

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the EXTRAORDINARY Bridgnorth Town Council Meeting held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.15pm.**

Present: K Sawbridge BEM (Mayor)
R Connolly (Deputy Mayor)
C Aked
C Baines MBE
S Barlow
R Ireland
E Marshall
I Wellings (Deputy Mayor Elect)

In Attendance: Mrs C Turner, Town Clerk

0456/2223 WELCOME

The Mayor issued a welcome to the meeting.

0457/2223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

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

Buckley – Other commitment
Chetter – Other commitment
D Cooper – Other commitment
N Cooper – Other commitment
R Leraistre - work commitment
L Rochelle - work commitment
R Seabright – work commitment

0458/2223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Connolly informed that she was a Shropshire Councillor and declared an interest due to this and also wanted to inform that she would not be voting on the proposals due to her being a Shropshire Councillor and not wanting to predetermine the outcome of any decision with Shropshire Council.

It was informed that a number of Councillors lived in streets that would be debated as part of this agenda.

The Town Clerk informed that she had previously given a dispensation which had been asked for and subsequently she had sort advice on this matter. The Town Clerk confirmed that those Councillors who lived on the streets being debated and that are part of the Shropshire Council Car Parking Consultation would be able to be part in the debate but would leave the room when the vote was to take place.

The Mayor informed that Bridgnorth Town Council were a consultee in the process and not the decision maker and the views would be debated but welcomed any members of the public and Councillors to put all their personal comments direct to Shropshire Council.



0459/2223

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the Public were asked to provide any comments or views.

A member of the public from St Leonards Close asked what a TRO was? They were informed that this was a Traffic Regulation Order. They informed they have given an individual response. They provided their view as being they didn't see why the change was being made as it was working at the moment and had done for so many years, the new options would be costing more money.

A member of the public from Church Street informed they had submitted their own comments and views directly but did not agree with the change from two permits to one.

A member of the public from Severn Street informed that there was no need to change as the current permit system was working, yes sometimes one was not able to get a space but this was rare but felt this was due to the Air B&B's in the area, the comment was that the member of the public believed that the changes were being made to make money in the budget for Shropshire Council and believed there was an earmarked efficiency in this area within their budget.

A member of the public from St Leonards informed that they did not agree with the two permits reducing to one permit and that one size fits all approach which seems to have been adopted by Shropshire Council does not work in these set of circumstances and made reference to the changes in Ludlow not working, that they could not rely on public transport in the area, they had concern with the extra houses in Tasley and with this brings extra parking requirements and pressure on the Town, where do they park then, it is not acceptable for them not to have parking spaces and why change it if it is not broken.

A member of the public from St Leonards Close informed they did not agree with the change from two to one permits, as they have all been able to park so why change.

A member of the public from St Leonards Close informed they had been living in the area for 42 years and had never had a problem with everyone having two spaces, they confirmed that sometimes they had a problem finding parking late at night due to the night time economy which with the free parking in the High Street was not necessary and suggested that these problems could be resolved with a pay to park as a way to stop people offending.

A member of the public from St Leonards Steps informed they had been living in the area for 19 years and didn't see a reason why they couldn't keep two permits and pay, to afford to live in Bridgnorth you had to have two salaries, which in turn is two cars as public transport is so terrible so not an option to use, house prices will go down and that is unfair, five bedroom homes have at least two cars as they are family homes and the late night parkers were not residents blocking the streets but people using the night time economy.

It was informed that nobody had a legal right to park on the streets.

0460/2223

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

There were no members questions.

0461/2223

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL CAR PARKING CONSULTATION

Members were informed that an invitation had been provided to Officers at Shropshire Council to attend the meeting but there was no one in attendance.



Members are asked to debate the Shropshire Council parking consultation within the Bridgnorth area and agree on the Town Councils response for the individual streets included in the consultation.

Members were asked to debate the proposal put forward to include a standard response in each of the responses made to Shropshire Council as well as the resolution voted on. Members were provided with a copy of the standard response information and also the spreadsheet providing information for each individual road including the consultation information for each road.

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

RESOLVED: that the Council agree for a blanket response to be included in each individual response sent back to Shropshire Council with the confirmation of the voting of against or support for each individual road as part of the consultation.
This standard response to be as detailed below:

1. Eligible Residents to only be allowed 1 & not 2 parking permits.
Unreasonable where a property, wherever it is located, has no drive and no garage. If a property has a drive or a garage, it is reasonable to allow just one permit.
+Location: East Castle Street, West Castle Street, Cartway, Friars Street, Waterloo Terrace, Castle Terrace, St Mary's Street, Listley St
2. Eligible Residents will receive 200 hours of visitor permits per year.
This seems to be unreasonable.
200 hours p.a. is totally unreasonable and impractical eg visitors staying Friday through to late Monday could use 96 hrs. 200 hrs equates to 8 days p.a. or 4 weekends Sat through Sunday p.a..
Location: Everywhere
3. That any proprietors of holiday let properties may purchase a parking permit for use by their customers during the rental of the holiday let property.
This seems inequitable to the residents (the proposal effectively prioritises the needs of visitors over the needs of residents).

Who has lobbied for and managed to achieve this ridiculous permit for Holiday lets? Totally disagree and requires striking from the scheme. People have stayed in Hotels, B&Bs and Holiday Cottages with no 'on-site parking' provision or 'free permits' for street parking. You have to pay to park at the nearest Public Car Park. Why should Bridgnorth continue with this theme that the Tourist is KING! The AirB&B's multiplying at a rate all over Town do not contribute to Council Tax or Business rates.
Location: Everywhere
4. That owners of businesses will no longer be eligible to purchase parking permits.
This seems inequitable to the business operators eg B&Bs can no longer issue permits to their overnight guests, but holiday lets can?
This is unfair on the business community who certainly pay into the coffers of Shropshire Council via Business rates. It may be aimed at Commercial vehicles being left in residential areas, particularly overnight, instead of their drivers' business premises. This is a problem as the size of the vehicles means they don't fit in a parking bay and allow other vehicles to use bays either side. Again, due to their size, to allow access in narrow streets and roads, pavement parking is the norm with all the dangers that introduces. This is the issue.
Location: Everywhere



THE SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL
(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND PARKING
PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2009
(BRIDGNORTH) (AMENDMENT) ORDER

Bridgnorth Town Council is concerned that and requires confirmation in writing that the correct Legal procedures (as set out in the Gunning Principles) have been followed when the Consultation Documents for the Proposed revised Parking Arrangements were issued to the Residents of Bridgnorth.

In the case of TRO consultations, there are procedural rules made by statutory instrument which require that proposals are open for comments for at least 21 days, and that a "statement of reasons" must be given.

We are not convinced Shropshire Council have provided sufficient information to give "intelligent consideration" to the proposals or that they can demonstrate having given "conscientious consideration" to what residents said in the engagement exercises held last December.

It is for the above reasons Bridgnorth Town Council cannot support these proposals at this time.

We would advise that Bridgnorth Town Councillors effected by these proposals will respond directly to Shropshire Council but as private individuals.

0462/2223 **St Leonards Close**

Proposed by Councillor Barlow, Seconded by Councillor Wellings
Abstained by Councillor Connolly and Aked

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0463/2223 **Severn Street**

Proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, Seconded by Councillor Ireland
Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0464/2223 **Wardle Close**

Proposed by Councillor Barlow, Seconded by Councillor Aked
Abstained by Councillor Connolly and Marshall

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0465/2223 **Cartway & Friars Street**

Proposed by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Aked
Abstained by Councillor Connolly, Wellings and Sawbridge



RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0466/2223 **Pool Drive**

Proposed by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Aked

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to support changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0467/2223 **Railway Street**

Proposed by Councillor Marshall, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, Wellings

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0468/2223 **Cliff Road**

Proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0469/2223 **Riverside**

Councillor Wellings left the meeting after the debate for the voting to take place

Proposed by Councillor Baines, Seconded by Councillor Aked

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, and Wellings

Objected by Councillor Marshall

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

Councillor Welling returned to the meeting.

0470/2223 **Southwell Riverside**

Councillor Wellings left the meeting after the debate for the voting to take place.

Proposed by Councillor Marshall, Seconded by Councillor Baines

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, and Wellings

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

Councillor Welling returned to the meeting.

**0471/2223 East Castle Street**

Councillor Ireland left the meeting after the debate for the voting to take place.

Proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, Seconded by Councillor Baines

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

Councillor Ireland returned to the meeting.

0472/2223 Listley Street

Proposed by Councillor Barlow, Seconded by Councillor Wellings

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to support the changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0473/2223 Kings Loade

Proposed by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Barlow

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote to support the changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0474/2223 King Charles Way

Proposed by Councillor Wellings, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, and Marshall

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote to support the changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0475/2223 St Marys Street

Proposed by Councillor Barlow, Seconded by Councillor Ireland

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0476/2223 Pale Meadow Road

Proposed by Councillor Baines, Seconded by Councillor Wellings

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, and Marshall

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote to support the changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

Councillor Barlow left the meeting.

0477/2223 West Castle Street

Proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, Seconded by Councillor Ireland



Abstained by Councillor Connolly

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0478/2223 **Underhill Steet**

Proposed by Councillor Baines, Seconded by Councillor Aled

Abstained by Councillor Connolly, Sawbridge, and Ireland

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote against the changes and want it recorded that the parking restrictions are to remain as current / status quo in keeping things the way they presently are and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

0479/2223 **Listley Steet and Riverside West Car Park**

Proposed by Councillor Ireland, Seconded by Councillor Sawbridge

Abstained by Councillor Connolly

Against by Councillor Marshall

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to vote to support the changes and provide further comments as agreed in 0461/2223 of these minutes.

The Mayor thanked everyone for the time and patience during this meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

