

21st January 2021

Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Town Council via video conference call, using Zoom, will be held at **7.00 pm on Wednesday 27th January 2021.**

Members of the public will be able to join this meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85235984815>

Meeting ID: 852 3598 4815

For the confidential element of the meeting, press and public will be disconnected from the meeting.

The link will be available from 6:45 pm to allow any technological problems to be resolved.



Arren Roberts
Town Clerk

Business of the meeting:

Public Session

For 15 minutes previous to the commencement of the meeting, members of the public are invited to question the Council on local issues etc. Questions will be answered by The Mayor, Chairmen of Standing Committees or Town Clerk.

1. Apologies

2. 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.

3. Speaker

Roger Belham, Census Engagement Manager for the Office of National Statistics presenting to Councillors on the Census for 2021 which will take place on Sunday 21st March.

4. Minutes

To confirm minutes of a meeting held on:

11th January 2021

Copy OTC/10/21 attached

5. To Answer Any Questions

To answer any questions in accordance with Standing Orders upon which formal notice has been given.

6. Shropshire Council Matters

Update from local Shropshire Councillors V Hunt, D P Milner and J Price on any policies, consultation or general matter relating to Shropshire Council.

7. Standing Committees

To adopt the below minutes:

Development and Planning Committee

21st December 2020 **DPC/08/20 attached**

Finance and General Purposes Committee

5th October 2020 **F&GP/01/20 previously supplied**

8. Sundry Creditors

To adopt the below Statements of Accounts approved for payment by The Chairman/Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

SC/564/20 - 1st December 2020

SC/565/20 - 10th December 2020

SC/566/20 - 4th January 2021

9. Analysis of Actual Income and Expenditure

Report from the Finance Officer in the form of an Analysis of Actual Income and Expenditure to budget to 31st December 2020.

Copy report TC/3959/21 attached

10. Investment Analysis

Report from the Finance Officer on investment analysis to 31st December 2020.

Copy report TC/3960/21 attached

11. Performance Monitoring

Committees have a key role in monitoring the performance of the Council services and it is important that this level of scrutiny is maintained by elected Members.

A number of reports have been provided from the Finance Officer and elected Members are asked to highlight any matters arising. If possible, any issues of clarification should be brought to the attention of officers prior to the meeting to allow a response to be provided at the meeting.

a) Car Parking Income & Usage Analysis

Report from the Finance Officer on car parking income and usage analysis 2020/21 and 2019/20.

Copy report TC/3961/21 attached

b) Market Income

Report from the Finance Officer on analysis of income per week April to December 2020/21 compared to 2019/20.

Copy report TC/3962/21 attached

c) Market Throughput

Report from the Finance Officer on income from Smithfield Tolls, Powis Hall, Outdoor Markets and Car Parks: October to December 2020.

Copy report TC/3963/21 attached

12. Elections 2021

To consider a discussion paper in respect of the Elections in May 2021 including actions to attract nominations.

Copy report TC/3966/21 from the Town Clerk attached

13. Election of The Mayor Elect and The Deputy Mayor Elect 2021/22

To elect the Mayor Elect and the Deputy Mayor Elect for 2021/22 in accordance with Standing Order 19 of the Council:

Voting on Election to Office

19. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be elected in order of seniority to serve a Term of Office of one year and having completed that Term of Office will then be placed on the end of the Seniority List of Members of the Council. If a break in Membership of the Council occurs this will not be added to the terms previously served with the Council but the Member will start from when newly elected.

The Mayor of the Council, unless he or she resigns or becomes disqualified, shall continue in Office and preside at the next Annual Meeting until his or her successor is elected at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Deputy Mayor of the Council, unless he or she resigns or becomes disqualified, shall hold Office until immediately after the election of the Mayor of the Council at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

In an Election year if the current Mayor of the Council has not been re-elected as a Member of the Council, he or she shall preside at the meeting until the successor Mayor of the Council has been elected. The current Mayor of the Council shall not have an original vote in respect of the election of the new Mayor of the Council but must be given a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

When two or more Councillors are elected to serve on the Council on the same date, by Election, then the order of the Seniority List is determined by the below process.

The name of each Councillor sharing the same Election date to the Council are to be placed in a suitable receptacle and an independent person will pull out a name at a time.

The first name drawn out will take the position of seniority and the process will continue, if necessary, and subsequent names drawn out will, in descending order, complete the Seniority List.

The list, as then established, will remain in place for the ongoing service of each Councillor, regardless of future Elections.

If two or more Councillors are Co-opted to the Council, at the same meeting, then the Councillor that fills the first Co-option will become senior and others, as may then be Co-opted will, in descending order, complete the Seniority List.

The process, if required, will normally take place in February, when the Council determines the Mayor Elect and the Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming year, and will form part of a Council Agenda for both adoption and transparency.

Should a Councillor decline the opportunity to become the Mayor Elect, or the Deputy Mayor Elect then that name will immediately be placed at the end of the Seniority List.

In an Election year, following completion of Term of Office, the outgoing Mayor will be placed at the end of the Seniority List below any newly Elected Councillors.

Copy Seniority List attached Appendix A

14. Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Kerr

“In the light of the letter from the Employment Minister to all employers (enclosed) which details the 80% increase in referrals for domestic violence during the pandemic and urges all employers to

adopt workplace policies for combatting domestic abuse I am representing the motion I submitted in July I trust that this time the Council will follow the lead of the Government, the High Sheriff and the Police and Crime Commissioner by recognising the importance of the issue and support this motion.

Domestic abuse

Although considered a hidden harm, domestic abuse is a global issue. Although the majority of abuse is perpetrated by men on women, a significant number of men are also victims. In the UK a staggering 1 in 3 women, 1 in 5 men will experience abuse in their lifetime.

For these people home is not a safe place, and so the restrictions required to combat Coronavirus has increased the danger with reports of a 20% increase in abuse.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-53014211/coronavirus-domestic-violence-increases-globally-during-lockdown>)

Since the 1970s services to victims and survivors have been developed almost exclusively by dedicated charities with unpredictable funding streams. Unfortunately through-out this time the levels of reported abuse continues to rise with young people now reporting some of the highest incidences. As we have started to understand more about coercive control, psychological abuse and other types of domestic violence we have started to recognise that we cannot end the problem of abuse by just working with survivors we need to educate the public and tackle attitudes that allow abuse to fester.

The legal remedies for victims have been greatly enhanced and the police have made great strides in improving their response, but although protection orders and non-molestation orders are widely

used, convictions are still rare. A new domestic abuse bill has just completed its passage through the House of Commons and national figures such as the Duchess of Cornwall are speaking up about the issue.

Domestic abuse is not just a justice issue, it is a major call on the health and social services. It has been calculated that the costs to society in the UK is £66bn per year which is over five times the cost of the police service.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-domestic-abuse>)

It is prevalent through-out the whole of our society irrespective of geography, wealth, race, class or culture. The National rural crime network has found the problems are worse in rural areas (<https://www.countryside-alliance.org/news/2019/7/captive-controlled-the-hidden-scandal-of-domest> mainly because of the difficulty of getting services and the use of isolation as a weapon by perpetrators.

According to Shropshire Council

(<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/domestic-abuse/>) domestic abuse will affect over 30,000 women in Shropshire, pro-rata that's over 2,000 in Oswestry.

If we are to make a lasting change we have to “build a society that has zero tolerance towards domestic abuse and actively empowers victims, communities and professionals to confront and challenge it”. (<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/homeoffice-moj/domestic-abuse-consultation>).

For the last six years I worked as a Children's Social Worker in Powys, Wales with families affected by domestic abuse and leading

the Council's response to this issue. Not many people are aware that in most areas of the UK more children are brought into care as a result of domestic abuse than from addiction or mental health. We expect children to be able to look after their parents for protection, but when one is violent and the other is unable to protect themselves, the psychological damage to their development is profound.

One of my roles was to assist in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) which are conducted following murders as a result of domestic abuse. It was harrowing to realise that there were opportunities to save these lives. Victims are naturally reticent to call the police (on average a victim suffers 33 incidents before they will call them) or social services; but they often confide in friends, neighbours or work colleagues. If these people have some training, they will know the danger signs to look out for and which services offer the best help. Unfortunately, all too often they are simply not aware of what the signs are. For example research evidenced shows that over 75% of domestic abuse fatalities occur after a relationship has ended and indeed this was the case in the DHRs I participated in. Unfortunately the person to whom they disclosed their situation was equally unaware of the dangers of separation, and therefore an opportunity to get them to safety was lost.

Women's Aid have sought to develop and sustain a community response to domestic abuse through a programme called change that lasts. (<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/our-approach-change-that-lasts/>). This programme includes educating key professionals (such as doctors and social workers); improving services to victims and survivors and building communities that are more resilient.

As part of this third strand it has developed the "Ask me" initiative, ([https://www.womensaid.org.uk/our-approach-change-that-](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/our-approach-change-that-lasts/)

lasts/askme/) which was originally piloted in London, Brighton and where I worked in Powys. As its name suggest Ask Me is a simple concept of developing, supporting and educating community champions who can offer support and advice to victims. For example, they might be a hairdresser who can display an “Ask me” poster in their saloon, or they may use social media. Being able to seek trusted, informed and local advice is a lifesaver for victims, it is as important for them as defibrillators. In my experience victims often confided in work colleagues and Ask Me enables organisations to train their staff.

West Mercia Women’s Aid have drawn up a proposal to bring Ask Me to Oswestry as a pilot for Shropshire using experience they have gained from running the programme in Herefordshire. Details of this are enclosed as Appendix A and B.

The other way that Oswestry Town Council can show civic leadership to the public and other large employers in the area is to become accredited as a white ribbon organisation. Details of the White ribbon campaign are here: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/> The White ribbon campaign is a registered charity and has been widely supported by police service, fire service and many sports organisations. Becoming accredited is achieved by providing awareness raising for employees and having a workplace policy to help victims of domestic abuse. The Town Clerk has consulted our staff and confirmed that we have the organisational capacity to take this on, the cost of accreditation is £500.

This motion:

1. Commits Oswestry Town Council to provide £10,000 towards the £21,500 cost of this scheme on the proviso that other partners provide the remaining funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

2. Commits Oswestry Town Council to become a white ribbon accredited authority.

Copy three supporting documents attached Appendix B, C, D

15. Shropshire Local Plan Review – Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan

Shropshire Council has published the Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan and its supporting documents to invite representations from all parties on compliance with all legal requirements, including the duty to co-operate, and soundness. Documents are available for inspection via the ‘Get Involved’ section of the Shropshire Council website at: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/Reg-19-Pre-Submission-Draft-Local-Plan>

Guidance on making representations is provided within the **Representation Form: Guidance Note** available via the above weblink.

All representations must be made by 5.00 pm on Friday 5th February 2021.

Statement of the Representations Procedure attached Appendix E

16. Exclusion of Public and Press

To resolve: That by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (S1(2)) and in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 , the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.

Committee in Private Session

- 17. 12 The Cross, Oswestry**
- 18. Powis Hall Indoor Bar Business Proposal**
- 19. Extension of the Smithfield Lease VAT implications**
- 20. High Street Heritage Action Zone**
- 21. Income Generation**
- 22. Oswestry Balloon Carnival 2021**
- 23. Honours**