

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL****Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Bridgnorth Town Council Meeting held in the Annexe, College House
on
Thursday 8 February 2024 at 6.45pm.**

Present: R Connolly (Mayor)
Ian Wellings (Deputy Mayor)
C Aked
S Barlow
A Chetter
D Cooper
N Cooper
T Green
L Rochelle
K Sawbridge BEM

In Attendance: Mrs C Turner, Town Clerk

0220/2324 WELCOME

The Mayor issued a welcome to the meeting.

0221/2324 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was proposed by Councillor D Cooper. seconded by Councillor I Wellings
Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

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

C Baines	-	Unwell
J Buckley	-	Work commitments
R Ireland	-	Unwell
E Marshall	-	Personal reasons
R Seabright	-	Family Commitment

0223/2324 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared.

0224/2324 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

0225/2324 MINUTES

It was noted that the minutes were report number TC/14/2324.

It was proposed by Councillor A Chetter, seconded by Councillor N Cooper
Abstained by Councillor L Rochelle - who was not in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 January 2024 as a true record of the business transacted, with the following amendments:

0206/2324	-	Approval of Town Council fees – spelling mistake.
0218/2324	-	Members noted the verbal update from the Town Clerk on the retaining wall project. - change wording to update from updated.

**0226/2324 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

There were no members questions received prior to the meeting.

Councillor T Green raised the following questions at the meeting:

The Asset Working Group, had any Councillors put themselves forward to be part of the working group?

- The Town Clerk confirmed that none had put themselves forward.

Had any work been completed on the proposal to hold an event in the Castle Hall for volunteers?

- The Town Clerk confirmed this would be included as an agenda item for the next Events Committee.

0228/2324 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Members discussed the following items for inclusion on a future agenda:

- SALC and the difficult decisions being made by Shropshire Council regarding services and potential discussions with Town & Parish Councils on the discontinued services.
- Shropshire Council Budget Consultation and the 16 things to be ranked in order of preference as services.

The Town Clerk was asked to circulate the current running list of items for a future agenda and to consider adding the list on the agenda for future Town Council meetings.

0229/2324 PRECEPT AND BUDGET SETTING FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

Members debated the draft budget approved at the meeting held on the 16th January 2024.

Councillor S Barlow entered the meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the borrowing application had been sent to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. There had been some additional questions raised following the submission and the Town Clerk confirmed these had been answered, still pending a decision from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Members debated the risk of approving the precept without the final decision from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for borrowing.

It was proposed by Councillor N Cooper, seconded by Councillor A Chetter

Unanimously agreed by all Councillors

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendations for the setting of the precept for financial year 2024/2025 as follows:

- To agree the summary budget (Appendix A) for financial year 2024/2025.
(Precept of £798,161 and Band D equivalent of £171.26, percentage increase of 9.98%.)
- To approve the issuing of the precept, requiring Shropshire Council to pay Bridgnorth Town Council £798,161 (seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand, one hundred and sixty-one pounds) to meet its expenditure for the financial year 2024/2025.
- For the precept paperwork to be prepared and signed by the Town Clerk and Mayor, and sent to Shropshire Council.

The Mayor and the Town Clerk signed the precept paperwork.

Meeting closed at 7.07pm