

BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the CCTV Committee meeting held in the Mayor's Parlour,
College House on Monday 6 March 2017 at 10.00 am**

Present: Councillors Mrs C Walden (in the Chair), D Seipel (Vice
Chairman) and Mrs J Onions

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Mrs A Wilson
Minute Secretary and transcribed by Mrs R Follette
Property & Grounds Manager, Barry Ince
Cllr R Whittle

3 members of the public

0865/1617 **FIRE SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: to receive the apologies as listed below:

Cllr J Gittins	Work commitment
Cllr Mrs C Baines MBE	Unwell
Mrs P Becke MBE	CCTV Co-ordinator (alternative commitment)
Steve Hiron	Technical Services (alternative commitment)
Inspector Rob Thomas	West Mercia Police (alternative commitment)
PC Stuart Lippett	West Mercia Police (alternative commitment)
Sgt J Walshaw	West Mercia Police (alternative commitment)
Tracy Johnson	Community Support Officer, Shropshire Council (alternative commitment)

0866/1617 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted.

0867/1617 **MINUTES**

Members were asked to confirm:

- the minutes of the CCTV Committee meeting held on 9th January 2017

The Chair proposed that the minutes of 9th January 2017 not be accepted. The Town Clerk explained that an amended version of the 9th January 2017 minutes have been produced and e-mailed to the Vice Chairman Cllr Seipel. as he felt that the original set were not a true reflection of the meeting.

Cllr Mrs C Walden stated that she has not viewed this new set of minutes and said she would have expected these to be circulated before the meeting. The Town Clerk pointed out that a person present at that meeting had also looked at the minutes as well as the transcriber and the Town Clerk.

Cllr Seipel was keen to discuss the matter further during the meeting but the Town Clerk thought it inappropriate and felt that they should be discussed at a separate time with the Mayor.

At this point the Town Clerk explained that she would be leaving the room to get her phone in order to record this discussion. During this time Cllr Seipel stated that he had been named as the person accusing the Town Clerk of fraud by e-mail at 11.30pm, which he said was complete fabrication. He states that he has requested a copy of this e-mail on six separate occasions and has not yet been given it.

The Town Clerk re-entered the room and explained that as she had not heard what was said and therefore could not respond. Cllr Seipel made a request for this serious accusation to be included within the January minutes and evidenced by the members of the public present. The Town Clerk explained to those present that the e-mail was received at 11.30 pm on Sunday and that this matter should not be included in the minutes of the 9th January meeting. This had already been pointed out to Cllr. Seipel. Both parties accused each other of bullying and harassment.

The Chair stated that she wants inclusion of this matter in the January minutes and if disagreements continue she will ask the Town Clerk to leave the room.

RECOMMENDED : that the minutes of the CCTV Committee meeting held on 9th January 2017 not be accepted in their present format.

- the minutes of the CCTV Committee meeting held on 6th February 2017

The Chair stated that the minutes of 6th February were also not accurate. The Town Clerk responded by explaining that these have already been accepted at Town Council with this amendment which will be put on the Town Council minutes of the 21st February 2017 as the office were not notified before the Town Council meeting with this amendment.

Cllr Seipel asked for inclusion of the following addition: that no further action be taken such as the ordering of goods until it is known what decision has been made in respect of the grant application. For this reason he asks that the minutes of this meeting not be approved. He also expressed disapproval

of the acceptance of minutes at Town Council before being agreed at CCTV, which he believes is the wrong way around.

In which case the Town Clerk replied that she may need to withdraw the grant application. She went on to explain that Cllr Mrs C Walden had agreed the 6 February minutes by e-mail before the Town Council meeting. Mrs Walden denied this and asked that the Town Clerk sent her a copy of the e mail. The Council had however taken on board the previous amendment comments made by Cllr Seipel.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the CCTV Committee meeting held on 6th February 2017 are accepted with the following caveat: that no steps to procure the goods be taken until news of the grant application is received.

0869/1617 **CCTV COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The CCTV Co-ordinator was not present at the meeting. Mrs Becke's report had been circulated before the meeting as follows:

All cameras working well, we have the occasional malfunction but technical services are at the end of a phone line to deal promptly.

We are having more requests from both residents and police for evidence and requests for DVD and downloading. We find we are using the USB stick more frequently to email images directly to police officers. This obviously is vital to police and saves them valuable working hours.

This month we have been keeping obs for the head master at our local school monitoring pupils on their way home through high town into low town. Our evidence satisfies the head teacher that pupils are behaving appropriately.

We monitor rubbish that is left in bags on our pavements we can say when rubbish is left and also what time and day it is collected. We witness our residents that have falls or other accidents and can instantly inform appropriate emergency services the severity and urgency that will be needed. We monitor our river levels and debris which is already collecting under the low town bridge and report our findings if need be.

There are serious assaults on a Friday/Saturday evening which is on the increase, these are occurring at the moment in low town area. Very good results were available from our cameras which police officers (Shrewsbury CID) are still referring to. We at present are providing evidence for Telford, Shrewsbury and Kidderminster police officers.

The cameras will be invaluable as usual for the Carnival, continental markets, the Walk this year which is being organised by the lions in May 2017. Cameras will record any mishaps and triumphs that could occur. as they will be recording 24hrs and seven days a week

Cllr Seipel stated that he didn't receive a hard copy of this report which was a "to follow" document send out a day later than the agenda. The Town Clerk responded by explaining that everyone had received a copy by e-mail, confirmed by Cllr. Mrs Onions.

RECOMMENDED: that the CCTV coordinator's report be accepted.

0870/1617 **BRIDGNORTH POLICE REPORT**

The Town Clerk read the Police Report to members sent by Sargent Jak Wilshaw as follows:.

As per our conversation, I am unable to attend the CCTV meeting on Monday due to other commitments and PC Lippitt is also unavailable due to his being on leave.

The CCTV has been used quite a bit over the last month, not least of which by our colleagues in Shrewsbury CID following a report of rape in low town. The evidence recovered helped in furthering their enquiries.

I have personally used the system in order to further enquiries into more than one serious allegation made. I have been impressed by the quality and clarity of the footage gathered and also by the quality of the service provided by the volunteers who operate the system.

I am heartened to hear that you have plans to extend the system and to include ANPR, which is a superb tool for dealing with travelling criminality.

0871/1617 **GRANT APPLICATION**

The Town Clerk reported that a local grant application has been submitted and sent to the Safer Communications Manager with sections relevant to Bridgnorth including costings and final details. A copy of this application was circulated to members at the meeting at the request of Cllr Seipel.

Cllr Mrs J Onions asked the Town Clerk if we are able to access any lottery Funding and she replied that she would look into it this.

The Chair asked if there was any further business before closing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.20 a.m.