

Locum Clerk to the Council/RFO: Shaun Jones
Chairman: Cllr Mark Underwood

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on **Monday 28 September 2020** via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present: Cllrs Underwood (MU), (Chair); Clarke (TC); Clode (CC); Jones (FJ); Whittall (JW); and Parkhurst (AP);

Not Present: Cllr Gouge

In attendance: Shaun Jones (SJ), Locum Clerk

52.20/21 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – None**

53.20/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** Cllr Whittall declared her interest in the football pitches, which are hired by her son-in-law. Cllr Clarke declared his interest under 61.20/21 being a Bowling Club committee member.

54.20/21 **PUBLIC SPEAKING/QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS –** There were no members of the public present.

55.20/21 **CHAIR'S REPORT –** Today MU participated in a NALC organised call on Re-establishing Sustainable Communities. Three speakers, Sandra Bell of Friends of the Earth, Clara Goldsmith of The Climate Coalition and Peter Macfadyen of Extinction Rebellion and former mayor of Frome. MU will share link for Climate Coalition and possibly BHPC may consider signing up at some stage – 140 organisations have already done so.

56.20/21 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –** Cllr Ted Clarke provided a written report, noted by members present. For completeness his report is reproduced below: -

The second remote meeting of Council was held last Thursday from 10 till 2.30. Seventy plus Cllrs in their own homes, each voting electronically on all the relevant agenda items.

Councillors approved the appointment of the former Director of Adult Services, Andy Begley, as the new Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. There were 26 applicants for the vacant post. Following the resignation of the previous Chief Executive in April, Mr Begley has been jointly managing the role with the Director of Children's Services.

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Officers were requested to provide a full report back to next Council meeting on its new strategies and support services for all council staff now largely working from home.

The upper floors of Shirehall will be closed and only the first and second floors of the building maintained for ongoing use. Over the last month staff have been visiting Shirehall to clear their former workstations.

There was cross party support for the motion that Shropshire Council objects to the Government's white paper proposals for fundamental changes in the local planning process.

A supported living accommodation facility is being designed to enable people with complex needs to live more independently. The scheme will link to the SC farm in Walford Heath, which already provides facilities and day care opportunities to vulnerable people. The project will be funded by borrowings from Public Works Loan Board and will be managed by a housing association company. The "PassivHaus" modular building(s) will incorporate very high levels of insulation, complete ventilation control and use of renewable energy systems.

Grant assistance of £5million has been obtained towards major redesign & reconfiguration of the Pride Hill centre in Shrewsbury.

Further archaeological excavations within the Shrewsbury Castle grounds continued through the summer. The findings are now being analysed and a detailed report is to be published.

A paper copy of the latest 200-page draft of the next "Local Plan" for Shropshire is now available for study in our local library. For ease of reference I have marked the 2/3 pages that include the detail of Policy Officers preferences for future development in Bayston Hill.

Vexingly, I am having great difficulties obtaining replacement of the various collapsed street signs around the village. I am also continuing to press for further attention to be given to long-neglected defects in the original storm water drainage system in two of our streets.

57.20/21 **MINUTES** – The draft minutes for the Council Meeting held Monday 27th July 2020 are now put to the Council as an accurate record of proceedings. Cllr Ted Clarke joined the meeting. Clarification over two matters (highlighted in red) under minute 48 and 51 was provided and SJ will update accordingly. **The motion proposed JW and seconded FJ was passed unanimously.**

58.20/21 **DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY** – MU explains just a discussion at this stage to decide as a Council to put a clear plan in place to back up our commitment to being Carbon Neutral by 2035. If we did decide to declare

a climate emergency, we would need a written resolution to vote on. By declaring a climate emergency, you are upping the ante acknowledging the problems we face in rising temperatures and would further back up our pledge to be carbon neutral by 2035. A clear plan to support such a declaration is required. I wish to open up a discussion with those present. It is believed that two thirds of the 10,000 councils in the UK have passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency. Shropshire Council have as well as Shrewsbury Town Council. Following are comments from council members :-

- FJ in essence an excellent idea. Getting there is problematic, having a major throughfare, the A49, through our village for one. This creates a lot of carbon. Overall, in favour.
- AP is concerned that currently BHPC is constrained and warns that we can only do so much. A limited number of councillors at present, a locum clerk and a restructuring in play of what BHPC do. He warns it should not be tokenistic, we must put actions behind.
- MU says he is happy to work with SJ to come up with a form of words that reflects the point made by AP to be realistic in what can be taken on at present. Also, no Council can achieve this without buy in from the community at large.
- CC says we definitely need to support as soon as we are able.
- JW, I ditto all that has been said. Comes down to expense and bandwidth of BHPC.
- MU drew on the example of Frome Town Council who did manage to raise funding to support the activities needed to further the declaration. Technically there are cost savings too, in upgrades of light and heating system upgrades.
- TC, BHPC do not have the financing to undertake large conversion programmes to being down carbon emissions.
- CC adds that when the time is deemed right that we do involve the community and businesses. The wider group must have ownership of the issue.
- AP states that council members are community leaders and we have to come up with where we want to get to. Present a polished document to the stakeholders being the whole community.
- TC also thinks a battery store of electricity generated by the PV panels on the Pavilion could also provide a cleaner energy source of provision of hot water.

MU does emphasise that we lead by example – updating BHPC assets to emit less carbon. A realistic timetable and goals need to be agreed on and in place. **MU will put together a document to present to Council, possibly in time for our next meeting, to set the ball rolling.**

59.20/21

DOES COUNCIL HAVE A WILDLIFE POLICY ? – Currently there is no BHPC wildlife policy in place. FJ does this come under the Lyth Hill Country Park management ? MU explains this being a BHPC matter. A resident writing in to the Council has prompted this agenda item. SJ read out her note.

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SJ added – Bio-diversity commitment is a legal requirement of local authorities.

MU suggests we support this interested resident. FJ suggests collate interest in wildlife across the village, including The Quarry who have a number of wildlife preservation initiatives.

It was agreed that MU & TC arrange to meet with the resident to see how BHPC can maybe facilitate.

60.20/21

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020 – BHPC are not directly involved with the Remembrance Sunday commemoration event. JW adds that she has represented BHPC at the St Chads Parade in Shrewsbury on many occasions. Up to now we have not been advised of plans for 2020 from the usual organisers. CC explained that it is more usual that BHPC receive an invitation to take part – which she has and JW too. **TC proposes that if an invitation is received this year that it be given to JW as she has regularly represented BHPC. All agreed.**

61.20/21

RENOVATION OF BOWLING GREEN PERIMETER - CONCRETE SLABS – Quotation for works to undertake was first presented to BHPC in January. This appears not to have been progressed. SJ has requested a new quotation to present to council. TC registers an interest as the BHPC representative on the Bowling Club committee. He adds that in January there was no interest from other contractors. As the bowling green is 22 years old is to be expected that repairs will be needed. FJ is in favour of proceeding. **AP proposes, JW seconds that we accept the written quotation to make the repairs at a cost of £1,580. All in favour with the exception of TC who didn't vote.**

62.20/21

CLERK'S ORAL REPORT –

- A resident wishing to plant a tree in Community Woodland (Parrs Wood). JW has knowledge of two earlier instances of commemorative trees being planted. Probably prefer the Silver Birch/Chestnut over an Acer in keeping with woodland. She is happy to meet this resident onsite to give advice and guidance. **Proposed by MU that JW meets with the resident and given delegated powers to come to an agreement, seconded TC – All in favour.**
- Letter from a resident requesting a traffic survey on A49 within the 30mph limited area in Bayston Hill be undertaken as a precursor to speed checks and enforcement measures. Also a second resident has concerns over speeding on Overdale Road. Request for help passed to the Community Concern Speed Enforcement Program with West Mercia Police.
- Email received from the Race Director of Bayston Hill 10K event. The October date has had to be moved forward to May 2021. He suggests Sunday 2nd May and just requires BHPC to confirm. **All in favour. TC suggests contacting Lyth Hill Resident Association/Country Park and Longden Parish Council to advise of the new date.**

- Oakmeadow Primary School – propose a cross-country run on Stanley Parker Playing Fields – Thursday 8th October 2020. **All in favour. SJ will also post on Facebook page information for residents.**
- MU asks about an area off Glebe Road heading with towards the library, where the pavement has got into a mess, with big weeds and overhanging trees. **TC offers to progress the matter with Shropshire Council Highways Dept..** Home nearby is unoccupied and their garden has become overgrown too.

63.20/21 **PAYMENTS** – The Clerk tabled a list of payments for August and September for approval. For acceptance of August schedule, motion **proposed AP, seconded FJ**, the Council were **all in favour**. For the September schedule MU raises a query over the Ground Rent (March to September in arrears) on Glebe Fields. He suggests we request a 6 month grace on making further payments because of upcoming development. Motion **proposed MU, seconded TC – All in favour**. For acceptance of the September schedule, motion **proposed FJ, seconded AP**, the **Council voted through by majority**.

64.20/21 **TO PRESENT ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA.**

- MU happy for any requests to be emailed to the Clerk – copied MU.
- TC requests improvements over Zoom joining instructions – please send on the morning of the meeting date.

65.20/21 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** - Motion **proposed JW, seconded TC** – It was **unanimously resolved** to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 in order to allow the Council to discuss confidential matters.

66.20/21 **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS –**

- **Staffing Update –**
 - SJ is preparing, in respect of staffing/organisation, an overview of where we are at and MU, AP and TC will meet on Monday 12th October 2020 with SJ to discuss and bring forward proposals for consideration by full council at their next meeting.
 - Staff Grievance Appeal by an independent HR consultant has been completed, and the original outcome was upheld.
 - Employment Tribunal – Initial hearing 3rd November 2020.

The meeting closed at 8:38pm

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