

## SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Meeting of the Council Held at the Walker Theatre, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Monday 24 January 2022

#### PRESENT

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

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

#### 80/21 WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and Officers to the meeting. Unfortunately due to a technical hitch this meeting was not being live-streamed. He noted that the meeting was not being recorded and the Minutes would be published on the Town Council's website in the usual way.

#### 81/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Gary Farmer (Head of Operations).

#### 82/21 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 87/21 as his father is on the board of Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals.

#### 83/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8 November 2021 were circulated as read.

#### RESOLVED

**That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 8 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

## **84/21 MATTERS ARISING**

**70/21 – Quarry Working Group** – Potential meeting dates had been circulated via email to members of the group and the Town Clerk reminded them to respond.

**77/21 – Code of Conduct** – Members had been emailed and were reminded about the need to complete an additional form to register other Registerable Interests. There were paper copies of the form available this evening.

## **85/21 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **85.1 MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor's engagements for the period 9 November 2021-24 January 2022 were circulated and noted.

Members joined the Mayor in remembering Lalage Jean Bown who passed away in December. Lalage was a Somerville College Oxford Alumna and an Emeritus Professor in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Glasgow, and at 94 years of age continued to retain the wit and feistiness of someone a third of her age. She was passionate about her town, its vernacular, its civic life and heritage, and more recently the role that the University Centre Shrewsbury would play in moulding not only our young people but also those not so young people who wanted to see what continuing education had to offer. She would be much missed by all who knew her and on behalf of this Council he offered sincere condolences to her family. Members echoed the Mayor's words.

The Mayor reported on two future Mayoral Charity events in conjunction with his chosen charity Lingen Davies Cancer Fund. The first was a Swing Dance to be held at The Buttermarket on Thursday 24 March and the second during the Easter weekend in April, a Big Town Walking Festival. Further details of both these events and tickets would be available on the Lingen Davies website.

Members were advised that nominations had opened for the 2022 Mayor's Awards and it was intended to hold an Awards Evening in Theatre Severn on 28 April. Nominations to be submitted via the online nomination form on the Council's website.

He reminded members of Shrewsbury Schools Service which would be held on Sunday 6 March at 11.00 am, details had been circulated via email. He asked members to let the Mayor's Secretary know if they wished to attend .

### **85.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk asked that the Councillors for the Battlefield, Meole & Radbrook Wards let her know about their locations for the Queens Green Canopy so this could be progressed as soon as possible.

## **86/21 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. The following question had been received:

Katie Blant (Radbrook Ward) – The community in Radbrook has come together over safety concerns from children walking and cycling to the schools served by Longden Road and Bank Farm Road following... Shropshire Council has been supporting us with infrastructure interventions to make the area safer, but the location of the ambulance depot on Longden Road poses a risk to these improvements... Can I ask that the Town Council does all it can to support us in getting WMAS to move the ambulance depot to a more suitable location?

### **Answered by Councillor Alan Mosley, Leader of Shrewsbury Town Council**

Councillor Mosley stated that this was not really within the remit of the Town Council, however, the Town Council would have been involved as a planning consultee and as such were aware of the issues surrounding the location of the Ambulance Hub. He suggested that perhaps the Councillor of the relevant ward request this issue be discussed at a separate meeting to enable the opportunity for a more open debate and consider the Town Council's stance on this matter.

Councillor Bentick whose ward the ambulance hub on the Sweetlake industrial estate was situated in added comment. He had been involved with campaigning to improve traffic in the area for some time and made the point that West Midlands Ambulance Service had repeatedly stated in documentation to planning that the hub would not be used as an operational base. He was lobbying both Highways and Planning at Shropshire Council to explore other more suitable locations for an ambulance station.

Councillor Lemon added that when the West Midlands Ambulance Service had applied for planning permission in 2012, it was for a maintenance hub, but over the years they had seemed to repurpose it as an ambulance station, and as such it represented a significant obstacle to increased walking and cycling to and from the three local schools. The Priory School had identified this early last year whilst looking at issues which were preventing more Active Travel (cycling and walking) by their students. As a campaigning Council, he hoped members would back the initiative to lobby to move the ambulance station somewhere more appropriate.

## **87/21 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None had been received.

*Councillor Phillips left the room for this item*

## **87/21 NHS SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD & WREKIN CCG**

The Chairman welcomed Claire Parker, Director of Partnership at the NHS Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin CCG and Steve Ellis Associate Director of Primary Care who updated Council on proposals to develop a Health & Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury.

Ms Parker reported proposals for the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub were at a very early stage and nothing would be decided without engagement with the public. Extensive engagement exercises were planned and these would be central to the progression of plans. This engagement process would ensure the capture of public feedback and designing of the new centre around the needs of the Shrewsbury community.

They would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the Town Council and involve local people in this exciting development. The proposals outlined a substantial investment for GP provision in the town and an opportunity to improve services with patients and stakeholders playing a key role.

The initial listening exercise in August/September 2021 was the first stage of engagement and was aimed to understand what services patients were currently accessing and what was important to them in relation to GP services. This was the first phase in the engagement process and it was planned to engage further. As part of this exercise, information was circulated to over 270 local stakeholder organisations, including the local authorities and voluntary sector organisations. Engagement materials were shared with the GP practices involved to promote widely through their own networks and initial ideas for the Hub were shared via the local media, a multitude of social media channels, as well as newsletters and websites of organisations involved.

People were invited to respond to an online survey where all feedback was captured and collated into an engagement report (available on the CCG website). For those members of the public who preferred to speak directly over the phone, a telephone interview was available and taken up by a number of people. In order to capture feedback from those members of the public with a disability, relevant voluntary sector organisations were contacted in order to gain responses from people with a physical, mental or learning disability.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) had also been drafted to help ensure that plans were fair and did not present barriers or disadvantage to any protected groups. This evidence-based approach would form part of a wider Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) carried out in the next phase of the project.

Members highlighted concerns. They felt the listening exercise had not provided details of why changes were going to happen and had not captured a wide enough audience, leaving many unaware of the proposals. From talking to their residents, members had found there was little appetite for the loss of localised services and for some travelling further to a hub would present problems, so transport consideration was crucial.

The moving of Albert Road and Mount Pleasant Surgeries into the Severnfields Health Village appeared to be a health hub prototype and members were interested to know if the effects of that had been captured in clinical evaluations and patient surveys.

It was proposed that a members working group be established to enable a wider discussion and an opportunity to engage with the CCG as plans progressed.

Ms Parker responded that in regard to Severn Fields Medical Practice, the model used for that development in 2012 was very different to the model proposed for the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub. The Severn Fields Medical Practice building was privately-owned and the individual organisations within the centre rented space from the private landlord.

Ms Parker concluded by emphasising that the CCG were fully aware they needed to engage further with the community and as yet nothing was decided and she welcomed the opportunity for members to be involved and would be happy to update Council as plans progressed.

The Chairman thanked her and Mr Ellis for their attendance and they left the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Clerk speak with the political leaders to set up a working group to engage with the CCG further on their plans for a Health & Wellbeing Hub in Shrewsbury.**

*Councillor Phillips rejoined the meeting*

**88/21 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 6 December 2021 & 10 January 2022 were circulated as read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 6 December 2021 & 10 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

**89/21 RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee Meetings held on 17 November 2021 & 19 January 2022 were circulated as read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee meetings held on 17 November 2021 & 19 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **90/21 PLANNING MEETINGS**

The minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 9 November, 30 November & 14 December 2021 and 11 January 2022 were submitted as circulated and read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 9 November, 30 November & 14 December 2021 and 11 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **91/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Climate Emergency Committee meeting held on 13 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **92/21 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 12 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **93/21 WORKING GROUPS**

### **93.1 Civics Working Group**

The Minutes of the Civics Working Group meeting held on 25 November 2021 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Civics Working Group meeting held on 25 November 2021 be received and adopted.**

### **93.2 Youth Working Group**

The Minutes of the Youth Working Group meetings held on 18 November 2021 & 20 January 2022 were circulated as read.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Youth Working Group meetings held on 18 November 2021 & 20 January 2022 be received and adopted.**

### **93.3 Active Travel Working Group**

The Minutes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 2 December 2021 were circulated as read.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 2 December 2021 be received and adopted.**

## **94/21 BUDGET 2022/23**

In proposing the budget and precept proposals as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Mosley gave the following statement:

As always, our first priority is to best represent our residents and many of them are suffering from the impact of covid and the increasing impact of the rising cost of living crisis. Hence, we need to do all we can to mitigate these pressures, and this means that we should be setting a balanced budget with a zero rise in our charges to Council Tax payers. This is the budget I am proposing tonight with thanks to our Head of Resources.

Good financial management, including healthy planned reserves mean that we are able agree this budget and cover the significant additional costs related to general inflation, staff salaries, NI contributions and materials, without any cuts in services.

Indeed, our ambitious on-going programme for improving our services for all those who live, work and visit our town will continue. These plans include:

- Exciting plans for the top of the Quarry including an extensive newly designed contemporary garden which will highlight and encourage the highest ecological environmental standards. Information and interpretation of the Quarry's heritage along with a refurbishment of the facilities at the horticultural depot. A working party is set to start work on this project.
- A new nature trail along the river on our Castlewalk land from the English Bridge Gardens to the Weir and on to the Mousefield. This will provide experiences, information and learning for all age in a way which is sensitive to the natural environment.
- On-going work dedicated to our climate change commitments adding to the great progress we have made already..

- New BMX track in Monkmoor
- Restoration of recreation grounds on Stanley lane
- Improved play parks at Greenacres, Kynaston Road and Upton Lane
- Programme of refurbishment of bus shelters throughout the Town
- An extension of LED lights in the Quarry
- Toilet refurbishment
- Significant work to the County Ground, Frankwell.
- Ongoing contribution to the Big Town Plan including a Movement Strategy
- The Dana Footpath development
- Addition works on our footway network
- Action on the Ash Die Back crisis.

Shrewsbury Town Councillors and staff can be proud of our record of progress and improved services in recent years and I'm sure residents will be delighted that we are responsive to their needs in what are difficult and worrying times for very many.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Council Tax base for Shrewsbury for 2022/23 be noted as being 25,752.47;**
- (ii) That a Revenue Expenditure Budget of £3,759,808 be set against an Income budget of £3,757,727 with a planned deficit of £2,081 being funded through General Reserves;**
- (iii) That the Capital Programme be deferred to the next meeting on the basis that any inclusions did not impact on the Revenue Budget and be funded through existing and future reserves;**
- (iv) That a Precept be levied against the Taxpayers of Shrewsbury of £1,551,586 which equated to a Band D Levy of £60.25.**
- (v) That the proposed Fees & Charges as agreed by both the Finance & General Purpose Committee and the Recreation & Leisure Committee be approved.**

**95/21 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.**

## **96/21 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 Mayor advised that live streaming of this meeting would now stop. All papers relating to the meeting could be found on the website [www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **97/21 APPEALS COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Appeals Committee Meeting held on 9 November 2021 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Appeals Committee meetings held on 9 November 2021 be received and adopted.**

## **98/21 ACCOMMODATION MATTERS**

Members of the Council were in receipt of a report submitted by the Town Clerk on the purchase of a property within the town centre for the purpose of an administrative base. Whilst the building was potentially move in-able, there were some minor modifications that would be needed and a local architect had been appointed to provide options. Details of these plans had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting and the Town Clerk was seeking dates from the Architect when he might be available to meet anyone on site to go through the plans. Finance & General Purpose Committee had recommended Officers proceed to purchase, so therefore formal approval from Full Council was sought in order to proceed.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Report be noted;**
- (ii) That Officers progress with the purchase and renovation of the property as outlined in the report.**