

	Minutes of the Meeting of Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee SALC held on 16 January 2020 at 7.00pm at Quatt Village Hall, Bridgnorth	
Present:	David Beechey (Albrighton & Donington PC), Bert Harper (Much Wenlock TC), Ann Hill (Sutton Maddock PC), David Rawlinson (Clerk, Alveley & Romsley PC), Edward Marshall (Bridgnorth TC), Simon Harris (Kinlet PC), Julia Buckley (Bridgnorth TC), Rosemary Abbiss (Sottesdon & Sidbury PC), Richard Cotham (Claverley PC), David Tremellen (Highley PC), David Cooper (Bridgnorth TC)	
In Attendance:	Gwilym Butler (Shropshire Council), Robert Macey (Shropshire Council), Gail Power (SALC) and Chris Maclean (Acting Clerk)	
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</u> The Chair, Mr Beechey, welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were noted from: - Eileen Reynolds (Clerk, Eardington PC) Yvonne Holyoake (Much Wenlock TC) Mary Hill (Much Wenlock TC) Jenny Yates (Quatt Malvern PC) Pam Barker (Alveley & Romsley PC) Sylvia Pledger (Albrighton PC) Beverley Montague (Stottesdon & Sidbury PC) Shifnal TC	
3.	<u>Appointment of Committee Secretary</u> Mr Beechey proposed and Mrs Abbiss seconded the appointment of Mr Maclean as Committee Secretary. It was resolved the appointment be confirmed.	
4(i)	<u>Guest Speaker - Presentation from the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services</u> Cllr Butler updated members on the latest developments impacting his portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Plans Updated local plans have been completed, placed on-line and regarded as live for further reviews and updates. • Rural Community Strategy The recent workshop had been well attended and the following key topics were identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Isolation ○ Mental Health ○ Lack of Public Transport ○ Housing and Type of Affordability 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Provision <p>Further consultation on the detail will be discussed in the coming week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boundary Review Shropshire Council propose that councils review their boundaries to consider scope for change. Consideration being given to a formal review from May 2021. Concern arising that development of towns and parishes resulting in increased numbers of residents not adequately reflected in councillor representation. ● Brexit Central funding to be available to assist in food supplies and sourcing. Preparations well advanced. <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Butler for his presentation.</p>	
4(ii).	<p><u>Guest Speaker - Presentation from the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning</u></p> <p>Cllr Macey updated members on the latest developments impacting his portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Housing Current key topics that were being considered as priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homeliness and how to ensure people have roofs over their head. ○ Housing Options and selection between local authority, affordable and open market. ○ HomePoint and how to ensure the solution could assist placing the right person to the right location and home. ○ Private Housing and types. ○ Energy Efficiency and how to ensure new build achieve increasing standards. Assistance being given with £2m grant ○ Technical Solutions and ensuring builds factor in change in lifestyles. ○ Methods of Construction. ● Planning Policy Creation of local authority development company to identify land, acquire and build on behalf of local authority. Funding provided to commence land sourcing and acquisition. Working on combining different boards and authorities to enable a more flexible and joined up approach. Local plan review on green belt under way and a draft housing strategy expected in coming weeks. ● Delivery Focus on how deliver on the ground. Experience showing that demand greater for 2 to 3 bed homes rather than 4 to 5 beds <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Macey for his presentation and opened the meeting for questions to the presenters.</p> <p>Members shared local experiences and concerns over the perceived handling</p>	

	<p>of identification of preferred sites by the authority. Members expressed concern that insufficient recognition given by the authority to local advice and alternative options.</p> <p>Questions were raised of the authority's expectations surrounding the proposed upcoming boundary review. Cllr Butler advised that the authority had identified concerns over housing developments within parishes where residents were utilising the services of another local authority without financial contribution. It was also observed that the number of councillors within parishes or towns did not adequately reflect the population size and it was also apparent that challenges were being seen in filling councillor vacancies.</p> <p>Members encouraged the presenters to consider more strongly the opportunities for local engagement in the delivery of the housing and planning strategies with opportunities to enable open consultations. Cllr Macey advised that the authority was looking at all sites and options but needed to ensure that returns on the investments could be generated. He also noted that greater emphasis is now placed on ensuring the right type of housing is delivered in the right location and in areas of demand. This needed to include housing spanning open market through to social and affordable.</p> <p>Cllr Macey advised members that the authority noted the need for homes to be built with enough space to accommodate changing lifestyles and mobility issues. Importance placed on lifetime home standards and ability to live in same home for longer periods of time.</p> <p>Cllr Macey advised members that the authority is looking at all types of sites and examples include acquisition of redundant garage sites where small developments can be achieved.</p> <p>Members noted the proposed abolition of public toilet business rates had halted. Cllr Butler observed that the whole issue of business rates required overhaul and that this is a topic that NALC is lobbying hard.</p> <p>Cllr Butler advised that the community and rural strategy findings were being progressed into draft policy and these will be shared. The findings would be cross pollinated with the place plans. Further meetings on the place plans were being proposed later in the year.</p> <p>Members noted that a central policy on climate emergency and change would benefit local town and parish councils in their own initiatives.</p>	
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5.	<p><u>Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held on 6 March 2019</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 6 March 2019 were reviewed. Mr Harris noted that these did not factor in a proposed amendment in relation to the poaching incident in the Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Mr Harris had requested that the minutes state that the police were asked whether they had arrested and successfully prosecuted those responsible for the killing of deer in August 2018 in the Wyre Forest. They advised that they had not and the case file was closed.</p> <p>Subject to that amendment members resolved the minutes be adopted and the Chair sign these as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Approve Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 September 2019</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 16 September 2019 were reviewed. Mrs Abbiss proposed and Mr Cooper seconded the minutes be adopted and the Chair sign these as a true record.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Matters Arising From Minutes</u></p> <p>Mr Cooper advised of continued uncertainty over the funding for Crucial Crew for councils which do not have schools within their parish.</p>	
8.	<p><u>SALC Update</u></p> <p>Mrs Power updated members on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News in Brief publications Members were asked if they were receiving the News In Brief Bulletins distributed via Clerks. • CCGs and New Healthcare Set-Up CCGs arranging a series of pop up events across the county to allow people opportunity to express opinion on a new health proposal whereby the two existing commission groups are replaced by a single strategic commissioning organisation. These events taking place late January/early February. • Severn Trent Community Fund New Fund introduced by Severn Trent to provide £10 million in grants to charities and community groups including parish councils. Project criteria cover People, Places and Environment. • Council Tax Referendum Principles It was noted that the Government is proposing to continue with no council tax referendum principles for local councils for the next financial year. • VE Day It was noted that details on the plans for celebrating VE Day could be accessed via the SAFA website. Organisations were encouraged to register their planned events. It was suggested that rural parishes that had not planned events could join up with local market towns where events were being organised. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of Employees Members were reminded of their duty of care to employees within the Council. Members were encouraged to obtain and read the Being a Good Employer handbook. • Training Details of upcoming courses to be publicised. Members were encouraged to attend these where appropriate. Courses include Fundamentals for Councillors, Be a Better Councillor and Chairmanship Skills. 	
9.	<p><u>Matters From Parishes to be Taken to SALC Executive</u></p> <p>Members proposed the following topics be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover for Clerk absence through illness • Provision of sites and labour to support tree planting • Cooperation between parishes to battle climate emergency • Access to Youth Services and mechanisms for parishes to contribute to funding. 	
10.	<p><u>Financial Update</u></p> <p>Members were advised that no update was available at this time as the books and records were in the course of being handed over to the new Secretary.</p> <p>An update would be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p>An invoice for £155.15 was presented to the meeting to address the previous Secretary's fees, including emails, telephone calls, etc. It was agreed that this be paid.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>No items raised.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Suggestions for Future Speakers</u></p> <p>It was agreed that an invitation be extended to a member of the Shropshire Council Highways executive to attend and update on the issues affecting the highways within the County.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>It was proposed that the next meeting be held on a Monday in April 2020 with date to be confirmed.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.</p>	