

## SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Recreation & Leisure Committee Held in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Wednesday 13 February 2019

#### PRESENT

Councillors K Pardy (Chair), Mrs H Fraser (substituting for D Vasmer), I Jones, N Laurens, A Mosley and K Roberts.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Mike Cox (Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager), Stuart Farmer (Projects Officer), Rebecca Oliver (Committee Clerk) and Paul Briscoe (Toilet Cleaning Operative).

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors N Green, Ms J Mackenzie, D Vasmer and Mrs R Wall.

#### 54/18 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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#### 55/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 05 December 2018 were submitted as circulated and read.

#### RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 05 December 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

#### 56/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

##### 56.1 Ref: Min 41.4 Beech Tree in the Dingle

Essential works on the Beech Tree will be carried out on Friday during which time the Dingle will be closed to the public, for safety reasons. Posters will be put up and notifications have been posted on social media.

**56.2 Ref: Min 44/18 Recruitment of a Mechanical Engineer**

This post has been filled and the individual started in January. The new lift has been installed and was used this week for the first time.

**56.3 Ref: Min 45.2 Location for the Planting of the Remembrance Oak Trees in Each Ward**

All trees have been planted and the Town Clerk thanked those Councillors who got involved. The plaques have been received and are soon to be installed.

**56.4 Ref: Min 47.3 Monkmoor Recreation Ground**

The mesh-fencing around the pavilion has been ordered and is due to be installed shortly.

**56.5 Ref: Min 47.4 Oakfield Drive**

Officers reported that the unauthorised encampment moved into the garden of the house by the Sports Village.

**56.6 Ref: Min 48.6 Vehicle Trackers**

Following a significant increase in vehicle thefts, particularly at the Crematorium, the number of vehicle trackers being used has increased.

## **57/18 MAINTENANCE OF TOILETS**

The meeting was joined by Paul Briscoe, a member of the Town Council's Toilet Cleaning Team. The results of anti-social behaviour and drug misuse in the public conveniences has now reached crisis point and Mr Briscoe shared some of his experiences.

The worst hit toilets are Hills Lane, Butcher Row and Abbey Foregate. On a daily basis the team face discarded needles, many of which have been used, blood splatters, needles found in cisterns, drugs left in bags labelled with cartoon characters and even a purposely placed needle in the straps of a baby changing table.

There has been a spate of sharp boxes being broken into to access used needles. Further needles have been found in various other locations around the town centre.

Officers reported that in the past 6 months, 64 x 5 litre Sharps containers were collected containing around 12,000 needles and costing the Council £500 to dispose of them. Officers expressed concern for the safety of both the public and staff. Each toilet block is visited 6 times a day but within a short period of leaving the toilets clean, they can be messed up again. A lot of the operative's time is wasted waiting for individuals to leave the block before cleaning can commence. The Police are not always available to help and sometimes medical intervention is required and it is not uncommon for Cleaning staff to call for an Ambulance.

Councillors shared the concerns for the welfare of the Town Council staff and the public. Mr Briscoe said he was fully supported by the Council with a supportive manager and all the equipment and PPE he requires and as a lone worker he has been issued with a body camera. He has never been threatened by a member of the public but recognises he is vulnerable.

The Town Clerk reported on a meeting with the Director of Public Health and Police Superintendent to discuss the matter and there was no easily identifiable solution to this problem. Enquiries have been made with other Town Councils around the country but other than closing facilities there was no new best practice. The Town Clerk discussed various options.

Members agreed that the Alternative Giving Scheme needs publicising more to discourage people from giving money to rough sleepers who use proceeds to fund an alcohol or drugs habit.

Members discussed the options of closing facilities against the potential of displacing the problem elsewhere.

Lone working does happen at weekends and these staff have been issued with bodycams, radios (linked to CCTV control) and phones. The Lone Working Policy is followed.

Members discussed the poor levels of public health funding provided to the County; this was almost half what was received by Telford & Wrekin and a quarter that was received by Kensington & Chelsea. Members also discussed Governments more recent proposals to provide additional support to combat Homelessness; it was felt that such scenarios should be raised with the appropriate Minister to highlight the impact that such a small minority can have on a service provided for the majority.

Members thanked Mr Briscoe for attending the meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) That Paul Briscoe be invited to present to Full Council and share the photographs shown today.**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk be granted permission to explore various options as outlined.**
- (iii) That PR be increased to warn the public of the dangers and make them extra vigilant.**
- (iv) That Cllr Peter Nutting (in his capacity of Leader of Shropshire Council) is asked to lobby to the MP about levels of public health budgets and issues around homelessness to feed into the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.**
- (v) That Officers keep the committee up-to-date with any progress.**

*Paul Briscoe left the meeting.*

## **58/18 2019 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

A revised list of capital projects was circulated with added information about the Lead Officers, team to be involved, any Councillor involvement, actual cost and the delivery timescales. The Town Clerk consider GAANT charts to be inappropriate on this occasion but agreed to add colour coding to the table to show the stages of the projects. The Town Clerk provided an update on the projects since the last meeting.

Members were happy with the format of this document, which will form a regular update to the committee. Timescales including start date, out to tender date etc. will be added to make monitoring progress easier.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Officers update the committee regularly on the status of the capital projects and modify the document according to the comments raised.**

*Councillor N Laurens left the meeting.*

## **59/18 TENDERING**

### **59.1 Ice-creams and Refreshments Concessions Tender – The Quarry**

The Outdoor Recreation and Assets Manager (OR&AM) informed the committee that they received 3 tenders, out of 18 original expressions of interest, for the ice-cream and refreshments concessions in The Quarry.

The existing trader provided the best quote, details of which were circulated. In order to provide a better visitor experience the trader has requested:

- To increase the kiosk by 1-1.5m in each direction to enable an extended range of drink products (hot food will not be provided),
- Providing a new seating area on the riverbank,
- Replacing the ice-cream van with a vintage ice-cream vehicle. Examples were circulated.
- Layby for the ice-cream van,
- Hook up to water and electric and improved drainage'
- Potential expansion of the 3-year contract due to increased investment.

Members were generally supportive of proposals to improve the visitor experience, the only exception being digging out a layby due to the protected tree stock in this area and stress from ground compaction. Officers would look into providing water and drainage facilities as part of a wider drainage project in the area.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) **That K & C Yarwood Ltd be awarded the Ice-cream Concession for 3 years with a potential for extension to 5-years pending satisfactory performance.**

- (ii) **That proposal to extend the kiosk, new seating area and the replacement of the ice-cream van with a vintage vehicle be approved and that officers work with Yarwoods on finer detail.**
- (iii) **That drainage be addressed as part of a bigger drainage project to alleviate flooding.**

#### **59.2 LED Lighting Replacement**

This project has gone out to tender with a closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> March. So far 15 companies have expressed an interest. The companies are tendering for the general proposals with non-specifics at this stage. Councillor Mosley expressed a wish that the lights are a mellow yellow glow.

#### **59.3 Monkmoor Recreation Ground All-Weather Pitch & Lighting**

This project has gone out to tender with a closing date of 15 March. One company has already expressed an interest.

#### **59.6 Radbrook Recreation Ground pitch levelling**

This project is in progress with discussions with SAHA. It is due to go out to tender very soon.

### **60/18 LAND TRANSFERS**

Various land transfers for the countryside unit are being discussed with Shropshire Council solicitors and once the easement rights have been approved they will be ready for transfer.

### **61/18 GIS PLOTTING**

Officers have been borrowing Shropshire Council's mapping system for plotting the locations of street lights which has proved invaluable. There is potential to plot more assets including benches, bins, trees and play areas. Officers sought authorisation to purchase a tablet at a cost of £500 and associated software at £100/mth. This will be covered from the tree budget.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That the purchase of a tablet and software be recommended to the Finance & General Purpose Committee.**

### **62/18 QUARRY**

### **62.1 Events in the Quarry for 2019**

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager (OR&AM) circulated a list of events due to take place in the Quarry during 2019. He announced that the Sponsored Sofa Push event on 02 March has been cancelled as the charity have reached their fundraising target. A Race for Life is proposed for 05 April and a Fostering Event by Shropshire Council is proposed for 30 June. Filming took place on 08 February in the Quarry and Dana Prison for Bancroft Season 2.

### **62.2 Footfall Activity in the Quarry**

The statistics for the last few months were circulated and still shows high dwell times in the Quarry for this time of year. Additional footfall counters have been ordered for the Market Hall and the Square. The Town Clerk reported that the Director of Place at Shropshire Council is keen to expand the Geosensing Counters throughout the town centre; a meeting has been arranged to discuss this further.

## **63/18 MARKETS**

### **63.1 Update on Markets**

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager reported a 97.5% occupancy of the market with five traders on the waiting list. There has been a few newcomers who have been pleased with trading so far and would like to extend their trading days.

Following a meeting with the traders, they have agreed to open late night on 06 April and further dates up to December have been diarised. Gin tasting will be held on the last Friday of each month from 6.30pm – 10.30pm. This is a ticketed event managed by additional security guards.

The Town Clerk reported that Market Hall had not been successful in retaining the title of 'Britain's Favourite Market Award', though the mystery shopper reports had proved interesting reading particular from a shopper experience.

### **63.2 Trader Mix Policy**

The OR&AM explained how the market works to encourage a mix of traders in the market, which is constantly monitored. They always consider whether a new trader will increase footfall into the market and what impact the newcomer will have on existing stallholders.

This is carried out in line with the National Association of British Market Authorities Guidelines and the tenant mix policy is reviewed annually. This was circulated prior to the meeting and recommended for approval by the committee.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Trader Mix Policy for 2019 be approved.**

## **64/18 RECREATION GROUND & OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

### **64.1 Church Road Recreation Ground**

Councillor Laurens reported on a meeting he and the Town Clerk attended with the Meole Village Residents Association. Details of plans to improve the Recreation Ground were discussed but it was stressed that the football pitch would stay.

Councillor Laurens also reported on a meeting with the Vicar of Meole Holy Trinity Church regarding the purchase of the Glebe Field, situated next to the Church which will not only safeguard the site from development but will also provide a community resource.

The Town Clerk confirmed it was a useful and interesting meeting and the capital programme held opportunities that the MVRA can get involved in. The group consists of 190 members, which started 9 years ago.

### **64.2 County Ground**

Officers have met with the secretary of the Beacon Cricket Club about the future expansion of the pavilion which is also used by SAHA, Shrewsbury Canoe Club, Shropshire Shufflers, Netball and Rounders clubs. The number of attendees and their postcodes have been collated and shows that people are drawn from across town.

The Town Clerk will be attending a meeting on Friday with this evidence to look at the development plans, review the budget and speak to the architect. Both the R&L and F&GP committees will receive an update.

The work will go out to tender in late Spring with the contract awarded July/August and construction to start in September. However, the Town Clerk believes this timescale may be optimistic.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That Officers report back to the Recreation & Leisure Committee and the Finance & General Purpose Committee regarding the development plans and costings once known.**

## **65/18 FISHERIES**

Officers reported on the day-to-day management of the Shrewsbury Town Fisheries. There will be a new system to purchase day and season permits and a new website will provide even greater ease of use.

There has been a great uptake by Anglers who are pleased to see the improvements and the results of their money reinvested. Many competitions are planned for this year potentially including a world competition in November, subject to it fitting in with existing competitions already planned.

Following reports of poaching, new signage has been created and will be installed asap, replacing the old signage. This will be funded from ticket sales and at no cost to Shrewsbury Town Council.

A full report on the work taking place was circulated prior to the meeting.

Work is planned at Mousecroft Pool where the wood and weed will be removed from the water and other changes will enable children and the disabled to participate.

## **66/18 TEAM SHREWSBURY**

### **66.1 Youth & County Lines Resilience Workshop**

Following the discussions at Full Council, Adam Purnell will be carrying out training in schools. Shropshire Council has expressed a wish to be involved and asked if the Town Council would extend the training to schools beyond Shrewsbury.

### **66.2 PCC Funding availability**

Following the Police & Crime Commissioner's attendance at Full Council, possible PCC funding streams have been identified to address anti-social behaviour, road safety and CCTV. Projects have been identified to potentially tap into this funding.

## **67/18 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM**

### **67.1 Shrewsbury In Bloom Committee**

The committee met in January, the minutes of which were circulated prior to the meeting. The committee are keen to get the younger generation involved and plan to visit all Primary Schools in Shrewsbury and invite 10-12 students for a tour of the greenhouse. The next meeting will be on 28 February where it is hoped there will be a few extra committee members.

### **67.2 Shrewsbury In Bloom Judging – 23 July 2019**

Heart of England in Bloom Judging will take place on Tuesday 23 July. Given the changes to judging criteria, it was felt appropriate to explore different venues for the route with different starting and finishing points. This will be developed over the coming meetings.

The Shrewsbury In Bloom group have funds available for community projects and the Chairman of the Bloom Committee has written to all Councillors with details.

### **67.3 Weeping Cross Open Day**

The Greenhouse at Weeping Cross will once again be opened to the public, this year on 22 May. The Operations Manager will arrange for signs to be put up in the Noticeboards advertising this event, which is being organised by Hilary Humphries.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Shrewsbury In Bloom Committee meeting held on 30 January 2019 be received and accepted.**

*Councillor Mosley left the meeting.*

**68/18 CHRISTMAS**

The Town Council has liaised with the BID about the Christmas Events. The Christmas lights switch on will be on 20 November 2019 and the Carols in the Square is scheduled for 18 December 2019. Radio Shropshire has been booked as well as the stage, choir and extra security.

**69/18 COMMUTED SUMS**

The Town Clerk gave a brief update on developer discussions/negotiations.

- 69.1 Radbrook College Site** – £60k has been received for upgrades to play areas in the vicinity of this development site. Work has been commissioned and it is hoped both play areas will be installed by Easter.
- 69.2 Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space** – awaiting progress with the Pavilion Extension.
- 69.3 Shelton Hospital Land Transfer** – awaiting completion of the landscaping.
- 69.4 Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road** – part one of this project is ready for adoption for the start of the 2019 grass cutting season
- 69.5 Shrewsbury South Sustainable Urban Extension**
  - 69.5.1 Sutton Grange site** – ongoing and unlikely to transfer in the next financial year
  - 69.5.2 Bellway Homes site** – agreement on play area on site
  - 69.5.3 Galliers site** – early discussions on land adoption
  - 69.5.4 Community Centre** – location on the site has been identified
- 69.6 Ingleby Way, Holgate Drive, Belvidere Paddocks and Arlington Way** – are all with the legal team.
- 69.7 Shrewsbury Town Football Club** - £60k will be released once the tender proposals for pitch levelling have been received.