



Broseley Town Council

Minutes of a Town Council meeting
held at the Birchmeadow Centre
at 7pm on Tuesday 9 April 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. Mark Garbett, Cllr. D Pollard and Cllr. Raymond Sergeant.

In attendance:

Jenna Munday, Acting Town Clerk
3 Member of the Public

799/2023 Chairman's Welcome

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

800/2023 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

801/2023 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

The were no pecuniary interests were declared.

802/2023 Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested.

803/2023 Public Participation

- a) A member of the public asked why the dates from the ICO letter were not included within the most recent letter received from the office, and why the names of the councillors who have claimed expenses were not included also. The resident said that Shropshire Council have received a letter from me regarding how the council is being run. The Mayor invited the resident to an informal within the office to resolve some of these outstanding issues.

The resident then raised concern over the amount of money that has been spent on the most recent CCTV install on the public toilets, the Mayor responded and said that this was required to protect the asset from vandalism. The resident also raised a question on why the rules of the council only enable the public to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes, when it should be ten minutes. The Mayor said that the standing orders dictate the amount of time a member of the public can speak; this document governs the councils meeting operations. Specific questions that require a detailed response are asked to be received in writing with a 10 days' notice period.

- b) A member of the public asked when street light number 10 will be repaired. The Acting Town Clerk and Shropshire Councillor said that they would chase this up with Shropshire Council. The resident also asked the council if they can consider ways of reducing the speed on Church Street. Cllr West responded and said that the council will be considering quotations this evening for speed indicator devices, and one of the signs will be installed on Church Street, and we are hopeful that this will help the situation.

- c) A member of the public raised concern over the amount of pot holes in Broseley, and asked when will these be repaired. Cllr Bagnall responded and agreed that the situation is dreadful, and said that a meeting had been carried out with a highways officer last week. Resurfacing is required for Church Street, and other areas will be scheduled for pot hole repairs. There will be a road closure required for Church Street, which will take up to 6-weeks to put in place. Cllr Bagnall told the resident that he could contact her going forward about SC issues, and that she would continue to fight for our roads to be repaired.

804/2023 Police Report

a) Members received and NOTED the following written report from the Broseley and Much Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team Update to Broseley Town Council:

04/04/2024:

- 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. Currently, we only have a PC and a PCSO on the team. West Mercia Police are currently recruiting PCSOs, however, no time frame can currently be given for the arrival of a replacement for the PCSO who left in September 2022.
- Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is an 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 has been one report of two youths riding an off-road motorcycle on the Fiery Fields. There was also a report of a hoax telephone call being made from the telephone kiosk in the square.
- Drugs. There have been no reports from members of the public of drug related activity, however, a number of reports have been submitted by Officers regarding suspicious incidents potentially linked to such activity.
- Theft (Farms & Dwellings). West Mercia Police and Dyfed-Powys Police conducted a number of warrants at the addresses of suspects believed to be involved in rural burglary offences. Four addresses were raided in Broseley and a number of arrests made.
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB). There has been a single report of youth related ASB, a pair of teenage males were seen riding two unregistered motorcycles on the Fiery Fields. They were not known to the witness and the description was not sufficient to identify them. There was also a report of a dispute between neighbours that was dealt with in cooperation with the Housing Officer from Shropshire Town and Rural (STaR) Housing.
- Burglary. As well as the arrests made in Broseley, a Nissan Navarro that had previously been linked to rural burglaries was burnt out in the Fiery Fields. On the same day that the Nissa Navarro was destroyed by fire, a stolen dumper truck (stolen from elsewhere in the County) was recovered from a field in Broseley. In linked activity, three stolen trailers and a quadbike were recovered by Police after a sighting and pursuit in the Morville area.
- Hate Incident. The "N" word was scrawled in render on a property in the town. This was subsequently covered by a second coat of render. It was not believed to have been targeted at a specific individual.
- Animal incident. There was a report of a family pet biting a ten-year-old child.
- Suspicious Circumstances. There were two reports of suspicious individuals seen approaching back doors with torches late at night, no attempt was made to gain entry. A tractor was seen driving through Benthall in the early hours with no headlights on, this has not been linked to the theft of a tractor. Unknown offenders have used another person's address fraudulently. A report was made to the Police of two vehicles of unknown make and model

being driven around an area where there have been previous burglaries. With this limited information, no meaningful investigation was possible.

- Bail Offences. A number of people currently released under investigation have bail conditions. There have been 17 recorded breaches of bail, each of which will be investigated by the Officers dealing with those suspects.
- There was an alarm activation at a commercial premises and Officers attended, however, it was a false activation. There was also a personal attack alarm activation, but this was found to be user error when Officers deployed.
- There were three reports of public order incidents, one required the deployment of Officers and two were made after the disorder had ceased.
- Road Related. There were two Road traffic Collisions, Officers were not deployed as the road was not blocked and there were no injuries. A car has been reported to be being driven by a driver without insurance, details have been passed to all Officers so that if seen positive action can be taken. There were two reports of obstruction on a road, one was for a horse and the other was for two loose dogs.
- Domestic Incidents. There were seven incidents relating to domestic abuse, Officers attended and dealt with them in an appropriate manner and our partner agencies have been involved in several of them.
- There were four reports of concern for the mental health of adults, Officers were deployed to two of these and after dealing with the initial concerns passed details and responsibility to our partner agencies who are better able to deal with the matters identified. The other two were dealt with wholly by paramedics due to the circumstances. A missing 13-year-old child was reported, family, members of the public and Police were involved in a search and the child was soon found, safe and well, and returned home.

Members then **NOTED** that Sergeant Mason will be attending the annual Town Council meeting in May to introduce himself to the Town Council,

b) Members received the following verbal report from Cllr. Harris on policing: Councillors a couple of years ago, and I attended a public meeting on the loss of farm equipment in south Shropshire, as farmers had started fetching the equipment back, and they were going armed with shotguns. The police said they fully understand the situation and were working on it.

The fact is that since those promises were made, millions of pounds worth of equipment has gone missing. I was sent a picture of my family's ATV on a stolen trailer traveling through Much Wenlock, I forwarded it on to our PCC who sent an email dismissing the fact saying it wasn't down to him to sort out the incident.

We then witnessed the PCC at venue a few months ago trying to explain why we don't have permanent Police within our Town, sat beside the PCC was the chief constable, during which she said very little.

Councillor Charlie Garrett actually took everything he said apart and made the PCC look dysfunctional in his job. Since then every month we hear our police in our Town Council meetings talking about how stretched they are, and that no officers are going to be based here in our Town.

Again, this month the first paragraph of the report confirms this fact. The latest police operation paragraph 6 in the report was filmed and put out to the public in my opinion in a vain attempt to make it look like a success story, it was more like a publicity stunt.

I keep hearing in our council meeting the rumblings of discontent over our CCTV grant that never was going to come to light.

Communication is poor, and again I think we are getting a raw deal.

I would like to suggest that we vote on a motion of no confidence in our PCC, as management is at an all-time low and it cannot carry on. We are heading into an election, and I personally think the PCC should stand down and let new blood invigorate the force. Open to debate.

After a lengthy discussion by members **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to suspend standing orders to add the below motion for consideration.**

- c) Members are asked to CONSIDER and APPROVE a vote of no confidence in the Police of Crime Commissioner, John Campion. **It was then PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that this be APPROVED, and that a statement would be given at the annual parish meeting, and that it would be forward onto the Shropshire Star.**

805/2023 Mayors Announcements

Members received and NOTED the following report from the Town Mayor, Cllr. Andy Taylor:

I participated in both the face-to-face interviews and task-based assignment for the new position of Head grounds person. I also had the pleasure of sitting in on the initial induction meeting for the successful candidate on Monday 8th April. I wish our new employee all the best in his time with us and feel he will be a great asset to the council and the town in general.

Along with councillor Bagnall I recently attended the newly re-constituted South Shropshire Mayors group at Church Stretton. The evening was brilliant in bringing together representatives from the other South Shropshire towns. There was a lot of common ground where we are all facing similar issues.

A few highlights to mention:

- Church Stretton Council are running a benchmarking exercise to establish costs for certain services and supplies. This will then be shared to other councils and hopefully highlight where we can all save some money.
- South Shropshire contributes approximately £8M to the policing budget and the strong feeling is that we are Subsidising other areas of West Mercia. Data being gathered to prove this.
- General feeling at the meeting is that South Shropshire is not treated equitably in terms of funding when compared to Shrewsbury and North Shropshire – Some statements that politics is too involved which influences funding decisions.
- The fixation with ‘potholes’ on social media is diverting attention from more important issues in South Shropshire – One quote “Pot holes don’t kill people, Not being able to get an ambulance for a number of hours for a heart attack will’
- Caroline and I came away feeling that Broseley is in a good situation financially compared to some other towns. Other towns are being asked to take on the running of libraries, Swimming pools and leisure centres without any additional funding. As we already cover things like our library, we are well placed.
- Stuart Anderson (Current MP in Wolverhampton and PPC for Conservatives in south Shropshire) joined us for the last part of a long meeting. He appeared to take on the views of the meeting and said that should he be successful in the upcoming general election he would like to attend regular meetings such as this one and realises that all need to work together regardless of political persuasion.
- I am very pleased that the council has agreed to extend the library opening hours to include an extra day. This is great news considering the likely reduction or even closure of libraries in other Shropshire towns.

806/2023 Shropshire Council

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

Caroline Bagnall:

I met recently with two detached youth workers from Shropshire Council who are going to be working in town on Tuesday evenings. This work has come about as a result of an assessment of the needs of young people in the town. Last week there was a launch event on the park, which I was unable to attend due to being in London for a few days. However, I look forward

to meeting up again with the youth workers to discuss progress. Some years ago, the council commissioned a report from Shropshire Youth Association and, as a result of that, funding was given to set up the Youth Group. We had hoped for some detached youth workers to engage with the young people who were unlikely to take part in organised youth activities, so this initiative is very welcome.

As part of its efforts to cut costs, Shropshire Council have launched a consultation regarding the proposal to charge householders an annual fee of £52 a year for the collection of garden waste in green bins and to close, or reduce the opening hours of recycling centres. While garden waste collections in Shropshire are currently free, 80% of English councils already charge for this service and many have been doing so for several years.

As part of the consultation, they are also asking how they can reduce the cost of running the five household recycling centres. They are asking if people would be willing to pay more than £52 a year if the additional money was used to keep all five of the household recycling centres open, and for views on whether the opening times of some HRCs could be reduced. The consultation also asks for people's thoughts about a new permit/booking system for people visiting a recycling centre to ensure that these are only used by people from Shropshire. It is very likely that Telford and Wrekin Council will introduce a charge for people from outside that council area who wish to use their recycling centres. As the closest centre to Broseley is in Halesfield, this will directly affect our residents. The consultation can be filled in online and details can be found on the Shropshire Council website. I will also ask if it can be shared on the Town Council website.

As the Mayor has already mentioned, we attended a very interesting meeting last night in All Streeton where we met with the Mayors and deputies from a number of South Shropshire towns. It was a very pleasant opportunity to share our thoughts and we found that we have much in common with regard to how we feel our towns are treated compared to those in the north of the county and in Shrewsbury. We were joined by the Conservative parliamentary candidate for South Shropshire later in the evening and we were able to put our points to him. It is hoped that there will be further meetings of the group to which other candidates will be invited.

I have attended several meetings with residents this month to discuss issues of concern to them. I have also received a number of phone calls and emails from local residents and I am always happy to help where I can.

807/2023 Minutes

- a) **Members CONSIDERED** the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 12 March 2024 **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**
- b) **Members CONSIDERED** the minutes from the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 26 March 2024 **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 27 February 2024
- d) **Members NOTED and ADOPTED** the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee held on 22 February 2024
- e) **Members NOTED and ADOPTED** the minutes of the Estate Committee held on 17 January 2024.

808/2023 Financial Matters

- a) **Members NOTED** the Income and expenditure to end of February
- b) **Members NOTED** the bank reconciliations to end of February
- c) **Members NOTED** the level of reserves
- d) **Members NOTED** the Payments to date
- e) **Members retrospectively APPROVED** the below expenditure for Easter Play Scheme and delegated powers be given to the Acting Town Clerk to organise the summer scheme.

Organisation	Payment amount
The Birchmeadow Centre	£220.00
Miss Pickle lily Magic Workshop	£200.00
The Deli	£245.00
Broseley Fish Bar	£247.00
One Beyond	£12.00
The Range	£37.11
Home Bargains	£25.17
Salaries	£886.08

f) Members APPROVED the below requests for payment:

Organisation	Payment amount
Salop Drain Services Ltd – BMC Drain Works	£79.67 + VAT
J Morris – Cap off and remove redundant gas pipes from the Library	£133.05 + VAT
J Morris – BMC boiler breakdown and parts	£86.60 + VAT
TFM – Post Mix (Maypole Noticeboard)	£19.97 + VAT
Rialtas Cemetery Software	£580 + VAT
Rialtas Omega Software	£555 + VAT

809/2023 Policy Adoption

Members **CONSIDERED** a CCTV Policy. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to approve the policy.**

810/2023 Birchmeadow Park Play Area Project

Members **NOTED** that there was nothing to report on at this moment Intime.

811/2023 Climate Action Group

Members **NOTED** that a section of the Maypole Green had been sectioned off as part of the climate actions groups initiative for ‘No Mow May’ and that this has been published this week, and so far, the response has been good.

812/2023 Tourism Working Group

- On behalf of the climate action group Cllr. A Taylor reported that:
The working group has taken on the ownership of the visit Broseley website. Initial work has been completed on a revamp to a new hosting platform. This has been put on hold as we have been approached by a company called TrailTale who have a mobile application that allows visitors to follow guided trails in a specific location. Several towns in South Shropshire have been included in a funding bid to the Lottery heritage fund that will allow TrailTale to add specific information for each town. If successful the app, which already exists, will have content added for Broseley and we will link the new visit Broseley website to this rather than duplicate data.
- The first market is planned for Saturday 4th May and the plan is to have markets on the first Saturday of each calendar month going forward.

813/2023 D-Day

Members **NOTED** and **AGREED** that a small memorial service would take place within the Memorial Garden on 6 June at 6.30pm, and that the event would be published for those who would like to attend.

814/2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Members **NOTED** that the annual meeting will take place on 24 April at 6pm within the Birchmeadow Centre. The Mayor and committee chairs have sent their reports to the office for the annual report, and the agenda will be published on Monday next week.

815/2023 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received.

816/2023 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Members requested the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- D-Day
- Photo Identification.

817/2023 Date of Next Meeting

a) Members **NOTED** that the next Councillors Surgery will take place on **27 April 2024 at Broseley Cricket Club, with Cllr. Caroline Bagnall and Cllr. Andy Taylor and Cllr. R Childs in attendance.**

b) Members are asked to **NOTE that the next Full Town Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 May 2024.**

818/2023 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.

819/2023 Staffing

a) Members received a verbal update on the Town Clerks absence:

Occupational Health have carried out an assessment and we are currently awaiting the report which will be treated in confidence.

b) Members **NOTED** the appointment of the Head Grounds Keeper and wished him well in his new role.

c) Members received the following a verbal update on other staffing matters from the Chair of Staffing:

As Councillors will already know a new Manager has been recruited for the Cemetery. I understand that there have been some queries about what the role involves. The job description is in the public domain and can be read by anyone so please refer any questions on that subject to the advertisement. Candidates were shortlisted, interviewed, shortlisted again and an appropriate task carried out. Those of us involved thought long and hard about the priorities of the role and person and our selected candidate started his trial period yesterday.

Prior to that I understand there was been some conversation in some areas around our selection and selection process. I would like to emphasise that the recruitment was carried out in line with all HR advice and our own recruitment policies. I would also like to remind councillors that the recruitment process is confidential and not to be discussed outside of the Counsellors and the Acting Town Clerk.

We have also taken on a casual library assistant to help when the librarians take holiday and/or sick leave from the library. With the library open an extra day, and the potential closing of other libraries around the area, there is potential for our library to be even more busy and it's important our staff to be at their best.

The Play Scheme has been running throughout the Easter holidays and I understand all is going well there. Thanks to Kirsty and Jenna for their parts in making that work.

820/2023 Grounds Maintenance

Members **CONSIDERED** a cost to replace/repair the broken strimmer. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the Heads Grounds Keeper to propose what is required, and recommendations would be considered by the estate committee.**

821/2023 VAS Signage

Members received a recommendation from the planning and transport committee to **APPROVE** the purchase of two battery operated VAS signs.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the quotation for two battery operated signs from Elan City at a cost of £4,500 + VAT.

The meeting closed at 20:40

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman