

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Bridgnorth Town Council Meeting held in the Annexe, College House on Tuesday  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6.45pm.****Present:**

R Connolly (Mayor)  
I Wellings (Deputy Mayor)  
C Aked  
C Baines MBE  
S Barlow  
J Buckley  
A Chetter  
D Cooper  
N Cooper  
T Green  
R Ireland  
E Marshall  
L Rochelle  
K Sawbridge BEM

**In Attendance:** Mrs R Williams, Deputy Town Clerk  
6 Members of the public

**Absent:** Councillor L Neal

**0128/2324 WELCOME**

The Mayor issued a welcome to the meeting and congratulated Councillor T Green on becoming a Member of the Council. Councillor Green stated that he was delighted to be a Member.

**0129/2324 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**RESOLVED:** to receive the apologies and reasons for absence for the following Councillors:

R Seabright – Work Commitment

**0130/2324 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**0131/2324 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public raised the following questions:

- 1) Having repeatedly assured the public that the Arts Trail statues placed on sewer pipes were temporary and would be removed after five years, does the Council not feel honour bound now to remove them?

The member of the public was informed that all but 3 of the statues were to be removed.

The member of the public stated that it was understood that all the statues were going to be removed.



The meeting was told that a decision had been made by the Council to keep 3 that were on Town Council land and that they would be 'given back' to the original sponsors of the trains.

The member of the public stated that they could now, not believe what they were being told by the Town Council.

The Mayor thanked the member of the public for their question and informed that a written response would be sent.

Councillors J Buckley and E Marshall arrived at this point in the meeting

- 2) Members were given an update on the situation with regards to the crowd funding that had been applied for, for the installation of a Covid Memorial tree. The member of the public stated that formal agreement was needed from the Town Council as the tree is to be sited on Town Council land.
- 3) Members were asked if they would agree to the Pride flag being flown on Northgate in June each year.

The member of the public was informed by the Mayor that the formal agreement would be progressed at the November 2023 Town Council meeting as no decision could be made at this meeting. They were also informed that Council would fly the flag each year.

0132/2324

#### **BRIDGNORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY (JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT)**

It was proposed by Councillor Aked, seconded by Councillor Wellings

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

**RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders

A presentation was given to Members by Penny Bason, of Shropshire Council and the NHS, on the Place Based Community Health and Wellbeing Bridgnorth Needs Assessment, which forms part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment with Public Health.

A member of the public joined the meeting at this point

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

It was agreed that the survey would begin in January 2024 and that in the meantime the Town Clerk would be contacted with regards to setting up a potential session with Councillors to discuss ways in which the Town Council could be of assistance with the survey and promoting the survey to local people within the place plan area.

It was proposed by Councillor Connolly, seconded by Councillor Barlow

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

**RESOLVED:** to re-instate Standing Orders

Penny Bason left the meeting at this point

0133/2324

#### **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Wellings, seconded by Councillor Ireland

Abstained by Councillor Barlow



**RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, to include the following amendments:

0102/2324 3.2 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

0111/2324 2024

0115/2324 second paragraph to read as below

Members were informed by fellow Councillors K Sawbridge and R Ireland that bins were still overflowing in the area and pulled over in the middle of the night. Two businesses, Efes and High Town Grill, had contacted a Councillor and offered to put out additional bins. The Town Clerk was asked to email the Shropshire Council team and makes enquiries on their behalf.

Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

Members noted the minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

#### 0134/2324 **MAYOR'S AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S DIARY – SEPTEMBER 2023**

Members noted the Mayor's Diary for September 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> September - Summer Reading Challenge Presentation Bridgnorth Library

9<sup>th</sup> September - Opened Bridgnorth Green Festival

9<sup>th</sup> September - Attended Bridgnorth Fire Station Open Day

10<sup>th</sup> September - Attended Italian Auto Festival

12<sup>th</sup> September - BID meeting at Castle Hall

17<sup>th</sup> September - Arts Trail Goodbye Bridgnorth Library

23<sup>rd</sup> September - Shirefolk Music Event Violet's Tea Room

24<sup>th</sup> September - Much Wenlock Civic Service

26<sup>th</sup> September - Attended Funeral for Mrs Margaret Veal, Vice President of League of Friends

29<sup>th</sup> - Attended BBC Radio Shropshire Make a Difference Awards Anstice Hall, Madeley.

Members noted the Deputy Mayor's Diary for September 2023

4<sup>th</sup> September - B&SSC meeting Bridgnorth Library

10<sup>th</sup> September - Italian Car Show Bridgnorth High St

17<sup>th</sup> September - Art Trail Statues Finale at the Library

#### 0135/2324 **MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no members questions raised.

#### 0136/2324 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

Shropshire Councillor R Connolly provided a verbal update on the following:

- Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Survey 2023 – Feedback can be given until 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- The launch of the SEN and Disability School Transport Assistance Consultation is awaited and as many responses as possible for asked for.
- There is no change planned to the polling stations in Bridgnorth at present.



- A public consultation meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Oldbury Wells School regarding the proposed closure of the sixth form.
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Shropshire Final Recommendations. Any recommendations that are approved by Parliament will apply to local elections from May 2025. Bridgnorth will have 4 divisions instead of 2 with 1 Councillor for each division.
- A meeting of the Bridgnorth Forward Group is due to take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Innage Lane Youth Centre between 2 – 4pm. Representatives from Bridgnorth Town Council, Tasley Parish Council and Astley Abbots Parish Council have been invited, with 1 representative from each, to this and future meetings.

0137/2324

**FINANCE**

## 1. Accounting and Audit

Members noted that Councillors A Chetter and R Connolly, on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, authorised those bank payments approved by Council at the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, verified the bank statements for August 2023 and authorised payroll for September 2023.

## 2. Payment Schedules

2.1 It was proposed by Councillor Sawbridge, seconded by Councillor Barlow  
Abstained by Councillor Marshall

**RESOLVED:** that the accounts amounting to £106,254.69 be approved for payment.

2.2 It was proposed by Councillor Connolly, Seconded by Councillor Aked  
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

**RESOLVED:** that Councillors Sawbridge and N Cooper will be authorising bank payments, verifying bank statements/reconciliations and authorising payroll on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

## 3. Town Bank Reconciliation Statements

Members noted the bank reconciliation statements as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.  
(Reconciled sum of all bank accounts (£96,100.39).

Members were informed by the RFO that copies of both the budget report and the balance sheet had been uploaded to the website.

0138/2324

**BANK MANDATES**

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

**RESOLVED:** to give approval for the RFO to update all bank mandates held by the Town Council to include the removal of Rollon Leraistre and the addition of Councillor Tony Green.

0139/2324

**SYA REPORT**

Members noted an update report from Shropshire Youth Association with regards to Innage Lane Youth Club.



0140/2324

**UPDATE ON THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2023 BY COUNCILLOR DAVID COOPER**

Members received the following verbal update from Councillor David Cooper – Chair of the Planning Committee.

‘Advertising - many forms of advertising (for example, signs on buildings) are given “deemed consent” under government regulations and planning permission is only needed in limited circumstances (such as where signs are proposed to be larger or more numerous than is given deemed consent under the regulations, or where they are proposed to be illuminated within a conservation area. Generally it is not possible for consent to be refused on the basis of the colour or content of the advertisements, the main considerations are any effect on public safety or local amenity.

Telecommunications - the installation of poles or cabinets to provide broadband connections are often permitted development (subject to following a national Code of Practice) and generally would not require a planning application. Residents can, however, lodge an objection with the provider if they are aggrieved by a proposal. Openreach are planning to begin installing fibre broadband in the area covered by the Bridgnorth telephone exchange within the next 12 months so we may see a lot of cabling activity around the town.

Notable planning application - we’ve recently been notified that an appeal has been lodged against Shropshire Council’s refusal to permit an access road to be cut into a roughly 8 metre high cliff face on Friars Street. The application will now be decided by the Secretary of State following the consideration of written representations by a Planning Inspector.’

0141/2324

**UPDATE ON THE EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 BY COUNCILLOR IAN WELLINGS**

Members received a verbal update from Councillor Ian Wellings – Chair of the Events Committee.

Councillor Wellings informed the meeting that the Events Committee had been active over the past months planning events and promoting the availability of the Town Council venues. They have compiled a High Street promoters check list which has been very well received in meetings that have been held with organisers. It is designed to make the organisers aware of their responsibilities with regards to the Town Councils required standards for public liability insurance, health & safety and temporary signage etc.

Successful events have been the Teddy Bears picnic, the Senior Citizens tea party, the Italian Auto Moto Festival and various charitable events in both Castle Grounds and Crown Meadow.

Forthcoming events include Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November and the Christmas Lights switch on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. Councillor Wellings wished for special thanks to be given to a member of staff, Emily Overton, for the incredible job that she has done with the organisation and planning of both the Remembrance Sunday and Christmas lights event.

The Town Council has been asked to consider our participation in the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This will be discussed at the Events Committee with details being brought before the Council in due course.



0142/2324

**UPDATE BRIDGNORTH ART TRAIL WORKING GROUP BY COUNCILLOR JULIA BUCKLEY**

Members received a copy of the minutes from the Bridgnorth Art Trail Working Group and a verbal update from Councillor Julia Buckley.

Councillor Buckley informed the meeting that a closing ceremony had been held for all involved. An information article had been written for the press and a people's choice competition was held. The winning statue and artist was the Bridgnorth Freeman's statue in Castle Grounds and Amy Higgins. Amy was presented with a certificate and £100.

Councillor Buckley further informed the meeting that all statues were to be removed with the exception of the following 3; Castle Grounds sponsored by Bridgnorth Freeman, Quayside sponsored by Perry & Phillips and Hazeldine Foundry sponsored by Bridgnorth Civic Society. The responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of these statues will now fall to the relevant sponsor.

0143/2324

**SPEAKER FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2024**

Members discussed potential speakers for the Annual Town Meeting 2024.

Members are to email their suggestions to the Town Clerk for inclusion in a future agenda.

0144/2324

**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Members discussed engagement with the Chamber of Commerce.

It was acknowledged that whilst the BID survey was being conducted and as the outcome was unknown, it would be beneficial to defer this item to a future meeting.

0145/2324

**UPDATE FROM BOUNDARY REVIEW AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE**

1. Members noted the LGBCE's proposals for revised ward arrangements for Bridgnorth Town Council.
2. Members were asked to confirm that Bridgnorth Town Council will not object to Shropshire Council's current proposals for polling districts and polling places within the town.

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

**RESOLVED:** to confirm that Bridgnorth Town Council will not object to Shropshire Council's current proposals for polling districts and polling places within the town.

0146/2324

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Members had been provided with a current list of items on the Forward Plan and were asked to discuss items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Members discussed the following items for inclusion on November's agenda:

- Bridgnorth Community Hall – To approve the Terms of Reference
- Extending the boundary of the town

Members discussed the following items for inclusion on future agendas:





- Maintenance of the bridge
- A volunteer scheme/ Volunteer Fayre
- Bus stops – Ownership and maintenance

The meeting closed at 9.13pm.

DRAFT