

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council Held at Shrewsbury Town Football Club, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Monday 8 November 2021

PRESENT

Councillors E Roberts(Deputy Mayor & Chair), B Bentick, R Dartnall, M Davies, P Gillam, N Green, K Halliday, C Lemon, P Moseley, A Mosley, K Pardy, A Phillips, D Vasmer & R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Andy Watkin (Responsible Finance Officer), Ruth Jones (Office Manager) & Carol Pullen (Committee Clerk).

61/21 WELCOME FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Councillors and Officers to the meeting and members of the public tuning into the Council's live-streaming. She noted that the meeting was not being recorded and the Minutes would be published on the Town Council's website in the usual way.

62/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

That apologies be accepted from Councillors Dean, Wagner & Wall.

63/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Shropshire Councillors	Twin hatted members declared personal interests in matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Phillips	Declared a pecuniary interest in item 69.2 as his father is on the board of Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals.

64/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13 September 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

65/21 MATTERS ARISING

55/21 Mini Holland – The Town Clerk reported that a decision on the Mini Holland bid was still awaited. She reported that discussions had started with the Active Travel Manager, Shropshire Council regarding cycling and walking generally and she was keen to engage with the Town Council's Active Travel Working Group and would attend future meetings.

58/21 – Horseshoe Bus Service – The Town Clerk reported that the details had been sent to Shropshire Council and she had spoken with James Willocks the Passenger Transport Group Manager, who had confirmed these had formed part of the submission that had gone to Central Government.

66/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

66.1 MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Details of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor's engagements for the period 13 September-8 November 2021 were circulated and noted.

66.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk reminded members that following an email from the Office Manager asking them to review their Top 3 Policing Priorities, if they had not already done so, then to let her know.

Remembrance Sunday was taking place at the weekend and the Mayor's Secretary had emailed all Councillors. If members wished to be part of the parade then would they let her know. For those parading they needed to be at the Castle in readiness for the parade setting off at 10.20am. If they wished to be in the Quarry for the service and wreath-laying they needed to be there by 10.40am.

67/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that standing orders had been followed in seeking questions ahead of the meeting, but she had accepted questions up until 4pm on the day of this meeting. No questions had been received:

68/21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The following question had been received from Councillor Mary Davies:

The West Midlands Ambulance Services have recently made a call urging owners of defibrillators to register devices on a new national database call “The Circuit” which is ran by British Heart Foundation so more lives can be saved. Please confirm the number of defibrillators which are the responsibility of Shrewsbury Town Council and will they be registered on “The Circuit” database?

In answer to Councillor Davies’ question, the Town Clerk confirmed that all the Town Council’s defibrillators were registered on the Circuit. This was a national database of defibrillators that the Ambulance Service had access to and would use to either direct people to the nearest defibrillator or would be used when a member of the public rang to access the code to get into a defibrillator box. Registration also allowed for the relocation a defibrillator in the event it was used. Recently the one at Abbey Foregate had been used and went with the patient to hospital. Paramedics were then able to reunite it back in its box.

69/21 MOTIONS

69.1 Motion from Councillor Rob Wilson – Hedgehogs

Councillor Wilson gave the following statement:

‘The humble hedgehog was once ubiquitous in Britain, but numbers have sharply declined due in recent decades due to a number of human factors.

A group of residents have brought their worry on this issue to my attention, and it is echoed by the UK population. Earlier this year over 100,000 people signed a petition calling for greater protection, triggering a debate in the House of Commons.

I know that from speaking to officers that Shrewsbury Town Council are already aware of this concern, and where they can, look to manage Town Council land in a supportive way. With this motion I am looking for us to ensure that we are doing all we can where it is appropriate to do so the, and to bring it to the attention of residents and partners via our newsletter, social media platforms, and noticeboards. There are also lots of things that individuals can do to help the hedgehog population, and I hope we can communicate these to residents.

There are a number of useful documents available to provide advice, many from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, including that which is on the table in front of you. For council officers two could be particularly useful if they haven’t already seen them: “Hedgehog ecology and land management” and “Hedgehogs and Development”.

Clearly this issue goes beyond the Hedgehog. I hope that we as a council will also look at our management practices regarding grass cutting and the types of wildflower mixes we are using which could have a far wider ecological impact’.

Members were in support of Councillor Wilson's Motion although Councillor Phillips queried point 4 of the resolution as this Council could not dictate either nationally or at Shropshire Council level but it could incorporate this lobbying on any planning projects that this Council were asked to comment on.

The Town Clerk reported that the Council's countryside land acted as a valuable land source for Hedgehogs as sites had long vegetation, lots of woodpiles and leaf litter. It was when hedgehogs ventured into more urban settings that they became isolated and vulnerable as they came up against fencing and tidy gardens. The Council's recreation grounds did not provide good habitat and more naturalised areas for their enjoyment needed to be considered. The Council could look at options for improving habitats on its land and feed back to the Recreation & Leisure Committee. It could also look at raising awareness through social media. The Hedgehog Preservation Society offered some good guidance. In terms of legislation, hedgehogs were not protected, but the Council could use its influence over the creation of biodiversity policies to try and protect species currently in serious decline.

Councillor Pardy reported that following concerns from several of his constituents about the number of hedgehogs being killed on the roads, he had contacted the Highways Authority to see if he could get some warning signs. He was still awaiting a reply and encouraged other Councillors who considered they were in an area where hedgehogs were prevalent to join him in making a request to Highways for consideration.

Councillor Green felt support should be sought from other agencies, particularly letting agencies as usually tenants would not have the authority to make alterations to gardens and fencing and the Council could consider what measures could be taken to approach other agencies

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the alarming decline in number of hedgehogs and threat of extinction and pledges, where appropriate, to:

- (i) Adopt, through the Recreation & Leisure Committee, landscape management policies and practices on land it owns and manages that are supportive to hedgehogs and their habitat.**
- (ii) Encourage other agencies/councils operating in Shrewsbury to do likewise.**
- (iii) Conduct a public awareness campaign to encourage the public to adopt supportive practices.**
- (iv) Lobby for hedgehogs to be included in the development of local and national biodiversity related planning policy.**

69.2 Motion from Councillor Bernie Bentick – Save our Surgeries

Councillor Philips left the meeting for the consideration of this item

Councillor Bentick gave the following statement:

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group/Integrated Care System (CCG) has secured funding for a new Model of Primary Health Care Delivery, called a Cavell Health and Wellbeing Hub. The CCG produced a Document called “A proposed new Health and Wellbeing Hub for Shrewsbury” which advertised to be a part of a listening exercise in September. This Document states: “We are undertaking a listening exercise so we can understand what is important to local people when they are accessing GP services and their views on whether they think a health and wellbeing hub would be beneficial for themselves and their local community.” The methodology for ‘listening’ has not been fully explained and the exercise received only 1300 responses, most of which were electronic. The 1300 responses were out of 65,000 patients registered at the 8 General Practice Surgeries likely to be affected by the proposals. Many patients were unaware of the exercise. As a result of these proposals for a Health Hub in Shrewsbury, there are 8 GP Surgeries likely to close or have their services dramatically reduced or significantly altered. They are:

- The Beeches Medical Practice, Beeches Road, Bayston Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0PF
- Claremont Bank Surgery, Claremont Bank, Shrewsbury, SY1 1RL
- Mytton Oak Surgery, Mytton Oak Surgery, Racecourse Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 5LZ
- Radbrook Green Surgery, Bank Farm Road, Radbrook Green, Shrewsbury, SY3 6DU
- Belvidere Medical Practice, 23 Belvidere Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 5LS
- Marden Medical Practice, 25 Sutton Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6DL
- Marysville Medical Practice, Brook Street, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, SY3 7QR
- South Hermitage Surgery, 16 South Hermitage, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, SY3 7JS

These proposals are significant and would result in a major change in how commissioned Primary Health Care services are provided in Shrewsbury. Under the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012), CCGs and NHS England have duties to involve the public in commissioning, (under sections 14Z2 and 13Q respectively). Under the above Act, the CCG must make arrangements to involve individuals in the development and consideration of proposals that have an impact on how services are delivered, including Health Hub proposals. Given the size and nature of this proposal from the NHS, a Public funded Service, it should trigger formal Consultation at all appropriate stages, which must adhere to The Gunning Principles, namely:

1. That consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
2. That the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration and response;
3. That adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
4. That the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.

The CCG should provide a Full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), as well as a Quality Impact Assessment (QIA), because the proposal for a central hub to provide primary care will create access issues for many individuals in various disadvantaged groups. Accordingly, there needs to be much greater public scrutiny of the proposed Shrewsbury Cavell Health and Wellbeing Hub.

A discussion ensued whereby members expressed their disappointment that there appeared to have been a lack of consultation. These plans would likely have a massive effect on care. GP surgeries remained embedded in the communities they served and their accessibility to people within those communities.

Councillor Bentick reported that in his discussions with the CCG they had suggested that more consultation may not be necessary for this exercise, which was of great concern.

The Town Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Director of Participation at the CCG. She was relatively new in post and was keen for the CCG to engage better with the public and any help that the Town Council and its members could give in helping to inform the residents of Shrewsbury she would be grateful for. In terms of this initiative, she had said they were in the scoping stage and she would happily come to the next meeting of Council in January.

RESOLVED:

This Council requires Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group/Integrated Care System to:

- (i) keep Shrewsbury Town Council updated on the proposed Shrewsbury Cavell Health and Wellbeing Hub and their plans for altering Primary Care Services and closing GP surgeries in Shrewsbury;**
- (ii) conduct and present an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and Quality Impact Assessment (QIA) on their Health Hub proposals to The Council;**
- (iii) make a presentation to the next meeting of Council which fully describes the proposals and other options considered, the methodology, stages and timing of planned Consultations and the results of the recent listening exercise in September;**
- (iv) notify this Council of any further Consultations on Primary Care in Shrewsbury before decisions are taken.**

Councillor Phillips rejoined the meeting

70/21 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 October 2021 were circulated as read.

In proposing the adoption of these minutes Councillor Mosley highlighted several points.

Minute 43/21 – Budgeting timetable for 2022/23 – Group Leaders would be involved in an internal meeting during November to discuss the budget.

Minute 45.3 – Greenhouse Demolition Permissions – Councillor Mosley considered that the wording of the resolution in the draft minutes did not adequately reflect the discussion that had taken place.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 October 2021 be received and adopted upon the wording of Minute 45.3 – Greenhouse Demolition Permissions be amended to read:

- (i) That the report be noted**
- (ii) That a Working Group consisting of Councillors Mosley, Vasmer, Pardy & Green be established**
- (iii) That appointment of Consultants be limited to technical support only**

71/21 RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 22 September 2021 be received and adopted.

72/21 PLANNING MEETINGS

The minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 28 September & 19 October 2021 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 28 September & 19 October 2021 be received and adopted.

73/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2021 were circulated as read.

In proposing the Minutes, Councillor Vasmer referred to Minute 23/21 and the need to consider the appointment of an enthusiastic, young person on a part time basis in a communications role to help promote information on how people could tackle climate change and possibly put together an information pack that would benefit the town. He and the Deputy Town Clerk had discussed this and were hoping to bring a proposal to the next Climate Change meeting. He felt it was an exciting opportunity and asked members to offer any comments or ideas they may have.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 7 October 2021 be received and adopted.

74/21 WORKING GROUPS

74.1 City of Sanctuary Working Group

The Minutes of the City of Sanctuary Working Group meeting held on 14 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the City of Sanctuary Working Group meeting held on 14 September 2021 be received and adopted.

74.2 Youth Working Group

The Minutes of the Youth Working Group meeting held on 15 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Youth Working Group meeting held on 15 September 2021 be received and adopted.

74.3 Civics Working Group

The Minutes of the Civics Working Group meeting held on 16 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Civics Working Group meeting held on 16 September 2021 be received and adopted.

74.4 Active Travel Working Group

The Minutes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 21 October 2021 were circulated as read.

In proposing the minutes Councillor Wilson reported on the Mini-Holland bid submitted by Shropshire Council to the Department for Transport. More than 30 submissions had been made to Government. Councillor Wilson was hopeful Shrewsbury would be successful and it would help in pushing forward our plans within the Big Town Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 21 October 2021 be received and adopted.

75/21 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 October 2021 be received and adopted.

76/21 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Prior to the meeting a list of executive decisions made by the Town Clerk had been circulated to members. These were decisions that would ordinarily have been made by the Standing Committees but were currently informal meetings to inform the delegated decision making whilst current COVID regulations were still in place. There were no questions raised by members.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and decisions accepted.

77/21 CODE OF CONDUCT

Ahead of the meeting the revised Code of Conduct had been circulated. For those twin hatted members, this was a document that they would already have considered at Shropshire Council. This was the revised Code of Conduct as presented by the Local Government Association following various reviews of Standards In Public Life. This Code had now been adopted by Shropshire Council without amendment and would come into force on 1

December 2021. As the Monitoring Officer at Shropshire Council acted as Monitoring Officer for all Parish Councils in the Shropshire area, he was keen that all Parish Councils adopt the same code. The Town Council had done this in the past without revisions to the code.

RESOLVED:

That Shrewsbury Town Council adopts the new Code of Conduct without amendment to be affective from 1 December 2021.

78/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items being considered involve the disclosure of confidential information.

The Deputy Mayor advised that live streaming of this meeting would now stop. She thanked members of the public for logging in. All papers relating to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

79/21 APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Appeals Committee Meetings held on 8 & 21 September 2021 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Appeals Committee meetings held on 8 & 21 September 2021 be received and adopted.