

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held in the Mayor's Parlour, College House on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 6.00pm

Present: The Town Mayor, Councillor Ms V Voysey in the Chair, Councillors Mrs C Baines MBE, D Cooper, G Davies, R Gill, Mrs V Gill, J Gittins, A Hinton, E Marshall, G Mountcastle, Mrs J Onions, D Seipel, Mrs C Walden, Mrs C Whittle and R Whittle OBE

In Attendance: Anne Wilson, Town Clerk
Shropshire HR, Alison Lawrence & Julie Perrins
Minute Secretary and transcribed by Julie Perrins

0900/1617 **FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The meeting commenced with a fire safety announcement by the Mayor.

0901/1617 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received prior to the meeting and no public questions were received during the meeting.

0902/1617 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

RESOLVED: to receive the apology as listed below:

Councillor S Barlow (alternative commitment)

0903/1617 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Cllr R Whittle wished to raise a Point of Order.

“Following our previous meeting on the evening 6.2.17 I submitted a letter and motions to the Town Clerk by hand on early afternoon of the 8.2.17. In addition to motions that letter also contained a number of questions and an offer, in view of accusations made against me, to meet with yourself and the Town Clerk.

I was subsequently advised by Town Clerk that she had already received another motion relating to the matters under discussion this evening. This

advice would appear to be supported by the order in which the motions appear on the agenda.

Therefore it follows that Appendix A under Agenda item 8 i) had to be prepared by yourself and Councillor Cooper between late evening on the 6.2.17 and early afternoon on the 8.2.17. Town Clerk has confirmed to me in your presence that she assisted in the preparation of Appendix A.

The questions I raised in my letters were intended to provide information that would support my motions and in fact are mainly answered by the information in Appendix A. However, despite more than one reminder I did not receive answers to my questions until the arrival of the agenda for this meeting at the end of last week – more than a month after being requested.

Not only does this call into question (a point that you can answer Madam Mayor) whether the motions in Appendix A were submitted before mine on the 8.2.17, but in any event clearly demonstrates that Town Clerk has acted in a discriminatory manner as between her dealings with Councillors.

Furthermore despite being accused previously of not working with the Town Clerk, my offer to the Town Clerk to meet with her and yourself made on 8.2.17 was not acted upon until this Monday and even then only after further prompting from me.

In the light of the foregoing Madam Mayor I believe that the Town Clerk should in any event be formally reprimanded for discriminatory actions and, unless you can confirm that Appendix A was submitted before early afternoon on the 8.2.17, further formally reprimanded for misleading a Councillor.”

Cllr Cooper made a point of order that the meeting was in public session.

The Mayor responded that firstly there was no legal reason why items were in any particular order, it was submitted, told verbally and noted down. She advised that the only part that the Town Clerk had been involved with was the figures. She queried if that really mattered as the purpose of the meeting was to make a decision.

Cllr R Whittle was concerned that information had been provided to others, but not to him. He expressed his dissatisfaction.

The Mayor apologised and closed the matter.

0904/1617 **MINUTES**

- i) The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Monday 6th February 2017 were submitted as circulated.

Cllr Gittins proposed acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Gill.

For: Councillors Mrs C Baines MBE, D Cooper, R Gill, Mrs V Gill, J Gittins, G Mountcastle and Ms V Voysey

Against: Councillors G Davies, A Hinton, E Marshall, Mrs J Onions, D Seipel, Mrs C Walden and R Whittle OBE

Abstain: Councillor Mrs C Whittle

Councillor Ms V Voysey, Town Mayor had the casting vote and voted in favour of accepting the confidential minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6th February 2017.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Monday 6th February 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0905/1617 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS 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.

0906/1617 **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

- i) The confidential minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Monday 6th February 2017 were submitted as circulated.

RESOLVED: that the confidential minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bridgnorth Town Council held on Monday 6th February 2017 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0907/1617 **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Members considered the matters raised and agreed the way forward.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm