

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins
Chairman: Cllr Keith Keel

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 26 November 2018 in the Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs Keel (Chairman); Breeze; Mrs Clode; Mrs Whittall; Mrs Robinson; Mrs Howells; Parkhurst; Gouge; Hudson; Jones and Clarke;

In attendance: Caroline Higgins, Clerk; two members of the public

121.18/19 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – The Council approved the apologies of Cllrs Ryan; and Mrs Lewis

122.18/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Cllr Mrs Whittall declared her interest in the football pitches which her son-in-law rents.

123.18/19 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS** – Mr & Mrs Shenstone spoke to request an additional dog waste bin be located on Lyth Hill Road where there are no existing bins and at other strategic places to encourage owners to pick up their dog waste. It was noted that this is the responsibility of Shropshire Council which needs to budget for the additional labour costs of emptying the bins as well as the capital cost of installing them.

The Shenstones also raised awareness about the ongoing flooding of Lyth Hill Road near the service reservoir. It was suggested that the problem was due to poor drainage that is addressed periodically by Shropshire Council but requires a permanent solution. Cllr Clarke observed that Shropshire Council Highways were well aware of the situation but should they wish to copy him into their correspondence with Shropshire Council, he would follow it up on their behalf.

Cllr Clarke gave a report on Shropshire Council's continuing financial concerns due to the reduction in Central Government Rate Support Grants. He reported the Shirehall would close on Friday afternoons to save money and that there is an ongoing recruitment freeze. The Community Enablement Team was to be disbanded which would have an impact on the functioning of Local Joint Committees. A number of Place Plan Officer posts have been created to provide some support. It is proposed that in future LJs will be based on Place Plan areas. Cllr Clarke proposed to make representation to retain a separate LJC for Bayston Hill.

- 124.18/19 **MINUTES** – The Council reviewed minute 96.18/19 of the Full Council meeting held on 1 October 2018 deferred since the previous meeting. The original proposer, Cllr Parkhurst, confirmed the wording of his motion and agreed it had been seconded and no objections had been raised but did not recall a vote being taken. **It was then resolved to amend the second sentence of minute 96.18/19 to read;**
‘It was proposed by Cllr Parkhurst, seconded by Cllr Hudson and *there were no objections* that the Clerk’s spending authority be increased to £1,000 and up to £2,000 in consultation with the Chair of the Council’.
- He also acknowledged that the appropriate notice required by Standing Orders had not been given and proposed the motion be carried forward to the next meeting of the Council. This was agreed by the Council and it was **resolved to defer the motion to a later meeting in accordance with Standing Orders.**
- The Council reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2019 and **resolved unanimously to accept them as an accurate record.**
- 125.18/19 **CLERK’S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING** - The Clerk presented a comprehensive report covering maintenance activities and matters arising.
- The Council noted that a local club had requested the goals on the Astro turf be replaced due to age and wear. It was resolved to approach the Shropshire FA to assess their condition and to refurbish the existing goals if possible.
- 126.18/19 **COMMUNITY LED PLAN** – The Clerk presented a brief update on behalf of the Steering Committee, which was still analysing the results of the Big Survey. It was noted that the results would be important evidence to support the response to Shropshire Council’s Local Plan Review.
- 127.18/19 **PAVILION WORKING GROUP REPORT** – The Chair reported that the working group would follow up on consultations with community groups; invite suggestions on the website; consider disabled access; interrogate Community Led Plan results; undertake further surveys and investigate grant funding options. It was proposed by Cllr Clode that the sports hall objective be to provide the biggest and best facility we can afford that will serve the community into the future.
- 128.18/19 **OUTDOOR GYM** – The Council noted approval of its planning application.
- 129.18/19 **SENSORY GARDEN RESTORATION** – The Council approved a project to restore the Sensory Garden and noted an offer of support from Dobbies Garden Centre in the New Year. Cllr Clode stated that the school was keen to make more use of the site and suggested a number of improvements that would encourage educational visits. The Council created a Working Party led by Cllr Clode to move the project forward. Cllrs Clode; Breeze; Hudson; Clarke and Howells (liaison with Dobbies)

agreed to join the working party and Cllrs Ryan and Lewis were invited to join if they are willing to do so.

130.18/19 **ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT** – Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Parkhurst seconded, and the Council **resolved that the Community Woodland be the focus of the Environmental Maintenance Grant Application**

131.18/19 **STRATEGIC PLAN** – It was resolved to develop and discuss a Strategic Plan at a dedicated meeting in February.

132.18/19 **DRAFT BUDGET** – It was resolved that to ensure the budget discussion was given sufficient time and focus that the draft budget be referred to the January Finance Committee for review and to open the meeting to the Full Council to attend and comment.

It was further resolved that any ‘spare’ meeting slots in the coming year be allocated for focussed discussions by the Full Council as required.

133.18/19 **PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL** – The Clerk circulated documents demonstrating that a recent payments schedule, dated 5 November 2018 authorising a transfer of reserves had been prepared erroneously and did not concur with the approved minute. The transfer had been made in accordance with the minutes but a corrected payment schedule was required to be signed. It was **resolved unanimously** that the revised payment schedule dated 12 November 2018 should be authorised by the same Councillors who authorised the original.

Payments list dated 26 November 2019 – The Clerk tabled a schedule of payments becoming due, including November Salaries and it was **resolved unanimously** to approve the schedule of payments.

It was noted that payments to utilities for the Council’s buildings had been erratic following installation of smart meters in 2017 and it was **resolved that the Finance Committee undertake a review of costs against income for the Youth & Community Building and Lythwood Pavilion over a 12 month period at the April Committee meeting.**

134.18/19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** – A resolution was passed to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (S1(2)) and in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972; so as to discuss confidential matters.

135.18/19 **CONFIDENTIAL QUOTATIONS** – None.

136.18/19 **STAFFING MATTERS**

1. The Council noted and confirmed the adoption of the revised National Living Wage rate, with effect from 5 November 2018
2. The Council confirmed arrangements for the appointment of a replacement Key holder for Longmeadow

3. The Council confirmed arrangements for staff annual appraisals in December

The meeting closed at 9:05pm