

## SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Recreation & Leisure Committee Held in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Wednesday 17 July 2019

#### PRESENT

Councillors K Pardy (Chair), N Green, Ms J Halliday, I Jones, A Mosley, Mrs P Moseley (substituting for Councillor Ms J Mackenzie), A Phillips (substituting for K Roberts) and R Wall.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Mike Cox (Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager) and Carol Pullen (Acting Committee Clerk).

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms J Mackenzie & K Roberts.

*The Chair noted the recent resignation of Councillor Nic Laurens who would be missed.*

#### 16/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

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

#### 17/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 29 May 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

#### RESOLVED:

**That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 29 May 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

#### 18/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

## 19/19 2019 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk updated Members on capital cross-town projects.

- (i) **Street Lights** – LED replacement was progressing well and to date only three complaints had been received, mainly about the brightness. This could be alleviated by installation of a rear shield to reduce the glare.
- (ii) **Heathgates Allotments** – currently progressing. The order for the community building has been raised and necessary civils works ordered.
- (iii) **Radbrook Recreation Ground** – work had commenced to level the surface and install drainage.
- (iv) **Church Road Recreation Ground** – work had commenced on replacement play equipment.
- (v) **Monkmoor Recreation Ground** – planning permission had been granted for the installation of all weather surface, fencing and lighting.

### RESOLVED:

**That the update be noted.**

## 20/19 TENDERING

Progress on the following tenders was tabled at the meeting

| Project                     | Tender Status     | Approval Date | Start Date |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| BMX Tendering               | Live Tender       | tbc           | tbc        |
| Play Area – Roundhill Green | Live Tender       | tbc           | tbc        |
| Play Area Sweetlake, Meole  | Tender early Sept | tbc           | tbc        |
| Sola Lights, Quarry         | Tender early Sept | tbc           | tbc        |
| Christmas Lights            | Tender Nov        | tbc           | tbc        |

## 21/19 QUARRY

### 21.1 Update of Events for 2019

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager circulated a list of events due to take place in the Quarry and other locations during 2019. There were several additional Bandstand performances on 27 July, 21 & 28 August, which had been added since the last meeting.

A report was tabled showing Quarry Events comparisons between 2018 and 2019. Major events are restricted to ten per year which can change but core events remain

the same. This year the Soap Box Derby was far larger than expected and had formed one of the ten events.

In 2018 there were 62 events in total, compared to 59 in 2019. Many of the listed items were not necessarily events but were for information for the staff to be aware of, eg army recruitment days and Kingsland Bridge maintenance.

Dates for fishing competitions had been reserved but these are dependent on river levels at the time.

Park Run continues to attract runners from far and wide and the start has been moved to protect the grass, due to the numbers taking part. Junior Park Run is now attracting an average of 107 per week.

Contractors are now on site setting up the Flower Show which takes up to four weeks, the first week being mainly measuring the site.

In 2020 some events have moved from May to September so there is currently a void in May which it is not intended to fill due to other events in and around the town. The Town Council work closely with Shropshire Showground to ensure there is no clash of major events to avoid the strain on emergency services and the highways and parking network.

The recent 80's concert had been a success although the Town Council were aware of six complaints. Some of these were around noise. The noise levels are set by the Licence and recorded in five different locations with an Out of Hours team doing spot checks, which had recorded levels within those set by the licence. Records will be provided from UK Live in time for the debrief meeting.

A cyclist had complained about access through the Quarry being restricted but the Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager had liaised with Cycle Shrewsbury & Shropshire Council to provide an alternative route through. Advance signage had been put up beforehand showing an alternative route.

## **21.2 Footfall Activity**

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager reported on footfall activity over the weekend of the Food Festival. Since the counters had been installed 1M visitors had been recorded.

The data collecting system has the capabilities to be used more widely in the future to accurately gauge attendance figures. Counters have recently been installed in the Square and the Market. It has still to be tweaked but eventually would be able to map footfall within the town and capture data to indicate where people go when they leave major events, which would also assist the emergency services.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) That the update on events for 2019 be noted.**

- (ii) **That the update on footfall report be noted.**

## **22/19 MARKETS**

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager reported a 98.4% occupancy of the market, this was due to retirements but vacancies are filled quickly. There are currently five traders wanting an extra unit or more days and five traders on the waiting list.

Income is up and utilisation is still high compared to other markets. Traders had reported that during large events in the town they noticed that although foot fall was good, trade was slow.

### **RESOLVED:**

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

*Councillor Green had left the meeting for this item and returned following it*

## **23/19 RECREATION GROUND & OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

- (i) **Monkmoor Recreation Ground**

The Town Clerk reported that work was progressing with Shropshire Council to install barriers on the access road to prevent unauthorised encampments and protect the learning centre. Barriers were to be sited so as to enable vans to park just outside but off the road if necessary.

## **24/19 FISHERIES**

The Town Clerk reported that all was going well. The signage had been done and the website was up and running. There was a Head Bailiff and volunteer bailiffs who were working with community groups to help manage the sites.

Oxon will be a specialist pool, which will cater for specialist anglers. Emstrey is a much more rural environment, which will be available to regular anglers.

Grants of £11,000 from Environment Agency and £5,000 from Angling Trust had been received towards general improvements to the fisheries.

Due to the improvements being made to the facilities and the management of the waters, the town is attracting national competitions with potential for international competitions.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That progress on developing the Shrewsbury Town Fisheries be noted.**

## **25/19 TEAM SHREWSBURY**

A graph was circulated showing Team Shrewsbury comparative reporting between Jan & June 2018 & 2019. There had been a general increase with key issues being rough sleepers and drug misuse.

All incidences are now reported via 101. This will assist the Police in directing resources to identified hotspots.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Team Shrewsbury update be noted.**

## **26/19 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM**

**(i) Shrewsbury in Bloom Update**

The Operations Manager gave an update on Shrewsbury in Bloom. All planting is now complete. There is no planting on Pride Hill due to the ongoing works but the infrastructure is in place for sustainable planters. The Dingle was looking good and Extinction Rebellion had now taken over and planted up the former World War 1 bed, including the installation of a bottle greenhouse. Shropshire Council had been given a list of jobs that needed doing ahead of judging day.

There were still issues under the railway bridge particularly with pigeon excrement. Councillor Phillips reported that he had raised concerns about the pigeons with Shropshire Council but to no avail. The Operations Manager mentioned the Environmental Protection Act which can be used to enforce the cleaning of paths. Councillor Green agreed to write to Shropshire Council regarding the condition of the pavement under the railway bridge.

Councillor Jones questioned the reason for the planters on the footpath by Benbow Quay. The Operations Manager explained these had been sited to alleviate illegal parking at a request from Shropshire Council Highways.

**(ii) Bloom Judging**

The Operations Manager gave details of the Bloom judging route which would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Two judges from Heart of England in Bloom would be welcomed at the Flaxmill and following a welcome and presentation they would take in a route that included The Castle, the Town Centre, the Quarry and Dingle. New areas had been added to include Carline Fields, the Barnabas Centre and Sutton Lane Allotments. Following this the Countryside Officer would take the Judges round Reabrook Country Park.

**RESOLVED:**

**(i) That Councillor Green would write to Shropshire Council to express concerns on the condition of the pavement under the railway bridge.**

**(ii) That the Shrewsbury in Bloom update be noted.**

## 27/19 WARD WALKS

Members noted dates and times of the Ward Walks. These had been set by Severnside to enable staff, Councillors & Severnside to collectively work together. All walks start at 10.30am and are linked into Severnside Walkabouts (Mark Pragg).

| Date     | Location   | Councillor       |
|----------|--|------------------|
| 24/07/19 | Meole - The Meet Place                               | Cllr G Burgess   |
| 07/08/19 | Monkmoor 1 - Porchfield Community Centre             | Cllr P Moseley   |
| 21/08/19 | Castlefields - Digital Den, Castlefields             | Cllr A Mosley    |
| 04/09/19 | Harlescott Grange 1 - Kynaston Road Community Centre | Cllr I Jones     |
| 18/09/19 | Monkmoor 2 - Armdale Community Centre                | Cllr D Vasmer    |
| 09/10/19 | Harlescott Grange 2 - Greenacres Community Centre    | Cllr I Jones     |
| 06/11/19 | Ditherington - The Laundrette Long Row               | Cllr A Mosley    |
| 12/11/19 | Springfield - Mereside shops                         | Cllr J Mackenzie |

### RESOLVED:

**That the dates of the Ward Walks be noted and circulated to relevant Councillors.**

## 28/19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Town Clerk updated members on the progress to date in working towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The Council was currently working with G Fleet, a specialist transport company and had provided them with fuel and mileage figures for the last three years.

To offset 300,000 kilos of carbon would require the planting of 15,000 trees, building a 500 kw turbine or enough pv to go on 350 houses.

It is proposed to look at each of the Town Council's assets individually to establish what level of carbon reduction could be achieved.

Reduction in tree mileage – tree whips, block planting.

It had been established that the Town Council on average generates 300,000 kgs of carbon a year; this equated to 37.5 domestic properties generating on average 8,000 kg of carbon a year.

It was reported that whilst some areas of Council work had seen reductions in energy usage, others had increased. One notable increase was the Splash Park; the nicer the weather the greater the use.

Discussions took place regarding improvements to vehicles. This was being investigated further but some types of vehicles hadn't yet a competitive option on the market.

Extinction Rebellion had now planted the former World War 1 bed in the Dingle, including the installation of a bottle greenhouse.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the updated be noted.**

### **29/19 CHARTER FOR WALKING NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Councillor Mosley asked Members to consider whether Shrewsbury Town Council sign up to the Charter for Walking Neighbourhoods.

By signing up to the Charter the Town Council would be committing to improving the neighbourhood for people on foot and to creating a network of green walking routes, that would connect people to the places they want to go. This would tie in the with Big Town Plan and the current review of footpaths.

The Ramblers are campaigning to improve neighbourhoods across Great Britain for people walking and associated with this are running a competition, shortlisting towns to receive Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award.

Members were supportive of Councillor Mosley and agreed that Officers pursue this.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Officers' prepare a report into the viability of developing a charter for walking neighbourhoods.**

### **30/19 COMMUTED SUMS**

The Town Clerk updated on outstanding developer discussions/negotiations:

- (a) Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space – offsite contributions to play and open space – awaiting progress with Pavilion Extension
- (b) Shelton Hospital Land Transfer – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – landscaping to be carried out by the Town Council post adoption – work to begin in the Autumn
- (c) Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road – planned adoption for the start of the 2019 grass cutting season

- i. Sutton Grange site – ongoing – unlikely to transfer in next financial year
  - ii. Bellway Homes site – discussion on land adoption and adoption of acoustic fencing
  - iii. Galliers site – early discussions on land adoption
  - iv. Community Centre – location on the site
- (d) Ingleby Way – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – now ready following clarification of hedgerow ownership;
- (e) Holgate Drive – Adoption & Maintenance of open space - awaiting completion of snagging;
- (f) Belvidere Paddocks – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – ready awaiting transfer;
- (g) Arlington Way – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – Land transferred – awaiting £60k S106 money from Shropshire Council;
- (h) Shrewsbury Town Football Club – Offsite contribution to the improvement to football playing surfaces at Radbrook Recreation Ground – Worked commenced
- (i) Sweetlake – Development of play area and future adoption of open space – Tender specification being prepared

**RESOLVED:**

**That the update be noted.**