

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in Ellesmere Town Hall on Monday 3rd February, 2020 at 7.15pm.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Town Mayor (Chair):	Cllr P Goulbourne
	Councillors:	Cllrs N Cull, A. Devismes, G Elner, J Frost, M Hancock, G Hutchinson, D Lunn, J Mowl, B Reincke and A Wignall
	Town Clerk & RFO:	Joanne Butterworth
	Assistant Clerk:	Phil Smith
	Unitary Councillor:	1
	Members of the Public:	3
	Press:	1
	Police:	0
	Guests:	0

Public Question Time - The proprietor of a business premises voiced his objections to a planning application for a change of use to a hot food takeaway at 32 Scotland Street, Ellesmere. He believed that there were already enough takeaway premises in the town, and another one would impact on the existing businesses. He had organised a petition against the application, and asked the Council to object to the proposal.

The Town Mayor read out a statement from a local resident about the condition and cleanliness of roads in the town, school traffic and pollution, the condition of the play area at Cremorne Gardens, and dog fouling.

221/19 **To Receive Apologies and Reason for Absence.**

RESOLVED – that the apology received from Cllr R Hartley – away – be approved.

222/19 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in Items on the Agenda**

None received.

223/19 **Grant Dispensations**

None received.

224/19 **Response to Public Questions**

The Town Mayor reported that the planning application for change of use to a hot food takeaway would be considered later in the meeting at agenda item 9. However, the impact of the proposal on existing businesses was not a material planning consideration.

In relation to the resident's statement, the Town Mayor advised that most of the issues raised related to Shropshire Council functions, and had also been brought up in the recent Community Vision workshops.

225/19

Police Matters

No report for January had been provided.

Cllr N Cull referred to statistics on the West Mercia Police website which appeared to show that most of the reported crimes/incidents in Ellesmere are not investigated. It was

AGREED – to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner expressing concern that only a small number of reported crimes/incidents are investigated by the Police.

226/19

Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Cllr A Hartley reported on the position regarding highways repairs, and the budgetary constraints and pressures that Shropshire Council had been operating under in recent years. There was currently a large backlog of repairs/faults that had been reported, and efforts were being made to make systems more efficient and reactive. The public were being encouraged to report highways issues through the 'My Shropshire' online account, which also had the benefit of allowing people to keep track of progress on the issue they had reported. Members felt that the public needed to be made more aware of the 'My Shropshire' account. The Town Clerk stated that a link to it would be put on the Town Council website, and it was suggested that the system could be demonstrated at a future meeting.

Cllr Hartley added that a new pot-hole repairing machine was currently being deployed across the county. It was able to make more permanent repairs to the road surface, and would be visiting Ellesmere in the near future. The Town Clerk stated that she would forward a list of the worst potholes to Cllr Hartley.

227/19

Minutes

(i) Town Council Meeting – 27 January

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Town Council extraordinary meeting on 27 January, 2020 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

(ii) Planning & Infrastructure Committee – 6 January

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2020 were noted.

228/19

Action List from January's meeting

The updated action list had been circulated, and was noted.

Planning**a) Planning Applications For Consideration**

19/05585/FUL – Lakelands School, Oswestry Road, Ellesmere – permanent retention of temporary vehicular access including provision of car parking area.

It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED – that the application be supported, subject to an Ecological Impact Assessment being carried out.

20/00025/FUL – 32 Scotland Street, Ellesmere – change of use from A1 to A5 hot food takeaway premises and installation of a mechanical extraction/ventilation system.

The comments made during the public participation session in relation to this application were noted. The application was in a more residential part of the town centre, and there were concerns that noise and smells from such a use would adversely impact on neighbours – particularly in the evening. It was also felt that the change of use would lead to additional traffic and parking issues for local residents. It was noted that Shropshire Council's Conservation Officer had objected to the application, and Members agreed that the proposed extraction unit would be out-of-keeping with the character and appearance of the Town Centre Conservation Area.

It was moved by Cllr N Cull, seconded by Cllr G Elner and

RESOLVED – that the Council objects to the application on the following grounds:

The Town Council has a number of concerns about the suitability of the premises for use as a hot food takeaway. In particular, the close proximity of residential properties to the side of and above the premises mean that without considerable attenuation measures, there is likely to be a detrimental noise impact on neighbours from both the extraction system and from within the premises. Neighbouring residents may also be affected by cooking smells from the premises.

From the comments of the Conservation Officer, it appears that the application is in contravention of planning policies relating to the Ellesmere Conservation Area, and therefore cannot be supported. Furthermore, it is believed that the additional traffic and on-street parking that would be generated from this use would also adversely impact on local residents.

20/00321/TCA – Penley Woods, Cremorne Gardens, Swan Hill, Ellesmere – create monolith to height of 6m of 1no Horse Chestnut within Ellesmere Conservation Area.

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr G Elner and

RESOLVED – that the application be supported.

(b) Planning applications received after the issue of the Agenda

None.

(c) 19/05445/REM – proposed development on land to South of Canal Way of 99 dwellings including additional access via Canal Way, landscaping and flood mitigation works

Cllr G Elner, Chair of the Planning & Infrastructure Committee, reported on a meeting about the above planning application on 29 January 2020. The meeting had been organised by Ellesmere Rural Parish Council (in whose area the application site lay) and was attended by himself and Cllr R Hartley as well as representatives from Shropshire Council's planning department. The Town Council's objections to the application, particularly in relation to the proposed access, were reported, and these were supported by the Rural Members. The Planning Officers had agreed to take both Councils' concerns back to the developer, and to ask for the development of the site to start at the Oswestry Road end in order to facilitate the building of the link road from that point. The Drainage Manager had indicated that the applicant would need to address any flooding/drainage concerns before development started, and Highways would carry out further monitoring of traffic flows at the Scotland St/Canal Way junction. Cllr G Hutchinson raised further concerns regarding the impact of increased vehicle emissions on residents along Canal Way, and it was **AGREED** to ask Shropshire Council to also take this into account.

b) Planning Decisions – a recent application for a first floor extension and installation of dormer windows at Sans Souci, Grange Road had been withdrawn. Noted.

230/19

Finance/Contracts

(i) Payments for November 2019

The payments made during December, 2019 had been circulated with the Agenda. It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED – that the payments for December 2019 be approved, confirmed and signed as a true copy.

(ii) Beech Grove Recreation Area

Further to minute 212 at the last meeting, The Town Clerk reported that three quotes had been obtained for the supply and delivery of 40 tons of stone chippings for repairing the Council owned access road and car park for the Recreation Area and Ellesmere Rangers. ERFC would arrange for the stone to be dispersed and laid. It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED – that the quotation of £618 (+VAT) submitted by tenderer 1 be approved.

231/19

Finance – Cemetery Working Group

(i) Payments for December 2019

The payments made during December, 2019 had been circulated with the Agenda. It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr J Frost and

RESOLVED – that the payments for December 2019 be approved, confirmed and signed as a true copy.

232/19

Town Clerk's Report

The report, which included details of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements during January, was noted.

233/19

Local Council Awards Scheme

Further to minute 208 at the last meeting, The Town Mayor reported that the Task & Finish Group had met to go through the checklist for the Awards Scheme, and had confirmed that all the documentation and information to meet the criteria was in place. It was moved by Cllr J Mowl, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and

RESOLVED – that an application for the Local Council Awards Scheme be submitted at a cost of £80.

234/19

Birch Road Local Nature Reserve Application

Further to minute 186, the Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk reported that a meeting with representatives of Shropshire Wildlife Trust, and attended by Cllrs G Elner, P Goulbourne and R Hartley, had been held on 13 January 2020. It had been agreed to follow the advice of Natural England that only the Pond area and an adjoining strip of the Recreation Area be declared as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). However, there could be scope at some point in the future to extend the designation to all of the Recreation Area. SWT had re-drawn the plans of the proposed LNR, and these had been circulated along with a draft Declaration. Natural England had now formally confirmed that the requirements for consultation had been met, and that they formally welcomed the proposal.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that SWT would be investigating the provision of signage and information for the LNR, and it was hoped to have an official opening in the Summer. It was moved by Cllr G Elner, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED - that in pursuance of Sections 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and the authority delegated to it by Shropshire Council on 14 August 2019 and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, Ellesmere Town Council hereby declares that the land containing 0.53ha or thereabouts situated in the parish of Ellesmere Town in the county of Shropshire and shown edged red on the attached plan, is in

the ownership of the Town Council AND in pursuance of Section 19(2) of the above-mentioned Act and all other powers aforesaid the Town Council hereby further declare that the said land is to be managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

235/19

Play Area Inspection

The Town Clerk reported that the recent inspection of the Council-run Play Areas had identified only a few minor issues relating to general wear and tear and removing algae/moss from the surfaced areas. These would be actioned, and could be funded from the existing revenue budget for Play Areas. Noted.

236/19

Grange Road Speed Monitoring

Further to minute 210 at the last meeting, The Town Clerk reported that residents had been informed of the outcome of the recent speed monitoring by the West Mercia Road Safety Team. A further letter had been received, and this was read out. Residents still had concerns about vehicle speeds and the difficulties/dangers of exiting from their driveways, and requested that the Council still consider providing some kind of flashing speed reminder sign.

Members were sympathetic to residents' concerns about a proportion of vehicles travelling faster than 40mph in what is essentially a residential area. However, it was recognised that based on the results of the speed monitoring, Shropshire Council (as the Highways Authority) was unlikely to consider Grange Road as a high priority for any traffic calming measures. It was also noted that there was no sum allocated in next year's budget for the Council to purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). Nonetheless, it was felt that the possible acquisition of a VAS should be investigated.

AGREED – that the feasibility of purchasing a Vehicle Activated Sign for use at Grange Road - and possibly other areas of the town if a mobile VAS was feasible – be investigated, including whether some kind of grant or external funding might be available to meet the cost.

237/19

Shropshire Wide Bus Upgrade Project

The Shropshire-wide bus upgrade project was run by concerned citizens with the main objective of achieving significant improvements in bus services in Shropshire. The project was funded by a national organisation, the Foundation for Integrated Transport. As part of the project's survey, the Town Council had been asked to suggest improvements to bus services that would benefit residents of the town.

It was noted that bus services had been an issue that was raised at the recent Community Vision workshops, and Cllr A Wignall suggested that the local community should have an opportunity to put forward their preferences for improvements to services.

AGREED – that a community survey be organised to gather views on what improvements to bus services that local residents would like to see.

238/19

Councillors' Reports

(i) Cllr B Reincke provided feedback on the two Community Vision workshops held on 28 and 29 January. Around 40 people had attended in total, with a significant number of local community groups represented. A lot of comments and ideas had been put forward, and these would now be analysed to inform the shaping of the draft Community Vision. It was hoped this could be done by the end of March 2020, with the proposals then going out to consultation with the local community. Members thanked Cllr Reincke for his work in leading this project.

(ii) The Town Mayor reported on a recent meeting of the Market Towns Forum held in Church Stretton.

(iii) the Town Mayor reported on a recent meeting of All Together Ellesmere which he had attended as the Council's representative.

239/19

Future Meeting Dates

Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.15pm – Monthly Town Council meeting

The Town Clerk reported that dates for a number of Sub Committee, Working Group and Task & Finish Group meetings would be finalised shortly and notified to Members.

In light of the change in the Spring Bank Holiday to Friday 8th May, Members were asked if they wished to move the May Town Council meeting (Annual Meeting) to Monday 4th May instead of the published date of 7th May. It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and

RESOLVED - that the May meeting date be changed from Thursday 7th May to Monday 4th May 2020.

240/19

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr P Goulbourne and

RESOLVED - that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1992, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts.

241/19

Exempt Minutes

The exempt minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 27th January 2020 were circulated.

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED – that the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2020 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm

Mayor:

Date:

DRAFT