



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
held on
Wednesday 10th October 2018
at
The Guildhall, High Street, Newport**

PRESENT: Cllrs: Peter Scott - Town Mayor
Nigel Borrett
Derick Eggerton
Tony Forrester
Graham Foster
Thomas Janke
Lyn Fowler
Tim Nelson
Phil Norton
Ian Perry

IN ATTENDANCE: Sheila Atkinson – Town Clerk- (Interim)
Louise Tunks – Deputy Clerk/RFO (Interim)

90/18-19 Apologies for Absence - Members noted the following apologies:
Cllr Eric Carter –Fire Authority Conference

Cllr Eggerton provided a verbal statement offering his apologies for absence at previous meetings. Members noted the apologies. Cllr Norton also publicly apologised for the comments he had posted on a social media platform. He informed members that the remarks had been withdrawn.

91/18-19 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Foster informed members he is a member of the Chinese New Year group.

92/18/19 Suspension of Meeting - Members **RESOLVED to suspend the meeting to take comments from the Public.**

Name	Lucy Luk
Subject	Chinese New Year grant application
Summary	Mrs Luk gave members an overview of the event from its inception, she expanded on the plans in train to the proposals for the 2019 event. The committee had taken on-board various comment and, were hoping the provide an even more “Chinese” feel to the event and have some indoor activities, as they recognise the weather is often inclement during Jan/Feb.

There being no further members of the public wishing to raise comments, the meeting continued.

93/18-19 Previous Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve, as a true record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018, they were duly signed by Cllr Scott.

94/18-19 Announcements

a. Members noted the Town Mayor’s engagements for September 2018:

September 2018 Mayor’s Engagements

Sunday	9 th	Market Drayton Civic Service
Sunday	16 th	1. Newport Town Council Civic Service 2. The Inauguration Service of The Rev’d Merry Smith St Nicholas Church
Friday	21 st	Graduations Ceremonies at Harper Adams University
Saturday	22 nd	Newport Food Frenzy
Thursday	27 th	Visit to Burton Borough School
Saturday	29 th	SS Peter & Pauls RC School Summer Fete

b. **Telford & Wrekin Council Pride in your Community** - Members noted correspondence regarding the Telford & Wrekin owned Street Lights are to be upgraded to LED, work is anticipated to start W/C 10th October

c. Cllr Norton informed members that the next Boughey Trust meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th October.

95/18-19 Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) – Members noted receipt of the review by the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP for the year ended 31 March 2018 AGAR. The Clerk advised members that the Report and Certificate is currently displayed in the Guildhall window and on our website as required by The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234).

- **Funding of £5k be added to fund additional Speed Indicator Devices**
- **Carry Forward any balance at Year End for N/L 4355 Canal Enhancements**

101/18-19 Newport Regeneration Partnership - Funding Request

Following the withdrawal by public transport company Arriva, of the Saturday 519-bus-service between Shrewsbury and Newport, Members were asked to consider a contribution request from the Newport Regeneration Partnership for £2,000 to reinstate the service.

Members’ deliberations focused on the application with the direct impact of loss of this bus service for the electorate of Newport and of the benefit using public funds for a commercial enterprise would bring; Arriva being a nationally recognised commercial enterprise with a monopoly across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Members are aware of explanation and reasons given by Arriva for the discontinuation of the Saturday operation, in as much as it is not cost effective as a profitable business and cannot continue to run it at a loss due to lack of passenger usage.

Members feel that the detrimental impact is associated solely to the rural hinterlands and village use and those parish councils effected should carry the burden of costs.

Members **RESOLVED unanimously not to support the grant request.**
Cllr Forrester as Town Council representative on the Bus User Group will provide input to the group at their next meeting.

102/18-19 Grant Funding

- a. **Ad-Hoc In -Year Seed and Crisis Grant Funding** - Members considered a grant application from the Chinese New Year 2019 committee. Members discussed the application in detail. This event is proving to be popular and is attracting support from a wide and diverse range of the community. Members were mindful that the occasion would benefit greatly if the event was to receive a substantial increase in the amount requested as a seed funding to create a larger more successful event: -

Members **RESOLVED to Grant £2,500 and asked that supporting evidence is submitted to the council in the form of pictures and a detailed breakdown of costs incurred.**

- b. **Grant Funding Request** – Members considered a grant application from the Newport Cottage Care to purchase waiting room chairs. Members were advised by the Chairman that he is of the opinion that sufficient funding have been secured. Members agreed to suspend a decision until the Clerk had clarified the situation.

103/18-19 Community Safety Committee Minutes

Members noted receipt of the unsigned minutes of a meeting held on 19th September 2018.

104/18-19 Neighbourhood Development Plan – Members noted the formal notification that Newport Neighbourhood has been “made” (adopted) by Telford & Wrekin extract below:-

Telford and Wrekin Council has ‘made’ (adopted) the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan on 13 September 2018. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Telford & Wrekin and will be used by the Council to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

*A copy of the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan together with a statement setting out the Council’s decision to make the plan and the reasons for that decision can be viewed on the Council’s website at:
<https://www.telford.gov.uk/newportndp>*

105/18-19 Newport Town Boundary – Members were advised that the Clerk was still awaiting an update.

106/18-19 Newport Cottage Care Centre Trust (NCCC) – Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 10th September.

107/18-19 Newport Regeneration Partnership (NRP) - Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 18th September.

108/18-19 Cosy Hall Committee – Members noted the Minutes of a meeting held on 27th September

109/18-19 Wrekin Area Committee Meeting – Cllr Forrester gave members an overview of the meeting.

110/18-19 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members **RESOLVED** “that in view of the special nature of the business about to be conducted, (*staffing matters and recruitment*) it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw”.

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

(Note: elements of the discussions in the confidential session remain confidential however, the decisions are published within the minutes for the public record)

111/18-19 STAFFING

Members received an update on the recruitment of temporary staff, current staffing arrangements and future modifications, proposed training and provision of various elements of Human Resource Services' to be procured from Telford & Wrekin Council.

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