

ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held virtually on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.15pm.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Town Mayor (Chair):	Cllr P Goulbourne
	Councillors:	Cllrs N Cull, R Hartley, G Hutchinson, D Lunn, J Mowl, M Hancock, T Hunter, Mrs A Devismes and Mrs A Wignall
	Town Clerk and RFO:	Jo Butterworth
	Assistant Clerk:	Jean Hynes
	Administrative Assistant:	Vanessa Hughes
	Unitary Councillor:	1
	Members of the Public:	0
	Press:	2
	Police:	0
	Guests:	2

Public Question Time No public were present

42/20 **To Receive Apologies and Reasons for Absence.**

RESOLVED – that the apology received from Cllr G Elner be approved

43/20 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None requested

44/20 **Grant Dispensations**

None received.

44/20 **Welcome New Administrative Assistant**

Vanessa Hughes was introduced and welcomed as the new Administrative Assistant who commenced employment on 7th September 2020.

45/20 **Cornovii Developments Limited.**

Director of Development, Harpreet Rayet and Development Project Manager, Lindsay Truman of Cornovii Developments Ltd delivered a presentation (**for information only**) on a proposed residential development site at Ellesmere Wharf. A public consultation on the proposed development site will run from the 8th – 23rd September.

Councillors asked the following questions on the presentation.

Q. Where will the access be?

A. Access will be gained, using the existing transport network. A transport statement will be included in the proposed application.

Q. Will there be a vehicle emissions study conducted and will each property have adequate parking?

A. It is not a planning requirement for an emissions study. Vehicle charging points for the properties are being considered depending on costs involved. Each property will have adequate off-road parking with enough space for visitors.

Q. Will each property have solar panels fitted?

A. Not on this development, however it is intended to use sustainable heating systems.

Q. If the properties are going to be more spacious and more economically friendly, what is the intended market value likely to be?

A. The cost is worked per square metre and because we are a council owned company and return is not the only factor to the build, it is about standard of construction. If the planning application is submitted and approved by Shropshire Council, the delivery time will be approximately 2 years, so it is not possible to give an exact value, Mr Rayet will speak to his colleagues to try to provide the council with a projected value for the properties.

46/20

Police Matters.

PC Crump submitted a report prior to the meeting which was read out. He confirmed that West Mercia Police have installed a command and control system which at this stage are unable to search for monthly figures. West Mercia Police are aware of some incidents as Public Houses re-opened in July and that some vehicles were damaged. They are working with Shropshire Council Licensing and the premises themselves to resolve the issues, but these are unprecedented times and it is a learning curve for all involved.

The Shropshire Triathlon which was held on 6th September in Ellesmere was a success.

Town Mayor, Councillor P Goulbourne reported that a meeting between Town Council representatives and West Mercia Police will be held on Thursday 1st October.

47/20

Shropshire Council Report.

- Shropshire Cllr A Hartley announced that Shropshire Council have appointed Andy Begley as their new Chief Executive. Andy is currently Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing and, since March this year, has also served as acting interim Chief Executive – alongside Karen Bradshaw, the council's Executive Director of Children's Services. Shropshire Council are already advertising for a new director in Adult Social Care and the Public Health departments

- Shirehall has not passed the fire regulations and a decision has been made not to spend the millions to put this right. The top three floors have been closed completely and with staff working from home which has worked well they have not been returning. The restaurant was feeding the homeless during Covid, this has now been closed.
- Pride Hill shops will be moving into the Darwin Centre as they carry out a redesign of the Pride Hill Centre.
- Cllr A Wignall asked if there was going to be any mini hubs around the County to which Cllr Hartley stated that this was up in the air at the moment.

48/20

Response to Public Questions

None received

49/20

Minutes

Town Council Meeting – 6th July 2020

It was moved by Cllr G Hutchinson, seconded by Cllr D Lunn

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Town Council meeting on 6th July, 2020 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

50/20

Planning

On 6th July 2020, the Council delegated authority to the Town Clerk (or in her absence the Assistant Clerks), in consultation with the Chair of the Planning & Infrastructure Committee, to respond to planning applications during summer recess. The Clerk had circulated a report with the agenda detailing all responses made during this period together with details of planning decisions that had been received. She pointed out that application 20/02803/TCA - Stanham House, Trimpley Court, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0NY had been withdrawn.

Noted.

51/20

Finance/Contracts

(a) Payments for June 2020.

The payments made during June, 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda. It was moved by Cllr N Cull, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED – that the payments for June 2020 be approved, confirmed and signed.

(b) Payments for July 2020.

The payments made during July, 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda. It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED – that the payments for July 2020 be approved, confirmed and signed.

(C) Detailed Income & Expenditure 1st Quarter.

The detailed income and expenditure report for the 1st quarter had been circulated with the Agenda.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr A Devismes and

RESOLVED – that the income and expenditure reports for the 1st quarter of 2020/21 be approved, confirmed and signed.

(d) Street Lighting Maintenance 3 Year Contract.

The Clerk reported that the tender went out at the beginning of July and was advertised in the Press, website and business pages on Facebook; one application was received at a cost of £1016pa for a Report Only Contract for repairs to include Annually cleaning all lamps, covers, lenses, tubes and reflectors. Remove any overhanging foliage which may hinder the light output or affect column. Annual electrical testing and provision of certificates of 33% of the lights on a rolling programme. Adhoc repairs are charged at minimum of £27.50 or an hourly charge for a repair. This is a saving on the previous contract. The Clerk asked if the Town Council were happy to accept the tender application or whether they would like her re-advertise.

It was moved by Cllr D Lunn, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED: The tender application which was from Highline Electrical be accepted.

(e) NALC 2020-21 National Salary Award.

Town Clerk highlighted that The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has now agreed the new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from the 1st April 2020. All employees on the scale will have their salaries backdated to April 2020 in their September pay.

Noted.

(f) Tree pruning works agreed during Summer Recess under Delegated Powers.

Town Clerk informed councillors that the trees at the Wharf required pruning as they were obstructing the CCTV cameras. It was agreed in

consultation with the Chair of Finance to accept a quotation received a cost of £395.00 + vat. In addition the Clerk reported she had been called to Lakelands School to inspect trees from Berwyn View recreation area, which are over growing the school floodlights preventing them from being serviced, they require cutting back again in consultation with the Chair of Finance a quote of £380 + vat was accepted.

52/20

Cemetery Working Group

(a) Payments for June 2020.

The payments made during June 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda. It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson and

RESOLVED - that the payments for June 2020 be approved, confirmed and signed.

(b) Payments for July 2020.

The payments made during July 2020 had been circulated with the Agenda.

It was moved by Cllr N Cull, seconded by Cllr T Hunter and

RESOLVED - that the payments for July 2020 be approved, confirmed and signed.

(c) Detailed Income & Expenditure 1st Quarter.

The detailed income and expenditure report for the 1st quarter had been circulated with the Agenda.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr N Cull and

RESOLVED - that the income and expenditure reports for the 1st quarter of 2020/21 be approved, confirmed and signed.

52/20

Shropshire Council Licensing. A proposal from Councillor Geoff Elner to formally request that Ellesmere Town Council becomes a statutory consultee in all Shropshire Council licensing applications within our area was read to council

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr T Hunter and

RESOLVED: To agree with Cllr Elner's proposal and write to Shropshire Council.

53/20

Premises Licence Application.

The Clerk reported that a premises licence application had been received from Fizzgigs to use Birch Road Recreation Area for a Pumpkin Propulsion

Event on 1st November 2020. The Clerk explained that permission was given last year, but due to the Covid pandemic, she had contacted Shropshire Council Events Safety officers, who are currently reviewing the event. The Clerk suggested that the Town Council should await the response from Shropshire Council and if they are in agreement that the Town Council should also agree to the event application.

It was moved by Cllr D Lunn, seconded by Cllr G Hutchinson

RESOLVED - Providing Shropshire Council are satisfied with the safety of the event that the Town Council will give Fizzgigs permission to use birch Road Recreation Ground.

54/20

Youth Provision.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that Karen Ladd of Shropshire Council had been in touch to confirm that the £4000 funding for Ramped CIC is being withdrawn by Shropshire Council from March 2021 and reminded councillors that it had previously been agreed that the Town Council won't pick up the future costs.

- Gill Jones of The New Saints has confirmed that 22 children attended the Summer Activity Sessions which were funded by Ellesmere Town Council, and thanks the Council once again for their support.
- Gill Jones has informed the Clerk what they can offer for youth engagements, outreach and focus groups, her email was read out.
- We have received two emails from local residents one enquiring about a bike track at Berwyn View and another for a basketball facility within the town.

It was agreed that using outside agencies with qualifications and expertise in youth engagement would help to safeguard and guide the council in deliverable youth provision.

It was moved by Cllr A Devismes, seconded by Cllr D Lunn and

RESOLVED - To invite Gill Jones to a meeting with the Town Council to discuss how they could collaboratively work together for the youth of the town.

55/20

West Mercia PCC Town & Parish Council Survey

West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner had requested the completion of a survey, members went through the questions which sought views on the key areas for discussion and formulated the Council's responses to those. The Town Clerk reported that the responses would now be submitted to the on-line survey form.

56/20

Progress Report

Noted.

Councillor's Reports**(a) Information and Communications Task and Finish Group**

A full report to council was circulated with the agenda, Cllr N Cull gave a brief summary of the report and recommendations, he wanted to recognise the free help and advice given by local resident Peter Jones and convey the Council's thanks.

It was moved by Cllr J Mowl, seconded by Cllr A Wignall and

RESOLVED - To agree to the recommendations contained in the report from the Task and Finish Group which were.

- (i) To note the work of the information & Communications Group to date.
- (ii) For the T & F group to continue to work with Peter Jones to redesign the website as per paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the report.
- (iii) For the T & F Group to continue with tasks identified in paragraph 15 of the report.

(b) Community Vision Plan Task and Finish Group

A full report to council was circulated with the agenda, Cllr N Cull gave a brief summary of the report and recommendations.

It was moved by Cllr N Cull, seconded by Cllr A Wignall.

RESOLVED - To agree to the recommendations contained in the report from the Task and Finish Group which were.

- approve the Welcome to Ellesmere leaflet (Para 4)
- approve the residents' Questionnaire (Para 7), the arrangements for seeking the views of residents and the timetable for the survey (Para 9 - 14) and further report to Council (Para 15).

Unsung Heroes of Covid -19 Crisis/ Her Majesty's Lord - Lieutenant of Shropshire Covid -19 Volunteer Nominations

Town Clerk reported that we had received 11 nominations for the Unsung Heroes Appeal, and that the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire was also looking to recognise local residents, it was agreed that all were worthy nominees and that they also be recommended to the Lord Lieutenant.

It was moved by Cllr A Wignall, seconded by Cllr T Hunter and

RESOLVED - Town Mayor to write to all nominees and for them also to recognised with a Letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire

59/20

Future Meetings

Planning & Infrastructure Committee – Thursday 10th September 2020 Town Council - Monday 5th October 2020.

Noted.

60/20

Exclusion of Press and Public

It was moved by Cllr R Hartley, seconded by Cllr Elner 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.

61/20

Planning Enforcements Cases

The Town Clerk reported on a notification from Shropshire Council regarding enforcement action being taken relating to a site in Ellesmere.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm

Mayor:

Date: