further report in due course.

**22.121 Planning Committee**

Cllrs noted the minutes taken at the Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The chair gave a verbal update on planning regulations in relation to solar panels. In the past there has been a blanket refusal on properties within the conservation area where the panels will be facing the street. A recent application has been approved (with the specification that the panels should be black).

**22.122 Finance Committee**

This item was deferred.

**22.123 Annual Return and Governance Statement**

Councillors received the external auditors report.

There was one 'except for matter' relating to the delay in publishing the end of the audit last year. The Clerk confirmed that this year's AGAR has been published within required deadlines.

**22.124 Half Year Accounts**

Councillors received a report on expenditure against income year to date to 30<sup>th</sup> September. It is anticipated that there will be a small (less than 7%) underspend.

**22.125 Personnel Committee**

Cllrs noted the minutes of the Personnel Committee. The Chair gave a verbal update.

**22.126 Christmas Opening**

It was proposed by Cllr. Davies, seconded by Cllr. Lawton and **FC 22/23 073 RESOLVED** that the Council office will close at lunchtime on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

**22.127 Noise Disturbance Silvester Horne Institute**

Councillor received a report prepared by PDA Acoustic Consultants. The report concludes that there is some noise disturbance in the next door property and recommends that acoustic improvements should be made as part of a wider refurbishment project.

**22.128 Correspondence**

The Mayor advised that he has written to His Majesty on behalf of the Town Council.

**22.129 Mayors Report**

Members received and noted the Mayors report. Councillors were advised that since the report was circulated expenditure of £2,000 has been authorised by the Mayor and Town Clerk to repair the leak in Sandford Avenue Park. This was urgent as Severn Trent has 'issued a notice to repair' and it is likely that their costs would be far greater than a local contractor.

**22.130 Mayors Diary**

Members noted the Mayors diary.

**22.131 Vice-Chairs Diary**

Members noted the Vice-Chairs diary.

The public meeting ended at 8.50pm

**22.132 Confidential Matters**

It was proposed by Cllr. Carter, seconded by Cllr. Luck and **RESOLVED** under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2) to exclude Public and Press due to the confidential nature of business which may arise relating to Staffing and Property or as determined by the Town Council.

**22.133 Update on Staffing Matter**

Councillors received an update on, and discussed proceedings in relation to the former Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Cllr. Davies, seconded by Cllr. Stowell and **FC 22/23 074**  
**RESOLVED** that Church Stretton Town Council wishes to see a speedy response to the situation and as such will instruct their solicitor that the Town Council would consider settlement terms.  
Cllrs Lawton and Munro abstained.

**22.134 Staffing Structure**

Cllr. Lawton presented a confidential report detailing a proposed staffing structure.  
It was proposed by Cllr. Burns, seconded by Cllr. Carter and **FC 22/23 075**  
**RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the recommendations in the report.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55pm

Signed by .....

Date.....

As a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Approved