

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation & Leisure Committee Held in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Wednesday 5 February 2020

PRESENT

Councillors K Pardy (Chair), N Green, Mrs K Halliday, I Jones, Ms J Mackenzie, K Roberts.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Stuart Farmer (Projects Manager), Mike Cox (Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager), Carol Pullen (Acting Committee Clerk) & 1 member of public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs G Burgess

66/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor N Green	Declared a personal interest in all matters relating to the Market as his father currently operates within the wider Market Hall.

67/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 4 December 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 4 December 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

68/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

69/19 2019 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

(i) **Update on 2019/20 Capital Programme**

The Town Clerk gave an update of ongoing projects within the 2019/20 Capital Programme:

BMX – Work at Shorncliffe was now complete and the upgraded facility had been really well received by the youngsters. Greenfields and Springfield due to be top dressed and this would be done in-house. Work on Little Harlescott Lane was due to commence on 16 Feb. Mary Webb date to be confirmed.

Street Lights – Due for completion by end of Feb. There had only been 4 complaints, all due to brightness and the need for shields to counter light nuisance into properties.

Toilets – The Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk were due to attend a meeting with Shropshire Council Quarry Steering Group later in the week to further discuss toilet provision within the Quarry.

Footpaths/Cycleways – Live tender with a deadline of 13 March.

Countryside Sites – Awaiting printing of interpretation boards.

Springfield Recreation Ground – This forms part of the footpath tender. Deadline 13 March.

Monkmoor River Banks – Successful ERDF funding. Awaiting plan for mobilisation of funds from Shropshire Wildlife Trust (lead organisation). Potential delivery by Summer 2020.

Monkmoor Community Woods – Live tender, to be awarded by Recreation & Leisure Committee on 1 April.

County Ground – The Town Clerk had met with Beacon Cricket Club & ECB and were awaiting details of ECB funding streams scheduled for end of February. In the meantime working on a draft Lease and preparing plans to be contract ready.

Castlewalk Recreation Ground – In discussion with Shropshire Council regarding licence to deposit soil and now awaiting climatic conditions.

Quarry Solar Lights – Tender awarded, 12 week lead time for build.

Castlefields Community Centre Kitchen – Awaiting plans and costings from Castlefields Community Centre Management Committee.

Meet Place – Ringfenced £20k, awaiting action from Housing Plus/MECA.

Dana Footpath – Cllrs Mosley & Green met with Officers to discuss alternative route subject to SHS approval.

Abbey Gardens – The Operations Manager and Ward Member, Cllr Mrs Fraser had met on site to agree a plan of works and were now working on a questionnaire to establish the views of local residents.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

(ii) Evolving Capital Programme for 2020/21

The Town Clerk presented a tabled report on the evolving capital programme for 2020/21, together with costs. Councillors had been e-mailed asking them to identify issues within their wards and the Group Leaders had subsequently met to consider an outline plan

Sums had been set aside for a number of cross-town projects which included:

Bus Shelters - a programme of refurbishment of existing bus shelters and a review of the cleaning programme.

Vehicle Activated Signs - a review of community road safety schemes, investigating new locations for Vehicle Activated signs and determining locations for static/moving signs.

Solar Lighting - exploring options for solar lighting in other areas.

Ash Die Back Disease - risk assessing the tree provision and developing an action plan for the removal and restoration

Climate Emergency Fund - developing an action plan

A number of Ward Projects had been included in the plan and members then discussed this in more detail and agreed several changes/additions to the Capital Programme.

Sums had been set aside for across town projects

RECOMMENDED:

That the report be noted and further discussed by the Finance & General Purpose Committee on 10 February.

(iii) Maintenance of new infrastructure on the Capital Programme

The Operations Manager presented a report on the need to develop maintenance plans for new infrastructure. This included plans to maintain open space grounds & sports facilities in-house rather than commissioning external work. This would require the purchase of a Sand Bander and Aerator. Whilst expensive (around £50k for the two machines), the need for aeration & sand banding of grounds was such that the equipment purchased would pay for itself in the first year. Equipment purchase could be funded through the existing plant/machinery reserve.

RECOMMENDED:

That approval be given to the purchase of a Sand Bander and Aerator.

70/19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

(i) Progress on the Action Plan

The Town Clerk reported that a number of staff had been taken part in the first of 5 Webinars on Climate Emergency run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The Webinars would be taking place between now and early May and included:

Declaring an Emergency & Action Plan
Reducing Energy Use in Buildings
Community Based Energy Projects
Zero Carbon Neighbourhood Planning
Community Engagement and Social Media

There were a number of key messages that were coming across and areas that needed reconsideration.

The Action Plan should show

- Commitment around addressing the council's operations
- Commitment to help combat the wider town issues
- The Plan should look to addressing not just Mitigation but Adaptation – the IPC Report was looking to get the planet on the least damaging warming path – ie 1.5degree Celsius increase
- The Plan needs to have local relevance
- Don't get hung up about accounting for carbon emissions (i.e. the Scope 1/2/3 scenarios) – the view is "Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts"

Members expressed interest in understanding more about climate change and saw the worth in going through the content of the 5 webinars with opportunity for discussion. The Town Clerk would arrange for five separate meetings to present details to members.

(ii) Climate Emergency Workshop

The Town Clerk reported that a Climate Emergency Workshop had been organised and would take place on 6 February between 4-6pm at the Guildhall. This would be attended by interested parties, some of whom had a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of climate change and members were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That future presentations be arranged for Members to assist in progressing the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.**

- (ii) That the details of the Climate Emergency Workshop be noted.**

71/19 QUARRY

- (i) Events List for 2020**

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager circulated a list of events due to take place in the Quarry and other locations during 2020. He confirmed that no additional events had been added although he was still working on the Summer Bands programme as some bands were not able to perform on the dates offered. This programme should be finalised shortly. He reported that the Classic Car Rally at Church Road was on 6 June, not 7 June as listed.

- (ii) Large Events**

The Town Clerk reported on discussions with UK Live who wished to stage the successful Lets Rock Shrewsbury Concert in the Quarry. They were looking to extend capacity from 10,000 to 12,000 and hoped to agree a 3 year contract with the Council as Shrewsbury has always proved to be a successful venue which UK Live have enjoyed returning to over the years. So much so that they were keen to explore creating a community fund to put something back into the local community. Details of this had not yet been finalised but supporting youth services with a music project was being considered.

Members were asked to consider the request for a 3 year contract with UK Live.

- (iii) Geo Sensing**

The Projects Manager reported a footfall of 100,000 through the Quarry during January proving that the Quarry was a popular destination even during the Winter months.

- (iv) Quarry Management Plan**

The Operations Manager reiterated the need for developing long-term plans for infrastructure in the Quarry, it being 14 years since the Quarry had received Heritage Lottery funding. Attracting 1.5m visitors per year there was a need to have a vision towards improving the facilities. Access and pathways were in need of refurbishment.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update on events for 2020 be noted.**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk continue discussions into a 3 year Contract with UK Live to host the Quarry Concerts.**
- (iii) That the update on footfall in the Quarry be noted.**

- (iv) **That Officers look to preparing a Quarry Management Plan for further consideration at a future meeting.**

Councillor Green left the meeting for consideration of this item

72/19 MARKETS

(i) **Market Hall**

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager reported that he and the Deputy Town Clerk had attended a one day conference where Britain's favourite market was announced. Shrewsbury was very proud to have come within the top 4, with the winner being Newcastle, a market that has a footfall of over 6 million.

He reported that the market was running at just over 96% utilisation and where some stalls had recently been lost, existing traders had been expanding.

Looking at the footfall data for January, there had been just under 19,000 visitors with an average dwell time of 128 minutes and average visits per day of 630. The busiest times were between 12-1pm. There were $\frac{1}{4}$ new visitors and $\frac{3}{4}$ repeat visitors which indicated a healthy combination.

Councillor Mackenzie enquired as to who decides on the Market late nights as these seem to be extremely popular and the public often expressed that they would like more of them.

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager said the decision is mainly between the Shropshire Council Facilities Manager and the stall holders. There are currently 6 late nights per year but they were keen to keep these as 'special' rather than they become the norm.

Councillor Green re-joined the meeting

(ii) **Sunday Market**

The Town Clerk reported that the Sunday Market was operating well although it is very weather dependent and traveller dependent. The traders are happy and there is more engagement and ideas. Income is more than was budgeted for.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager's report on the Market be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Town Clerk's update on the Sunday Market be noted.**

73/19 RECREATION GROUND & OPEN SPACE MATTERS

Members were asked to consider a petition presented by Mrs Luther, Secretary of Meole

Village Residents Association to remove the football pitch on Church Road Recreation Ground.

Football has been played on this site for almost a Century and is used for football by Beacon Football Club & Meole Brace under 18's and Council had resolved at their meeting on 10 October 2018 to retain Church Road Recreation Ground as a football pitch. It was considered that with The Glebefields and Stanley Lane Recreation Grounds nearby, there were alternative locations for green space. Discussion on a future vision for the development of the Glebefields needed to take place with Holy Trinity Church to complement the existing recreational facility. Future options for consideration to develop a community village green space at Stanley Lane would require the support of residents.

RESOLVED:

That the petition to remove the football pitch from the Church Road Recreation Ground be declined.

74/19 FISHERIES

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager reported on the progress of developing the fisheries.

Oxon Pool – work is being completed on the paths and car park before opening to the general public. Some trees on the touring park side of the pool are considered dangerous so Shropshire Council trees officers will be called in to assess these. A website for Oxon and Emstrey is being developed.

Mousecroft Pool – has had clay delivered and it is intended to clear the bank nearest the Quarry and line the pool with clay. There is also a plan to create a path which will improve access and also ensure harmony between dog walkers and anglers.

Monkmoor – 5 new pegs, paid for by the Environment Agency are going in.

Sydney Avenue – applying for grants to help tidy, repair and replace some pegs.

A Junior Academy is starting in the Summer working with Young Shrewsbury. Hoping to make this a family engagement by encouraging parents to participate as well.

A 3 day tournament is due to take place in the Quarry this weekend, subject to climatic conditions.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager be noted.

75/19 TEAM SHREWSBURY

The Operations Manager reported that comparisons taken from the last two years showed an increase in rough sleeping and drug related issues but a reduction in begging and anti-social behaviour.

Alternative Giving – looking to install a tap for change window to reduce the amount of cash being donated directly to individuals. The Pride Hill alternative giving box will be replaced shortly and will be positioned outside Tesco's.

Advertising for summer Ambassadors will begin during February with a view to their roles starting in April. They will be available to assist visitors and general public.

The Purple Flag application had been submitted with a view to an evening assessment late Feb/early March.

Councillor Green asked how the effects of the reduction in Police Officers this time last year had impacted on things. The Town Clerk reported that a new Police Sergeant had been appointed and was planning more resources & collaborative working within the town.

Members were aware that the new overnight shelter was due to be opened soon and noted that this may help to reduce the number of rough sleepers. The Town Clerk was aware that most had been offered emergency temporary accommodation.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

76/19 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

The Operations Manager reported that the Bloom Committee had met and Shrewsbury would be entering the Small City and Parks & Open Space Categories. There was new criteria for the Heart of England in Bloom judging which focussed strongly on horticulture, civic pride and community. Last year the judges had been keen to learn about the progression of community groups, so it was intended to revisit some that had been visited last year.

The Committee were also reviewing the Town of Flowers competition to reinvigorate and make it more engaging, culminating with a bigger presentation event in the Autumn.

There would be an open evening at Weeping Cross Greenhouse on Wednesday 20 May.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

77/19 SHREWSBURY PLACE PLAN

The Town Clerk circulated Shropshire Council's Place Plan. The Town Council were seen as a key partner in projects relevant to Shrewsbury. This was a fluid document and members input was encouraged. The Town Clerk agreed to annotate a copy and send to each member for their input, following which she would arrange a meeting for members to discuss further.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the Town Clerk provide members with an annotated copy of the Place Plan for members to consider.**
- (ii) **A Place Plan Task and Finish Group be set up to discuss this further.**

78/19 COMMUTED SUMS

- (a) ***Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space*** – offsite contributions to play and open space – awaiting progress with Pavilion Extension & confirmation of drawdown of Commuted Sums from the planning authority
- (b) ***Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road*** – costing for snagging list agreed by developers, awaiting confirmation of ownership of SUDS
- (c) ***Shrewsbury South Urban***
 - i. Sutton Grange site – ongoing
 - ii. Bellway Homes site – discussion on land adoption and adoption of acoustic fencing
 - iii. Galliers site – early discussions on land adoption
 - iv. Community Centre – location on the site
- (d) ***Ingleby Way*** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – now ready following clarification of hedgerow ownership – transfer document received
- (e) ***Holgate Drive*** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space - awaiting completion of snagging– paperwork signed;
- (f) ***Belvidere Paddocks*** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – ready awaiting transfer– paperwork signed;
- (g) ***Arlington Way*** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – Land transferred – awaiting £60k transfer S106 money from Shropshire Council;
- (h) ***Sweetlake*** – Development of play area and future adoption of open space – Play area out for tender.
- (i) ***Radbrook College Site*** – The Town Clerk reported that Radbrook College land was likely to be adopted next year.

(j) **Weir Hill** - Councillor Mrs Mackenzie enquired about the adoption of Weir Hill. The Town Clerk reported that developers would only engage with the Town Council if they agreed to adopt all community infrastructure including open space, private roads, footpaths and lighting.

RESOLVED:

That the update by noted.