

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Annexe, College House
on Tuesday 17th December 2019 at 7.15pm**

(Draft until signed at a subsequent meeting)

Present:

Councillors:

R Whittle OBE (in the Chair)
C Baines MBE
J Buckley
G Davies
C Dyson
R Fox
H Howell
K Hurst-Knight
E Marshall
K Sawbridge
C Whittle

In Attendance:

L Jakeman, Town Clerk
R Williams, Responsible Financial Officer

Absent:

Councillor C Walden

0336/1920 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members noted the apologies as listed below:

Councillors:

S Barlow – personal commitment
D Cooper – personal commitment
E Lynch – personal commitment
S Stevens – personal commitment

0337/1920 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

0338/1920 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Richards of St Leonards Close - Agenda Item 14 Town Council Debtors:
What is the debt being discussed and why is it in confidential?

Town Mayor response: The agenda item is a standard item each month and updates the Town Council on outstanding payments and relates to contractual arrangements. The list varies from month to month.

0339/1920 **MINUTES**

- i) Members noted receipt of the draft minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0340/1920 **MAYOR'S DIARY**

Members noted that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended the following events since the last Town Council meeting:

Mayor's Diary

- 20/11. Bridgnorth Netball Association Awards Presentation
- 22/11. Christmas Lighting Up Night
- 30/11. Hospital League of Friends Coffee Shop Opening
Book Launch and Library Event
Gifts and Flowers Christmas Launch Event
- 8/12. Christmas High St Market
- 15/12. Wellington Civic Carol Service

0341/1920 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

Nil

0342/1920 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- i) Planning Committee – minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019

RESOLVED: to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2019 and noted the resolutions contained therein.

0343/1920 **FINANCE**

i) Accounts Paid – November 2019

Members received notification of items which had been paid in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.5.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £56,073.63 be retrospectively approved for payment.

ii) Budget Report

Members noted the Budget Summary report, including Earmarked Reserves.

iii) Balance Sheet

Members noted the balance sheet as at 30th November 2019 (£762,025.00)

iv) Town Council Bank Reconciliation Statements

Members noted the bank reconciliation statements as at 30th November 2019.

v) Receipts and Payments Summary

Members noted the in-year receipts and payments summary as at 30th November 2019.

vi) Accounts for Payment

Members noted receipt of a list of payments for approval.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £38,561.01 be approved for payment.

0344/1920 **BRIDGNORTH (LOW TOWN) COMMUNITY HALL**

i) Accounts for Payment

Members noted a list of accounts for Payment.

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £2,591.92 be approved for payment.

0345/1920 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk and noted Bridgnorth Town Council's submission for the Community Governance Review and approved of the recommendations:

The Draft Proposals document not be considered by Shropshire Council for a decision unless it is rewritten to include a more balanced view before reaching its recommendations i.e. include the salient points provided in the Bridgnorth Town Council submission.

The members of the Shropshire Council Working Group that oversaw the Draft proposals document conduct a site visit of the area to be sure that they might more fully appreciate some of the submissions.

Representatives of Bridgnorth, Worfield & Rudge and Tasley parish councils be invited to meet with those at Shropshire Council making the recommendations to ensure that all reasonable arguments can be presented and appreciated.

0346/1920 **IT OPERATING SYSTEM UPGRADE**

Members received a revised / supplementary report summarised below:

- A report dated 5th December (sent with the agenda for the meeting) originally recommended that delegated powers be acknowledged/ approved (to the Town Clerk) to ensure that the Council's IT operating system is upgraded.
- It now transpires there might be some medium term savings made by upgrading the IT hardware as well as the software; the costs of which are likely to exceed standard financial regulation thresholds.
- The previous recommendation to delegate to the Town Clerk to upgrade the OS is no longer suitable.
- The matter would benefit from further investigation.
- The Town Clerk will research the matter in more depth and bring the matter back to Council in due course.

0347/1920 **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

- i) Members received the notes of the Local Plan Working Group held on 9th December 2019.

- ii) A copy of a revised/additional submission to the Local Plan Review [prepared by the Town Council Working Group] was tabled and discussed at some length.
- iii) It was proposed that the draft (tabled) be approved by the Council for submission to Shropshire Council (the LPA).

An amendment to the proposal was made:

That the Town Council should stand by its original submission (and not forward the draft submission tabled).

The amendment was carried and was proposed as the substantive motion.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council should stand by its original submission (and not forward the draft submission tabled)

0348/1920 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

RESOLVED in terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RESOLVED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

0349/1920 **TOWN COUNCIL DEBTORS**

Members considered a report from the Responsible Finance Officer.

RESOLVED: to note a debtors report and approve the actions being undertaken to address unpaid invoices due to the Town Council.