

Minutes of the Meeting of Ellesmere Town Council held on Wednesday 8th April, 2015 at 7.20pm at Ellesmere Town Hall.

PRESENT: The Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke, The Deputy Mayor, Cllr J Frost, Cllrs Mrs L Davies, Mrs E Cross, J Williams, J Clayton, K Chenery, I Ward, S Thornton and G Elner.

In attendance: Mandy Evans, Town Clerk
Jo Butterworth, Assistant Clerk.

Public Question Time.

The Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke read the main concerns/issues on planning application 15/00948/FUL - Castlefields, Ellesmere which were raised during the Planning, Economic, Development and Land Committee meeting on Thursday, 26th March, 2015 which were:

1. Conflict of Interest as Shropshire Council are the land owners and judge of the development.
2. Possible restriction of public right of way.
3. Damage to ecology.
4. To protect the landscape.
5. Not to commercialise the natural environment.
6. Few employment benefits.
7. Desire from some members of the Chamber of Commerce to reverse their decision to support this project which is believed to have occurred.
8. To check for any covenants from the Duke of Westminster and Lord Brownlow to see if any restrictions apply.

The Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke said it is was necessary they will extend Public Question Time by a further 10 minutes. The following questions/concerns were raised:

Mr Patrick Newell. Read a list of all the caravan parks we have in the area to highlight the fact that we have enough caravan parks and there is no need to have another one.

Mr Stuart Thomas, Berry's Planning Consultant introduced himself and asked for the opportunity to address the issues which have been raised he highlighted that any decisions/recommendations must be material planning reasons. Mr Thomas continued saying that there has been an Ecology Survey completed, the trees have been maintained and English Heritage had no objection in principle. The Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke asked one question "would the people in the caravans have a view of the Mere as this would mean the people from the Mere would see the caravans". Mr Berry replied that they would probably have a view of the Mere.

Comment received from a gentleman that the Ecology Report was flawed and there is a buffer zone around the Heron which must be 1000 metres. The heron is highly sensitive and it is feared if they leave their nest they will never return, it only needs to fly away for 10 minutes and the young could die.

Mr Peter Killick pointed out the trees mention on the perimeter of the site but if you look from the Motte and Bailey area the Lime trees are around 60/70 feet high with a life expectancy of 5/10 years. As they fall the caravan site will then be seen from this area. With regards the business development of this project the applicant has stated there would be zero jobs therefore, the project has very little worth for the people in Ellesmere,

Mr Guy Chambers spoke about the 2 storey building which is outside the building line and nobody else would be able to be considered building a 2 storey building which is outside the building line. Secondly during the last Bank Holiday there were over 50 cars on this car park which based on 2 people per car would be around 200 people spending money in the town. The

caravan residents will not be spending money in the town therefore, this application would be taking away the access to the town.

Mrs Amanda Bevan commented that she has been working for tourism in Ellesmere for around 12 years, the majority of people who visit this area are day trippers and asked where are they going to park and if they are day trippers surely there are many more than the people using the caravans. Castlefields is in high level stewardship because of its ecology value, it is species rich grassland and February is not the time to do a habitat survey on grassland, this has been backed up by Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Mr Bob McBride commented about the passion of the people of Ellesmere who value their life in the town and this application is in the wrong place. Mr McBride admires all the just causes against this application together with the strength and passion from the people in the town and how much he enjoys this area.

Mr Richard Taylor would like to know how much monetary difference it would be from collecting money from the car park compared to rent from the caravan park.

Mr Edward Bevan presented the sign from 2008 which was displayed outside the Mere Cottage in 2008/9 about The Mere at Ellesmere Heritage project. The project was partly funded by the Lottery and partly financed by the European Union. The Mere its surrounding gardens and historic buildings are of great heritage significance which form part of the Meres and Mosses Landscape. Mr Bevan would like to know what has changed since 2009 such that we can bring in the bulldozers and clear part of Castlefields to make room for caravans, it is unbelievable.

Mr Rob McBride remarked that what has changed is the Government. The environment of our Mere and the planning system is not working and is not fit for purpose he hopes that this application is on a loser. Mr McBride mentioned all the other planning applications around the Mere recently and remarked that we are passionate about the Mere and will do a lot to protect it.

To close Public Question Time a comment was received from Mrs Byatt regarding the Wind Turbine application she was unsure what the appeal from the Secretary of State entails but understood if they find a fault in the refusal the Secretary of State would grant permission. In Appendix 12 it shows that the Newnes and the loop road by the Business Park has disappeared which makes it look like there is not many people affecting, but this is not the case.

265/14 To receive apologies and reason for absence. Members agreed to accept the following apologies: Cllr R Hartley – prior engagement. Cllr M Harris – unwell. RESOLVED: to note.

266/14 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interest. 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: to note.

267/14 Grant Dispensations. RESOLVED: members agreed to move agenda item 6 to item 4.

268/14 Police Matters. To receive a report. PC Crump reported that 11 crimes had been reported for the month of March. 3 x Criminal Damage (2 vehicle/sign), 3 x Assaults (minor injury), 1 x Burglary (business), 2 x thefts, 1 x Sexual Assault, 1 Offensive Weapon of those, 9 have currently still be dealt with. PC P Crump informed Members that there has been a staff shortage lately due to holidays and himself being restricted on duties due to a leg injury. PC Crump also reported that they are looking at varying their shift pattern to provide more cover in the town. RESOLVED: to note

269/14 Public Participation Session. RESOLVED: Members agreed to include agenda item 5 with agenda item 4. To be re-numbered 4(a) to allow the members of the public to listen to the Town Councils comments due to the number of comments on the Castlefield planning application and the 1 on the wind turbine. Members agreed to move items 12 (a, b and c) to item 5 (c, d and e).

269/14(a) New Councillors. To welcome the new Town Councillors to their first meeting. On Tuesday, 24th March, 2015 the following forms were completed by all 4 Members:

- (a) Declaration of Office forms witnessed and signed by the Clerk. RESOLVED: to note.
- (b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms which have been forwarded onto the Monitoring Officer, Shropshire Council. RESOLVED: to note.

270/14 Planning.

RESOLVED: that Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders for the Planning agenda items to allow Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley to make her comments.

(a) Planning Application Decisions (for information only)

(b) Planning Applications for consideration:

15/00948/FUL - Castlefields Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere. Proposed change of use of existing car park to a touring and static caravan park. Members discussed this application at length and individually voiced their strong objections after taking into account all of the comments from members of the public at the PEDaL Committee meeting on 26th March and all of the members of the public who took the time to attend this meeting. Also taking into account all of the material objections raised by members during their discussion it was agreed to draft the following response to be sent to Shropshire Council;

Ellesmere Town Council held a Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 26th March to discuss this application which saw approximately 40 members of the public attend, due to this response they decided to also include it on their agenda dated 8th April 2015, to give as many members of the public the opportunity to make their views heard on this application. Approximately 80-90 members of the public attended. Following this Ellesmere Town Council would like to strongly object to this application for the following reasons;

Firstly they believe that there is a conflict of interest on this application as Shropshire Council not only own the land but they will also be the ones determining the outcome of the application, we would like to query this.

Castlefields car park is in a Conservation Area and currently offers 50 parking spaces, for which there is a very high demand, due to the increasing number of tourists to the area. If this application were to go ahead those 50 car parking spaces would be lost leaving inadequate parking for the large volume of tourists that visit the town. Also we have been informed that the site is a former kettle hole which has been capped and is hollow underneath, when it was sold to Shropshire County Council in the early 1990's it was only deemed suitable for car parking and nothing heavier, in light of this we feel that a land survey and a historical survey should be undertaken. The bowl of the carpark is prone to flooding due to drainage problems.

The Mere is unspoilt and beautiful and the Town Council has no desire to see an area of such natural beauty commercialised. Ellesmere is famous for its Heron Watch which is run by volunteers of Shropshire Wildlife Trust, in a report carried out for this application it suggests that there will be no impact on the Herons however we have been advised that the Herons are very sensitive and that if disturbed and stray too far from their nest that they may never return to their young. The RSPB Bird Protection Guide states that Herons are protected under Schedule 1 - Part II Birds and their eggs should be specially protected during the close season, 1 February to 31 August (21 February to 31 August below high water

mark) but which may be killed or taken at other times. Heron Watch runs from February until June when they are most active (We are forwarding a copy of the guidelines for protection and mitigation of impacts to Great Blue Rookeries in the post due to the size of the document). Also the Mere (the largest of North Shropshire's glacial meres) is home to, Roach, Bream, Carp, Eel, Perch, Pike and Hybrids of Roach. It is home to Red-breasted goose, Goosander, Barnacle goose, Cormorants, great-crested grebes, kingfishers, goldeneye, gulls, ruddy duck, tufted duck, Canada geese, little grebe, song thrush, sand martins, crows, wood pigeons, mallards, coots, moorhens, Muscovy ducks (and these are only some of the many birds to be seen on the Mere). The grassland on the Castlefields site is now managed as a wildflower meadow with summer shows of native plant life includes vast numbers of common spotted orchid. The Town Council believes that the application will have a detrimental effect on the ecology of this conservation area.

There is a footpath across this site which has been used as a public right of way for many, many years and members would not want to see this restricted in any way. The site will have an impact on the traffic on what is already a busy highway (A495), as large touring caravans are attempting to enter and exit the site. Members believe it will also bring with it noise and light pollution. Visually although the caravans will have lovely views, it will be visually intrusive to visitors at the Mereside and in turn will have an adverse effect on tourism which would affect the economic development of the town as it would restrict visitors from coming in the future.

There are no employment opportunities presented by the applicant and the building of the utilities block would be outside the development boundary which undermines the Samdev being promoted by Shropshire Council, in that it is a conflict to the plans being promoted at the Canal side (EL003) that offers static caravans and cabins and this could well undermine the commercial feasibility of that proposed site. Localism is about listening to the members of the public and it is very clear that the residents of Ellesmere are against this application, the Town Council are here to support their views and protect their town its heritage and the ancient monument sites within that. That said this land was originally part of the Bridgewater Estates and Ellesmere Town Council would be interested if you are able to provide details of any covenants that may be detailed in the deeds. Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley responded that she had noted all the objections apart from one and all the data would be received by the Planning Officers, Shropshire Council who have delegated powers. Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley will arrange a site visit with the North Shropshire Planning Committee in the morning to look at the site along with the plans. Should this application go to the Planning Committee, Shropshire Council representatives from the public can attend and request to speak for 2 minutes. RESOLVED: to send planning response to Shropshire Council together with the report of Herons received from a member of the public.

14/01777/FUL – Proposed Wind Turbine on East Side of Ellesmere Road, Tetchill, Ellesmere. (Appeal Reference 15/02239/REF). Members discussed and it was RESOLVED: that Town Council's original objection should be reiterated to the planning inspectorate and members would also like it known that they fully support Shropshire Council's decision to refuse this application and that they stand by them in their decision.

(c) To consider any other planning applications received after the issue of the Agenda. (To be notified at Meeting).

14/04047/OUT – Outline planning for mixed development of a hotel, boating marina, leisure complex, pub/restaurant, residential, holiday cabins and touring caravans with associated infrastructure to include access. Members considered the changes made to this revised application and all members (minus Cllr Ward who also sits on Ellesmere Rural Parish Council and refrained from commenting and abstained from voting on this application) were in agreement that the proposed changes actually make the proposal more viable than when it was first presented. Members would like to ensure that if the permission is granted for this development to go ahead, that it is a phased development, which can be monitored. Members also recommend (and would very much like to see) the infrastructure, main access, spinal roads and implementation of the flood risk management measures put in place as the first stage of the development. Town Council members are excited about the linking by footbridge of the Canal towpath to the British Waterways boat yard as believe that it is a very important element in linking attractions to promote tourist to the area and so members would very much like to ensure that the footbridge remains in the plans. RESOLVED: With the above recommendations taken into account, Ellesmere Town Council apart from any comments from Cllr I Ward who did not participate due to being a Member of Ellesmere Rural Parish Council would like to fully support this application.

271/14 Shropshire Council Report. Cllr Mrs A Hartley told members that in light of all of the child exploitation which has come to light in Rochdale and Rotherham that the Shropshire Safeguarding Board are contacting all Town and Parish Councils to highlight how to recognise the signs of child abuse as safeguarding of children is important. Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley tabled a leaflet to all Members with contact details and information and handed the Clerk a poster to be displayed on the noticeboard outside the Town Hall with a contact number on the bottom to contact Shropshire Council's Children's Services team who are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. RESOLVED: to note.

272/14 Minutes. To read and confirm the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on: Monday, 2nd March, 2015. RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved, confirmed and signed as a true copy with the following amendment "to note apologies were received from Cllr Mrs J Williams and Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley before the meeting took place".

273/14 Planning, Economic, Development and Land Committee. To read and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on: Monday, 23rd March, 2015. (Circulated prior to the meeting). RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and confirmed as a true copy with the following amendment "to note apologies were received from Cllr R Hartley prior to the meeting taking place". FURTHER RESOLVED: to note date of meeting was Thursday, 26th March, 2015 and not Monday, 23rd March, 2015.

Minutes of the Planning, Economic, Development & Land Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26th March, 2015 at 10am at Ellesmere Town Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman - Cllr G Elner, Vice - Chairman Cllr J Frost, Cllr A Clarke, Cllr I Ward.
In attendance: Assistant Clerk – Miss Joanne Butterworth.

Public Participation Session: The Chairman, Cllr G Elner agreed to extend the public question time to 15 minutes to give the members of the public more time to speak.

All public comments were on agenda item 5(b) 15/00948/FUL Castlefields Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere, Shropshire.

Mr John Penny asked "if given that the sale or lease of this land will be by Shropshire Council, will they be the final judge and jury of this planning application or will an external planning officer make the decision?" He pointed out that they have a complete conflict of interest and said "I can well see that a cash strapped Council would be quite prepared to ruin our heritage for the next 100 years for a bit of cash. Surely this out of order so really the process should be more than the Council looking at its own project."

Mr Michael Hennessy a local resident and daily walker on the site in question commented, "It is a site that the general public use which will be taken into private use and ownership and we the general public will be largely excluded from using the site. If you read the application it contains all the bullet points and red warning lights that you need to pay attention to. This is not an application for a caravan site this is an application for a caravan park or an activity park so that is one thing that needs to be brought out. It is clearly going to be a site for the applicant's commercial interests. I think that he is going to be concerned with administering the site, but I think that eventually not immediately he will be selling products from site as this is what he does and I suggest that he would seek to expand his interest as time goes on into other areas of activity. The other two points that I would like to make are that this is adjacent to an ancient monument site and is in the conservation area of Ellesmere, are we to take it that it does not mean anything? Finally I wanted to say this is opening Pandora's Box, there have already been a couple of applications adjacent to the Mere but so far you have resisted, I would suggest that to be consistent you have got to do the same with this application."

Mr Alex Grant - Representing Shropshire Wildlife Trust as one of their Ambassadors. "There is reference of an Ecology report by Turnstone which is not available yet on the website or elsewhere. Can you find out when we can have sight of this please and can the consultation date be extended by the 21 days after that because it is one of the key issues to this application? As far as Ecology itself is concerned Section 13 on the application form states that there are no designated sites, important habitats or biodiversity features on the site or adjacent that is just not true. We have got the Plantation adjacent and within the site itself it has had several years of funding and there is a wildflower meadow which is, as other speakers have mentioned used by the people of Ellesmere."

Mr Rob McBride, local resident spoke "like many other many other people at this meeting I am tired of coming here to have to try and defend our Mere time after time." Mr McBride urged the public present to call into Radio Shropshire on Friday as they have free for all Friday where the presenter discusses whatever Shropshire Residents would like to discuss he is going to try and contact BBC Radio Midlands and get them to come to Ellesmere too. Mr McBride voiced that he is thinking of holding back money from his Council Tax and withholding it for wasted time that he has to keep putting in to this effort of trying to keep Ellesmere special. "We have got a unique landscape here and we must do all we can to protect it". Mr McBride had just come from the Mere and followed a large convoy of lorries, he said "you have the same issues again as with the Swan Hill application visibility, traffic, lighting pollution, wildlife site". Essentially he urged people to get in touch with the media.

Mr Bob McBride, local resident "we have heard some, just, reasons why this should not happen which are really better reasons than mine. When I came to Ellesmere I was instantly drawn by the beauty, walkers enjoy it, fishermen enjoy it, and people from immediate areas come here just for a stroll on a Sunday afternoon. It is the beauty that we sell, we sell it as the Lake District of Shropshire. I don't think that we should be going down the line of commercialising this beauty spot, sometimes we don't appreciate it until something like this comes up, but we do appreciate it and we don't want anything of this scale here."



Mr Hugh Chambers, local resident and member of Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce, "a few of us have set up a Facebook page in the last 24 hours opposing this application which now has approximately 300 members. Shropshire Council have gone through the due process but Shropshire Council are the ones selling the land, in charge of planning and the ones issuing the caravan license."

Mr Peter Killick, local resident. "There is nothing in the document which creates jobs as an alternative for example if the site was sold or released to a major hotel developer you would end up with a premium property on that site that would create probably about 30-40 jobs, we'd have a substantial business rate asset for the community and certainly any developer of that magnitude would be paying somewhere in excess of £1million pounds just to acquire the lease, this is prostituting the site."

Mr Ian Andrew, member of Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce, who I believe initially supported the application, but there are several members of the Chamber of Commerce that now the plans have come to light and we know exactly what is planned will be going to the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce tonight to ask for the decision to be reversed."

Mr Trevor Pervin, member of Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce, "can I just say, that when it was put to the Chamber of Commerce it was not put forward as a plan it was put forward as a feasibility study and at no stage have they ever put a plan forward."

Mr Rob McBride, "may I just say that there are elections in May and we need to get over to the politicians that it is time to change, people like Cllr Ward here have good really good positive views for our town and we need to be thinking about people who have got his sort of view about the environment."

Mrs Ann Edwards, "I have lived in Ellesmere for nearly 50yrs and we have farmed on the old estates for many generations and this land used to belong to the Duke of Westminster and before that it was Lord Brownlow and those of you who remember we had issues about the Cremorne Gardens going back 20yrs and much of this land was given by Lord Brownlow to the town and then this was sold off to the County Council, but we really need to know what the old deeds say."

The Assistant Clerk informed members that the Clerks have asked Shropshire Council for an extension to the response deadline for application 15/00948/FUL which was initially due in on Tuesday 31st March, Shropshire Council have agreed to extend the date to Thursday 9th April so this item will be on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting on Wednesday 8th April, 2015.

To receive apologies and reasons for absence. None received. RESOLVED: to note.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. To receive declarations under consideration on this agenda in accordance with Localism Act 2011 S32 and The relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012. RESOLVED: to note.

Grant Dispensations. RESOLVED: to note.

Public Participation Session. RESOLVED: It was agreed to minute all of the public comments received today and these will then be received by all members at the full Town Council meeting on Wednesday 8th April when application 15/00948/FUL Castlefields Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere, Shropshire, will be discussed and voted on.

Planning.

(a) Planning Application Decisions (for information only)

(b) Planning Applications for consideration:

15/00860/FUL - 42 Diksmuide Drive, Ellesmere, SY12 9QA. Demolition and reconstruction of rear conservatory together with local reinstatement of raised patio area and decking.

RESOLVED: Members unanimously agreed to support this application.

15/00948/FUL- Castlefields Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere. Proposed change of use of existing car park to touring and static caravan park. Cllr Elner thinks that with that taking public's view into account that it would be short sighted to continue with this application, it would affect the economic development of the town as it would restrict visitors from coming in the future. Cllr Clarke thinks that there are points of concern that need to be dealt with, one is the conflict of interest of Shropshire Council, the public right of way through the site, the damage to ecology, the traffic impact, there is no desire to commercialise an area of natural beauty, there are no employment benefits and it is interesting to note that the Chamber of Commerce are looking revoke their support. Cllr Ward added that it is visually intrusive and it will generate too much additional traffic. Also it undermines the Samdev being promoted by Shropshire Council in that it is a conflict to the plans being promoted at the canal side with static caravans and cabins and could well undermine the commercial feasibility of that proposed site. Cllr Elner said that we need to put forward the valid planning reasons which need to be considered before the next meeting, he has noted that it is detrimental to the town, this committee is planning, land a development and he thinks it is very short sighted if we recommend approval of this or any application without considering the long term benefits and he thinks this will stop the public coming to town to admire the views when they are surrounded by caravans, the view will be ruined. He pointed out that there is footpath which is not an official right of way and we need to prove how long it has been in existence and has been used, we need to find people that have been using the path for years as this would give a strong reason to complain about withdrawal or change of use of this footpath. Cllr Ward also pointed out that Castlefields until a couple of years ago was used for public events and that there is strong argument to consider putting in an application for a community right to buy as it is totally against the concept of protecting the environment of the mere. 3 members of this committee are also on the Mere Advisory board, which is Shropshire Council and any other bodies that have an interest in the mere, at one of the their meetings it was mentioned about a few touring caravans or a few static caravans to be placed out of sight in the bowl, what we have here is a huge commercial development, Cllr Ward feels that we have been completely misled by Shropshire Council and he feels quite offended as they have not been honest. Cllr Clarke also pointed out that when they were talking about the proposed bidders for this site, we were told the only alternative would be a site for people carrying out Community Payback. The point Cllr Clarke is making is the deception by Shropshire Council to members of this Council and others who have sat on a committee chaired by Shropshire Council. He feels we were being misled to not start to object to this scheme in advance of the application being lodged. Despite this being a conflict of interest Shropshire Council can still determine the planning application even though it is on their land. Members commented that the economics of the town is failing due to lack of accommodation however this is in the wrong place with no jobs and will ruin the site. Cllr Elner thinks that the Committee should recommend to the Town Council to object and Cllr ward agrees that the Town Council should strongly object. "It is in a conservation area, and following localism and listening to the members of the public they are against it, we are here to support their views, ecology and protect the ancient monument site. It will be visually intrusive create light and noise pollution and there will be a visual impact. Shropshire Council is undermining its own development plans as it should be down by the canal as agreed in the Samdev. Cllr Elner proposed that the recommendation that the PEDAL Committee should put forward to Ellesmere Town Council is that they should strongly object to supporting this application and the vote was unanimous. Cllr Ward thinks that we should "seriously consider the Mere Advisory Board of Shropshire Council and what it's role is, is it to help to formulate policy around the Mereside or is it to act as a front for Shropshire Council to do what they want to do down there, we are not prepared to be misled again by Shropshire Council issues like this, it is offensive to us a members." Members would like it to go on the agenda for the Town Council meeting for further actions to be discussed. RESOLVED: For the application to go on the April Agenda for the full Town Council to consider with the recommendation from PEDaL to strongly object. FURTHER RESOLVED: The Mere Advisory Board to be placed on the April agenda to be discussed further.



15/01288/TCA – Moors Car Park, Mereside, Ellesmere, Shropshire. Proposed various works to trees within Ellesmere Conservation Area. Cllr Ward pointed out that, on the background papers you cannot read the lines of the report, the other thing is that the trees are not all on the Moors Car Park they are all along the Mereside, so it is a misleading title. The other point is that they keep calling this “Ellesmere Country Park”, Ellesmere Town Council strongly objected to the name Ellesmere Country Park so Cllr Ward would like to ask them to write their reports with the correct name. As members are concerned that Shropshire Council may be taking an over cautious approach by felling and not protecting these trees a site visit with the applicant was suggested to show and explain to Councillors the necessity for the trees to be felled. On the plan tree number 329 is on Castlefields, it is not actually at The Moors Carpark, the application is not defined properly members would also like to see a replacement plan to balance the felling of the trees with the replanting new trees. Whilst members are considering this application they would like the reports rewritten with the correct name as the site is not Ellesmere Country Park, they would also like an amendment to the application title as the trees are throughout the Mereside and not just in the Moors Car Park and members feel that this is misleading. RESOLVED: Write to Shropshire Council to request an amendment the titles on their application and also asking for a policy to be adopted for replanting felled trees. FURTHER RESOLVED: Site visit to be arranged between the Councillors and the applicant so that they can show Councillors the trees in question.

15/00291/OUT – Proposed Development Land NE of Cemetery, Swan Hill, Ellesmere. Outline application for residential development to include means of access. Cllr Ward requested this application be placed back on the agenda because Council members strongly objected to this but because a lot of the Inspectors comments have been taken on board with this new application he is concerned that Shropshire Council may approve it. If it is approved he would like a set of conditions applied to the site to protect the amenity of the Mere, not least the withdrawal of permissive development rights to ensure certain restrictions are placed on the site, for example as the site is a south facing site we wouldn't want to see on the roofs are reflective solar panels on the roofs or things that would visually impact on the area. Another example is that there should be no direct access to the Mere from the properties. The hedges and fences to the Mere and towards the Cemetery should be maintained in a particular state. Shropshire Council would be able to impose these if the Town Council were able to provide a comprehensive list. If that land is transferred to Shropshire Council a planting scheme should be implemented before the development is started to provide increased screening of the site for visibility from the Mere, this would totally minimise the impact of that development. Cllr Clarke said that if we talk like this we are assuming that it will go ahead. Cllr Ward explained that this is a plan that needs to be put in place because although the development is against Shropshire Council's policy and the Samdev policy they are behaving bizarrely at the moment for example knocking down an ancient building to provide an Aldi in Oswestry, the disgusting way in which they are proceeding with planning at the moment is a disgrace, the planning officers are not concerned about the local community. Cllr Elnor agreed wholeheartedly, but is concerned about the timing of the letter being received by Shropshire Council. It was agreed that Ellesmere Town Council wants Shropshire Council to object in order to protect the Mere, however should they be overruled they would like conditions put into place to minimise the impact of the site for the benefit of the local community. RESOLVED: Members will compile a letter to be sent to Shropshire Council as a safe guard should the application be accepted.

15/01145/FUL – 1 Grosvenor Cottages, Ellesmere, SY12 0AT. Erection of single storey side extension to include conversion of existing outbuilding; first floor extension to front elevation and internal alterations. Members discussed this application and have agreed that due to the Cottages being very old it would be desirable that extension has a pitched roof to match the existing roof line. The extension will be seen from the front of the property so it will have a visual impact as it is facing the main road and so should blend in, members agreed that the wall materials should also match the existing houses in the road. RESOLVED: Members agreed to



accept this application in principle providing that the extension has a pitched roof and the walls are of the same materials as the other Grosvenor Cottages.

274/14 Meetings/Training Courses. Any reports from attended meetings during the last month. RESOLVED: to note no report to be received.

275/14 Correspondence.

(a) Items for consideration (information items will be circulated at the meeting).

Mere Advisory Board. A formal request from the Mere's Advisory Board to sponsor a shrub bed on the promenade for £50.00 down at the Mereside together with a request for an update on the Town Council's Community Right to Bid on the land off Church Street. Members discussed this and agreed that they will consider sponsorship in October when they look to set the budget for 2016/2017. The Town Council have been unsuccessful with the Community Right to Bid. RESOLVED: to consider sponsorship of a shrub bed on the promenade at the Mereside in the 2016/2017 budget.

Land at Church Street – Asset of Community Value. Notification that the Town Council's application for a Community right to Bid on the land off Church Street (Horton's Field) has been rejected. RESOLVED: to note.

TRI UK Shropshire Triathlon – 31st May, 2015, this event has unfortunately been cancelled for 2015. The 29th May 2016 has been provisionally booked to host the event next year. RESOLVED: to note.

Every Flower Counts. National Plant Monitoring Scheme, Plantlife 25. RESOLVED: details to be passed onto Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Ellesmere in Bloom and Ellesmere & District Flower Club.

Invitation to Students Final presentations for the Student Project working with the Canal & Rivers Trust. Monday 18th May, 2015 (11am – 2.00pm) Catrin Finch Centre, Glyndwr University. RESOLVED: Cllr J Frost will attend.

Sellotape Sculpture Request, Fizzgigs, Ellesmere Community Arts Group. Fizzgigs are asking for permission to place a sellotape sculpture on the bus shelter in Cross St. Although members are in full support of the event and the idea of the sculpture they agreed that it would be better placed elsewhere due to health & Safety. RESOLVED: to inform Fizzgigs of the Council's support of the refusal to their request.

Build stronger local communities on Streetlife a new community website for Shropshire. www.streetlife.com. RESOLVED to note.

Health and Wellbeing Communication and Engagement Strategy. RESOLVED: members will look at the strategy and respond individually.

Children's Trust Area Forum, Ellesmere Town Hall, Tuesday 28th April, 2015, 9.30am -12.30pm. RESOLVED: that Cllrs Mrs L Davies, K Chenery, E Edwards, Cllr Mr A Clarke and Cllr Mr S Thornton (to confirm) will attend this forum.

Safe Shropshire. A Community led initiative. Request for the Town Hall to display a safe place sticker and to be a safe place for vulnerable people who feel threatened. Members considered this request, but because the hall does not have full time staff then it could present the town hall hirers with difficult situations. RESOLVED: it was agreed not to take part in the scheme for the safety of the Town Hall hirers.

Heritage at Risk List – a request from Shropshire Council for Members to help update the Heritage at Risk List buildings in the town together with Shropshire Council which has not been updated since 2008. RESOLVED: that Cllrs I Ward, G Elnor and R Hartley (nominated by Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley in his absence) would represent the Town Council to work with Shropshire Council to update with buildings they consider at risk within the town.

Annual Town and Parish Council Seminar – Wednesday, 3rd June, 2015. Council Chamber, Shirehall. (6.30pm). RESOLVED: to note.

(b) Correspondence Circulated during the month:

Connecting Shropshire – Update. RESOLVED: to note

SALC Information Bulletin – 6th, 13th and 23rd March, 2015. RESOLVED: to note.

Invitation to “The Common” a play written for the Nature Improvement Areas.

Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Development Plan – Draft. RESOLVED: to note.

Police & Crime Commissioner Weekly Newsletter – 13th and 20th March, 2015.

RESOLVED: to note.

Police & Crime Commissioner for West Mercia e-newsletter, (March 2015).

RESOLVED: to note.

Market Hall – Email received from Mr L McMullan. Cllr I Ward suggested signs around the town to advertise the Tuesday Market, various locations were suggested.

It was: RESOLVED: to look into the cost for 2 signs possibly outside the Old Town Hall and on the junction of Victoria Street and Scotland Street. FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the Clerk look further into the need to declare any Interests for 2 Councillors who sit on “All Together Ellesmere”, Community Interest Company as holding this other office does not give any pecuniary advantages or personal/financial interest.

(c) Other Correspondence received after the Agenda being sent out.

Christmas Lighting Scheme. Quotes for 2 trees outside Town Hall and new LED lights for the Tree of Light. To note that the Ellesmere Branch of the Royal British Legion have contributed £125.00 towards the cost of new RCD unit with time clock. RESOLVED: members agreed to accept the quote for 240v Led garland at a cost of £662 plus VAT for the Tree of Light and the quote for £1,684.00 for garlands to be wrapped around the branches of the 2 trees at the Town Hall by the bus stop.

FURTHER RESOLVED: to write to the Mere Advisory Board to consider Christmas Lighting down along the Mereside.

Ellesmere Festival Committee – Donation request with the request to borrow the cheeseboards, bread baskets, table cloths and bowls to host Art Preview Evening in September. RESOLVED: members agreed to both requests.

Community Health News (March 2015). Circulated to Members. RESOLVED: to note.

Incredible Edible Shropshire Grant Funding – Shropshire Council. RESOLVED: to forward to the Gardening, Ellesmere and District Flower Clubs and Ellesmere in Bloom.

PCC Weekly Newsletter – A New Approach to Reducing Reoffending. (Circulated to Members). RESOLVED: to note.

National Association of Local Councils Newsletter. (Circulated to Members).

RESOLVED: to note.

SALC Information Bulletin – 2nd April, 2015. (Circulated to Members). RESOLVED: to note.

Brynallt Kennels & Cattery Ltd. Request to have the 2 advertising Boards in the Square removed as they are not fixed to anything and could blow across the road in bad weather. The clerks informed members that the Shropshire Star and The Advertiser have been contacted and have been requested to remove the boards, if this does not happen then Shropshire Council will be contacted to remove them. RESOLVED: to note.

Ice Cream Trader – The Mere. A 12 month permit has been reissued. RESOLVED: Cllr Ward has requested a copy of the email and will discuss with Shropshire Cllr Mrs A Hartley and this matter will be discussed further with Mark Blount at their meeting on 15th April, 2015.

Connecting Shropshire Broadband Update – Ellesmere. The first fibre optic cabinet has been installed in Ellesmere serving approx. 400 premises the rest will go live over the next few months. RESOLVED: to note.

276/14 Ellesmere Station Closed to passengers on the 18th January, 1965. Exhibition was held in the Town Hall on Sunday, 29th March, 2015. The Clerk reported that the event went very well with between 400-500 people in attendance on the day (between 10.00am and 16.00pm). There will be a closing meeting with the organisers on Wednesday 15th April. Congratulations were expressed to all that participated in making the event a huge success, particularly Age Concern who provided refreshments all day. RESOLVED: to note.

277/14 Town Hall – Water Leak. To note work has been completed to a very high standard with no disruption to the users of the Town Hall or any cancellation of bookings. The Clerk is in the process of completing a Leakage Allowance Claim Form, Severn Trent. The Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke informed Members that whilst this work was being completed the Contractors noticed an electricity cable which runs along the entrance of the drive which is has not been sunk deep enough. RESOLVED: to note. FURTHER RESOLVED: to look what depth the cable needs to be sunk under the legal requirement.

278/14 Lease part of Chapel at Cemetery, Swan Hill. Lease has been completed and signed by representatives from Ellesmere Town Council and Ellesmere Rural Parish Council. Copy will be kept on file. RESOLVED: to note.

279/14 Eastwick Plant Centre. Quotations received for 2015/16 town and town hall planting. RESOLVED: Members agreed to accept the quotes.

280/14 2015/16 Council Tax Precept Payments. Precept and Neighbourhood Fund payments will be made on: 20th April, 2015. Permission for the Clerk/Town Mayor to sign the "Notification of Requirements" Form to be agreed. RESOLVED: to note Members agreed to sign the form and forward on to Shropshire Council. FURTHER RESOLVED: the Neighbourhood Fund money will be transferred into an account separate account which will hold no other money other than this fund.

281/14 Interim Internal Audit. Audit took place on Wednesday, 18th March, 2015. RESOLVED: to note recommendations/issues have been received from to Internal Audit to date.

282/14 Notice of Audit of Accounts for Year Ended: 31st March, 2015.

- (a) Deadline which the Council must approve the Accounts: 30th June, 2015
- (b) Date by which the Annual Return must be submitted to External Auditor "Mazars": 3rd July, 2015.
- (c) Appointed date for the exercise of electors' rights: 31st July, 2015.

RESOLVED: to note a, b and c. FURTHER RESOLVED: the Town Mayor, Cllr A Clarke complimented the Clerk for her work on the budget as the Town Council are in a strong financial position. FURTHER RESOLVED: to thank the Assistant Clerk as it is joint effort. FURTHER RESOLVED: Cllr S Thornton took the opportunity for the tolerance shown by the Clerks during the replacement of the water pipe.

283/14 Payments for February, 2015 to be approved and confirmed. (Tabled). RESOLVED: that Cllr I Ward proposed, Cllr Mrs L Davies seconded all Members agreed that the payments were approved, confirmed and signed.

284/14 Certificate in Local Council Administration. To note that the Clerk has passed this qualification and has received her certificate on the 10th March, 2015. RESOLVED: to note.

- (a) Clerk's Appraisal. To elect Members from Staffing & Governance Committee to complete the Appraisal. RESOLVED: that Cllrs A Clarke and R Hartley will complete the Appraisal with the Clerk, date and time to be confirmed. FURTHER RESOLVED:

that Cllr S Thornton gave notice that he would like to complete the Clerk's appraisal for the forthcoming year.

285/14 Local Council Award Scheme. The Clerk reported to Members that this new scheme was introduced in 2014 and replaces "Quality Status". The Award Scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to Councils and to promote and recognise councils at the cutting edge of the sector, the Scheme is managed on behalf of the Improvement and Development Board. There are three levels: The Foundation Award, The Quality Award and Quality Gold Award. The Scheme sets out criteria to meet at each level covering selected aspects of Council's work. The Awards will last 4 years but once you have achieved an Award you can apply for the next stage at any time. RESOLVED: to defer this item until a further meeting to allow the Clerk to look at the criteria as a resolution must be made at a full council that it meets all the requirements to apply for the Foundation Level and also publishes on its website the information listed.

286/14 Risk Assessment Policy. Cllr I Ward reported that after the Railway Exhibition on the 29th March, 2015 due to strong winds it was necessary to keep someone on the front doors at all times. It was: RESOLVED: to include the doors with the roof Task and Finish Group.

287/14 Date of next meeting – Annual Town Council Wednesday, 6th May, 2015. RESOLVED: to note. FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on the same date and will start at 6.30pm.

288/14 Exclusion of Press and Public. RESOLVED: that Cllr I Ward proposed with Cllr J Frost seconded, all Members were in agreement that: In terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and due to the private and confidential nature of Agenda items 25, 26 and 27 the press and public be excluded from the Meeting whilst these items are tabled. Exempt minutes will be kept.

289/14 Asset Group. Notes from the first meeting were tabled. (Appendix A). RESOLVED: to note.



At : 11:07

Town Council Current A/c

List of Payments made between 01/02/2015 and 27/02/2015

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
10/02/2015	Cllr A Clarke	6241	-6.00		Lost Cheque - Reissued 6549
10/02/2015	Tudor Griffiths	6315	-22.12		Lost Cheque -Reissued 6550
10/02/2015	SLCC	6380	-100.00		Lost Cheque - reissued 6407
10/02/2015	Smith of Derby Ltd	6458	-220.80		Chq returned
02/02/2015	Healthmatic	6542	2,655.77		Cross St Toilet Clean & Repair
02/02/2015	Shropshire RCC	6543	180.00		Online Place Plan Review
02/02/2015	B Lewis	6544	661.66		Gardening Contract - Feb
02/02/2015	E.on Energy Solutions Ltd	6545	176.32		Light repairs o/s 24 Cherry Dr
05/02/2015	Information Commissioners Offi	6546	35.00		Data Protection Registration
06/02/2015	Scottish Power	6547	83.41		Xmas Lighting Electricity
09/02/2015	NWN Media	6548	277.20		Advert for Councillors
09/02/2015	Cllr A Clarke	6549	6.00		Replaces Chq no. 6241
10/02/2015	Tudor Griffiths	6550	22.12		Replaces Chq 6315 Xmas Tree
02/2015	Ellesmere Chamber of Commerce	6552	1,000.00		Ellesmere Leaflets
11/02/2015	SLCC	6553	60.00		Clica Resit Fee
11/02/2015	Mrs Mandy Evans - Clerk	6554	1,400.46		Salary Month 11
11/02/2015	Miss Joanne Butterworth	6555	988.31		Salary Month 11
11/02/2015	Mr Des Harvey	6556	453.13		Wages Month 11
11/02/2015	Mr Clive Parry	6557	383.70		Wages Month 11
11/02/2015	Mrs Melanie Connor	6558	233.92		Wages Month 11
11/02/2015	Miss N Roberts	6559	205.48		Wages Month 11
11/02/2015	HM Revenue & Customs	6551	650.98		Tax & NI Month 10
17/02/2015	British Gas Business	DDR	494.00		Gas - TH
23/02/2015	Severn Trent	6560	409.59		Water - Cross St WC
23/02/2015	PG Skips Ltd	6561	71.38		Skip Hire - February
23/02/2015	J C Dyke	6562	23.00		WD40, Hooks etc for TH
23/02/2015	Staples	6563	68.10		Stationery
24/02/2015	HM Revenue & Customs	6565	650.78		TAX & NI Month 11
24/02/2015	Shropshire Council Pensions	6564	726.23		Pensions Month 11

Total Payments	<u>11,567.62</u>
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