

OTC/07/20

Oswestry Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.00 pm via video conferencing using Zoom.

Present: The Mayor, Councillor D Kerr
Councillors S Best, P A Cherrington, M Coppock,
R Evans, N Hughes, V Hunt, M Isherwood, M Jones,
L Maguire, S Mason, J Moore, J Price, R Radford, O Rose
and C Schofield.

In the Chair: Councillor D Kerr

In attendance: Arren Roberts – Town Clerk
David Clough – Retail Market & Events Manager
Sandra Trevor – Office Manager
One member of the Press
Fourteen members of the Public

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.

Peter Lloyd of the Roft Street Residents' Association, and three other residents raised their ongoing concerns about Central Car Park, its design, the continuing problem of anti-social behaviour, the health and safety of residents of Regents Court, including the ongoing problem with the drain at the exit of the car park. Mr Lloyd stated that residents were in support of Agenda Item 10 - a Notice of Motion which asks Members to support a request for a Public Space Protection Order, as this necessitates discussion

OTC/07/20

with the Crime and Police Commissioner. The Mayor agreed to take the concerns raised in public session into consideration at Item 10.

142. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Councillor B Edwards – work commitments

Councillor D P Milner – Wifi problems

Resolved the apologies be accepted.

143. 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** no declarations were made.

144. Presentation from the Marches School

The Mayor welcomed Alison Pearson, Headteacher and Darryn Robinson, Deputy Headteacher of the Marches School.

In addition to the national curriculum, Members were informed about Futures Pathway which gave students careers advice and enrichment. Students have also been involved in Futures Weeks – including democracy week, and eco week where talks on the use of plastic prompted the school to no longer sell plastic drink containers, etc.

The recovery curriculum during lockdown saw Year 7 students take part in a colour run for people who had been affected by coronavirus. This raised £2,000.

OTC/07/20

Most recently, when students returned from lockdown, their objectives were to understand their fellow friends and eventually create lockdown diaries. The idea is to let people undertake pieces of work through creative writing, stories, letters, poems, etc about their experiences during Lockdown One. This will eventually be translated into a book.

The Marches are currently looking for a pop-up museum to enable people across the town to submit their work. A venue offer had been made but this has yet to be confirmed.

A website is also currently under construction to capture this history and will grow as people submit their work. Only samples are currently available on this website but will be made public when completed.

The Mayor credited both, and the children, for all the work being done and on behalf of the Town Council gave full support to this project.

Resolved the Town Clerk would share the slides from the presentation to Members.

145. Minutes

Minutes of a meeting held on:

23rd October 2020 OTC/05/20

Were confirmed and signed.

146. To Answer Any Questions

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

OTC/07/20

Resolved to note no questions were asked.

147. Shropshire Council Matters

Councillor V Hunt informed fellow Councillors that a potential vaccine site was currently being sought in the Oswestry area. Shropshire Council was also offering help to people who are struggling and are delivering food packs where needed.

148. Standing Committees

Resolved to adopt the below minutes:

Development and Planning Committee

5th October 2020

DPC/05/20

149. Free Christmas Parking

Council were asked to consider requests made by Oswestry BID and Oswestry Chamber of Commerce for free Christmas parking. In 2019 Oswestry Town Council provided free parking on each Saturday in December in the lead up to Christmas. This proved popular and was easily implemented.

It was unanimously **resolved** that free weekend parking on the Town Council car parks on the 5th and 6th, 12th and 13th and 19th and 20th December 2020 would be provided.

150. The Centre, Oak Street, Oswestry

The Council have previously been supportive of temporarily relaxing the user restriction clause on the land at Oak Street to allow wider community use. Whilst Shropshire Council have not written to the Council, one of the community organisers (Designs in Mind) have. Council were asked to consider relaxing the user restriction clause up to the end of May 2021, which would allow Shropshire Council to accommodate use of the centre for community groups.

OTC/07/20

It was unanimously **resolved** to relax the user restrictions on the Centre up to the end of May 2021.

151. Notices of Motions

a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Kerr

“Whilst the Council is appreciative of the actions of the police to try and resolve the disturbance being caused by the anti-social driving of motor vehicles on Central Car Park it is apparent that problems have not yet been eliminated and in recognition of the severity of the situation the Council formally requests Shropshire Unitary Council to seek a Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which would then prohibit this activity and increase enforcement powers. This type of action has been successfully used by many other Councils (see for example <https://www.chiltern.gov.uk/article/8774/Public-Space-Protection-Order-agreed-to-combat-anti-social-behaviour-in-car-parks>).

After discussion and taking into consideration the concerns raised by local residents, it was unanimously **resolved** that the Town Clerk would request Shropshire Council seek a Public Space Protection Order for Central Car Park.

b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M Isherwood

“Formally acknowledging the petition raised by a local student, this Council instructs officers to produce a report on the feasibility of providing facilities, either indoor, outdoor, or covered, for the use of skateboard, scooter and bike riders.”

It was noted that 123 signatures had been received on the petition submitted.

OTC/07/20

Discussion took place concerning the location of such a facility and it was noted that land had been allocated for leisure use close to the Leisure Centre with potential Section 106 monies attached.

It was also noted that Eastern Oswestry already had a skateboard park which, although well used at peak times, poor lighting restricted the use of the facilities at other times. It was agreed that this skateboard park was ideally situated and, if the facilities were improved, then this would provide a great facility.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Town Clerk would undertake a feasibility study and report back to Council.

152. Hope House Donation

It was **resolved** to note the letter of thanks from Hope House.

153. Markets

a) Councillors were asked to consider report **TC/3951/20** from the Retail Markets and Events Manager setting out a series of actions to support Oswestry Market traders in the short term.

After discussion it was **resolved** to adopt report **TC/3951/20** and accept the following recommended support packages:

- Indoor traders would have the opportunity to open on Thursdays throughout December and up to Christmas Day.
- All traders would have the opportunity to open late on the three Fridays running up to Christmas.

OTC/07/20

- Additional market days would be introduced during Christmas week, as Christmas Day and Boxing Day both fall on normal market days.
- Two month's support for new businesses in the Indoor Market (£50 per trader) would be provided following a successful pilot with Be A Better Fish.

A discussion took place concerning the recommendation to offer rent reduction during the months of January, February and March, to all inside and outside traders.

It was **resolved** that the recommendation for 25% rent reduction would be amended and increased to 50%.

- b) Members were asked to consider report **TC/3952/20** from the Retail Markets and Events Manager which set out revisions to the market licences in line with the Council's decision to permit the sale of alcohol.

After discussion it was **resolved** to adopt report **TC/3952/20** and permit the sale of alcohol for both off and on-site consumption.

154. Standing Orders

Members were made aware that the Annual Internal Audit Report highlighted differences between the Standing Orders adopted by Council in 2018 and those on the website. Whilst these were relatively minor there was a need to ensure that Council agree the published Standing Orders as per the auditors' recommendation. The document had also been updated to reflect the changes to the Council's grants and donations policy and reflect amendments made to Financial Regulations earlier in the year.

Resolved Standing Orders be approved.

155. Notes of Meetings

a) **Local Plan Seminar**

Notes of the Local Plan Seminar held on Wednesday 21st October 2020.

Resolved to note.

b) **Youth Services Contract Monitoring Group**

Notes of the Youth Services Contract Monitoring Group held on 3rd November 2020.

Resolved to note.

c) **Hope Church Seminar**

Notes of the Hope House Seminar held on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Resolved to note the report as the legal advice sought had not been received. It was also noted that planning permission will be needed and that this was being obtained by the Church.

156. Consultations

Members were asked to consider responses to the following consultations:

a) **Community and Rural Strategy**

Shropshire Council is inviting feedback on a draft strategy designed to reflect the rural nature of our county, and to set out shared priorities for the future.

Resolved to note the draft strategy.

OTC/07/20

b) **Cultural Strategy Consultation**

'Vibrant Shropshire, Independent by Nature' forms a new draft Cultural Strategy for the unitary area of Shropshire 2021- 2031. The document sets out the ambition and strategic priorities for the cultural sector for the next 10 years. The strategy will help deliver the planned Community and Rural Strategy for Shropshire, focusing on keeping people happy and healthy, helping people who are lonely to connect with others, embracing the skills and experience of the older generation, attracting and keeping young people in the county.

Resolved to note the draft strategy.

157. Additional Council Meeting

Members were advised that with a significant amount of Council business to be discharged, an additional Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

Resolved to note the additional Council meeting.

158. Exclusion of Public and Press

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.

It was noted that the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting was not necessary. A point of order was made with reference to items considered following the exclusion of the public and press with a statement made regarding confidential matters.

OTC/07/20

159. Be a Better Fish Club

As noted by Members during an earlier agenda item, during Lockdown One a range of trader support measures were introduced by the Council, including an offer to fund two months membership of the **Be a better fish Club** for any market trader who felt it might be helpful. Traders taking up this offer were not obliged to retain membership beyond the initial two-month crisis support period. The monthly Club membership subscription normally costs £25 per month. An evaluation of this initiative was provided.

Resolved to note the report.

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

**The Mayor
Councillor D Kerr
Chairman**