



Minutes of the Meeting of Broseley Town Council
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2017
at the Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley

Standard abbreviations used throughout: Shropshire Council – SC
Local Joint Committee – LJC
Birchmeadow Centre – BMC
Birchmeadow Centre Management Committee - BCMC

231. PRESENT

Councillors Burton, Childs, L Garbett, M Garbett, Harris, Jones, Pickles, Smith, Taylor.

232. IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs T Barrett – Town Clerk, Mrs D Webb – RFO
Mr M Branson, Mr D Pountney

233. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Pountney gave a rights of way report.

234. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor A Cooke - holiday

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Councillor | Agenda item | Subject | Type of interest | Reason | Minute no. |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--|------------|
| Jones | 15 | SC Asset Transfer | Bias | Member of SC | 248 |
| Smith | 13 | Dark Lane Housing Development | Bias | Point of contact between site and jointly owned property | 246 |

Agenda item 18 was brought forward.

236. CLOSURE OF LLOYDS BANK, BROSELEY

- a. Councillors noted correspondence from Lloyds Bank with regard to the planned closure of the branch on 28th March 2017. The response outlined other local options for banking in the area and stated that the decision to close had already been taken. The invitation to meet the Town Council was declined.
- b. It was noted that Philip Dunne, MP, had also been in contact with Lloyds Bank regarding the closure and had received a similar response to the Town Council. Councillors considered possible alternatives for banking in the town, primarily the Post Office. **RESOLVED to write again to Lloyds Bank requesting data on overall usage and transactions at the Broseley branch as anecdotal evidence pointed to greater usage than stated by Lloyds. Information about any plans for the future of the building should also be requested.**

237. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that Mr Dilwyn Scott had tendered his resignation as a Councillor with effect from 10th January. Councillors expressed their surprise and regret.
It was noted that due to the forthcoming local election there was no obligation on the Council to fill the vacancy. **RESOLVED not to seek to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy.**

238. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2016

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2016 as a true record of the proceedings.

239. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2016

Minute 230: the Clerk had written to Philip Dunne, MP, but had yet to receive a response.

240. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED to approve for payment the schedule of accounts.

The Clerk was asked to seek alternative quotations for the maintenance of the library electronic doors.

241. BANK RECONCILIATION

Owing to the previous absence of the RFO, there was no bank reconciliation for 30th November to hand. **RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.**

242. BUDGET 2017/18

- a. Councillors considered the latest draft of the budget.
- b. **RESOLVED to add a budget line for HR support and to allocate £1,500 to this budget line.**
- c. Councillors unanimously **RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2017/18 with budgeted expenditure of £245,405 and a precept of £200,514.**

243. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded for the following item of business, on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts:

Personnel matters

The RFO left the meeting.

244. PERSONNEL MATTERS

- a. Councillors noted that the RFO had tendered her resignation and would be leaving the Council at the end of February. **RESOLVED to seek a temporary RFO in the first instance pending the outcome of the review of the office working arrangements. The Personnel Group would oversee the recruitment of a temporary RFO.**
- b. Councillors noted that Mr D Scott had been Chair of the Personnel Group and that the Group was therefore one member short. Councillor Taylor, who had been a reserve member, would step up. **RESOLVED to appoint Councillor M Garbett as reserve to the Personnel Group.**
- c. **RESOLVED to set up a HR task and finish group comprising Councillors Harris, Jones and Smith to progress the selection of a HR consultancy service to review office working arrangements.**

245. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillors noted that there had been no Planning Committee meeting in December. However, a response to the applications to hand had been agreed by members of the committee and submitted to SC.

246. DARK LANE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The next stakeholder meeting was awaited.

247. IRONBRIDGE POWER STATION ARTEFACTS

The task and finish group had met in December. The consultation period regarding the location of a sculpture in the churchyard was nearing its end and it seemed likely that agreement would be given. A donation of 2,000 diamond stamped bricks and a pallet of blue bricks had been received and it was planned to use these for the base of the churchyard sculpture. Loose stone had been ordered to go around the base of the sculptures.

The paintwork on the Wilkinson Avenue sculpture would be carried out when the weather improved.

Plans were being made to install a feature at the entrance to the town on Coalport Road.

248. SC ASSET TRANSFER

A meeting with SC was scheduled for the following Monday. Community Infrastructure Levy funding would be discussed at the meeting.

249. TREES IN THE SQUARE

Councillors noted that the roots of the trees in The Square were causing the paving to lift along the footpath. Councillor Jones would report this to SC. In the meantime, the Council's groundsmen would be asked to lever out the cages which had become pressed against the trunks.

250. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

a. Councillors noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday, 9th March.

b. **RESOLVED that the Shropshire Councillor and the Mayor would each give a report but that no external speaker would be invited.**
Light refreshments would be provided.

251. SALC CONFERENCE

Councillors L and M Garbett gave a report on the SALC AGM and Conference held on 19th November. Topics covered had included the challenges facing local councils, housing, highways safety and possible rate relief on public toilets.

252. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 9.00pm.

253. HIGHWAYS

a. Councillors noted the response from SC regarding the cost of Highways schemes.

b. It was noted that a representative from SC Highways would be attending the LJC meeting on 18th January. Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to attend and raise their concerns.

254. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUS STRATEGY

a. Councillors noted that Shropshire Council was consulting on its new Bus Strategy and that consultation would end on 13th February 2017.

b. **RESOLVED to request input from Council staff who regularly travelled on the buses and to make copies of the consultation available in the library.**

255. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S "BIG CONVERSATION"

a. Councillors noted that Shropshire Council was inviting views on what more the council could do in light of its financial challenges and that the survey was open until the end of January 2017.

b. **RESOLVED to encourage Councillors to respond individually.**

256. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors noted the following correspondence and agreed to take the action recorded:

a. Thank you letter from Broseley Tennis Club for the grant funding provided. Noted.

b. Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Newsletter. Noted.

c. Invitation from SALC to nominate the Mayor to attend the Queen's Garden Party.
RESOLVED to nominate Councillor Harris.

d. Thank you letter from Ms C Bagnall, Chair of BCMC, for the successful completion of the gable end wall. Councillors noted that neighbours were also very pleased with the improved sound proofing.

Chairman