

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Bridgnorth Town Council Meeting held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.15pm.**

Present: K Sawbridge BEM (Mayor)
R Connolly (Deputy Mayor)
C Aked
S Barlow
A Chetter
D Cooper
N Cooper
R Ireland
E Marshall
L Rochelle
I Wellings

In Attendance: Mrs C Turner, Town Clerk
Miss A Plimmer, Business Administrator

0374/2223 WELCOME

The Mayor issued a welcome to the meeting and read a statement to everyone in attendance at the meeting regarding the Cliff Railway. (Statement available on the Town Council website).

0375/2223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was proposed by Councillor Barlow, seconded by Councillor Wellings
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the Committee accept the apologies and reasons for absence for the following Councillors:

C Baines - Personal Commitment
R Leraistre - Personal Commitment
J Buckley - Personal Commitment
L Neal – Personal Commitment
R Seabright – Work Commitment

0376/2223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

0377/2223 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

0378/2223 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper, seconded by Councillor Barlow
Abstained by Councillor Rochelle who was not present at the meeting

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2023 as a true record of the business transacted.

0379/2223 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no members questions.



0380/2223

SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Members noted a written report and update from Shropshire Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight that included the following;

- Fox corner railings report and waiting date to be repaired
- Flooding update following meeting with residents in Abbots Way
- Tree Works completed by the riverside
- Programmed work includes Bridge Steet
- Streetlighting – report any faults via FIX MY STREET
- Tree planting for Holocaust Memorial Day
- Pulling data together for Safer School Street with Castlefield School
- New throw lines purchased for river safety
- Return of Shropshire Local Mobile to Bridgnorth Library 28th February and 24th March

Copy of the written report available on the Town Councils Website.

0381/2223

FINANCE

1. Accounts Paid – January 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Barlow
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £63,329.95 be retrospectively approved for payment.

2. Members noted receipt of Cashbooks 1, 2 & 3.

3. Members noted the budget Summary report including earmarked reserves.

4. Balance Sheet

Members noted the balance sheet as of the 31st January 2023 (£821,340) comprising:

General Fund:	£440,740
Earmarked Reserves:	£207,967
Useable Capital Receipts:	£172,633

5. Town Bank Reconciliation Statements

Members noted the bank reconciliation statements as of the 31st January 2023.
(Reconciled sum of all bank accounts £138,770.37)

6. Accounts for Payment

Members noted receipt of a list of payments for approval.
It was proposed by Councillor Barlow, seconded by Councillor Sawbridge
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

6.1. **RESOLVED:** that the accounts amounting to £25,612.97 be approved for payment.

It was proposed by Councillor Chetter, seconded by Councillor Sawbridge
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors



6.2. **RESOLVED:** to authorise Councillors Marshall and Sawbridge to sign the cheques on Friday 24th February 2023.

7. Accounting and Audit

Members noted that Councillors D Cooper and E Marshall on Friday 20th January 2023, verified/signed the bank statements for December 2022 and signed those cheques approved by Council at the meeting held on Tuesday 17th January 2023 and authorised payroll for January 2023.

0382/2223 **QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING**

Members noted the quarterly budget monitoring report from the RFO.

0383/2223 **STANDING ORDERS**

Members reviewed a report from the RFO on standing orders. It was proposed by Councillor Marshall, seconded by Councillor N Cooper Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to agree to the following recommendations:

	Original	Recommendation
	Residents	Residents to remain within the document
1 o iv		To remove
1 p		To remain
3 y i, ii , iv		i. To change to current committees ii. To remain .iv. To remain
3 s	moving onto the next item of business on the agenda	the formal voting takes place
4	shall, after it has appointed the members of a standing committee, appoint the Chair of the standing committee	Delete
4 vii	other than a	and
19 b, c & d		b, shall notify the Mayor or Chairman of the Personnel Committee c, Mayor or Deputy Mayor with the Chairman of the Personnel Committee d, Mayor or Deputy Mayor
25 a l	Inspect any land and/or premises	Inspect any tenanted land and/or premises

0384/2223 **MAYORAL ALLOWANCE PROTOCOL**

Members reviewed the information provided regarding the Mayoral Allowance.

Proposed by Councillor N Cooper, Seconded by Councillor Sawbridge Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the item to be deferred to a future meeting for discussion and review.



0385/2223 **HANGING BASKETS**

Members considered a report from the Outdoors & Properties Manager regarding hanging baskets.

It was proposed by Councillor Barlow, seconded by Councillor Chetter
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to agree to the following recommendations;

- That the Town Hall baskets are removed permanently and that an alternative decoration be looked into.
- That the Council consider the permanent removal of the hanging baskets from the library for safety reasons and also removal of the 2 mangers to reduce costs.
- That the Clocktower baskets be permanently removed for safety reasons. But brackets are investigated for future years for this location.
- That we remove the 2 mangers from the wall of the Canteen where they can no longer be seen.
- That we the Outdoor and Properties Manager attempts to negotiate with Littlefords for alternative products where reductions in this year's order are agreed by Council.
- That options are investigated for perennials as a possible invest to save for future years and any recommendation is discussed at a future Town Council meeting.

0386/2223 **RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

Members discussed the recording of the Town Council and Committee meetings, this included investigating the possibility of the following:

- To put on Town Councils website
- Improve sound with microphones
- Livestreaming

The Town Clerk to investigate options and bring to future Town Council meeting.

0387/2223 **CARBON REDUCTION WORKING GROUP**

Members agreed to defer to a future Town Council meeting and to invite Much Wenlock to a future Town Council meeting to update on the work they have completed on this issue.

0388/2223 **LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

Members agreed to defer to a future Town Council meeting following the Green Spaces Working Group meeting to be held on the 17th April 2023.

0389/2223 **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Members discussed the following items for inclusion on the next agenda:

- Community Garden
- CCTV
- Rolling programme of maintenance for buildings and grounds
- High Street and Street Scene information on responsibility
- Dilapidation Report for buildings
- Town Council responsibilities within the parish area
- Local Plan

0390/2223 **PUBLIC BODIES**

Proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, Seconded by Councillor Barlow
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors



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.

0391/2223 **RETAINING WALL AT CASTLE WALK**

Members received a verbal update on the progress of the Retaining Wall at Castle Walk project.

Proposed by Councillor N Cooper, Seconded by Councillor Chetter
Abstained by Councillor Ireland

RESOLVED: that the Council note and agree the recommendation within the confidential report for Retaining Wall at Castle Walk project.

0392/2223 **INFORMATION GOVERNANCE**

Members received a brief from the Town Clerk regarding information governance.

Proposed by Councillor N Cooper, Seconded by Councillor Rochelle
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the Council agree the recommendation from the Town Clerk to use an external expert to assist with any FOI queries or requests.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

