

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**Meeting of the Recreation & Leisure Committee****Held Virtually on Microsoft Teams****At 6.00pm on Wednesday 21 July 2021**

Please note this was an informal virtual meeting of the Committee convened to assist the Town Clerk with carrying out the delegated powers granted to her by Full Council on 22 March 2021 & Finance & General Purposes Committee on 12 April 2021.

PRESENT

Councillors K Pardy (Chair), B Bentick, J Dean (substituting for C Lemon), P Gillam, P Moseley E Roberts, A Wagner, B Wall & R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Head of Operations), Stuart Farmer (Projects Manager), Ruth Jones (Office Manager) & Carol Pullen (Committee Clerk).

19/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**RESOLVED:**

That apologies from Councillor C Lemon & Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk) be accepted.

20/21 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.
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21/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 26 May 2021 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 26 May 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

22/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 8/21 – CCTV cameras in the Quarry – now the cameras had now been upgraded and were hooked up to CCTV Control.

Minute 8/21 – Performance Quality Standards – Phase 2 works now completed and the Recreation Greenspace Manager will be invited to the next meeting to report back.

Minute 8/21 – Welcome Back Fund – Shropshire Council's bid to the Welcome Back Fund had finally been signed off by Government and proposals will be sent to the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District who will be the lead organisation in Shrewsbury. The Town Clerk & the BID Manager have spoken about concentrating the funds on public realm improvements in the town centre. ERDF funding comes with very stringent criteria.

Minute 13/21(iii) Easement request – The Town Clerk had contacted Shrewsbury High School but had not yet heard back from them.

23/21 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Halliday who had been appointed Vice Chairman of this Committee, had stepped down from the Committee and this had been discussed by Full Council at its meeting in June. The Leader of the Council had been expected to submit a Labour Group nomination but this had not happened so the Committee were asked to determine who needed to be Vice Chairman and this would be put forward as a recommendation to Full Council in September. It was proposed that Councillor Roberts take up this position.

RECOMMENDED:

That Councillor Elisabeth Roberts replace Councillor Kate Halliday as Vice-Chairman of the Recreation & Leisure Committee.

Agenda Item 8/21 was moved up the Agenda

23/21 TEAM SHREWSBURY

23.1 Superintendent Stuart Bill

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Stuart Bill, the Policing Commander for Shropshire to the meeting to share his vision for policing in Shropshire and specifically in Shrewsbury.

Superintendent Bill had transferred to West Mercia Police from West Midlands Police earlier in the year to take up his post in Shropshire and give a strategic lead for the area. He would work with the partners to expand the good work that was already going on locally. The three main priorities were:

County lines – Shropshire had some challenges with county lines coming across from the West Midlands and Merseyside. It touched into the north of the county but also into Shrewsbury creating some huge vulnerability issues and the solution was not short-term so finding long-term solutions and working with partners was vital. It

manifested itself locally in reports of drug dealing and ASB but often these were vulnerable people themselves who had been exploited at the end of a county line.

Domestic abuse – a huge problem in Policing and not unique to Shropshire. Often a somewhat hidden crime but the impact of it could be devastating particularly when children were involved. Looking to improve how initial response to abuse was dealt with and also the long-term view of interaction and support offered to those concerned.

COVID – This was still a very present and real threat, particularly as England had just entered Stage 4 of the Lockdown Recovery Map. The challenges that were still posed to the Police as an organisation and the wider community were huge. Night-time economies were reopening which created additional demand and resulted in potentially more ASB. Equally the possible isolation of staff whether testing positive for the virus or coming into contact with it were creating a strain on resources and whilst Shropshire was currently coping, forces in other regions were almost already at critical point with staff off.

Superintendent Bill encouraged the signing up to the Local Policing Charter which had been introduced for Town & Parish Councils to identify the three biggest concerns to them which the Police would support and endeavour to deliver on and update on.

He also talked about the Neighbourhood Matters website www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk which could be signed up to using postcode and which provided information from the local neighbourhood teams about things that were happening in any particular area. This could also be used to respond to messages the Police circulated so the greater volume of people who accessed it, the more impact and the easier it would be to inform the public of what the Police were doing.

Councillor Dean thanked Superintendent Bill and raised several points. He mentioned the attendance of a West Mercia Police Officer at the Council's Finance & General Purpose Committee earlier in the week; she had spoken of the work being done around knife crime and had offered to do a walk-about in specific areas, which was very welcome. He suggested the Neighbourhood Matters website was something the Town Council should publicise through its social media platforms. Referring to traffic issues and the changes to pedestrianisation of part of the town centre during Covid, the result was that lots of traffic appeared to be ignoring the rules and he asked if the Police had a view on this or had been in communication with Shropshire Council.

Superintendent Bill confirmed that this had not been flagged as an issue with the Police, so he had not been in contact with Shropshire Council. If it was something that was being felt then there were measures that could be taken, people could submit evidence under Operation SNAP where dash cam footage could be used to advise, enforce or prosecute as appropriate but he agreed that it was important to find a long term sustainable solution.

Councillor Bentick sought clarification on best means of contacting the Police particularly if one physically saw a crime such as drug dealing taking place.

Superintendent Bill said generally a crime in action ring 999, more routine concerns could be reported on 101. The Police had to balance every situation against the correct risk and harm so the response vary was proportionate. Other alternatives were reporting through Crimestoppers or online on the West Mercia Police website where there were various methods to communicate directly with either the safer neighbourhood team other appropriate resources.

Councillor Roberts thanked Superintendent Bill and said that in Harlescott they were starting to see a noted improvement. There had been the removal of a situation where a family were being cuckooed a few weeks ago and the stop and search arrest of certain drug dealers in the area.

Superintendent Bill said that cuckooing checks were very important. This involved Police visiting vulnerable addresses or locations where there was suspicion of people being taken advantage of. Certain locations were prioritised to make it uncomfortable for the perpetrators and this simple but vital tactic was very successful. The Police were committed to driving this as part of vulnerability and county lines issues.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Superintendent Bill for his time and he left the meeting.

23.2 Team Shrewsbury Report

The Head of Operations reported on the activities of Team Shrewsbury. The majority of issues had declined apart from alcohol related ASB, congregating & littering which were predominantly linked to the Quarry. Security in the Quarry was being extended over the summer holidays from 6pm – 10pm, Monday to Sunday. Officers continued to patrol the park making sure it was a safe haven for all to visit. Individuals were encouraged to leave if they were causing a nuisance or asked to pick up their litter if discarded.

Funding had been received for youth activities, which would be taking place 5 days per week for the first 4 weeks of the summer holidays and a weekly trip would take place on a Friday.

Shropshire Council Youth in partnership with We Are With You and CLIMB would be providing activities in the Quarry during the afternoons/evening throughout summer holidays.

Shropshire Youth Justice System were working with children and young people aged between 10-18 years of age, where referrals had been made via the Police on a range of issues experiences including drug debts, self-harm crisis intervention planning, emotional and mental health needs, exclusion, carrying knives for 'self-protection' and 'out of fear', breakdown of family relationships (one YP using Class A drugs homeless at the age of 14), being involved or having witnessed serious youth violence/stabbing/wounding with intent and retaliation from other associates and gang members.

Shropshire Council were currently researching rapid deployable CCTV cameras as the current deployable cameras no longer worked & wildlife cameras maintenance was too much with batteries & downloading footage.

ASB Awareness week 19th to 23rd July 201 - <https://www.resolveuk.org.uk/asb-awareness-week/about-asb-aw21>

If Shropshire Council were to consider opening toilets 24/7 they would need to consider significant measures i.e. (CCTV, security, inspections, enhanced cleaning and inspection etc.). The ARK had been asked to consider 24/7 facilities as part of their redevelopment.

Shrewsbury Ark new premises on Castle Foregate were now imminent - facility would include therapy room, clinic, street vet with a mental health clinic on a Monday, plus additional washrooms & toilets. ARK in partnership with the Police were looking to resume HOST services.

West Mercia Police had launched a new community messaging service. The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system would enable residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams and receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what is occurring in your community.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

24/21 UPDATE ON OPERATIONAL DELIVERY IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The Town Clerk provided an update on COVID related matters involving the Town Council. The 19th July hailed the lifting of the final lockdown measures. Whilst no longer a legal requirement, the Council was pressing the need for common sense to its staff, users and the general public.

A number of the social distancing measures within the town centre would be lifted this week. Others however would remain as they had proved highly successful in the public accessing the town. Ultimately these would lead to permanent Traffic Regulation Orders and in the case of Town Walls a Low Traffic Zone being implemented.

All staff who were shielded had now returned to work and adaptations had been made to their working environments to protect them as far as possible. Council continued to lose working days due to staff having to self-isolate because they or their family members might have come into contact with a person testing positive for COVID. Staff were all encouraged to use the Lateral Flow Testing Kits provided and all staff who were required to attend physical Council meetings, had to take a Lateral Flow Test on the morning of the Council Meeting. PPE and sanitising equipment continued to be provided.

All Staff who were required to work from home had been contacted and their views sought on their desire to return to an office environment. Working from Home had proved beneficial for certain scenarios yet there was a need for the office to begin to return to

normality and staff re-learn working together in a physical setting. A rota was now in place for staff to safely work from the office. Some desks had been removed to create more space and arrangements were in place for hot-desking. In the short term some staff would continue to be based at the Weeping Cross Depot. If, however that were to remain permanently there would need to be adaptations to the building.

The COVID Regulations required all employers/owners of buildings to carry out specific COVID Risk Assessments. These were no longer required but “Living with COVID” still needed to form part of the general risk assessments of the Council. These were currently being updated.

All Council facilities were now open for public use. There may however be individual requirements that need to stay in place regarding the need for good hygiene and sanitation and the need for ventilation throughout indoor spaces. There were likely to be further reports in due course on how to make more permanent improvements to buildings.

Throughout the various Lockdowns, the Council had produced various publicity material and signage. This was being revisited to reflect the “Living with COVID” scenario.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

25/21 FOOTFALL

The Projects Manager provided an update on Footfall within the Town Centre and the Quarry.

In general, the visitor number for all locations had seen a slight increase over recent months. The increase of new visitors also indicated a return of visitors to Shrewsbury.

The counters were able to record the numbers of new and repeat visitors, this indicated the new visitors had overtaken the repeat visitors for the months of May and June and this was expected to be the case for the remaining summer months.

An overview of the Shrewsbury counters from Elephant WIFI who managed the data and compared it nationally showed that Shrewsbury was above the national average for daily footfall at present.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

26/21 FISHERIES

In the absence of the Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager, the Town Clerk provided an update on the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

She reported that season ticket sales were strong and the start of the season on 16 June had seen fishing on the river really busy. Improvements were going well and it was not just about fishing pegs but also the environment around the pegs which ultimately was of benefit to the wider community.

Work to launch the Junior Academy was in full swing with 10 individuals currently training as angling coaches. This had been organised through the Angling Trust with the support of the Environment Agency who had funded 50% of the cost. The other half would be funded as part of an Angling Trust Grant of £2000 that was secured to help set up the Academy.

There had been many social media posts about the river this week. The high temperatures, with the water temperature around 24/25 degrees C and the PH level hitting 8.7 indicated start of an algae bloom where oxygen levels start to drop which significantly affected the fish, so there was a ban on fishing between 9am-6pm and very stringent rules on fishing outside these times. The situation was being reviewed daily alongside the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

27/21 QUARRY MATTERS

27.1 Quarry Events Programme

The Town Clerk reported that events were beginning to return, albeit cautiously as lockdown measures lifted. These events still needed to get sign off from both the Safety Advisory Group and Public Health. Many events had been cancelled but were in the diary for 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

27.2 Commencement of Park Run

The Town Clerk reported that the Deputy Town Clerk & the Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager had been working with the Parkrun Organisers both locally and nationally. The Deputy Town Clerk had been liaising with the Safety Advisory Group and Public Health who were both happy with the measures that were in place to enable Park Run to begin again on 24 July.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

27.3 Permission to demolish the Quarry Greenhouse

The Town Clerk reported that she and the Head of Operations had a site meeting later in the week with one of the Conservation Planners at Berrys with a view to

commissioning them to submit the application for Listed Building & Conservation Area Consent to demolish the large greenhouse.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

27.4 Quarry Management Plan Specification

The Town Clerk reported that she and the Head of Operations had been discussing this but there was no further update.

27.5 To update on the need to fell the Lime Tree at the entrance to the Quarry

The Town Clerk reported that the large Lime Tree by the St Chads Gates had been on an inspection regime for a number of years. It had been inspected by Stephen Shields the Tree Officer at Shropshire Council and his expert opinion was that it needed to be removed as it had reached its viable time. The Town Council had submitted an application to fell this tree as not only was it in the Conservation Area, it was also covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Permission had now been granted and given the location and size of tree currently tenders were being sought for safe removal. It was hoped for removal the first week in September and its removal and the reasons would be widely publicised on social media.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

27.6 Shropshire War Memorial

The Town Council was responsible for a number of war memorials in the town and a number were listed and were inspected regularly. A recent inspection of the Shropshire Memorial in the Quarry had identified cracks to the dome which were causing water ingress. Repair options were being discussed with the Stonemason, Shropshire Council Conservation Officers and Historic England.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

28/21 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

The Head of Operations gave an update on the progress of Bloom during the summer period including the Bloom Portfolio, community participation and programmed summer floral embellishment. He reported that Summer planting had been completed and all floral infrastructure was in place. Regular updates had been live streamed on social media featuring Weeping Cross Nursery, including demonstrations on planting hanging baskets, plant propagation, green roofs plant varieties. Future projects would include a feature on the work of the Tree Team.

Floral Sponsorship continued to be very popular with local companies and there was currently no availability of locations in the town, but over ten companies had expressed an interest in sponsoring floral features and were included on a waiting list.

New wildflower areas featuring traffic roundabouts, verges and green spaces had been successful and have received favourable comments.

A new Bloom Website was being developed.

The Town of Flowers competition was being promoted. Judging would be done on photo entries as opposed to 'in person' judging.

Heart of England in Bloom had announced that this year's judging will be done by submission of a Portfolio of evidence rather than a visit. The Communications Officer had been working hard to pull all evidence together to show how the town had met the judging criteria. The deadline for the submission of the portfolio was the end of July.

Future Projects included the development, preparing and planting of green roofs, Autumn bulb planting of snowdrops and bluebells in community woodland and continuing to promote the free daffodil planting projects.

The Head of Operations reported that the Bloom Group were looking for some new future projects, they had the funding to provide plants, containers and were able to offer advice but these must be community led projects. Members were asked to consider whether they had any local areas for community projects and if so to bring these to the attention of the Bloom Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

29/21 TREE MATTERS

29/1 Tree Charter

Members were asked to consider the Town Council signing up to the Tree Charter [Tree Charter](#). The Town Clerk reported that there was a push for Local Councils to sign up to the Tree Charter. This was something that the National Association of Local Councils was promoting alongside the Woodland Trust. Shrewsbury Town Council possibly had more trees than any other Town Council in the Country and looked after an estimated 120,000 trees, so signing up to the Tree Charter would make good sense and validate the care it showed for the trees.

RESOLVED:

That Shrewsbury Town Council sign up to the Tree Charter.

29/2 Queens Green Canopy

The Town Clerk reported on the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) [The Queen's Green Canopy \(queensgreencanopy.org\)](https://www.thequeensgreencanopy.org) a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "*Plant a Tree for the Jubilee.*"

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

The Town Council was in a good position to be able to initiate a tree planting scheme in Shrewsbury. It did something similar in 2018 when it planted 17 Oak Tees to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Discussions had taken place with Shropshire Association of Local Councils, Sustainability Officers at Shropshire Council and the Shropshire Horticultural Society about the Town Council facilitating the procurement of enough trees for the county. This would tie in with the Tree Nursery Project that was being facilitated at the Weeping Cross Depot in partnership with Shropshire Council and with DEFRA funding.

Councillor Dean asked whether the Town Council had a policy regarding replacement of street trees. He felt there appeared a reluctance to replace trees which had to be removed.

The Town Clerk responded that the majority of street trees were the responsibility of Shropshire Council as the Highways Authority and any work carried out on them by Town Council operatives was carried out as part of the Horticultural Service Level Agreement and close liaison with both the Tree Team at Shropshire Council and Highways Engineers to determine the work required.

The Head of Operations said street trees could be replaced but nowadays they needed to have the correct membranes and water systems in place. The Town Council had a wealth of knowledge and experienced tree staff and were happy to work collaboratively with Highways on identifying suitable stock. There was also the potential for Bloom to assist with infrastructure costs.

Councillor Bentick asked if local communities would have influence over the type of tree that would be planted if there were a decision to plant a significant tree in a Ward.

The Town Clerk said the guidance for the Queen's Green Canopy suggested the need to purchase from national tree stocks which included around 8 species. The Town Council had begun to investigate the potential of purchasing significant tree stock but was finding that very mature trees were difficult to come by so although they could try and accommodate the needs of the community it would more come down

to availability of stock and geological conditions of the site. However, views of Ward Members would be sought.

RESOLVED:

That officers progress with initiatives to appropriately mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by taking part in the Queens Green Canopy.

29/3 Tree Plotting Software

As members were aware Jim Goldsmith from the Countryside & Greenspace Team had been leading on the Ash Die Back Project and he had been mapping just Ash Trees. He had been using the Shropshire Council GIS mapping system which had not been the easiest system to use. Given the Town Council had 120,000 trees, finding a cost-effective system was imperative. The Team had investigated every tree system available and TreePlotter was seen as the best overall by all those involved and the one that would best meet the Town Council's needs. Purchase of this system would come out of the current tree budgets and would ultimately pay for itself in terms of operational efficiency. As purchase would fall under the Town Clerk's normal delegated authority members were asked to note the update on the purchase of this piece of software.

Councillor Roberts expressed concern about the future of three Ash Trees planted on Shrewsbury Business Park to honour those lost in World War 2 and Chernobyl. The Town Clerk said that all of the Ash trees that were inspected were within the Town Council's remit, which these particular trees were not. It did not include those on private land or in Shropshire Council's ownership.

RESOLVED:

That the progress of purchasing of software from TreePlotter at a cost of £15,300 for a 3-year subscription be noted.

30/21 BEAVER PROJECT

As members were aware, the Town Council had been progressing a project to introduce Beavers into the wild. The Old River Bed had been highlighted as a perfect location for such a project. Officers had been working with colleagues at the Wildlife Trust to develop a project local and learn from the experiences of the Trust elsewhere.

The Town Clerk reported that an Invitation to Tender was live for the building of the compound and there had been a lot of background work around financial and operational governance of this project and making the DEFRA application for a licence.

There was also the Carbon Efficiency potential of this project. As an extinct but native species, beavers are an integral part of Europe's ecosystems. Known as 'keystone species', they have the ability to engineer their surroundings, and create niches for a huge variety of other species from plants and fungi to fish and birds. Studies on their activities have been found to filter pollution from water, lock up carbon, prevent flooding and maintain nitrogen and other chemical cycles.

Although some funding had been secured, more would be needed so were looking at the potential of crowd funding.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

31/21 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

31/1 County Ground

The Town Clerk reported on discussions with Beacons Cricket Club regarding extension of the Pavilion. Officers had liaised with all clubs on their current and future needs and proposals had been submitted to planning for extending the building. This would provide increased facilities and storage and would remove the need for a number of storage containers which had been used by the canoe club.

Due to more pressing work programmes the extension was not progressed during the lockdown, but discussions had recently taken place with the primary user, Beacon Cricket Club regarding resurrecting those plans.

During Lockdown a number of improvements were carried out to the existing pavilion, all of which would prove beneficial to the long-term expansion of the facility. The cost of the recent repairs had been taken out of planned buildings maintenance budgets. A budget allocation for the extension was set at £400k and previous QS costings put the build costs at around £500k. Build costs have increased significantly of late, therefore work on revisiting those QS costs will need to be undertaken.

The ECB had expressed an interest in enhancements to this facility and had penciled potential funding in 2022/23; this however would be dependent on security of tenure for the Cricket Club. Officers were working on what that might look like.

The Head of Operations was to make enquiries with the potential for this project to be a design and build contract.

The likely timescale for development would be in the 2022/23 financial year with start date after the season ended in August 2022 and being ready for the May 2023 season. The County Ground had been identified in the s106 Agreement for the Copthorne Barracks Development as the beneficiary of £115k for improvements to the site as a sporting amenity.

Various staff had been tasked with preparing specifications for this work so that it could be tendered to mirror the timescales for the pavilion extension.

To be in a position to bid for ECB funding, the Beacon Cricket Club would need to prepare a business plan that would show how they would be able to meet the current outcomes for funding (i.e. increasing women and girls' participation in cricket); they would receive assistance from Cricket Shropshire in doing this. The

Club were also liaising with other users on their usage requirements and how a joint management of the facility would work to facilitate a long-term lease arrangement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

31/2 Unauthorised encampments

The Town Clerk presented a report setting out the process that must be followed when an unauthorised encampment on Council land had been identified.

The Council were required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Procedure Rules as defined in the Government Document Dealing with Illegal and Unauthorised Encampments and there are the various actions that officers undertake in dealing with encampments.

The Police have powers under the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act to remove unauthorised encampments more speedily without the need to seek redress in the civil courts. They too must follow a course of action to consider the welfare of those individuals within the encampment.

A rolling programme of deterrents had been put in place which included steel hoops along perimeters, additional tree planting, extra lockable barriers at entrances, height restriction barriers & protected padlocks with metal shrouded covers, depending on situation.

Due to the recent regular occurrence of unauthorised encampments in the town, Staff had completed a further site audit to determine what additional measures were required.

Quotations to install height restriction barriers had been sought. Landscaping deterrents including mounds, ditches and tree planting were being looked at and may be funded in-house from existing revenue budgets.

There was no budget allocated to these preventative measures but Council must weigh up the physical costs against increased officer time in dealing with these issues as well as public angst.

Shropshire Council was pursuing the establishment of a Travellers' Transit Site to the north of the town; this was a requirement of the review of the local plan and the Town Council had previously considered the layout of such a site.

Once a Transit Site was in place the Police could use the provisions of s62 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act to remove encampments but also restrict their return to the area for 6 months.

The Head of Operations added his commendation to the team effort by key staff in dealing with unauthorised encampments quickly and effectively and reiterated that this was becoming an increasing problem on Town Council land and the Council needed to consider a way forward for the future.

Councillor Wilson welcomed the report expressed his thanks to Town Council staff and to local residents who had undertaken a litter pick on Radbrook Recreation ground following a recent encampment.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the report be noted.**
- (ii) **That Council considers the funding of additional preventative measures.**

31/3 Water Fountains

Councillor Wilson proposed that consideration be given to the installation of water filling stations in the Quarry to encourage the reduction in the number of plastic bottles being used and to complement the successful Shrewsbury Cup. He was aware that a number of Local Authorities had already taken such an initiative.

The Head of Operations welcomed the suggestion as something to be considered as part of the future visioning exercise for the Quarry. The original water fountains had been disconnected some years ago due to their lead piping. Consideration would have to be given to a design in keeping with the Grade II Listed Park as well as a number of other factors including flood zones, accessibility and infrastructure.

RESOLVED:

That a report be prepared into the viability of water bottle filling stations in the Quarry for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

31/4 Fixture Programme for 2021/22

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager submitted a detailed report into the fixture programme on Council land; this included:

- Football fixtures including Saturday & Sunday Leagues, starting and ending seasons
- Tennis Keyholding Scheme on Council land and grass courts
- Cricket Fixtures
- Rounders Leagues at Frankwell
- Archery Club facilities which had been relocated from Radbrook to Monkmoor
- Disc Golf at Springfield Recreation Ground
- Canoeing from Frankwell
- Increasing number of Exercise Classes being hosted on Council land

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

32/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk reported that last year's capital programme had been updated and anything outstanding had been transferred onto the new programme with an additional column to reflect the quarter work was likely to start in. Officers had met before the meeting to look at progress and give a timeframe for work on these projects and the same colour coded format that been continued to enable members to follow progress. There was more detailed discussion on the following locations:

Upton Lane Site

Upton Lane has significant funding available through the Cornovi development in the area and officers and Councillor Moseley have been working together to develop a revised BMX Track, Play Area and Footpaths.

A recent site visit with Officers, Councillor Moseley, the contractor and the Head of the school had identified the plan for the new BMX track, but also a need for a Beginners Track. The contractor was asked to cost out an additional beginners track and officers are looking at the financial governance arrangements. The Play Area would be developed once the BMX Track had been installed and footpath improvements, dependent on finances available might need to be incorporated into any future footpath funding.

Councillor Moseley is currently doing some consultation with the immediate local residents to gauge their thoughts and relay any concerns they may have. The Youth & Community Manager has been tasked with consulting the local users of the site via youth meetings.

Kynaston Road Site

Following the site meeting at Upton Lane, the Project Manager, the Head of Operations and the contractor visited the Kynaston Road Recreation Ground to discuss options for the skateboard ramps. Emphasis now was on creating a wheeled sports track that could be used for multiple wheeled sports rather than individual facilities for each wheeled sport.

There was also a need to address flooding issues, need to improve some of the play facilities and a wish from local residents to relocate facilities away from properties. There was a requirement to increase the budget allocation for this site to address all issues in one hit rather than undertake individual works piecemeal.

The Town Clerk summarised that as could be seen from the Projects Manager's report there was lots of good work going on looking at cycle tracks in a very different way. It highlighted the need to move away from just BMX Tracks and just Skateboard Ramps to Wheeled Sports Tracks that can accommodate BMX bikes, Skateboards, Scooters, Electric Bikes, Free Bikes. The report also raised the need to request a review of the Capital Programme in terms of:

- Officers looking at how the need for a junior track at Upton Lane could be accommodated but expanding on the current tender with the approved contractor.
- Reviewing what could be done at Kynaston Road especially around moving to a Wheeled Sports Track. Renewing the Skateramps would give little change out of £100k particularly with a public wish to relocate on site, so increasing the budget to £50k was probably a more reasonable option.

Cllr Moseley made members aware that the £135,000 coming from Cornovii from the Crowmoor House site was for the whole site and would include the refurbishment and replacement of the play area and other works. She had today put letters and copies of the plans the contractor had provided through the doors of the four properties in Hinton Drive that backed onto the BMC track. There had been serious ASB issues in the past but it was hoped the design would remedy this. Belvidere School were happy with the revised plans. The gentle track for learners and less able would be a great addition. Other works that would be done included reducing lower branches of trees to raise the canopy and provide more visibility through the site, the design of the track was aimed to bring it away from the residents. She added that she was very pleased with the design for this and was very impressed with the contractor and hoped this could be done this year and be a great success.

The Head of Operations echoed the Town Clerk's comments in seeking support for the proposals from the Committee. He hoped the improvements to Upton Lane & Kynaston Road would take it to the next level for users and be just the start of ongoing improvements to many of the Council's recreational assets. Tarmacing would require less maintenance and provide greater enjoyment for enthusiasts.

Referring to the Stanley Lane lighting proposals, Councillor Bentick sought clarification on whether there would be consultation with residents who may be affected by the lighting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the need for upgrade had come from discussions with the previous Ward Member. It was felt that having a lit path between Stanley Lane & Meole Walk would address a lot of the current issues. From discussions it was felt that Stanley Lane could benefit from solar lights that worked similarly to those in the Quarry on a low light with a PIR sensor activated on approach and then fading so these would not be as bold as normal lights but would give a level of security.

Councillor Wilson asked the Town Clerk for any update on Shorncliffe Drive. The Town Clerk reported that discussions were taking place with Shropshire Council about transferring countryside sites including Shorncliffe Drive on a 100-year freehold lease.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the Report be noted.**
- (ii) **That the Finance & General Purpose Committee be asked to review the Capital Programme financing and schedule for both Upton Lane and Kynaston Road Recreation Ground.**

33/21 COMMUTED SUMS

The Town Clerk gave an update on negotiations with developers and transfer arrangements:

- (a) ***Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space*** – offsite contributions to play (£30,498 - £20,498 for Shorncliffe Drive & £10,000 for Silks Meadow – to be paid on 75% occupancy) and open space (£115,000 for sports pitches & associated

facilities at County Ground – paid on 50% occupancy) - *the site is up to 35% Occupancy and Officers have got triggers to contact us once the 50% and 75% occupancy triggers are met. The process on tender specification to spend these funds had begun.*

(b) **Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road** – Phase 1 adopted; Snagging Phase 2/3 commenced – *staff continue to liaise with Barratts and Bovis on final phase transfers.*

(c) **Shrewsbury South Urban**

- i. Sutton Grange site – ongoing – likely transfer in 2021
- 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

No further progress to report

(d) **Sweetlake** – Development of play area and future adoption of open space – Play complete. Phase 1c,1b,1c, adopted; Phase 2a, 2b snagging complete, awaiting formal transfer – *documents for Phase 2a & 2b transfer were signed earlier in the week so transfer expected to be imminent.*

(e) **Crowmoor House** – s106 agreement for offsite play & open space contribution to be used for Upton Lane & Monkmoor Recreation Ground – two-staged payments on trigger on percentage occupied properties. Council to bankroll work at Upton Lane Rec; - *Councillor Mrs Mosley continues to liaise with Cornovii on the Crowmoor House Development and the projects are progressing ahead of funds transfer.*

(f) **Harlescott Infants/Juniors site** – Offsite contributions to sport – *Staff have started initial discussions with SC on what the Offsite Contribution can be spent on. Initial thoughts are around sports pitch improvements and drainage at Kynaston Road Recreation Ground.*

Councillor Dean expressed concern over the lack of dropped kerbs on the Barracks site, which was very poor and asked if this were a site the Town Council would be managing.

The Town Clerk confirmed there had been no discussions about land or play adoption on the site and as far as she was aware it would be under a Management Company.

Councillor Bentick said that Sweetlake lacked community provision and asked if there was any CIL funding that could be used. He also expressed concerned that Meole Allotment had a current waiting list of 50 and asked whether whether CIL money could be used to provide additional allotments.

The Town Clerk said that CIL funding came as a general fund and was not allocated to specific development sites. It would be a matter for Council to consider how to

spend these funds. From a land adoption aspect all the land would be public open space and recreation land and the Council had signed agreements to that effect. In terms of allotments, past experience of running allotments showed that they went through peaks and troughs. She was not aware of any available land in close proximity to the current allotment sites in Meole.

Councillor Bentick asked whether this was something the Allotment Group could look at and if they could provide figures of waiting lists across all the Council owned allotment sites. He asked if Elected Members were able to attend Allotment meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed the next Allotment Group meeting was on Thursday at 2pm and Ward Members were welcome to attend if they wished. The meeting dates were communicated through each Allotment Secretary who then sent representation. The meetings provided a general operational update and gave the opportunity for the Allotment Associations to raise any issues or concerns that they had. It would be a matter for Council to consider any additional allotment sites.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

34/21 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this virtual Town Council meeting and also thanked the staff involved in this meeting. All papers relating to this meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk and the minutes would appear in draft on the website within the next month.