

## OSWESTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, the Guildhall, Oswestry.

**PRESENT:** The Mayor Councillor V Hunt  
Councillors C Aspinall, S Best, M Coppock,  
B Edwards, N Hughes, M Isherwood,  
M Jones, D Kerr, S Mason, D P Milner,  
J Moore, J Price, O Rose and C Schofield

**In the Chair:** The Mayor Councillor V Hunt

**In attendance:** David J Preston – Town Clerk  
Three members of the public

### PRAYERS

Previous to the commencement of the meeting Prayers were led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Bill Bowen.

### PUBLIC SESSION

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

A member of the public asked questions about Oswestry Health Group and it was agreed that, although the Council could not formally answer the questions, they would be forwarded to the CCG for any comment.

### **45. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

**Councillor P Cherrington – alternative meeting**  
**Councillor J Edwards – illness**  
**Councillor R Evans – leave of absence**

**RESOLVED** the apologies be accepted.

### **46. 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.

A disclosure was made in relation to *Agenda Item 16b Notice of Motion – Councillor D Kerr* from Councillor J Price as an existent resident with Star Housing.

## 47. MINUTES

Minutes of meetings held on:

17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - OTC/02/17  
20<sup>th</sup> September - OTC/03/17

were confirmed and signed.

## 48. TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

**RESOLVED** to note that no questions had been submitted in accordance with Standing Orders.

## 49. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS

Updates were provided by local Councillors C Aspinall, V Hunt, D P Milner and J Price on policies, consultation and general matters relating to Shropshire Council. The key concern was in relation to cost for Elections with invoices recently being forwarded by Shropshire Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write and seek an explanation after the significant increases as received.

## 50. PRESIDENT – SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

Congratulations were extended to the Town Clerk on his election as President of the Society of Local Council Clerks for 2017/18. In return, the Town Clerk formally thanked all Town Councillors past and present for their support and encouragement over many years that had enabled the position of Presidency to be accepted that was considered to be a significant honour for the individual, the Town Council, and Oswestry itself.

## 51. STANDING COMMITTEES

**RESOLVED** to adopt the below minutes:

Markets and Car Parks Committee

12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

MCP/03/17

## Development and Planning Committee

5 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	DPC/04/17
17 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	DPC/05/17
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	DPC/06/17
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	DPC/07/17

## Amenities Committee

28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	AC/02/17
26 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	AC/03/17

## Finance & General Purposes Committee

4 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	FGP/03/17
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### 52. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR MRS C ASPINALL

*“There has been an amendment going through unitary level regarding salutations on Council documents for Members, can it be also considered for Town?”*

*When naming a female Councillor the title of Mrs/Miss/Ms precedes their surname whereas male Councillors have no title preceding their surname. Can this be amended so it shows Councillor surname? As a Council it puts us at risk of equality and discrimination law breaches.”*

**RESOLVED** the Notice of Motion be adopted.

### 53. CABINET REPORT - SCRUTINY ITEM FUTURE COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

For information Shropshire Council had provided a Scrutiny Item Report on the Future Commissioning of Youth Activities to be considered by Shropshire Council Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**RESOLVED** to comment that the Town Council strongly object and protest in the strongest terms at the proposals regarding the cuts in funding for youth services and to ask for the full restoration of the budget as a priority.

### 54. NALC

A copy of the NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletin – 35 was presented to Members for their information.

**RESOLVED** to note the Bulletin.

**55. OSWESTRY TOWNSCAPE & TRANSPORT GROUP**

Report from the Town Clerk on recent discussions with representatives of Shropshire Council and the Group regarding the future of the Group and the delivery of the Mouchel Strategy Document as produced.

**RESOLVED** report **TC/3422/17** be noted and agreed as a way forward.

**56. OSWESTRY TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP**

**RESOLVED** to adopt minutes of a meeting of the Oswestry Town Centre Partnership held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – **OTCP/02/17**.

**57. WILFRED OWEN FESTIVAL**

Verbal update from the Town Clerk following attendance at recent meetings of the Festival Group.

**RESOLVED** the updates be noted together with an expectation of potential funding from the Town Council but sincere thanks to be extended to Chris Woods and the Lights Out Trefonen Group for the arrangements to-date. Chris Woods to be formally invited to speak to the Council in due course.

**58. OSWESTRY HEALTH GROUP**

**RESOLVED** to note a report on a meeting of the Oswestry Health Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.

It was further **RESOLVED** to write formally to the CCG expressing concern over the apparent decoupling of A&E and Urgent Care Centres in the county.

It was further **RESOLVED** to record the strong view that improvements to health services in Shropshire can only be improved by investment in local health services that must include Urgent Care Centres to support A&E provision.

In addition, to seek assurance that the MRU at Oswestry will be retained.

**59. OSWESTRY ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY AND PLACE PLAN**

**RESOLVED** to note report **TC/3424/17** from the Town Clerk on the progressing arrangements for an event.

**60. VISION, AMBITION, GROWTH**

**RESOLVED** to note a verbal report from the Town Clerk following the launch by Shropshire Council of its Economic Growth Strategy for Shropshire 2017 – 2021.

**61. OSWESTRY BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS**

**RESOLVED** to note a report from the Town Clerk on arrangements for the event to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – **TC/3425/17**.

It was further **RESOLVED**:

- The Community Grant Scheme be delegated with authority to make donations from the gross proceeds of the event. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee be delegated, with responsibility, together with the Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club;
- The use of the funds to be determined equally between Council and Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club and the outstanding balance from 2017/18 to be used as directed by Oswestry Treble Niners.

**62. 17/03417/NEWDEV SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL STREET NAMING & NUMBERING**

Letter from The Street Naming and Numbering Department at Shropshire Council asking Members for suggestions for a new street name at the development site location to the rear of Rhyddalt, Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire.

**RESOLVED** to express the strongest view that Croeswylan Court should be used due to the local representations as received and the local connections. However; with reluctance, to accept Mill View as an alternative if the original proposition is unacceptable to Shropshire Council.

**63. NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR D KERR**

*“Members of Oswestry Town Council have been made aware that Shropshire Unitary Council is planning to ease its financial problems by selling empty Council homes in Oswestry to a Housing Association. Oswestry Town Council is strongly opposed to this course of action for the following reasons:*

1. *It will do nothing to add to the stock of Social housing in Oswestry when new housing is desperately needed.*

2. *It contravenes the aspiration of Theresa May PM who announced at her recent party conference that she wanted to see a renaissance of council house building, not selling.*
3. *Housing Associations are private institutions that do not offer the same protection to tenants as they acquire by being Council tenants, furthermore Housing Association rents are consistently 10% or more higher than Council rents, so the costs of any such sale are paid either by working tenants in higher rents or by the whole community for tenants who receive housing benefits.*
4. *This so called trickle transfer is undemocratic because it ignores the previously expressed wish of tenants in Oswestry to remain with the Council and there is no intention to secure a new democratic mandate through a further ballot.*

*For these reasons Oswestry Town Council calls on Shropshire Unitary Council to abandon any plans for trickle transfer and to join with the very many forward-thinking Councils who have taken advantage of the low interests rates offered by the Public loan board to build new Council housing and recoup the costs from rents.”*

On the demand of two Members a recorded vote was taken.

**For**

Councillors D Kerr, S Best, N Hughes, J Moore, M Isherwood, O Rose, B Edwards and M Coppock.

**No Votes Against Abstention**

Councillors C Schofield, C Aspinall, J Price, S Mason, M Jones, D P Milner and V Hunt.

**RESOLVED** the Motion be formally adopted.

**64. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

In view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted which would involve the likely disclosure of confidential information as defined in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they be asked to withdraw.