

**OSWESTRY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, the Guildhall, Oswestry.**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor - Councillor J Price  
Councillors S Best, P A Cherrington,  
M Coppock, B Edwards, V Hunt, M Isherwood,  
M Jones, D Kerr, L Maguire, D P Milner,  
R Radford, O Rose and C Schofield

**In the Chair:** Councillor V Hunt

**In attendance:** Arren Roberts –Town Clerk  
David Clough – Retail Markets and Events  
Manager

**50. PUBLIC SESSION**

At the outset of the meeting members of the public were invited to question, for fifteen minutes, the Council on local issues etc. Questions to be answered by The Mayor, Chairmen of Standing Committees or Town Clerk.

**RESOLVED** no questions were asked.

**51. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

**Councillor R Evans - work commitments**  
**Councillor N Hughes – work commitments**  
**Councillor S Mason – illness**  
**Councillor J Moore- work commitments**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies.

**52. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

It was **RESOLVED** that no declarations were made.

**53. MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - **AC/04/19** were confirmed and signed.

**54. ANALYSIS OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE**

The report from the Finance Officer **TC/3853/20** set out the Analysis of Expenditure to Budget up to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**55. ARCHIVE REPORT**

Members considered the Archives Quarterly Report October – December 2019.

It was **RESOLVED** the report be noted. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council were working with Shropshire Council to fill the vacant Archivist position following Sara Downes' departure.

It was further **RESOLVED** to place on record a note of thank you to Sara Downs for her work over a ten year period, in particular the achievement of Archive Accreditation.

**56. OSWESTRY CEMETERY UPDATES**

A report was provided from the Town Clerk on general issues at the Cemetery in terms of day to day operations and statistical analysis.

It was **RESOLVED** report **TC/3879/20** was noted. The Town Clerk updated the Members explaining that the Cemetery was currently operating with two members of staff with additional support from the maintenance team. The Town Council had also invested in new grass cutting machinery which should ease workload pressures.

In addition, the Council is working with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust with a view to plant a small area of the Cemetery as a wildflower meadow. The work of the Derwen College on the Garden of Remembrance was also noted.

**57. OSWESTRY VISITOR AND EXHIBITION CENTRE FIGURES**

A report from the Town Clerk provided the Committee with visitor figures for the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre.

It was **RESOLVED** report **TC/3880/20** be noted. A full report will be presented to Council outlining the specialist work needed to maintain the building.

**58. CAE GLAS PARK MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Minutes of a meeting of the Cae Glas Park Management Group, as held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020, were provided to Members.

It was **RESOLVED** minutes **CGPMG/04/20** be accepted and all recommendations made therein approved.

The Town Clerk confirmed that there was an ongoing dialogue with Shropshire Council as to whether any Cae Glas Park trading came under street trading regulations or not, it was the view of the Council that Cae Glas Park is not part of the highway, a street and should not be included.

The Management Group had set out a number of parameters for the safe operation of the Oswestry Balloon Carnival and the management of the number of visitors to the event. It was noted that a decision will also be needed at later date in light of the Coronavirus outbreak and in accordance with Government advice.

A discussion ensued regarding the pandemic and it was **RESOLVED** elected Members extended the Town Clerk's delegated powers to take decisions in response to the pandemic, and to do so in consultation with the Mayor. The delegation would enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities.

**59. RURAL COMMUNITIES ENERGY FUND**

It was noted that The Midlands Energy Hub who facilitate the grant had now provided feedback and advice and the Town Clerk highlighted that there was little opportunity for a successful application for a feasibility study.

Oswestry Town Council established a separate group (the Solar Working Group) to look at this issue and it is now recommended that, given the Group's work is complete, this be disbanded. The feasibility of a potential solar array on the Powis Hall will be overseen by the Markets and Town Centre Committee. The Climate Change Group will develop an action plan in line with the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

**RESOLVED** to note the summary, expressing the disappointment of the outcome.

**60. OSWESTRY AREA COMMITTEE**

The draft minutes of the Oswestry Area Committee notes that the Secretary (to the Area Committee) is seeking nominations from parishes to a Community Forest Working Group. The first meeting of this working group is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

**RESOLVED** to nominate Councillor O Rose and Councillor D P Milner to attend the Community Forest Working Group.

**Councillor V Hunt  
Chairman**