

## SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Recreation & Leisure Committee Held in the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury At 6.00pm on Wednesday 2 October 2019

#### PRESENT

Councillors Ms K Halliday (Acting Chair), Mrs G Burgess, N Green, I Jones, A Mosley, Mrs P Moseley (substituting for Councillor K Pardy), K Roberts, D Vasmer and Mrs R Wall.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Mike Cox (Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager), Carol Pullen (Acting Committee Clerk) and two members of the public.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ms J Mackenzie, K Pardy and Mrs H Ball (Town Clerk).

#### 31/19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillors K Pardy & Ms J Mackenzie, Chair & Vice Chair of the Recreation & Leisure Committee, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Councillor Ms K Halliday be elected to Chair the meeting.

#### RESOLVED:

**That Councillor Ms K Halliday be elected to Chair the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting of 2 October 2019.**

*Councillor Ms Halliday welcomed Councillor Mrs Gwen Burgess as a member of the Committee*

#### 32/19 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.

#### 33/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 17 July 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 17 July 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**34/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(i) Ref: Min 21.1 Update of Events for 2019**

Councillor Ms Halliday referred to the noise levels recorded during the 80's concert back in July. The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager confirmed that the recordings were at a level of 68 decibels which was within the limits of the Licence but he was still awaiting a de-brief with the Licensing department after which he would confirm this.

**35/19 FISHERIES**

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager introduced Andrew Jones, Manager from Total Angling in Shrewsbury. Mr Jones manages the Town Council's fisheries and administers the permitting system.

Mr Jones gave members an insight into his professional background and his long association with the fishing fraternity. He works closely with the Environment Agency, members of the Angling Trust & the rowing club to create harmony between anglers, other river users, local residents and the public

As a competitive professional angler himself, he is looking at ways of blending fisheries into the environment whilst modernising to attract anglers and benefitting the local economy. He is seeking grants and looking at future projects to include disability angling, working with special needs schools and attracting junior anglers and improving facilities by introducing new signage.

He gave an overview of the current projects:

**County Ground** – installation of 9 new pegs

**Mousecroft Pool** – has been tidied and cleaned up to make it more presentable

**Monkmoor** – installation of 6 new pegs with a grant of £11,000 from the Environment Agency – half for pegs and half for trees. Another £5,000 has been allocated. Next year looking at Monkmoor Meadows Red Kite project and working with the Wildlife Trust to create a new canoe trail.

**Emstrey & Oxon** – installation of 8 new platforms in keeping with conservation restrictions.

**Reabrook** – looking at ways to change attitudes to reduce the amount of damage being caused and developing a volunteer network.

The website permitting system has been a success with over 430 members so far this year. The target is 500.

Mr Jones took questions from members.

Councillor Mrs Moseley enquired as to his role in ensuring the smooth running of angling competitions.

Mr Jones clarified that there are tight restrictions and anglers are automatically disqualified if they do anything to the detriment of the surroundings, no abuse is tolerated or damage to trees. Competitors are fully briefed at the start of each competition.

Councillor Jones asked if there was any programme in place to educate young anglers on the dangers of water.

Mr Jones said there was a good volunteer Bailiff Team and reports are provided regularly to the Police and Team Shrewsbury. Reabrook is of particular concern and they are working closely with the Youth Officer providing support and equipment to Young Shrewsbury to help address the anti-social behaviour issues.

Councillor Mosley asked about the disabled jetty in the Quarry and whether disabled anglers are aware they can use it.

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager confirmed that two thirds of the jetty is used by anglers and they take priority over the boat. Mr Jones said that access to river jetties can pose a problem but is easier on pools with flat platform jetties.

Councillor Mosley expressed concern at the amount of vehicles potentially being given access to the Quarry during competitions.

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager clarified that there are only 4 national competitions per year that require access and there is a strict rule of conduct on vehicles entering the Quarry. Local competitions do not allow vehicular access to the Quarry.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jones for his thorough and positive presentation, he then left the meeting.

## **36/19 2019 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

### **(i) Capital List**

The Operations Manager updated Members on capital cross-town projects.

**Street Lights** – completion was expected by the time the clocks alter at the end of October and have been well received. The Town Clerk confirmed they dim to 50% at mid-night representing an energy reduction.

**Toilets** – no further progress as awaiting Shropshire Council future plans for the redevelopment of the swimming complex.

**Defibrillators** – The defibrillator for Weeping Cross had now been ordered.

**Castlefields Community Centre** – still awaiting quotes for the kitchen.

**Meet Place** – Housing Plus are willing to contribute £20k subject to ratification of tenant benefit. There is some LJC money remaining which could possibly go towards a consultation to establish tenant mix.

**Interpretation Boards** – the Countryside Officer is currently working with the Marketing Officer to look at content.

**Abbey Gardens** – The Town Clerk was waiting to meet with the Ward Member to discuss options.

**River Bed** – ERD money has not yet been received.

**Roundhill Green** – work due to start on 16 November.

**Dana Footpath** – no further progress, awaiting SHS consent.

**Castle Walk** – site needs levelling and soil needs to be moved in phases.

**Monkmoor** – work due to start on 21 October, weather dependent will need around twelve weeks, replacing all weather pitch, installing new lighting, replacing fencing. Users have been offered alternative locations.

**(ii) BMX Tendering**

The Operations Manager updated members on the recent tendering exercise for BMX track refurbishment to include prioritising the resurfacing programme for 2019/20 and the future funding of Upton Lane BMX track which requires major modification. A budgetary line of £18,000 revenue, £22,000 BMX reserves and £7,122 other, had been included in 2019/20 Capital Projects for the refurbishment of the Council's existing BMX facilities.

Upton Lane facilities had been excluded from this tender process with any outstanding budgetary balances being considered to assist with future funding of a major refurbishment of this facility.

The following locations had been included in the tender document:

- Greenfield Recreation Ground
- Little Harlescott Lane
- Meole Brace Mary Webb Road
- Springfield Recreation Ground
- Shorncliffe Recreation Ground

The refurbishment tender had been advertised both locally by contacting surface specialists and electronically on [contractfinder.gov.uk](http://contractfinder.gov.uk) – the closing date being 30 August 2019. Two tenders were received.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Tender 1</b>	<b>Tender 2</b>
Little Harlescott Lane (extra macadam coating)	£10,050 £3,500	£19,530
Meole Mary Webb Road	£24,550	£20,623
Springfield Recreation Ground	£8,050	£14,120
Shorncliffe Drive Recreation Ground	£10,150	£13,591
Greenfields Recreation Ground (extra macadam coating)	£9,250 £3,500	£15,404

At the Finance & General Purpose Meeting on 30 September, members had agreed the following:

**Little Harlescott Lane** – to be refurbished as a priority, which has been part funded via external contribution with Contract awarded to Tender 1 at £10,050.

**Mary Webb Road** – Contract be awarded to Tender 2 at £20,623.

**Shorncliffe Drive** – to be refurbished and track modified with Contract awarded to Tender 1 at £10,150.

**Springfield & Greenfields** – Town Council staff to undertake surface repairs.

Members were asked to approve the further £3,500 for the extra macadam coating to extend the life of Little Harlescott Lane BMX track, for which Councillor Jones had also secured a contribution. Members were happy to approve the additional spend of £3,500.

**RECOMMENDED:**

(i) **That £3,500 be spent extra macadam for Little Harlescott Lane as per Tender 1.**

(ii) **That the report be noted.**

**(iii) Footpaths**

Members considered a report prepared by the Countryside Officer with a view to upgrading the footpath network. The footpath network in Shrewsbury is large and complicated, with a wide range of owners, designations, maintenance levels and usage. £100,000 has been assigned to improve footpaths around Shrewsbury in the Council's 2019/2020 Capital Programme. The Countryside Officer had been tasked with drawing up a plan for potential improvements, starting with areas on Countryside Sites. It may be that improvements on other areas are suggested by members/officers, which can be investigated in the same way. An appraisal of existing paths on countryside sites had been carried out using GIS systems to identify conditions.

Members reviewed the list of locations, supporting the following improvements:

Springfield  
Rea Brook, Column Meadows South

Rea Brook, Column Meadows South, holly path  
 Rea Brook, Summit Close narrow section  
 Mousecroft, vehicle gate to Steepside kissing gate  
 Old River Bed Path

Monkmoor CW – allocated separate funding  
 Rea Brook, (wheelchair access) – further mapping required  
 Hillside Drive – still in developer ownership, Section 106 money not received  
 Old Shrewsbury Canal – further mapping and possible match funding from Shropshire Council  
 Rea Brook, Blue bridge to Gold course path – further mapping as this is Shropshire Council land.

Councillors identified some footpaths that they would wish to see included and the Operations Manager was asked to e mail all councillors to remind them to identify any further footpaths that they felt should be included in the footpath project plan.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted.**

**37/19 TENDERING**

Progress on the following tenders was tabled at the meeting

<b>Project</b>	<b>Tender Status</b>	<b>Current Update</b>	<b>Likely Start</b>
BMX Tendering	Live Tender	Awaiting approval by Committee	
Play Area – Roundhill Green	Live Tender	Contract Awarded	Nov 2019
Play Area Sweetlake, Meole	Tender early Sept	Awaiting clarification by Planning Authority	TBC
Solar Lights, Quarry	Tender early Sept	Awaiting Approval of Spec by Committee	TBC
Christmas Lights	Tender Nov	Awaiting Approval of Spec by Committee	Nov 2020

**38/19 QUARRY**

**38.1 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. He confirmed that no additional events had been added.

Octoberfest was due to be held the coming weekend but following the recent heavy rainfall, this would be subject to river levels. There would be a meeting with the Safety Advisory Group on Friday following which a decision would be taken.

Disappointingly the Charity Circus had caused some damage and they had been informed that they would not get their deposit back and would also have to pay for any extra reinstatement work. The area had been fenced off and would be repaired when ground conditions allowed.

Councillor Mosley raised concerns about the amount of fishing matches that required access for vehicles along Victoria Avenue.

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager assured members that vehicular access was only allowed for the four national fishing competitions held each year and this had to be balanced against the benefits for the local economy. He was mindful of keeping vehicles to a minimum and the area was policed by the organisers at each of these competitions.

Councillor Burgess questioned the 80's Concert for 2020, which is already advertising tickets for Shrewsbury. The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager confirmed that the website did not in fact confirm a venue and currently he had other promoters who were interested in tendering to hold a Concert. The closing date for tenders is the end of October.

Members stressed the need to consider the carbon footprint in making decisions. The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager stressed that it is already ensured that local services are used and the local economy benefit as well as keeping within the Scale of Charges to ensure more control over the event.

Councillor Mosley expressed concerns over the general deterioration of the Quarry due to its use for larger events.

### **38.2 Footfall Activity**

The Outdoor Recreation & Asset Manager reported on footfall. Since the counters had been installed a rolling 1.8M visitors had been recorded with 1.6M within a twelve month period.

The Flower Show had yielded 74,000 visitors over the two days but never exceeded 10,000 at any one time.

Counters have recently been installed in the Market Hall but these still have to be fine-tuned. In time they will be useful for measuring footfall at events and checking adherence to the Premises Licence.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

*Councillor Green left the meeting for consideration of this item*

### **39/19 MARKETS**

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager reported 96% occupancy. There were several newcomers for one day a week who were looking to increase their days. Leading up to Christmas there are always more enquiries. Income is up.

Councillor Mosley enquired on the current situation of the Sunday Market.

The Outdoor Recreation & Assets Manager confirmed that there is an interim Market Manager whom is self-employed. He has introduced Sunday car boots alongside the Market. The Council now have a locked compound and the bulk bins are being emptied by Cartwrights. There will be a tender going out for the long term management of the Market.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **40/19 RECREATION GROUND & OPEN SPACE MATTERS**

#### **(i) Springfield Recreation Ground**

Springfield Recreation Ground and Mere is managed by the Countryside Unit and Mereside School previously approached the Council to use the mere for wildlife classes, but this did not materialise.

The Council have recently been approached by Arthog to use the Mere as an outside classroom in conjunction with Springfield School. It has potential but work would need to be done to improve access, look at the depth of the pool and possible installation of a pontoon. If the project were to go ahead the Council must be mindful of the balance between the residents and the wildlife and it would be necessary to see if funding from the Environment Agency was available.

#### **(ii) Church Road Recreation Ground**

Councillors reviewed e-mails from local residents that had been sent to the Town Clerk regarding a number of issues concerning Church Road Recreation Ground.

Councillors Mrs Burgess had been made aware of the concerns and would be discussing both Church Road Recreation Ground and Holy Trinity Community Centre with the Town Clerk and interested parties.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**(i) That the update on Springfield Recreation Ground be noted.**

**(ii) That the update on Church Road Recreation Ground be noted.**

### **41/19 TEAM SHREWSBURY**



The Operations Manager reported that Team Shrewsbury has been restructured to focus on specific areas over a four month period:

Public Realm  
Exploitation  
Public Health  
Youth & Community

There were a broad section of partners attending each confidential weekly operational meeting sharing data.

Councillor Vasmer requested ASB log sheets which would be sent to him.

**RESOLVED:**

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

#### **42/19 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM**

The Operations Manager reported on the Britain in Bloom Awards. Shrewsbury had achieved a Gold Award and the judges had been complimentary about the new judging route. There had been good involvement from the community.

Particularly pleasing had been the Castle winning the Grounds Maintenance of the Year Award.

The Rea Valley Country Park had received a Gold Award in the Parks & Open Spaces category.

The Chairman asked that it be noted that this Committee send its congratulations and thanks to all those involved in helping Shrewsbury achieve these awards.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Shrewsbury in Bloom results be noted with congratulations and thanks to all those involved.**

#### **43/19 CHARTER FOR WALKING**

Members considered the report prepared by the Town Clerk to sign up to the Ramblers Association Charter for Walking Neighbourhoods. The Charter calls on local councillors to individually sign up to the charter. Councillors aspired to signing up and agreed that in order for Shrewsbury to receive this status the Town Clerk be asked to contact the Ramblers Association and the item be brought to a Full Council meeting for approval.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Town Clerk contact the Ramblers Association to express the desire of Councillors to sign up to the Ramblers Association Charter for Walking Neighbourhoods.
- (ii) That this item be brought to a Full Council meeting to gain the support of all Councillors.
- (iii) That all Councillors be encouraged to sign up to the Charter to enable the Town Clerk to contact the Ramblers Association to sign up.

#### 44/19 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.

Date	Location	Councillor
24/07/19	Meole - The Meet Place	TBC
07/08/19	Monkmoor 1 - Porchfield Community Centre	Clr P Moseley
21/08/19	Castlefields - Digital Den, Castlefields	Clr A Mosley
04/09/19	Harlescott Grange 1 - Kynaston Road Community Centre	Clr I Jones
18/09/19	Monkmoor 2 - Armdale Community Centre	Clr D Vasmer

(ii) To note the scheduled Ward Walks:

Date	Location	Councillor	Lead
09/10/19	Harlescott Grange 2 - Greenacres Community Centre	Clr I Jones	All 10.30am - linked into Severnside Walkabouts (Mark Pragg)
06/11/19	Ditherington - The Laundrette Long Row	Clr A Mosley	All 10.30am - linked into Severnside Walkabouts (Mark Pragg)
12/11/19	Springfield - Mereside shops	Clr J Mackenzie	All 10.30am - linked into Severnside Walkabouts (Mark Pragg)

#### RESOLVED:

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

#### 45/19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Town Clerk presented an update on developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan. To achieve carbon neutrality will require consideration in many areas aside from energy efficiency.

A draft Action Plan was presented to the Committee including the following:

- Tender documents – request tenderers to provide their climate emergency processes & carbon footprint
- Explore solar/wind measures on Council buildings
- Planting vessels with self-watering reservoirs to reduce watering
- Encourage community tree planting
- Peat free compost – currently being investigated
- Editorial narrative – Admag etc
- Think Tank – Extinction Rebellion
- Planning & building regulations – consideration being given to all environmental aspects
- Reducing travel mileage for staff – pool/electric vehicle
- Fleet infrastructure
- Influence Britain in Bloom towards environmentally friendly themes

Councillor Mosley felt that alongside working towards the Council becoming carbon neutral, it should be an exemplar for the town. He asked that a column be included in the Action Plan for emissions breakdown.

The Responsible Finance Officer was able to confirm which of the Council buildings had high energy consumption. Currently energy is purchased from West Mercia Energy. Enquiries would be made about likely costs of purchasing 100% renewable energy.

Members were keen to explore the option of solar panels on Council buildings. The Town clerk pointed out that the only potential building would be Weeping Cross.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the Climate Emergency Action Plan as presented be adopted.**

**46/19 COMMUTED SUMS**

The Operations Manager provided an update on outstanding developer discussions/negotiations:

- (a) ***Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space*** – offsite contributions to play and open space – awaiting progress with Pavilion Extension & confirmation of drawdown of Commuted Sums from the planning authority
- (b) ***Shelton Hospital Land Transfer*** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – Forms completed, funds transferred and snagging list to be completed by the Town Council post adoption
- (c) ***Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road*** – planned adoption for the 2019 grass cutting season – costing for snagging list agreed by developers, awaiting confirmation of ownership of SUDS
- (d) ***Shrewsbury South Urban***
  - i. Sutton Grange site – ongoing – likely transfer in 2019 grass cutting season
  - 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
  
- (e) **Ingleby Way** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – now ready following clarification of hedgerow ownership – awaiting clarification on legals;
  
- (f) **Holgate Drive** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space - awaiting completion of snagging– awaiting clarification on legals;
  
- (g) **Belvidere Paddocks** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – ready awaiting transfer– awaiting clarification on legals;
  
- (h) **Arlington Way** – Adoption & Maintenance of open space – Land transferred – awaiting £60k transfer \$106 money from Shropshire Council;
  
- (i) **Shrewsbury Town Football Club** – Offsite contribution to the improvement to football playing surfaces at Radbrook Recreation Ground – Worked completed – funds received
  
- (j) **Sweetlake** – Development of play area and future adoption of open space – Tender specification being prepared – awaiting clarification on land transfer from Planning Authority

**RESOLVED:**

**That the update be noted.**

#### **47/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

**That Press & Public be excluded on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information (s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960).**

*Two members of the public left the meeting*

#### **48/19 GRANGEFIELDS RECREATIONAL GROUND**

The report concerning encroachment of Mastersfield by a resident was considered. An approximate area of 150 m<sup>2</sup> had been included within the extended garden of a property in Roman Road. After reviewing the background information members unanimously supported further legal proceedings to ensure this land be restored into Council ownership and any further legal and replanting costs be borne by the resident.

**RESOLVED:**

**That appropriate measures be made to reclaim the land.**