

Oswestry Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7.00 pm at Eastern Oswestry Community Centre

Present: Councillors G Cassin, S Chadwick, F Davis, S Froggatt, M Isherwood, M Jones, D Kerr, S Kerr, L Maguire, J Michie, D P Milner, J Moore, J Price, R Radford, O Rose, G Stackhouse and J Upton

In the Chair: The Mayor, Councillor D Kerr up to Item 3.
The newly Elected Mayor, Councillor M Jones from Item 4.

In attendance: Arren Roberts – Town Clerk
Sandra Trevor – Office Manager
Guests of The Mayor, Councillor M Jones and Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Moore
Two members of the Press

Statement by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed the new Council to the first face to face meeting this year and set out the housekeeping and arrangements for the evening.

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.

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There were no questions from the members of the public.

1. Apologies

An apology was received from:

Councillor J Cockburn – family commitments

Resolved the apology be accepted.

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.

Resolved no disclosures of Pecuniary Interests were made.

3. To Elect the Mayor 2021/22

To be proposed and seconded

Councillor J Price proposed Councillor M Jones as Mayor and Councillor D P Milner seconded.

Resolved that Councillor M Jones be elected as Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Town Clerk read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and this was signed, in his presence, by Councillor M Jones.

4. To Elect the Deputy Mayor 2021/22

To be proposed and seconded

Councillor D Kerr proposed Councillor J Moore as Deputy Mayor and Councillor S Chadwick seconded.

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Resolved that Councillor J Moore be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Town Clerk read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and this was signed, in his presence, by Councillor J Moore.

5. Minutes

Minutes of a meeting held on **24th February 2021 - OTC/12/21** were confirmed and signed.

6. To Answer Any Questions

No questions were submitted in accordance with Standing Orders.

7. Schedule of Meetings 2021/22

Report **TC/3979/21** from the Town Clerk recommended Council to approve the Schedule of Meetings, delegate all financial monitoring to the Finance & General Purposes Committee and permit Sub-Committees and Working Groups to meet remotely in accordance with the report.

After discussion it was **resolved** report **TC/3979/21** be adopted.

8. Appointment of Committee Chairs

It was **resolved** that the following Members be appointed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Standing Committees of the Council:

Finance & General Purposes

Chairman	Councillor D Kerr
Vice Chairman	Councillor D P Milner

Markets & Town Centre

Chairman	Councillor R Radford
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Vice Chairman

Councillor G Cassin

Amenities

Chairman

Councillor O Rose

Vice Chairman

Councillor G Stackhouse

Development & Planning

Chairman

Councillor M Isherwood

Vice Chairman

Councillor F Davis

9. Appointments to Sub Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies

It was **resolved** that the following Members be appointed:

a. Policy Group

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen of all Standing Committees.

It was **resolved** that the Chairmen's Group be renamed Policy Group subject to the necessary amendments in Standing Orders.

b. Markets, Performance and Liaison Panel

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Chairman of Markets & Town Centre Committee Councillor R Radford, and Vice Chairman Councillor G Cassin.

Councillors F Davis, S Froggatt and D Kerr.

c. Cae Glas Park Management Group

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors J Cockburn, S Froggatt, M Isherwood, D Kerr,

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D P Milner, O Rose and G Stackhouse.

d. Cemetery Management Group

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors F Davis, S Froggatt, L Maguire, J Price and O Rose.

e. Audit, Procurement and Performance Panel

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors L Maguire, M Isherwood and O Rose.

f. Allotments Liaison Committee

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors G Cassin, S Froggatt, M Isherwood and J Upton.

g. Youth Services Working Group

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors S Chadwick, M Isherwood, J Michie, S Kerr,
L Maguire, D P Milner, G Stackhouse and J Upton.

h. Christmas Lighting

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors G Cassin, S Chadwick, S Kerr, R Radford and O Rose.

i. IT Procurement Group

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors J Cockburn, D Kerr and R Radford.

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j. Oswestry Youth Music Festival Committee

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors G Cassin, S Kerr, O Rose and G Stackhouse.

k. Climate Change Working Group

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors G Cassin, S Chadwick, J Cockburn, M Isherwood, D P Milner, R Radford, O Rose and G Stackhouse.

l. The Appointment Panel

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillors S Chadwick, M Isherwood, R Radford and O Rose.

m. The Disciplinary Committee

The role of the Appointment Panel be expanded to include the work of the Disciplinary Committee as and when required.

n. Appeals Committee

As and when required.

It was **resolved** that the following Members be appointed to the below outside bodies:

a. Area Committee of Parish and Town Councils

The Mayor.

b. Oswestry in Bloom

Councillors S Froggatt and O Rose.

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- c. **Oswestry Twinning Association**
The Mayor.
 - d. **Shrewsbury-Chester Rail Users' Association**
Councillor J Price.
 - e. **Oswestry and District Access Group**
Councillors G Cassin and S Chadwick.
 - f. **Oswestry Borderland Tourism**
Councillors G Cassin and O Rose.
 - g. **Oswestry Chamber of Commerce**
Councillor S Chadwick.
 - h. **Future Oswestry Group**
Councillors M Isherwood and D Kerr.
Councillor D P Milner as substitute.
 - i. **Oswestry Health Group**
Councillors S Chadwick, J Cockburn and D Kerr.
 - j. **Oswestry Heritage Gateway**
Councillor D Kerr.
- 10. Standing Committees**

Resolved to adopt the below minutes:

Development and Planning Committee

27th January 2021

DPC/09/21

24th February 2021

DPC/10/21

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24th March 2021

DPC/11/21

Finance & General Purposes Committee

11th January 2021

FGP/02/21

11. Notice of Motions

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

“That the priorities of Oswestry Town Council over the next 4 years are as follows:

- Reconnecting Oswestry to the mainline railway.
- Making Oswestry Town Council carbon neutral.
- Increasing the planting of trees and improving biodiversity.
- Providing more youth services and facilities.
- Working with other agencies to provide more affordable housing.
- Developing more cycle lanes and controlling traffic speeds and getting potholes filled.
- Running effective campaigns, and taking direct action to reduce problems of litter, graffiti and dog waste.
- Using the resources of the Council and urging Shropshire Unitary Council to use its statutory powers to get unsightly empty shops in the town centre re-let.
- Forming an effective partnership with the police, community and youth services to tackle issues of drugs and anti-social behaviour in the town.
- Investigating options for the development of a significant new tourist attraction for Oswestry.
- Improving communications and involvement of residents in the work of the Town Council.

That, in consultation with Councillors, the Town Clerk prepares and presents to a future Council meeting a Corporate Plan for 2021 to 2025, incorporate these priorities and review the

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financial and human resources, structures and working arrangements of the Council accordingly.”

It was **resolved** Members to adopt the Notice of Motion.

- b)** Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J Moore and Councillor G Cassin:

“I am sure that over the last few weeks all Councillors would have become only too well aware of the deplorable state of the roads in Oswestry and the risks they pose to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. We understand that SUC’s contractor Kier recently attended a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee of SUC and in view of the urgency of the situation, move that they be invited to attend the next meeting of Oswestry Town Council to help us understand why the number of potholes has escalated so dramatically and what is being done to repair our roads.”

A discussion ensued and it was **resolved** that the Town Clerk would invite a representative from Kier to attend a meeting of Oswestry Town Council to question the potholes, repair of roads, and how the Town Council can offer support.

12. Town Council Action Plan

Report **TC/3981/21** from the Town Clerk provided a brief update on the work plan of the Town Council in the weeks ahead involving existing projects and contracts.

Resolved report **TC/3981/21** be noted.

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It was further **resolved** to include a timeframe for each action on the work plan and also incorporate into a future Corporate Plan.

13. General Power of Competence

Report **TC/3980/21** from the Town Clerk formally requested the Council to renew its entitlement to the General Power of Competence.

The Town Clerk informed Members that this needed to be renewed every 4 years and was a positive opportunity as, used effectively, could benefit residents of Oswestry.

It was **resolved** to formally renew the Council's entitlement to use the General Power of Competence.

14. Town Council Bank Mandate

Report **TC/3982/21** from the Responsible Finance Officer and the Town Clerk requested Council to consider and approve changes to the Council's bank mandate.

Resolved report **TC/3982/21** be adopted and changes to the Council's bank mandate be made.

Henceforth any two of three signatories from The Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Assistant Finance and Administrative Officer to sign on all Council bank mandates and to give instructions to banks on behalf the Council in terms of cheque/BACS payments, deposits, transfers, withdrawals etc.

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The Mayor, Councillor Mark Jones and Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Duncan Kerr to be authorised to confirm the above mandate changes/updates.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

**The Mayor
Councillor M Jones
Chairman**