

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Bridgnorth Town Council Meeting held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday
18th July 2023 at 6.45pm.**

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Turner, Town Clerk
Mrs R Williams, RFO

0071/2324 WELCOME

The Mayor issued a welcome to the meeting.

0072/2324 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Mayor read out an email from Councillor D Cooper regarding previous minutes having accepted the apologies and reason for absence, informing Councillors of the Local Government Action 1972 s85(1) detailing the period of six months absence and provided information relating to an issue with a member in 2013.

Members discussed the proposal to vote to receive the apologies at meetings.

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor L Neal
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to receive the apologies for absence at future meetings and receive the apologies and reasons for absence for the following Councillors:

C Baines	- Covid
J Buckley	- Family Commitment
L Neal	- Personal Commitment
L Rochelle	- Other Commitment
R Seabright	- Work Commitment

0073/2324 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E Marshall declared an interest (other) for the Northgate Swimming Club agenda item number 16 – Grant Application.

0074/2324 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public raised the following questions:

- How much has the Castle Hill retaining wall project cost so far for the Town Council?
- Have these costs depleted the Town Councils reserves?



- How much monies have been allocated from the towns regeneration scheme from Shropshire Council to the retaining wall project?

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for their questions and informed that these would receive a response in writing.

0075/2324

FUTURE BRIDGNORTH

It was proposed by Councillor R Connolly, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders to proceed with a presentation from Officers from Shropshire Council and WSP regarding the Future Bridgnorth project.

The Mayor welcomed Ffion Horton from Shropshire Council and Andrew Watkin from WSP.

Members were provided with an update and were given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the background on the scheme, specific elements included in the project, timelines and funding.

The Mayor thanked both Ffion Horton and Andrew Watkin for their time and for attending the Town Council meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor R Ireland, seconded by Councillor I Wellings
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to reinstate Standing Orders following the presentation from Officers from Shropshire Council and WSP regarding the Future Bridgnorth project.

0076/2324

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor C Aled, seconded by Councillor I Wellings
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th June 2023 as a true record of the business transacted and to include the following amendments:

- Page 1 - 0047/2324 – **RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on the 16th May 2023 as a true record of the business transacted.
- Page 6 - 0055/2324 - **RESOLVED:** to approve for the Town Council to hold a Future Planning Event in September 2023 to discuss and identify initiatives that could be achieved for residents over the next two to three years, this event to include identified values for the Town Council and to hold a further event in January 2024.
- Page 7 - 0063/2324 – Members received a verbal update from Councillor N Cooper regarding the details within the confidential report for the costs to the retaining wall.
- Page 7 - 0063/2324 – **RESOLVED:** to agree to suspend standing orders to allow the remaining items on the agenda to be transacted.

The Mayor read out an email received from Councillor D Cooper with regard to his comments regarding the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on the 4th July 2023 to include background and reason for the objection to agree the recommendation within the report provided to object the LGBCE's proposals and include information on why the LGBCE's proposals were agreed at the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor R Connolly, seconded by Councillor S Barlow
Abstained by Councillor D Cooper, N Cooper and R Ireland who were not in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED: for the minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on the 4th July 2023 to be brought back to a future Town Council meeting to include background and



reason for the objection to agree the recommendation within the report provided to object the LGBCE's proposals and include information on why the LGBCE's proposals were agreed at the meeting.

0077/2324 **MAYOR'S DIARY**

Members noted the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Diary for June 2023.

0078/2324 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no members questions.

0079/2324 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

Members were informed that Councillor K Hurst-Knight had sent her apologies for the meeting but had provided a written update prior to the meeting.

Members noted the written update provided from Shropshire Councillor K Hurst-Knight.

0080/2324 **FINANCE**

1. Accounts Paid – June 2023

It was proposed by Councillor R Barlow, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the accounts amounting to £93,940.47 be retrospectively approved for payment and transfer of £100,479.45.

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

3. Members noted the Budget Summary Report including earmarked reserves and noted the Finance Committee would be reviewing the 1st Quarter in detail at the next Finance Committee meeting.

4. Balance Sheet

Members noted the balance sheet as of the 31st June 2023 (£1,120,945) comprising:

General Fund:	£712,371
Earmarked Reserves:	£2235,942
Useable Capital Receipts:	£172,633

5. Town Bank Reconciliation Statements

Members noted the bank reconciliation statements as of the 30th June 2023.
(Reconciled sum of all bank accounts (£64,945.16))

6. Accounts for Payment

Members noted receipt of a list of payments for approval.
It was proposed by Councillor A Chetter, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

6.1. **RESOLVED:** that the accounts amounting to £54,853.50 be approved for payment.



- 6.2. **RESOLVED:** to authorise Councillors R Connolly and K Sawbridge to authorise the electronic payments on Thursday 20th July 2023.

A question was raised regarding how the approval for the month of August with summer recess, for payroll and payments in August 2023 how would these be agreed due to there not being a Town Council meeting in August.

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor S Barlow
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk / RFO / Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee would approve the electronic payments for August 2023 and these would also be retrospectively approved in the September 2023 Full Council meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor S Barlow, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that Councillor D Cooper and K Sawbridge would authorise the electronic payments for August 2023 on either the 24th or 25th August 2023.

7. Accounting and Audit

Members noted that Councillors N Cooper and R Connolly, on Thursday 22nd June 2023, verified/signed the bank statements for June 2023 and authorised the bank payments approved by Council at the meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 and authorised payroll for June 2023.

0081/2324 **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Members were asked to note the public notice detailing the casual vacancy following the resignation of Councillor Rollon Leraistre for Morfe Ward.

Councillor Marshall said that the notice was not legal due to the wording Morfe Ward not being included in the main body of the public notice. Councillor Marshall informed that he had contacted the Elections team at Shropshire Council regarding this issue and they had informed that the notice was not illegal.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had been in discussion with the Elections Team at Shropshire Council regarding the public notice and had used their template, which had been checked by them after being produced and before it being displayed.

The Town Clerk was asked to double check with the Election Team and Legal Services at Shropshire Council that the public notice query which had been raised at the Town Council meeting and confirm the advice and guidance to members of the Council.

0082/2324 **UPDATE FROM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Members noted the update provided following the visit to Schrobenhausen.

0083/2324 **BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Members noted the letter of support from Bridgnorth Town Council for Good4Good to support a funding bid for possible funding via the UKSPF Funding that includes Bridgnorth.



Members noted the letter of support from Bridgnorth Town Council for Shropshire Council to support a funding bid for possible funding via the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans (LIDP) competition – Bridgnorth.

The Town Clerk was asked to provide a further update at a future Town Council meeting if these bids were successful and ask the organisations to consult and work with Bridgnorth Town Council on the delivery of the grants.

0084/2324 **SECURITY BOLLARDS AT BRIDGNORTH TOWN HALL**

Members were asked to receive a report and agree the recommendation from the Grounds & Services Officer regarding the replacement and costs for the security bollards at Bridgnorth Town Hall.

Members debated the report and recommendations at length as well as additional options for the replacement bollards and costs.

Proposed by Councillor A Chetter, seconded by Councillor R Connolly
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: that the recommendations are to be reviewed and further information to be supplied to include the following:

- Discussion with the stall holders on what they would like to see as replacement and why
- What savings could be made with moving away from a like for like replacement and having fixed bollards
- To bring an update to a future Town Council meeting including recommendations

0085/2324 **MAINTENANCE AREA**

Members received and debated at length the report provided by the Town Clerk and were given an opportunity to ask the Town Clerk questions.

Proposed by Councillor D Cooper, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Abstained by Councillor E Marshall

RESOLVED: to agree for the maintenance work area to move from 1 High Street to behind the DLF canteen in the cemetery for the spend of up to £5,000.00 to provide a new maintenance work area.

0086/2324 **GRANT APPLICATION**

Councillor E Marshall left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor S Barlow, seconded by Councillor R Connolly
Abstained by Councillor A Chetter

RESOLVED: to agree for Northgate Swimming Club to be awarded a grant of £1,000.00 for the purchase of smaller sized fins, hand paddles, kick boards and pull buoys.

Councillor E Marshall returned to the meeting.

Councillor K Sawbridge left the meeting.

Councillor D Cooper provide a verbal update on the request from the Energy Reduction Steering Group and the purpose of the group within the community.

The Town Clerk was asked to provide more information regarding the grant application.

Councillor K Sawbridge returned to the meeting.

**0087/2324 UPDATE – BRIDGNORTH LOCAL PLAN**

Members received a verbal update from Councillor D Cooper on the document provided previously.

Councillor R Ireland left the meeting.

Councillor D Cooper wanted to make members aware that they might be asked to comment on the plan or at a potential future hearing on the soundness of the plan. It was informed that there was no need to respond to the plan as this formed part of the terms of reference for the Planning Committee.

Councillor R Ireland returned to the meeting.

0088/2324 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

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

- Update of Place Plan
- Engagement with Chamber of Commerce
- Community Governance Review
- CCTV

0089/2223 PUBLIC BODIES

Proposed by Councillor S Barlow, Seconded by Councillor C Aked

Abstained by Councillor E Marshall and N Cooper

RECOMMENDED: 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, RECOMMENDED: that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded.

0090/2223 RETAINING WALL PROJECT

Members are asked to receive and note the verbal update from the Town Clerk on the ongoing repairs to the retaining wall.

Members were given the opportunity ask the Town Clerk and Project Group members questions. Members noted the verbal update provided.

Members were asked to receive and note an update following a meeting with the Town Clerk with the Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place from Shropshire Council.

Members were given the opportunity ask the Town Clerk questions. Members noted the verbal update provided.

Meeting Closed at 9.50pm.