



Broseley Town Council

Minutes of a Town Council meeting
held at the Birchmeadow Centre
at 7pm on Tuesday 9 January 2024

Present:

Town Mayor Cllr. Andy Taylor, Deputy Town Mayor Caroline Bagnall, Cllr. Ian West, Cllr. Michael Burton, Cllr. Su Evans-Turner, Cllr. Roy Childs, Cllr. Simon Harris, Cllr. D Pollard and Cllr. Mark Garbett.

In attendance:

Jenna Munday, Acting Town Clerk

545/2023 Chairman's Welcome

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and wished those present a Happy New Year.

546/2023 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

547/2023 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

548/2023 Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested.

549/2023 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

550/2023 Police Report

Members received the following report from the Broseley and Much Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team 11/12/2023 – 03/01/2024:

Update on Police and SNT activity in the area. In addition to the Officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Team, there is a team of Response Officers based in Bridgnorth Police Station who attend incidents in the area. Unfortunately, the vacant PCSO position is not going to be filled in January 2023, the earliest that the post will be filled is March 2023.

Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is a new online messaging service operated by West Mercia Police. SNT Officers are sending Crime Alerts and other locally relevant information out to all those who join the service. Please encourage everyone to check out what is available by following the link - <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/> West Mercia Police has signed up to the Local Policing Community Charter. The Council has outlined its three main Policing Priorities as:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB). There have been seven reports of ASB; five incidents of items being thrown at properties around the area of the High Street, four of those involved snowballs. Officers were deployed on a number of occasions, youths had left the area. An incident where youths repeatedly lifted the engine cover of a bus in the High Street and an incident in which an air weapon or BB gun was used to damage a window.
- Theft (from outbuildings). Patrols have been conducted around the area by SNT, there have been two reports of burglaries from outbuildings and a mobility scooter and four bicycles were stolen.

- Drugs. Locations that have either been linked to drug related activity or to suspected drug dealers have been patrolled and there was a report of suspicious activity in the High Street thought to be linked to drug dealing.
- There were also two reports of disputes between neighbours.
- Burglary/Theft. A van was stolen from a driveway on Wilkinson Avenue and a car was stolen from Amies Meadow.
- A vehicle and a trailer were seized by the Police as part of an investigation into a series of burglaries.
- Road Related. The following incidents were reported; a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) on Wyke Lane and another in Benthall, fortunately there were no injuries. There was a report of a tree down on the Ironbridge Road. There was an anonymous report of a drink driver. A vehicle was seized for having no insurance or tax and there was a road rage incident.
- Safeguarding. There were eight reports of concerns for safety, all of these were dealt with by a combination of Police attendance, partner agencies and assistance of relatives in ensuing all were safe and well. There were also three reports of the same child going missing, they were found on each occasion.
- Suspicious Circumstances. There was a report of two unidentified males being seen in suspicious circumstances around an expensive vehicle.
- The RSPCA rang to request Police assistance with an animal welfare incident
- There was a report of hate crime.
- There have been four incidents in which people accidentally rang 999 and four where unidentified young sounding people have made hoax 999 calls from the public telephone box in the High Street.

NOTED

It was then AGREED that the Council would write to the Chief Constable, the MP and Police and Crime Commissioner of West Mercia highlighting the lack of police presence in Broseley.

551/2023 Mayors Announcements

Members received and NOTED the following report from the Town Mayor, Cllr. Andy Taylor: Firstly, I would like to wish all the residents, Town Council employees and fellow councillors a Happy New year. I am hoping it will be a productive year with some major projects coming to fruition.

Caroline and I attended the opening of the Nurture and grow Nursery recently. It is good to see a building in town coming back into use and providing employment for up to 4 people plus providing a great service for parents in the town.

I had the pleasure of attending the Christmas playscheme and hopefully bringing a bit of seasonal cheer. The playscheme is another excellent service delivered by the council and I would like to personally thank Jenna and Kirsty for their continuing efforts.

I would like to encourage more volunteers to join the council to come forward and join us. The next full election of councillors will be in May 2025. If we can get people to join now then they will have over 12 months to experience what being a councillor entails and then to make an informed decision on whether they want to stand for election.

552/2023 Shropshire Council

Members received and NOTED the following report from Shropshire Councillor, Cllr.

Caroline Bagnall:

Since my last report, the Christmas period has meant that there have been few Shropshire Council meetings for me to attend. However, in the coming days I will be attending the Strategic Licencing Committee and the Southern Planning Committee.

I have continued to receive calls from local residents on a range of issues, including planning, queries about bin collections, parking and anti-social behaviour. I am always happy to help where I can.

553/2023 Minutes

- a) Members **CONSIDERED** the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 12 December 2023. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- c) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 28 November 2023
- d) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee held on 23 November 2023.

554/2023 Financial Matters

- a) Members **NOTED** the Income and expenditure to end of November
- b) Members **NOTED** the bank reconciliations to end of November
- c) Members **NOTED** the level of reserves
- d) Members **NOTED** the Payments to date
- e) Members **APPROVED** the following requests for payment:

Organisation	Payment amount
J Morris – Emergency Repair Library Heating	£261.20 + VAT
JDH Business Services LTD – Data Protection Services	£1,116 + VAT

- f) Members **CONSIDERED** a recommendation from the finance committee to approve the proposed expenditure for CDS - Cemetery Development Services to undertake the planning work that is required for Cemetery extension. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the estimated expenditure be accepted at a cost of £11,750.00 that would be funded through NHF.**

Cllr. Mark Garbett said that it is pleasing to see the accounts looking healthy and in good order.

555/2023 Annual Budget

Members **CONSIDERED** the annual budget for 2024/25. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that:**

- **The budget would be set at £371,185**
- **The precept would be set at £319,303**

Members **NOTED** that this budget will result in a 0.93% increase in our precept, equivalent to £16.88 per month, £3.88 per week and £0.55p per day on a Band D Council Tax collected over a twelve-month period.

Members thanked the Acting Town Clerk, and Finance members for their hard work with getting the budget complete in good time.

Members then **NOTED** a verbal update from the Acting Town Clerk on the services that the council provides for the community, and some of the changes that have gone in to next years budget which should be noted.

Services	Budget Changes for 24/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Free Car Parking○ Guest Road Play Area○ Dark Lane Public toilets○ A Library that offers various free regular community events○ A mini Library○ A Maypole Green○ A Multi-Use Games Area- <p>To NOTE that we are pleased that the booking income has increased following the implementation of the online booking / payment system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Support to youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All cost centres have been carefully assessed in line with inflation and other increases○ A new role for a Head Grounds keeper has been created○ Play scheme income will now have its own income line, rather than an EMR which will be clearer to view and manage the income and expenditure○ Waste management for all sites will have its own cost centre. Contracts have also been reviewed and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support to Broseley in Bloom ○ Support to the Christmas lights ○ Holiday Playschemes ○ A Memorial garden ○ Football pitches – which would not be maintained by Shropshire Council without our financial support. ○ A Cemetery ○ Street lighting ○ Community grants ○ Community noticeboards ○ The Birchmeadow Centre. 	<p>renegotiated and this will save the council an annual cost of £2,508.96</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rialtas costs have been reviewed and this will save the council an annual fee of £400 ○ A sinking fund has been created for pollarding the memorial garden trees ○ Pension costs have reduced to account for the EE only as the council are in credit with Shropshire Pensions ○ A new cost centre has been created for the BMP litter picking ○ Youth provision will be put back in and set at £2,000 ○ Community grants will be set at £3,000 ○ Spruce up items have also been added for: Topple testing Re painting the Library car park railings LED lighting upgrade within the Birchmeadow Centre and redecoration also.
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556/2023 Birchmeadow Park Play Area Project

Members **CONSIDERED** a press release in partnership with Shropshire Council. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the statement, and councils quote be accepted, and that the Acting Clerk requests that an image be included also.**

Members then **AGREED** to invite Ed Andrews to the annual parish meeting to present the upcoming park proposal.

It was also **AGREED** for the Acting Clerk to invite Lesley Picton and Andy Begley also to carry out a short presentation for the community.

557/2023 Fairfield

Members **NOTED** that the Acting Clerk would write to the land owner, and would provide an update once a discussion has taken place.

558/2023 Mayor’s Awards

Members **CONSIDERED** options for the Mayors awards ceremony for 2023/24. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that an afternoon event would be scheduled to take place on Sunday 3 March between 2-4pm within the Birchmeadow Centre. Further details of catering, entertainment and an invitation list would be discussed in the coming weeks for approval at the next town council meeting.**

559/2023 Correspondence

Members **NOTED** the following correspondence received:

- Town, Parish & Community Councils – D-Day 80, 6 June 2024
- Broseley Festival Request to use the Library Car Park for a fair on Festival Day 15 and 16 June 2023. **It was AGREED that this request be granted providing that satisfactory risk and method statements are provided.**
- Community First Responders Annual Report.

560/2023 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Members requested the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Co-Option
- Mayor Awards

- Street Lighting Upgrade
- D-Day.

561/2023 Date of Next Meeting

- a) Members **NOTED** that the next Councillors Surgery will take place on **27 January 2024 at Broseley Cricket Club, with Cllr. Caroline Bagnall and Cllr. Andy Taylor and Cllr. Simon Harris in attendance.**
- b) Members are asked to **NOTE that the next Full Town Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 February 2024.**

562/2023 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **AGREED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

563/2023 Staffing

- a) Members received an update from the Chair of Staffing on the Town Clerks absence and NOTED that She has been sent flowers and good wishes.
- b) Members received the following a verbal update on other staffing matters from the Chair of Staffing:
- Jenna has been getting admin support from Judith who has proved to be very useful and she has agreed to work 10 hours a week. **It was AGREED to increase her pay grade to scale 7 for the support she offers within the office and back pay be paid for the hours she has completed to date.**
 - Tony left the cemetery in December, and there was a nice little presentation carried out by Caroline
 - We recently agreed for Barry to reduce his hours down to 24, and staffing will discuss this further at tomorrow’s meeting.
 - Our advertisement for a cemetery manager will be going live in a few weeks’ time, with short listing and interviewing planned for late February.

564/2023 Play Scheme

Members retrospectively **APPROVED** the following expenditure incurred for the Christmas play scheme provision.

Supplier and Expenditure
The Birchmeadow Centre - Room Hire - £230.00
Salaries £ 580.70
Broseley Fish Bar, 2 days catering £227.50
The Deli - 2 days catering £245.00
Amazon - Crafts and Games £202.03
Spar – Juice £5.00
Smyths – Games - £69.95
The Animal Man £170.00
DJ Westlake £150.00
Home Bargains – Sweets, crisps and £50.57

Thanks, was given to the Food Bank for continuing to support the scheme and for providing families with food vouchers throughout the holidays.

The meeting closed at: 20:15

Signed:_____

Date:_____

Chairman