

Meeting 9 January 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 9th JANUARY 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton,
J. E. Howell, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and K.E.C. Pinches
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Apologies were received from Cllr. Gaffney (working), Cllr. Magill (holiday), Cllr. Wright (working)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:
a) Declaration of personal interest:

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th December 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by ***** with the following corrections. Seconded by *****
b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th December 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by ***** with the following corrections. Seconded by *****

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING
5. Letter of thanks from Old Castle Land trust.
6. Letter of thanks from Marie Curie Cancer care.
5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:
a) 1/06/18891/F Planning permission (full). Erection of 3 no affordable and 3 no open market dwellings: construction of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular and pedestrian access.
Station Street Garage, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. G & R Price.
Letter Furber,
b) 1/06/18945/F Planning Permission (full) Use of flat roof as amenity area and installation of railings / screening.
3A Bull Street, Bishop's Castle. J. Charters.

c) Reports of Planning Applications.
(i) 1/06/18506/F and 1/06/18507/LB Erection of an extension and renovation to public house.
Kings Head Inn, 48 Church Street.
Planning permission and list building consent granted.
(ii) 1/06/18866/TC Felling of a Japanese flowering cherry tree.
17 Church Street, Bishop's Castle.
Consent granted
(iii) 1/06/18867/TC Felling of a flowering cherry tree.
19-21 Church Street, Bishop's Castle.
Consent granted.
(iv) 1/06/18868/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.
22 Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle. Miss S Taylor.
Planning permission granted.
1/06/18899/LB Installation of a handrail.
Town Hall, Bishop's Castle. Listed building consent granted.
(v) 1/06/18929/LB
Installation of replacement door and painting of dwelling.
35 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle
Listed Building consent granted.

7. PRECEPT
Agreement of precept for 2007/8
See attached notes.

8. LIGHT IN UNION STREET
What action should be taken about the light at the top of Union Street.
Letter from Central Networks enclosed.
E-on customer complaints department looking at it.

9. UNITARY AUTHORITY
The Executive Council for SALC would like to hear Council opinion about the Government White paper.
Council are asked to give their views on the following:-
a) A unitary council for Shropshire.
b) An enhanced two-tier model for Shropshire.
c) Ideas for another option. (describe.)
d) Telford and Wrekin to be included into the City Region.

10. STREET FURNITURE - Cllr. Hird.
Is there too much street furniture in Church Street / High Street.

11. FOOTPATH IN LOVE LANE Cllr. Hird
Should a request be made to the County Council to extend the footpath in Love Lane from the industrial estate north as far as the kennels.

12. LIGHTING IN LOVE LANE
Council has been advised by John Overall, Shropshire County Council that there is no prospect of a roundabout being built at the Love lane / Brampton Road junction as it would cost in excess of £100,000. Should we now write to the County Council and asking them to implement their lighting scheme (approved at a previous meeting) as soon as possible.

13. DONATIONS
Request from South Shropshire Youth Forum for a donation.

14. PARKING ISSUES
Report on the meeting with representatives from the Town Council, County Council, District Council, Park Right and the Police on parking problems in Bishop's Castle.

17. ACCOUNTS
It was proposed by that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. and approved.
Mrs J Ince - December salary - £589.47
January
Claire Grant - January salary - £52 - H.V. Collins - £52
Andrew Broome - £149
E.S.W.S. - £25.76
Zurich Municipal - £105
Mrs J Ince - newsletter - £43.65
Mrs J Ince - expenses - £37.57
Asterley Events (farmers market) - £200
Andrew Wallace - £16.50
Npower - playing fields - £40.09
Village Outreach - £7.00

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

19. Correspondence.
(i) Ms Daniels and South Shropshire District Council re ash tree at the rear of 29 Union Street.
(ii) Copy of letter from Cllr. Peter Phillips to Jake Berriman regarding the Wintles.
(iii) Mrs Daniels re planning.
(iv) West Mercia Police Authority - meeting on draft priorities for policing in west Mercia.
b) For circulation
(i) The Playing Field
(ii) Speaking out - West Midlands Regional Assembly
(iii) PFI Quality in Communities Project.
(iv) Local Council Review
(v) Public Hall Accounts
(vi) Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils minutes and agenda.
(vii) Clerks and Councils Direct

18. Playing Fields Accounts settled since the December meeting.
E.S.W.S. - £76.43
Lynne Farr - £355.10

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at p.m.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.06 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 30/01/2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 30th JANUARY 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris,
Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**
Apologies were received from Cllr. Gaffney (working) Cllr. Morris (working) and Cllr. Stanley (working)
Cllr. Farr proposed that all absences are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**
a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllrs Hird, Holton and Dr. Penney declared personal interests in item 6a as they are members of the Civic Society.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 8 as his wife has applied for an allotment.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as he is a relative of the applicant.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 9TH January 2007, having been

circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Holton.
Item 14 should read Buzzacott.
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 7 – The precept requested is £44,320
Item 8 – It has suggested the salt bin is moved to enable the light to go in its place. The Clerk has contacted Central Networks to see if this would solve the problem
Item 10 – The Clerk advised that the Health and Safety Executive is an advisory body, they do not look at individual cases. She has spoken to Lizzy Cashmore, Health and Safety Officer for South Shropshire District Council who says that as the company supplying the up the poles is reputable and we have a letter from them saying the planters are fit for purpose and properly installed there is nothing else we can do.
Item 11 – Letter from M. Allard, Head of Projects and Waste management acknowledging Councils requests for footpaths.
From previous meetings.
Traffic Control - Letter from Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council re traffic control in Bishop's Castle.
Sewerage at Church Lane.
It appears that Severn Trent now think it would be more economic to provide a public sewer in Church Lane.

5. **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:** none

6. **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:**

a) 1/07/19096/F Planning Permission (Full) Use of land for camping / touring caravans and 2no. static caravans together with ancillary facilities and winter storage of 10 no, touring caravans.
The Foxholes, Montgomery Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr CG and Mrs W. Jones.
A letter was read from the Civic Society objecting to the application.
After much discussion Cllr. Carroll proposed the Council support the application, seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved (4-2)

b) Reports of Planning Applications. - none

7. **LAND FOR PEOPLE**

Jonathan Brown, Land for People, gave all Councillors a copy of the report on the results of the questionnaire. 302 questionnaires were completed and returned, just over 21%.
He explained that they are awaiting registration by the Financial Services Authorities, after which they can plan how and when they are going to launch the trust. After April more money may be available from Defra. He explained that the trust had been offered four plots of land in and around Bishop's Castle. The District Council are very supportive and may allow landowners building non affordable properties to give plots in lieu of cash payments. Jonathan thanked the Council for all their help and support. He explained that the winner of the prize draw wished to remain anonymous and had given the £50 to the Land Trust. As soon as the Trust is registered a bank account can be set up and the money paid in.
As a result of the survey 24 people showed an interest in joining the trust and a sum of £513 was donated to the Trust.

8. **ALLOTMENTS**

(i) Approval of agreement for allotment rental.- After a few minor changes (see Clerk for details) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the allotment agreement be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

(ii) Approval to charge £35 per year for rental. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that with the additional clauses "to be reviewed each year" and "the Council retains the option to make an increased charge to allotment holders living outside the parish" the charge of £35 per year be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

9. **REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION AND POLICIES**

a) Standing Orders. – Cllr. Wright proposed no change to standing orders. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
b) Financial Regulations. – Cllr. Wright proposed no change to financial regulations, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
c) Health and Safety Policy – Cllr. Wright proposed the Health and Safety Policy, with changes, be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. (see attached)
d) Equal opportunities – Cllr. Wright proposed the Equal opportunities Policy, with changes, be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. (see attached)
e) Clerks Employment – Cllrs. Farr, Howell and Wright agreed to make up an appraisal group for the Clerk.

10. **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Request for financial assistance for Crucial Crew from Bridgnorth and District Crime Prevention Panel. Under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a donation of £112 be made to Crucial Crew. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

11. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** (13th March 2007)

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the format of the Annual Town Meeting be the same as last year. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. It was agreed it should be publicised through posters, the press, web site and radio.

10. **SALT AND GRIT BINS**

Cllr. Wright proposed a request be made to the County Council to change all the salt and grit bins in the conservation area to the new wooden type bins. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

ATC

12. **STREET FURNITURE**

The amount of street furniture in Church Street and High Street was discussed. Cllr. Carroll proposed a request be made to the County Council for the two lamps on posts to be changed to wall mounted ones. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

ATC

Cllr. Pinches proposed that the litter bin opposite the chemist be put on the side of the road near the chemist. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

ATC

It was agreed that the direction signs to the Wintles be discussed at the next meeting.

NEXT AGENDA

13. **CLOSURE OF THE HIGH STREET**

The High Street is to be closed on Sunday 11th February to all vehicles to enable cabling works to take place.

14. **PUBLIC HALL ACCOUNTS**

Cllr. Wright proposed the Public Hall Accounts are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

15. **TOWN HALL CLEANER**

Cllr. Wright proposed the Town Hall cleaning be split between Claire Grant and Vicky Collins each doing 2 hours per week at £6 per hour. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

16. **ACCOUNTS:** –

(a) Cllr. Magill proposed the quarterly accounts to 31/12/07 be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

(b) It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

Severn Trent Water - £128.39

G. M. Cooke - £3936.25

Enterprise South West Shropshire - £34.26

Amberol - £152.75

B.T. £112.38

Prysmian - £303.71

Mrs J Ince – expenses - £33.54

E-on - £37.95 (street lights)

Asterley events £200

1. **REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.**

(a) Lisa Bedford, Regeneration team, South Shropshire District Council reported back on the survey about the open space in Brick meadow. 29 responses were made, 24 requesting the land to stay as it is, 4 suggesting small scale changes and one suggesting large scale changes. The legal department are now looking into the financial situation.

(b) Cllr. Dr. Penney reported back on problems and changes in the Standards Committee.

19. Correspondence.

(i) Shropshire County Council – Road closure of the B4385 junction with B4368 Little Brampton to a point 300metres north of Kempton Stores junction, Kempton, Clunburyfor 2.5 weeks from Monday 5th February 2007. Diversion to go via Bishop's Castle.

(ii) Wasteless Society meeting at Clun on Wednesday 31st January.

(iii) Shropshire County Council – re site visits to traffic management and highway maintenance schemes. Cllr. Carroll proposed that the Boars Head junction and Castle Green be put forward as examples of poor practice. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

(b) Circulation

(i) West Mercia Police Authority

(ii) Wasteless Society Newsletter.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Meeting 27 February 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 15 as he has property nearby.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 6d as he is a relative of the applicant.

Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 7 as she lives in Market Square.

Cllr. Howell declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 as he is treasurer of the Kemp Valley Group.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 30th January 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Horton with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Item 4 line 7 delete the s on poles and insert planters so that it reads "up the pole planters".

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10a - Letter of thanks from Bridgnorth & District Crime prevention panel.

Item 10 b) - Letter from Chris Fisher, Shropshire County Council re grit bins saying he is investigating an alternative design.

Item 12 - Letter from Maurizio D'Alesio regarding changing the street lights in the High Street/ Church Street to wall lights.

Previous meetings

a) Letter from Ron Buzzacott regarding parking in Bishop's Castle. Cllr. Carroll proposed a letter be sent to Mr Buzzacott asking if this Council can be involved in the consultation in future. A copy of the letter to be sent to County Cllr. Peter Phillips.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

b) Letter of thanks from Spotlight

c) Letter from County Councillor Peter Phillips giving an update on Castle Green junction.

e) Letter of thanks from the Youth Forum.

Cllr. Wright proposed item 19 Newsletter be brought forward to after item 5. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Paula Middleton and David Owen both spoke on the importance of keeping the present nursing services at the Stone House Hospital

They both urged Councillors to support their cause and to distribute pamphlets in the newsletter.

19. NEWSLETTER -

Cllr. Carroll proposed that letters be sent to the Health Overview and Scrutiny of the County Council and to the Strategic Health Authority asking for reassurance that all facilities at present at the Stone House hospital will be maintained as not all of Bishop's Castle believes there will be a state of the art facility in the future.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Wright then explained that he fully supported the case regarding Stone House Hospital but felt that any flyers not produced by the Town Council should not be included in the newsletter. He proposed the flyers are not distributed with the newsletter. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved. (6 votes in favour, 4 against)

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/19158/TC Tree works (conservation area) felling of an ash; topping of 2 x silver birch; pruning of an oak (delegated matter)

The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr. G. S. Hemmings.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

b) 1/07/19171/f planning permission (full) Erection of extension to dwelling.

5 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs I Howes.

Cllr. Stanley proposed support for the application. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to the Head of Planning and Building Control suggesting that they refuse to consider any plans containing inaccurate or incomprehensible information. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ATC

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18945/F Use of flat roof as an amenity area.

3a Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/06/18991/TC Felling of a eucalyptus

22 Union Street, Bishop's Castle.

Consent granted.

(iii) 1/06/18891/F

Erection of 3 no affordable and 3 no. open market dwellings.

Station Street Garage, Station Street.

Application withdrawn.

d) Notice of planning meeting - Use of land for camping.

The Foxholes, Montgomery Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Jones.

Wednesday 28th February at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

Cllr. Stanley left the room

7. BISHOP'S CASTLE PARISH CHURCH.

a) Permission to use Market Square on Sunday 1st April 2007 for Palm Sunday Procession and Friday 6th April 2007 - Good Friday.

b) Application for street closure order for Palm Sunday Procession and Midsummer Rejoicing procession at the following times.

(i) Sunday 1 April 2007 from 10.30 am to 11.00 am.

Market Square, High Street, Church Street.

(ii) Sunday 24 June 2007 from 10.30 am to 11.00 am

Union Street, Market Square, High Street and Church Street.

(iii) Sunday 24 June 2007 from 12 noon to 12.30 pm.

Church Street and High Street.

Cllr. Magill proposed no objection to any of the above. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Cllr. Stanley returned.

8. STREET LIGHTING REPAIRS

Cllr. Pinches proposed that VW Electrics are approached to deal with light repairs on the following conditions.

a) No contract required.

b) Will repair lights within five working days.

c) Will halve the call out charge if with we have joint call out with Craven Arms.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ATC

9. SKATEBOARDING ASSOCIATION

Cllr. Gaffney proposed £500 be awarded to the Skateboarding Association as agreed in March 2003. He also proposed agreement for the positioning of the benches. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. ATC

10. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Cllr. Wright proposed that the Mayor/Councillors give a short presentation at this meeting on what is involved in being a Councillor. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

11. SALT BIN AND LITTER BIN

Cllr. Magill proposed that a request is made to the County Council for a grit bin at the junction of Woodbatch Road and the Ridge. Cllr. Magill also proposed that the District Council be approached to see if it is feasible to empty a litter bin at this junction. If the District Council agree to emptying it the Town Council to provide one. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved. ATC

12. LAND ALONGSIDE THE FOOTPATH FROM GRANGE ROAD TO WOODBATCH ROAD

Request from a resident, Mrs Roeder, for this piece of land to be tidied up. A discussion took place as to who owns this piece of land. Cllr. Pinches is to enquire whether it is owned by Gareth Thomas. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Mrs Roeder explaining that the p3 group will tidy up the footpath but no action can be taken on the piece of land until the owner is found. Mrs Roeder to be asked if she knows of the owner. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

Cllr. Howell left the room.

13. KEMP VALLEY GROUP

a) Cllr. Wright proposed that the request by the Kemp Valley Group to give a presentation to the Town Council on the suggested Pyrolysis Gasification Incinerator is approved but that the proposer of the scheme, Shropshire Highland Seeds should be invited to speak on a different occasion. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved. ATC

b) Request for free use of the Town Hall for an awareness meeting on the suggested Pyrolysis Gasification Incinerator. - withdrawn

Cllr. Howell returned

14. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

a) Cllr. Gaffney proposed that under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 a donation of £250 be given to Dial a Ride. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

b) Cllr. Gaffney proposed that under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that a donation of £250 be given to South Shropshire Furniture Scheme.

Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

Cllr. Hird suggested that both organisation should be advised that funding is available from the Community Fund of Shropshire.

15. WELSH STREET GARDENS

A letter of complaint about parking, lighting and various other matters in Welsh Street Gardens from Mr David Hunt was read. After some discussion Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Hunt advising him that the only matter under this Council's jurisdiction is the one street light that has been replaced and suggesting that he contacts the relevant authorities on the other matters. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ATC

16. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND APPRAISAL PROCEDURE.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the Town Council grievance procedure and appraisal procedure for the Clerk be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

17. REVISED MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AUTHORITY MEMBERS.

The Mayor summarised the document can be found on www.communities.gov.uk

18. TOWN CRIER.

Council were advised that Mike Shanahan, Bishop's Castle Town Crier has been awarded Town Crier of the Year 2007. Cllr. Hird proposed that Mr Shanahan should be written a letter of congratulation and an offer made for the 2008 competition to be held in Bishop's Castle. A letter to be sent to the different festivals asking if they would like to include it as part of their festival. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Mr Shanahan be invited to the next meeting so that he can explain what he has been doing as a Town Crier representing Bishop's Castle? Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

20. BOARS HEAD CROSSROADS - Cllr. Hird

Discussion took place about the current position at the Boars Head junction. Cllr. Carroll explained that the promised "stop" signs took some time to organise but there is no reason why the white lines could not have been completed. Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to Chris Fisher at the County Council requesting that the white lines at the junctions and the moving forward of the lines by Nationwide be completed without delay. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

21. BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL 2007

Cllr. Stanley proposed that permission be given for Bishop's Castle Carnival to have free use of the playing fields on Sunday 1st July 2007. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

22. ACCOUNTS

22. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES Cllr. Stanley reported on a meeting of the Farmers Market group. All the markets are showing an increase in interest from producers but customers still need to increase. Coverage has recently been given on the radio and on the television and in the press. A French market is to be held in the Town Hall on 23rd March.

Cllr. Carroll reported on a meeting with the Community Council of Shropshire on multi use space. A feasibility study is being carried out on multi use space in Bishop's Castle. When completed grant money may be available for some buildings.

23a) Correspondence.

(i) Social Research Questionnaire - Transport Innovation Fund

(ii) Cllr. Peter Phillips asking support for the Youth discount card.

(iii) Shropshire County Council, Economy and Environment informing Councillors of a Social Research Questionnaire being sent to householders in the area.

b) Circulation

(i) No Panic Accounts and information

(ii) Harper Adams University Course

(iii) Eon council pack

(iv) St Georges Day

(v) Pryor and Rickett Silviculture - Lydham Manor Estate.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.02 p.m.

Special Meeting 13 March 2007

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH 2007 AT 7.30 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. Howell, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Pinches,

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Wright declared a prejudicial interest in item 3c as the applicant is a close friend.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/19231/F Planning permission (full), Erection of an extension to dwelling, a garden room and a domestic garage. (delegated matter)

26 Beech Cottages, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Rollason.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

b) 1/07/19184/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a Grand stand (delegated matter).

SO 325 880, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire. Bishop's Castle Town Football Club.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the application be supported. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

c) 1/07/19261/LB Listed Building Consent Formation of an entrance, internal alterations; installation of an air conditioning equipment. (delegated matter)

2 Market Square, Bishop's Castle. S R & P S Middleton.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the application be supported. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Minutes 27 March 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 27th MARCH 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

Approximately 25 members of the public.

Dr. Anthony Lempert and Jim Collin gave a presentation on behalf of the Kemp Valley Group which was set up to oppose a Pyrolysis Gasification Incinerator at Brockton. They were to speak about this incinerator but as this proposal has now been withdrawn they spoke about the proposed biomass incinerator at the Crowgate Business park. Dr Lempert and Mr Collin explained they do not have full details of the new proposals but would share ideas gained from their research. Mr Collin, a consultant engineer, began by saying the Crowgate proposal was different to the Brockton one because it used wood chippings from coppicing and the saw mill but the same questions needed to be asked. Mr Collin then went on to list these questions. (Available on request.) He also said if people had an objection to the proposal they should write to everyone possible. eg. Councillors, M.P. etc. Dr. Lempert then introduced himself. He is a G.P working in Knighton who has done a lot of research into possible effects the emissions from incinerators may have on residents health. He explained that the Crowgate proposal sounded better than the Brocton one but any incinerator will give off toxins. The health effect of this type of toxins is yet unknown because the particles are so small they cannot be measured but may still have very harmful effects. He advised that questions on emissions should be asked and that precautionary principles should be adopted. It is up to the Developers to prove it is safe, not residents to prove it is not.

Cllr. Wright then proposed the meeting closed. Seconded by Cllr. Hird. The following questions were asked from the floor.

Question - Who benefits apart from the Company as the power produced goes back into the National grid?

Answer - Probably only the Company and the National Grid benefit.

Question - Are there any financial inducements?

Answer - Mr Collin replied that he understood the project was a stand alone viable project free from grants but there is a grant of £1 million available from Defra for a 10 week period.

Question - Who does the monitoring?

Answer - The Plant operator. This is normal procedure in industry.

Question - Why so close to Bishop's Castle?

Answer - The site has road access and services. Hot water can be supplied to large public buildings, eg. Community College, Church, Industrial Estate.

Question - How high will the stack be?

Answer - We believe it to be 16 metres.

Question - Will they move the Crowgate Child Care centre?

Answer - It is to move in two years time.

Question - Will this be before the incinerator is in operation?

Answer - We do not know.

The meeting was then re-opened.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Farr proposed a personal interest in item 12 as his wife is secretary of Friends of the Playing Fields.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 15 as she owns property attached to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 27TH February 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Gaffney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Item 8c - Delete "with" after "if"

Item 14 - Add "s" to "organization"

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Farr with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Magill.

Item 2 - delete "as the applicant is a close friend" and add " as a close friend will be adversely affected."

c) Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Hird with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright

Speaker 9 - Mary Holton - delete " Corricks Rise" insert "Copall Paddock."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that item 10 be considered next. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

10. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Matters arising from the Annual Town Meeting.

a) Culvert in Welsh Street

The problem of the untidy state of the culvert in Welsh Street was discussed. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Environment Agency requesting them to tidy and clean up the stream, at the same time reminding them that it was at their insistence that it was left uncovered. A second letter to be sent to Mrs Ott who lives adjacent to the culvert suggesting a group of residents clear and plant the grass area in the culvert. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

b) Water flowing in Welsh Street near Tree tops. -

The Clerk reported that she has spoken to Ian Rutherford, Divisional Surveyor, Shropshire County Council and County Councillor Peter Phillips has also contacted Mr Rutherford on this matter. Mr Rutherford will investigate.

c) Gates on the playing fields to stop dogs.

The Clerk reported that signs mentioning dogs, as well as other things are going up on the entrances to the playing fields and on the entrance to the play area. No other action to be taken.

d) Should Bishop's Castle have a Design Statement.

Cllr. Carroll and Lisa Bedford, Regeneration Officer, South Shropshire District Council both spoke on the amount of work involved. Cllr. Gaffney explained that Jonathan Grieg (the gentleman who raised the matter) was concerned that things like plastic window frames are allowed in the conservation area. It was suggested David Francis, Planning Policy Officer for the District Council be invited to speak on how these things can be controlled. As Stuart Taylor, Area Development Control Officer for South Shropshire District Council, is speaking on planning at the end of April it was agreed to raise this issue then and to discuss again at the following meeting.

e) Cobblestones reinstated at the top end of the High Street.

After considerable discussion Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to the Highways Department of Shropshire County Council suggesting the tarmac be removed and sets be instated on the roads between the junction of New Street and Salop Street, but the Town Council would like to be consulted before any action is taken. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

f) The proposed Biomass Power Station at Crowgate Business Park

District Councillors Dr. Penney and Peter Phillips have written to Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building Control, asking that the planning application be delayed so that more information can be obtained and more time can be given for consideration.

g) The land adjacent to the footpath between Woodbatch Road and Grange Road.

The Clerk read a letter from John Bryan, Properties Department, South Shropshire District Council saying that he has no idea why anyone was measuring this piece of land.

h) The Clerk read a letter from Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council saying that the rumours that part/all of the Crowgate Business Park have been sold are incorrect.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 14a - Letter of thanks from the South Shropshire Furniture group.

Item 19 - Letter of acknowledgement from Tom Dodds, Lead Officer Performance Scrutiny and Innovation, Shropshire County Council regarding Stone House hospital.

Item 6 - Letter from Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building control re planning applications. Mr Berriman apologized for poor information on plans and said he would ensure it is better in the future.

From previous meetings -

(i) Two letters from Ron Buzzacott, Traffic Manager for Shropshire County Council re parking in Bishop's Castle. Mr Buzzacott apologized for not including the Town Council in the consultation meetings and would notify them of any meetings in the future.

(ii) Copy of the report from the scrutiny panel re traffic management and highway maintenance schemes.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/07/19096/F Use of land for camping. The Foxholes, Montgomery Road, Bishop's Castle. Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/07/191586/F Felling of an ash tree, topping of 2 x silver birch and pruning of an oak. The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Consent granted.

7. GRASS CUTTING IN THE PLAYING FIELDS

To consider tenders for the grass on the playing fields.

Sodexo - £1108.69 (current and good)

DC Gardening Services - £1800

ELD - £994

Cllr. Wright proposed Sodexo be given the contract. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

8. MICHAELMAS FAIR

Request for free use of the playing fields for the Michaelmas Fair on 22nd and 23rd September. Cllr. Farr proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

The proposed road closures for the Michaelmas Fair were then discussed.

9. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

As Councillors had not had time to read the complaints procedure, Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this item be discussed at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. NEXT AGENDA

11. CROWGATE CHILD CENTRE

A request from the Crowgate Child Centre for the Town Council to bank roll their feasibility study into multi-use buildings. Lisa Bedford, Regeneration Officer, South Shropshire District Council explained it would involve the paying of three invoices over a three month period. The money could then be claimed back from AWM via the RRZ at this stage. She explained that it is important for the Town Council to be seen to support this project.

After much discussion Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that £20,000 is made available to the Crowgate Child centre to enable them to carry out a feasibility study on the condition that a written guarantee on its security is received in advance. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved with 5 votes against.

12. PLAYING FIELDS ACCOUNTS

Presentation of final accounts of transactions made on behalf of "Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields." Cllr. Magill proposed these final accounts are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

13. AUCTION YARD PATH

The path between the Auction Yard and Church Street (by the Kings head) is now in a very poor condition despite requests to the District Council for repair. After considerable discussion about what action this Council could take Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to the Highways Department of the Shropshire County Council asking what action this Council needs to take to enable it to improve this footpath. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ATC

14. PURCHASE OF BIN

Cllr. Magill proposed that South Shropshire District Council is asked to install a bin on the junction of Woodbatch Road and The Ridge at a cost of £139.86 for the supply and installation. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

15. TOWN HALL RENOVATION

The Mayor, Cllr. Carroll reported that a new layout has been suggested by Lesley Lloyd (architect) for the Town Hall renovation. The suggestion is to put the kitchen on the first floor by dividing the Mayors Parlour. Cllr. Dr. Penney requested that a Town Hall Renovation Group meeting be called soon.

16. LEAFLETS IN NEWSLETTER

Cllr. Wright proposed that this Council adopts the policy that no additional material is sent out with the newsletter, unless directly related to the work of the Town Council. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

17. YOUNG DRIVERS

Council support requested for a scheme to help young drivers and pre drivers from the PACT meeting. Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter of support be sent to Irene Stelfox, Youth Officer. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

18. ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr. Magill that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

20. CORRESPONDANCE.

b) Circulation

(i) South Shropshire Furniture Scheme

(ii) South Shropshire Sports & Leisure Annual Awards

(iii) Standards Committee - Agenda Tuesday 6th March, Minutes, Tuesday 7th November.

(iv) Sports and leisure Advisory Council

(v) E-on Parish Council Pack.

(vi) South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.59 p.m.

Minutes 3 April 2007

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 3RD APRIL 2007 AT 8.30 PM

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

Approximately 40 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

BIOMAS POWER PROJECT

The meeting was closed for a presentation by John Evans, Shropshire Highland Seeds and Chris Day, consultant on the proposed biomass power project at Crowgate Business Park.

Mr Evans gave a short introduction and then introduced Chris Day, the consultant on the project.

Mr Day gave information and details on the project as outlined in the leaflet "Bishop's Castle Biomass Power Project." He went on to explain that it could be looked at under 3 headings

1. Policy - The Government policy is to reduce emissions. It has in fact a legal duty to do this. This will be delegated to regions (Regeneration zones) which will then be delegated to the County.

2. Technical - Mr Day explained that Bishop's Castle needs more power as the voltage fluctuates. This plant will give 2.5 MW which will reinforce the grid and stabilise the voltage.

3. Farming and forestry. The biomass will be supplied by local farms and forestry. (20 -30 km radius) The farms will have a 10 year contract which will enable them to invest in modern technology. The straw will be taken as bio fuel.

He went on to explain that it will be a combustion steam cycle plant which uses advanced air pollution controls so that clean gases will be generated. The emissions will be under continuous monitoring. Mr Day said he had been very interested in all the issues and concerns that he had heard this afternoon and felt the main concern is air quality. He went on to say there would be a full EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and that most noise would be eliminated. In 2 - 3 weeks a second document will be produced which will give a lot of technical detail. In May there will be an overview and detailed planning application. The web site will be kept up to date on progress and there will be regular public meetings. Tomorrow (4th April) there will be a pre application meeting with the SSDC Planning Department. When the EIA is completed it is proposed to have another drop in meeting. This will be early May. The EIA is a public document. A non technical summary document will also be produced. (about 12 pages). The planning application will be submitted in mid May.

Questions were then invited from the floor.

Q1 - Who carries out the EIA?

Ans - A third party consultant paid for by the project.

Q2- Does the District Council have officers capable of assessing the technical information?

Ans - Probably not. The EU directive says that an independent consultant must be independent so that both parties can use them.

Q3 - Can you confirm that there will be nothing else burnt besides biomass?

Ans - We can confirm that only biomass will be burnt. No plastics or treated timber.

Q4 - Is the project totally carbon neutral, including the vehicles, movements, farming, etc?

Ans - It is actually 95% carbon neutral when everything is taken into account.

Q5 - Are the supply of wood chips chemically treated?

Ans - No

Q6 - What is the size of the piece of land to be used?

Ans - 2 hectares (4 acres) The height of the building is 12m and the height of the stack is 16m from the ground which is no higher than the present tree height and will be screened.

Q7 - Why such a large area?

Ans - Most of the area is needed for the manoeuvring of the HGV's. Most of the building is for storage.

Q8 - Is there room for another plant?

Ans - Probably not but even if there is room we would not build another one here. We would build it in another town.

Q9 - Will it be wood chips from Ransfords that are burnt?

Ans - Very little will come from Ransfords. It is mostly coppiced alder, willow and poplar grown along the rivers in the wet areas. They reach maturity in 4-5 years when they are coppiced.

Q10 - How many lorry movements?

Ans - 4 per day maximum.

Q11 - Will the Crowgate Child Nursery be moved by the time the plant is running?

Ans. Cllr. Carroll replied that the Crowgate Child Nursery is planned to move in two years.

Mr Day replied that in that case they should be moved. He also added that two or three other companies are looking at sites on the Business Park.

Q12 - How many sites has Mr Day's company designed?

Ans - 10 in all. Eccleshall, Staffs should start operation soon. One in Portugal is up and running. Other projects are part of other industrial sites. Mr Day added the technology is well proven.

Q13 - How sensitive is the market price for feed stock. Is the project viable?

Ans - Farmers need long term backable projects. The plant must isolate itself from market influence. Farmers will be offered 10 year contracts so that they can make capital changes. 8% of set aside will be coming into production. Instead of producing short wheat farmers will produce long wheat.

Q14 - How many local jobs will be created?

Ans - About 25 in all. Half of these will be in support. Eg. farmers. 4 people will actually be employed to work the plant. Another 3 Or 4 will be involved in transport etc.

Q15 - Can we have the name and address of the plant in Portugal?

Ans - Mr Day replied that he would give the details to the Clerk. He would also seek permission from his industrial clients to give their details as well.

Q 16 - Who will run this plant?

Ans - A third party contractor.

Q 17 - Will there be more fields of oilseed rape?

Ans - No. There can't be as rape has to be grown as part of a crop rotation.

Q18 - How will the dioxins and particulates be monitored?

Ans. There is no new technology. Mr Day will produce a spec on all components. When commissioned it will all be checked. When it is running readings will be given on the web site.

Q19 - There are set points when the machine cuts out. Are there problems with monitoring when it starts up and closes down?

Ans - Yes there can be problems but there will be no environmental impact.

Q20 - How do you monitor the output of the stacks?

Ans - A continuous filter will keep it clean. There are two types of filter but it is not known which one will be used yet.

Q21 - Will the milking herds be safe?

Ans - Yes. The ground level concentration has to be safe for wildlife as well as people so the cows should not be affected.

Q22 - Can you guarantee a clean, efficient, safe plant?

Ans - There will be a ten year preventative maintenance plan. It will be continually monitored. Results will be shown on the web site.

Q23 - How long is the plant designed to last?

Ans - 20 years.

Q24 - Why Bishop's Castle?

Ans - Mr Evans replied that because he is based in Bishop's Castle and he feels that this plant will help the community of Bishop's Castle. It has been designed for Bishop's Castle so that it can use local wood chips. Bishop's Castle is a farming community that needs diversification.

Q25 - What benefits are there for the people of Bishop's Castle?

Ans - Reliable electricity supply. It will help the wider forestry and farming community. There will be a few jobs created.

Q26 - There are different definitions of biomass. Will other things will be burnt besides wood chips. I.e. chicken carcasses and litter?

Ans - We will only be licensed for a certain category that includes woodchips. Waste animal products will not be allowed to be burnt. If the supply of wood material runs out the plant will have to be closed.

Q27 - Why was the project changed from the proposed plant at Brockton to Bishop's Castle?

Ans - Mr Evans said he would explain the history. Six founder members from Shropshire Highland Seeds, a co-operative of 6 local farmers formed in 1964, put out an idea at Brockton but here was no actual project. They set up a new company called SPG with another consultant (not Chris day). A feasibility study was carried out and that idea was abandoned and SPG no longer exists. The new idea at Bishop's Castle came out of this The six farmers are directors of Shropshire Highland Seeds with Chris Day acting as agent. Mr Day will submit the plans as agent. Mr Evans went on to explain that they had advice on the best technology for this area, looked at this machine and thought it more proven.

Q28 - Have any plants you have designed been shut down?

Ans - No

The meeting was re-opened

3. BIOMASS POWER PROJECT

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Bill Jones, Director of Environment and Development, South Shropshire District Council asking him if he will do an independent Environmental Impact Assessment on the proposed scheme. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Mr Grundy, a leading county consultant on wood resources in the Bishop's Castle area be asked to give a short presentation at the next meeting. (approx 10 minutes) Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

It was agreed that it is important for the Council to have ongoing independent expert advice and information.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Minutes 16 April 2007

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, J.E. Gaffney, M. E. Holton, J. E. Howell, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Pinches Cllr. Farr, Cllr. Magill

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

It was agreed to discuss the plans first with advice from Mr Taylor, followed by a talk by Mr Taylor.

a) 1/07/19342/TC Tree works (Conservation Area) Remove deadwood, thin and trim branches to 2 x ash trees. (delegated matter)

The Garden House, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Hendley.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

b) 1/07/19329/F Planning Permission (full) Erection of 2 x dwellings; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter)

Disused garages, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the application be supported if it were changed to 11/2 storey houses. Seconded by Cllr. Holton. Cllr. Wright proposed an

amendment that the application be supported as it is. Seconded by Cllr. Howell. The amendment was approved and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved.

c) 1/07/19317/F Planning permission (full) Change of use agricultural land to domestic curtilage; erection of extension to dwelling and erection of a summerhouse (delegated matter).

Upper Beech Cottage, Banks Head, Bishop's Castle. Mr C Garrard.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

d) 1/07/19344/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a building to serve adjoining nursery and alterations to existing vehicular access (delegated matter)

O.S. Field No 8467, Bishop's Castle. N & A Coull

Cllr. Wright proposed that there be an objection on the grounds that the piece of land does not justify a building of that size and that the vehicular access needs to be improved. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

e) 1/07/19379/TC Tree works (conservation area) Remove epicormic growth from yew; light crown thin, removal of lower branches and ivy from a sycamore (delegated matter)

Bishop's Castle Rectory, Bishop's Castle.

Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

Stuart Taylor, Area Development Control Officer for South Shropshire District Council then gave the following information and advice.

The District is now divided into two areas instead of three. Dyanne Humphries covers the south of the area and Mr Taylor the north of the area including Bishop's Castle. Tristan Williams is a new development officer who is at present being trained.

In the future the role of the Parish / Town Councils will become more important as the District will be inviting more dialogue. Local knowledge is very important, especially drainage and flooding. This dialogue is most efficiently operated via the Clerk. There can be dialogue before or after the Council meeting at which the plans are discussed. E-mail comments can be received up to the day before a committee meeting. The application is only delegated if the Town / Parish do not object. There was then considerable discussion as to how Councillors could be more informed about plans prior to the Council meeting. It was agreed the Clerk will put notice of plans received on the notice board as soon as they are received. Councillors can then either come to the office when it is open to look at the plans or contact the Clerk who will arrange for them to be viewed. Councillors were also reminded that notification can be seen in the press. Mr Taylor then went on then to explain about Tree Wardens. The District Council no longer engages the services of a specialist tree person so the local tree wardens have a more important role. A meeting with the AONB is to take place shortly to look into funding for the training of tree wardens. Mr Taylor went on to say that tree wardens should be encouraged to be pro-active in replacing old trees. When trees begin to age new ones should be planted so that the old ones can be removed at a later date. Applicants for approval for tree work must seek their own advice. If they consult a qualified tree surgeon this will be taken into account by the planning department. If Unitary comes into being the specialist resources of the County Council will be available.

Councillors then asked why it is that sometimes amendments to plans are so great that Councillors would like to object to them but they are not given the opportunity. Mr Taylor replied that amendments should be very small with hardly any visual change but there had been problems in the past. He went on to explain that dormer windows on the rear slopes of buildings do not need planning permission. He then explained the 45 degree loss of light rule.

Enforcement was then discussed. Louise Ralph is the new Enforcement Officer with Carmen Parker as assistant They will be far more pro-active in future with enforcement.

Mr Taylor then handed out two new sheets. A tree form and one seeking advice on planning permission.

Mr Taylor was then asked how useful Design Statements are. He replied that they are particularly useful in highlighting the features of buildings etc. They can be used as a Development Control document. Mr Taylor went on to explain that what is permitted in the conservation area is less clear than on listed buildings. One of the biggest anomalies is that windows can still be changed to modern windows. Satellite dishes were discussed and Mr Taylor said advice could be given on the best position or type used.

The Mayor then thanked Mr Taylor.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Meeting 24 April 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson – Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J. E. Howell, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

Presentation by Mike Shanahan, Town Crier. Mike began by explaining that the Town Crier was a very traditional role. He was the Mayors bodyguard and the town newspaper. Some also lit the lamps at night. There was a death penalty if anyone assaulted the Town Crier. These days it is mainly public relations for the Town. Mike has competed in many competitions representing Bishop's Castle both abroad and in this Country. He went on to explain he was sorry that the criers competition could not be part of Michaelmas but he would now like it to become part of the Christmas lights festival. He explained that in the past towns had provided prizes, lodgings and a civic dinner. He also said that his uniform was in need of replacement and he was hopeful that local businesses and the Town council could help to replace it in the future. Finally he explained that there is a need for a deputy crier for when Mike is away. The mayor thanked Mr Shanahan for all his hard work

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Wright proposed a personal interest in item 9 as he is a friend of Ray Pahl.

Cllr. Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 10 as he is treasurer of the Allotment Society.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as the proposed extension would overlook his garden.

Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as she is owner of 14 Market Square.

-

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 27TH March 2007 having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney.

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd April 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr.Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Hird..

BIOMAS POWER PROJECT – No 3 (line 11) delete "modern technology" Line 12 should read "The straw from miscanthus, rape and other grain crops will be taken as bio fuel."

Q4 – Ans - should read "No, the industry average is 95% carbon neutral when everything is taken into account."

Q12 – Ans – add "a plant similar in size to that proposed at Bishop's Castle"

Q25 – Ans – Insert at the end "as referred to in Q14"

c) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 16th April 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Gaffney. Seconded by Cllr. Howell.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Meeting of 3rd April - Numerous letters showing concern over the proposed Biomass plant.

Antony Lempert – Information on a specialist in toxicology. It was agreed not to contact the specialist. They will be made available for people to read.

Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building Control, South Shropshire |District Council replying to the request for an independent Environmental Impact Assessment. The District Council will access the environmental information data thoroughly prior to reaching any conclusions.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

Cllr. Gaffney left the room.

a. 1/07/19384/F and 1/07/19385/CA Planning permission (full) and conservation area consent. Erection of extension to dwelling; demolition of existing lean-to (delegated matter)

44 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Sue Greenwood.

Cllr. Stanley proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney returned.

b) 1/07/19386/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 2 x portal framed buildings for B1 and B2 use; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter.)

Plot E Bishop's Castle Business Park. Web Hampers, Unit 8 Challenge Court, Bishop's Castle.

Cllr. Wright proposed this application be supported provided that adequate landscaping is provided and that the planning department ensure this is carried out. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

Cllr. Stanley left the room.

1. 1/07/19404/LB Listed building consent. Replace tin & slate roof with zinc roof, realign

roof slope, renew rafters & purlins, remove partition and block opening at first floor between nos 16 & 18. (delegated matter)

14, 16 & 18 Market Square, Bishop's Castle. Stanley, Bainbridge & Wil.

Cllr. Pinches proposed this application be supported. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Stanley returned.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/07/19231/F Erection of an extension, a garden room and a domestic garage.

26 Beech Cottage, Bankshead. Mr & Mrs Rollason.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/07/19184/F Erection of a Grand Stand, SO 325 880, Bishop's Castle.

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/07/19171F Erection of extension to dwelling.

5 Union St, Bishop's Castle.

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/07/19329/F Erection of 2 x dwellings ; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access.

Disused garages, Kerry Lane. South Shropshire Housing Association.

Application with drawn.

7. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Cllr. Wright proposed that the Bishop's Castle Town Council complaints procedure. (distributed on 27th March 2007) be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

8. WHITE LINES IN STATION STREET

Cllr. Carroll showed a diagram and explained the suggested white lines for Station Street. Cllr. Wright proposed that this scheme be requested of the County Council. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

9. NEW BENCH

Ray Pahl would like to donate a bench to the town. Council discussed various positions and it was felt somewhere on the steep part of the hill in the High Street would be most suitable. Cllr. Morris proposed that it is put just below Barclays bank, facing down the hill. The Clerk to investigate the owner of the land.

Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Request for a 5ft x 5ft shed on the allotments. Cllr. Gaffney proposed the agreement be changed to say that sheds should be no more than 25 square feet and no higher than 7 feet. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved

A letter was read from the Allotment Association requesting the fence and water as a matter of urgency. The Clerk explained both were in hand and she would explain the urgency to the contractors.

11. ROAD CLOSURE

Road closure – Kerry Lane between Grange Road and Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. 29/5/07 to 17/6/07 to lay a new water main.

12. PLANTERS

Consideration of tenders for summer planting of the "up the pole" planters. As only one quote had been received Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Clerk be authorised to contact the other gardener for a price for the two seasons and to instruct the one with the best price. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

13. BOLLARDS IN CHURCH STREET

Cllr. Pinches proposed that a request be made to the County Council for bollards outside 15 Church Street. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

14. PAY POINT

Request for a retailer to offer PayPoint in Bishop's Castle. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to our M.P suggesting Whittles, the Co-op and Tuffins. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

15 FARMERS MARKET

Cllr. Stanley gave an update on the enlarged farmers market There are now 20-25 regular producers but more customers are still needed. A Nexus grant has been received to buy our own stalls which will be stored at Village Outreach. Billy and Laurie Nottingham will collect and put up each month.

16. CLERKS TRAINING

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the clerk receive 20 extra hours of pay for training. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

17. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

a) Cllr. Howell proposed that John Nicholls be appointed as internal auditor. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

b) Cllr. Wright proposed the annual accounts be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

18. ACCOUNTS

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Report on 6 Town Meeting held on Thursday 12th April 2007. Cllr. Carroll reported that there was considerable discussion about clustering in towns and villages to manage services. Eg.Street lighting.

Cllr. Carroll also reported a meeting with Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council regarding the Town Hall renovation. It has been suggested that the kitchen is moved to the top floor. There has also been some development on the investigations into the cistern. Cllr. Morris has found a trap door under the floorboards in the market hall. The cistern is to be investigated further through this trap door.

20a) CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) South Shropshire District Council Local Development Framework, Craven Arms Action Plan. (Available on request)

(ii) Statement of Community Involvement 2007. Consultation 20/3/2007 – 1/05/2007. (Available on request)

(iii) New Model Code of Conduct.

b) For circulation

(i) South Shropshire District Council, Standards Committee, agenda 3/4/07 and minute 6/3/07.

(ii) The Playing Field;d

(iii) Postwatch

Cllr. Carroll then thanked all the Councillors for their support and help.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Minutes 19 June 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Magill

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be closed. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.
A presentation followed by Andy Grundy, Project Officer of the Regional Woodland Initiative. Mr Grundy began by explaining his background. He went on to explain the following:-

- The Regional Woodland Initiative claims for best practice sustainable woodland management. His role is to support the woodland industry.
- The National Government and Regional Government strategies for the biomass based industries.
- The different type of waste the biomass industry can use and what this can generate.
- A little about combined heat and power, its advantages and disadvantages
- Renewable obligation credits. (ROC's)
- Emissions from woody biomass.

Questions were then taken.

Q. What is dirty wood waste?

A. Mostly demolition wood. There is no source in this area.

Q. Miscanthus needs a lot of fertiliser. Would this put too much nitrogen into the land?

A. Mr Grundy was not sure but felt miscanthus was an inappropriate land crop.

Q. The cost of getting woodland waste is very high. Would not other waste be cheaper?

A. Yes it can be more expensive. It can be a planning condition as to where the woodland waste comes from. If other kinds of waste were burnt, the plant would lose its Renewable Obligation Credits.

Q. The biomass plant needs soft water. Where would it come from?

A. Mr Grundy said he did not know.

Q. The safety of the children at the Crowgate nursery adjacent to the proposed plant was raised.

A. Mr Grundy said the emissions from burning pure wood would be less harmful than those produced driving the children to school.

Q. Would the Biomass proposers be prepared to give some funding to enable the nursery to move?

A. It was reported that Chris Day had said yes to one person and then said no to another.

Q. There is a shortage of certain timber. Will this involve moving it long distances?

A. The type of timber that is in short supply is not the type that would be used. There is plenty of local wood waste.

Q. If there are to be 6 - 8 plants in the West Midlands will there be sufficient waste wood?

A. This number of plants would only use half the available resources.

The Mayor thanked Andy Grundy for coming and giving such a helpful talk.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

- Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th May 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Farr. Seconded by Cllr. Furber.

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Carroll with the following corrections.
Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Presentation by Jo Chambers - line 15 should read "All qualified staff and most of the unqualified staff would transfer over."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

- MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 - Stone House Hospital

The mayor reported that the revaluation of the hospital site is on the County Council cabinet agenda for the next meeting. There was considerable discussion on the matter. District Councillor Georgie Ellis then advised Council that the agenda item had now been withdrawn as the NHS now has enough money to spend on repairs to the hospital for the foreseeable future. Cllr. Carroll advised that she understood this money was just to patch the hospital up to keep it going. Cllr.

Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to Cllr. Malcolm Pate, Chair of the Shropshire County Council Cabinet saying

(i) There is not a consensus of opinion in Bishop's Castle that to devalue the Stone House site is in the public interest.

(ii) Reiterating the comments in our previous letter to the Health Overview and Scrutiny dated 10/8/06.

Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Matters from previous meetings.

(i) The Wintles now has a constituted residents association. The Clerk has contact details and will inform the association whenever the Wintles is discussed at Council meetings.

(ii) PayPoint - Letter from PayPoint saying they are considering Harry Tuffins, Co-op and another outlet in Church Street.

(iii) Embrys Jones & Co regarding the suggested bollards by Harry Tuffins. They have put forward another suggestion to Shropshire County Council.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Hugh Bland on the Biomass project.

Simon Pearson on the Biomass project.

Mr Bland and Mr Pearson both expressed concern on the conflicting information being given by the proposers of the Biomass plant in Bishop's Castle and illustrated several areas where this had happened. Mr Pearson asked the Council to consider fully all the implications and to query why there will only be 21 days planning consultation rather than 12 weeks.

Cllr. Jackie Williams spoke on the Bus situation. Cllr. Williams expressed concern that the buses may stop coming into the Town centre. She asked the Town Council to do all it can to sort out the parking problems in Station Street. She presented a petition of 85 names requesting Town Council action.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that item 13 be brought forward before item 6. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

13. BUS SERVICE IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

Cllr. Wright explained that contrary to the papers being handed out by Minsterley Motors the Town Council has no powers to provide a bus service and no powers over the road markings. All the Town Council can do it to pressurise the County Council.

The Clerk reported she has received letters from Mrs Morris, Mrs Price on behalf of Bishop's Castle W.I., Mrs Morrison and Mrs Hendley, all showing concern over the withdrawal of the Bus Service.

The Clerk then reported that she has spoken to John Jones of Minsterley Motors who has agreed to carry on running the buses if the white lines are in place in Station Street by the end of June. The Clerk has spoken to Ian Martin, Divisional Surveyors Office, Shropshire County Council who has advised that the lines will be painted before the end of this week, weather permitting.

Cllr. Stanley proposed that a letter be sent to Hugh Dannatt, Highways Officers, Shropshire County Council, expressing Councils dissatisfaction with the way the traffic management scheme in Station Street has been implemented. A copy to be sent to James Willcocks, Integrated Transport Unit, Shropshire County Council. A second letter to be sent to Mr Willcocks with a copy to Mr Dannatt expressing the importance of a Town centre bus service for the people of Bishop's Castle.

Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to P.C.Summerfield asking if the Community Support Officer can take some action on those who are guilty of obstruction once the white lines are in place. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney left the meeting.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) Any other plans - none

b) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/07/19384/F and 1/07/19385/CA Planning permission (full) and conservation area consent. Erection of extension to dwelling; demolition of existing lean-to (delegated matter)

44 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Sue Greenwood.

Planning permission and conservation area consent granted.

(ii) 1/07/19386/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 2 x portal framed buildings for B1 and B2 use; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter.)

Plot E Bishop's Castle Business Park. Web Hampers, Unit 8 Challenge Court, Bishop's Castle.

Planning permission approved.

c) Notification of planning meeting - 1/07/19479/F Formation of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular access (revised scheme), The Wintles, Bishop's castle.

Wednesday 20 June 2007, The SBS Stadium, Ludlow.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Georgie Ellis reported on the following:-

(i) With regard to Stone House hospital Cllr. Pate had said that plan B (funding improvements directly through the P.C.T.) was not the highest priority, its on the list and can move up.

(ii) There are discussions at District level on affordable housing. Cllr. Ellis would appreciate any comments from Bishop's Castle as she feels that the needs in Bishop's Castle are very different to those in Ludlow.

(iii) The District Council has withdrawn its support for the Unitary Bid.

8. ELECTRICITY / WATER IN THE PLAYING FIELDS.

a) Report from V.W.Electrics regarding the dangerous state of the lights in the playing fields. Cllr. Carroll proposed that quotes be sought to correct the work and the Clerk be authorised to accept the best offer. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

b) It has come to the attention of our Festivals Officer that we do not have water/electricity certificates for the playing Fields. Cllr. Carroll proposed that quotes be sought for an electrician to inspect the electrics on the playing fields and issue a certificate and a plumber to inspect the water and issue a certificate. The Clerk to be authorised to accept the best offer. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

9. SKATE PARK EVENT

The mayor reported that the skateboarding event planned for 14th July has now been postponed and will take place later in the year in a different format following concerns expressed by the Mayor and Clerk. Letters were read from Peter Banford, Chairman, BCSA and Fiona Robertson, Secretary of BCSA.

10. BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL

Request to hang a banner on the Town hall. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Bishop's Castle Town Council has a policy that banners are allowed to be hung on the front of the Town hall with permission from the Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

11. PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES.

Cllr. Stanley proposed that the following licences are applied for.

Variation to allow alcohol on the streets licence - Sunday to Saturday 0800 - 23.00

Cost £100

Licence for the Town Hall with alcohol, Sunday to Saturday 0800 - 2300. Cost £190

Michael Leadbetter to hold the personal licence.

12. QUALITY STATUS

The Clerk reported that her portfolio has been to John Ward for perusal. It needs some alterations but she hopes to send it off by end of week. If it passes the Council will have all the requirements for quality status. A portfolio needs to be completed. Cllr. Wright proposed approval be given to the Clerk to apply for Quality Status at a cost of £50 - £100. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

14. DEVELOPMENT ON OLD POLICE STATION

Cllr. Hird proposed the name of Custodian Close as a name for the development of 8 three storey houses on the Old Police Station, Kerry Lane. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

15. ACCOUNTS -

16. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

17a) CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) Letter from Jon Summerfield regarding safe driving event.

(ii) Social capital in Rural Places. - A report to Defra (copy available at the Town hall or www.nerc.ac.uk/findings/social.html).

(iii) SSDC Street closure notice for the Carnival.

b) Circulation

West Midlands Regional Assembly - Speaking Out.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.01 pm.

Minutes 19 June 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 19th JUNE 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Magill

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be closed. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.
A presentation followed by Andy Grundy, Project Officer of the Regional Woodland Initiative. Mr Grundy began by explaining his background. He went on to explain the following:-

- The Regional Woodland Initiative claims for best practice sustainable woodland management. His role is to support the woodland industry.
- The National Government and Regional Government strategies for the biomass based industries.
- The different type of waste the biomass industry can use and what this can generate.
- A little about combined heat and power, its advantages and disadvantages
- Renewable obligation credits. (ROC's)
- Emissions from woody biomass.

Questions were then taken.

Q. What is dirty wood waste?

A. Mostly demolition wood. There is no source in this area.

Q. Miscanthus needs a lot of fertiliser. Would this put too much nitrogen into the land?

A. Mr Grundy was not sure but felt miscanthus was an inappropriate land crop.

Q. The cost of getting woodland waste is very high. Would not other waste be cheaper?

A. Yes it can be more expensive. It can be a planning condition as to where the woodland waste comes from. If other kinds of waste were burnt, the plant would lose its Renewable Obligation Credits.

Q. The biomass plant needs soft water. Where would it come from?

A. Mr Grundy said he did not know.

Q. The safety of the children at the Crowgate nursery adjacent to the proposed plant was raised.

A. Mr Grundy said the emissions from burning pure wood would be less harmful than those produced driving the children to school.

Q. Would the Biomass proposers be prepared to give some funding to enable the nursery to move?

A. It was reported that Chris Day had said yes to one person and then said no to another.

Q. There is a shortage of certain timber. Will this involve moving it long distances?

A. The type of timber that is in short supply is not the type that would be used. There is plenty of local wood waste.

Q. If there are to be 6 - 8 plants in the West Midlands will there be sufficient waste wood?

A. This number of plants would only use half the available resources.

The Mayor thanked Andy Grundy for coming and giving such a helpful talk.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: none

- Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th May 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Farr. Seconded by Cllr. Furber.

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Carroll with the following corrections.
Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Presentation by Jo Chambers - line 15 should read "All qualified staff and most of the unqualified staff would transfer over."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

- MATTERS ARISING

Item 7 - Stone House Hospital

The mayor reported that the revaluation of the hospital site is on the County Council cabinet agenda for the next meeting. There was considerable discussion on the matter. District Councillor Georgie Ellis then advised Council that the agenda item had now been withdrawn as the NHS now has enough money to spend on repairs to the hospital for the foreseeable future. Cllr. Carroll advised that she understood this money was just to patch the hospital up to keep it going. Cllr.

Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to Cllr. Malcolm Pate, Chair of the Shropshire County Council Cabinet saying

(i) There is not a consensus of opinion in Bishop's Castle that to devalue the Stone House site is in the public interest.

(ii) Reiterating the comments in our previous letter to the Health Overview and Scrutiny dated 10/8/06.

Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

Matters from previous meetings.

(i) The Wintles now has a constituted residents association. The Clerk has contact details and will inform the association whenever the Wintles is discussed at Council meetings.

(ii) PayPoint - Letter from PayPoint saying they are considering Harry Tuffins, Co-op and another outlet in Church Street.

(iii) Embrys Jones & Co regarding the suggested bollards by Harry Tuffins. They have put forward another suggestion to Shropshire County Council.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Hugh Bland on the Biomass project.

Simon Pearson on the Biomass project.

Mr Bland and Mr Pearson both expressed concern on the conflicting information being given by the proposers of the Biomass plant in Bishop's Castle and illustrated several areas where this had happened. Mr Pearson asked the Council to consider fully all the implications and to query why there will only be 21 days planning consultation rather than 12 weeks.

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Cllr. Gaffney proposed that item 13 be brought forward before item 6. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

13. BUS SERVICE IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

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Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to P.C.Summerfield asking if the Community Support Officer can take some action on those who are guilty of obstruction once the white lines are in place. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney left the meeting.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) Any other plans - none

b) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/07/19384/F and 1/07/19385/CA Planning permission (full) and conservation area consent. Erection of extension to dwelling; demolition of existing lean-to (delegated matter)

44 Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Sue Greenwood.

Planning permission and conservation area consent granted.

(ii) 1/07/19386/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 2 x portal framed buildings for B1 and B2 use; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter.)

Plot E Bishop's Castle Business Park. Web Hampers, Unit 8 Challenge Court, Bishop's Castle.

Planning permission approved.

c) Notification of planning meeting - 1/07/19479/F Formation of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular access (revised scheme), The Wintles, Bishop's castle.

Wednesday 20 June 2007, The SBS Stadium, Ludlow.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Georgie Ellis reported on the following:-

(i) With regard to Stone House hospital Cllr. Pate had said that plan B (funding improvements directly through the P.C.T.) was not the highest priority, its on the list and can move up.

(ii) There are discussions at District level on affordable housing. Cllr. Ellis would appreciate any comments from Bishop's Castle as she feels that the needs in Bishop's Castle are very different to those in Ludlow.

(iii) The District Council has withdrawn its support for the Unitary Bid.

8. ELECTRICITY / WATER IN THE PLAYING FIELDS.

a) Report from V.W.Electrics regarding the dangerous state of the lights in the playing fields. Cllr. Carroll proposed that quotes be sought to correct the work and the Clerk be authorised to accept the best offer. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

b) It has come to the attention of our Festivals Officer that we do not have water/electricity certificates for the playing Fields. Cllr. Carroll proposed that quotes be sought for an electrician to inspect the electrics on the playing fields and issue a certificate and a plumber to inspect the water and issue a certificate. The Clerk to be authorised to accept the best offer. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

9. SKATE PARK EVENT

The mayor reported that the skateboarding event planned for 14th July has now been postponed and will take place later in the year in a different format following concerns expressed by the Mayor and Clerk. Letters were read from Peter Banford, Chairman, BCSA and Fiona Robertson, Secretary of BCSA.

10. BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL

Request to hang a banner on the Town hall. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Bishop's Castle Town Council has a policy that banners are allowed to be hung on the front of the Town hall with permission from the Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

11. PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES.

Cllr. Stanley proposed that the following licences are applied for.

Variation to allow alcohol on the streets licence - Sunday to Saturday 0800 - 23.00

Cost £100

Licence for the Town Hall with alcohol, Sunday to Saturday 0800 - 2300. Cost £190

Michael Leadbetter to hold the personal licence.

12. QUALITY STATUS

The Clerk reported that her portfolio has been to John Ward for perusal. It needs some alterations but she hopes to send it off by end of week. If it passes the Council will have all the requirements for quality status. A portfolio needs to be completed. Cllr. Wright proposed approval be given to the Clerk to apply for Quality Status at a cost of £50 - £100. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

14. DEVELOPMENT ON OLD POLICE STATION

Cllr. Hird proposed the name of Custodian Close as a name for the development of 8 three storey houses on the Old Police Station, Kerry Lane. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

15. ACCOUNTS -

16. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

17a) CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) Letter from Jon Summerfield regarding safe driving event.

(ii) Social capital in Rural Places. - A report to Defra (copy available at the Town hall or www.nerc.ac.uk/findings/social.html).

(iii) SSDC Street closure notice for the Carnival.

b) Circulation

West Midlands Regional Assembly - Speaking Out.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.01 pm.

Minutes 17 July 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 17th JULY AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: none

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Pinches declared a personal interest in item 6a as the applicant is a tenant.
Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in item 10 as the applicant is a personal friend.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a volunteer with the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a Director of the Wasteless Society.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Furber declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as his property is adjacent to the proposed site.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th June 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

Item 11 should include "Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved."
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 - Letters from Cllr. Malcolm Pate, Leader of the County Council, Mike Morris, Assistant Director (Strategy and business support) and Cllr. Peter Phillips regarding the future of Stone House Hospital saying no decision has yet been reached.

Item 13 - Cllr. Gaffney reported that he has spoken to John Jones, Minsterley Motors, who has said the buses will continue to run as long as the buses are not held up. Cllr. Gaffney has also spoken to the Police who are reluctant to get involved with parking issues because they believe yellow lines should be installed with Park Right to enforce them. They have agreed to help with any obstructions.

From previous meetings:

(i) Youth Card - Letter from Cllr. Phillips saying that the District Councils Youth Card Travel working Group has decided not to take this initiative further at present.
(ii) Bollards in Church Street - Letter from Senior Traffic Engineer, Shropshire County Council agreeing to two bollards outside Harry Tuffins.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed item 10 be brought forward to before item 6. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

10. DESIGN STATEMENT FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Jonathan Grieg explained that he had offered to write a design statement for Bishop's Castle but on further investigation and advice he believes that an Article 4 Direction would be more appropriate and take less time and be less expensive. Residents in the conservation area would have to apply for planning permission for permitted development. This would be free of charge.

The instigation of an Article 4 Direction would involve mapping the Conservation Area and marking all the listed buildings. A letter would have to be sent to all residents. This would then have to be put before Council for approval. An application would then have to be made to the Secretary of State.

Mr Grieg gave the Clerk documents explaining an Article 4 Direction. These will be circulated to all Councillors to be discussed at the next meeting.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/19692/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 3 no affordable dwellings and 3 no open-market dwellings: construction of estate roads and formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter).

Station Street Garage, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ. G & R Price

A letter was read from Mr & Mrs Furber

Cllr. Stanley proposed no objection if the following conditions are agreed.

(i) The retaining boundary wall with 74 Church Street be built 1.8m above the ground level of 74 Church Street.
(ii) The fact that the site is extremely close to the auction yard will not jeopardise the future of the auction yard.

Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved.

b) 1/07/19720/F Planning Permission (full). Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Cross Keys Cottage, Castle Street. SY9 5BY M. Ellison.

Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

c) 1/07/19735/F Planning Permission (full) Erection of replacement roof to residential and retail building (delegated matter)

Flat 63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. The Co-operative Group

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

e) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/07/19479/F Formation of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular access (revised scheme)(committee matter)

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/07/19474/F Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Garden House, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Hendley

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/07/19469/F Erection of 2 x affordable dwellings; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access (delegated matter)

South Shropshire Housing Association.

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/07/19411/LB Erection of a balcony in place of conservatory (to be demolished) (delegated matter)

Black Lion House, 1 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Pratt.

Listed building consent granted.

(v) 1/07/19514/TC Felling of 2 x trees (delegated matter)

8-10 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs M Gaspar.

Consent granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Neither District Councillors attended the meeting.

8. RESTORATION OF CHURCH BELLS

The Bell Ringers of the Parish Church are applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the cost of the restoration of the church bells. Cllr. Wright proposed a letter of support and a donation of £50. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

9. SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

Cllr Pinches proposed free use of the Playing Fields and a donation of £25 for a summer play scheme being run by Revd. Mike Plunkett. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

11. KINGS HEAD, CHURCH STREET

Council are concerned about the poor appearance of the Kings Head in the conservation area. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council, asking if they have any powers to improve the situation or know of any rules we can make reference to.

If Mr Richards cannot help a strong letter should be sent to Punch Taverns, the owners of the Kings Head complaining about its poor appearance.

Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

12. FOOTPATH IN MONTGOMERY ROAD

Some time ago the County Council were asked to put a footpath in Montgomery Road. To date there has been no action. After much discussion Cllr. Magill proposed the following action:

(i) A letter to be sent to the County Council asking them to clear the verges on the west side from Castle Green to level with the 30mph.

(ii) A strong letter to be sent to the Paul Watson, Shropshire County Council asking for action on the proposed footpaths on the A488 between the Bishop's Castle entrances, the footpath on the A488 Colebatch to the Pines and the Montgomery Road footpath.

(iii) To reopen issues with Shropshire County Council on the potential footpath on the east side of the Montgomery Road from Castle Green to Lydham Manor.

(iv) To make enquiries into the cost of cutting back the over growth on the west side of Montgomery Road.

Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

13. CARDBOARD RECYCLING CENTRE AT CROWGATE.

Cllr. Hird proposed a letter be sent to South Shropshire District Council requesting new gates at the cardboard enclosure at the recycling centre.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

14. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Cllr. Gaffney gave an update on the work of the Community Land Trust. Their launch was reasonably well attended and they are now renting an office at Enterprise House for one day a week.

15. VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS

Shropshire County Council feed back on draft Village Speed Limit Policy. Request for two or three Councillors to represent our Council at initial meetings between officers, County Councillors and Parish Councillors. Cllrs. Carroll, Magill, Pinches and Stanley agreed to attend if they are available at the time of the meeting.

16. ACCOUNTS -

Copies of the income and expenditure summary to 30/6/07 were distributed to Councillors.

The Clerk reported that the external audit has been completed and approved.

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Magill reported back from PCCG's meeting. The crime rate in the area is down.

Cllrs Stanley and Carroll reported back from the Lifeline Board meeting. The Lifeline Company is in a difficult financial situation. The Mayor is to ask for a copy of the Bishop's Castle Regeneration report.

18a) CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) Letter from HM Revenue and Customs explaining situation with VAT

(ii) Letter from Public Hall Committee asking for a letter of support for their grant application for improvements to the toilets.

b) Circulation

(i) SPARSE - Sustaining Rural Communities consultation paper may 2007.

(ii) SAPTC agenda and minutes.

(iii) LCR

(iv) Clerks and Council Direct

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Minutes 17 July 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 17th JULY AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: none

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Pinches declared a personal interest in item 6a as the applicant is a tenant.
Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in item 10 as the applicant is a personal friend.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a volunteer with the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a Director of the Wasteless Society.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Furber declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as his property is adjacent to the proposed site.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th June 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

Item 11 should include "Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved."
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 - Letters from Cllr. Malcolm Pate, Leader of the County Council, Mike Morris, Assistant Director (Strategy and business support) and Cllr. Peter Phillips regarding the future of Stone House Hospital saying no decision has yet been reached.

Item 13 - Cllr. Gaffney reported that he has spoken to John Jones, Minsterley Motors, who has said the buses will continue to run as long as the buses are not held up. Cllr. Gaffney has also spoken to the Police who are reluctant to get involved with parking issues because they believe yellow lines should be installed with Park Right to enforce them. They have agreed to help with any obstructions.

From previous meetings:

(i) Youth Card - Letter from Cllr. Phillips saying that the District Councils Youth Card Travel working Group has decided not to take this initiative further at present.
(ii) Bollards in Church Street - Letter from Senior Traffic Engineer, Shropshire County Council agreeing to two bollards outside Harry Tuffins.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed item 10 be brought forward to before item 6. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

10. DESIGN STATEMENT FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Jonathan Grieg explained that he had offered to write a design statement for Bishop's Castle but on further investigation and advice he believes that an Article 4 Direction would be more appropriate and take less time and be less expensive. Residents in the conservation area would have to apply for planning permission for permitted development. This would be free of charge.

The instigation of an Article 4 Direction would involve mapping the Conservation Area and marking all the listed buildings. A letter would have to be sent to all residents. This would then have to be put before Council for approval. An application would then have to be made to the Secretary of State.

Mr Grieg gave the Clerk documents explaining an Article 4 Direction. These will be circulated to all Councillors to be discussed at the next meeting.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/19692/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 3 no affordable dwellings and 3 no open-market dwellings: construction of estate roads and formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter).

Station Street Garage, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ. G & R Price

A letter was read from Mr & Mrs Furber

Cllr. Stanley proposed no objection if the following conditions are agreed.

(i) The retaining boundary wall with 74 Church Street be built 1.8m above the ground level of 74 Church Street.

(ii) The fact that the site is extremely close to the auction yard will not jeopardise the future of the auction yard.

Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved.

b) 1/07/19720/F Planning Permission (full). Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Cross Keys Cottage, Castle Street. SY9 5BY M. Ellison.

Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

c) 1/07/19735/F Planning Permission (full) Erection of replacement roof to residential and retail building (delegated matter)

Flat 63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. The Co-operative Group

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

e) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/07/19479/F Formation of estate roads and alterations to existing vehicular access (revised scheme)(committee matter)

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/07/19474/F Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Garden House, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Hendley

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/07/19469/F Erection of 2 x affordable dwellings; formation of vehicular and pedestrian access (delegated matter)

South Shropshire Housing Association.

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/07/19411/LB Erection of a balcony in place of conservatory (to be demolished) (delegated matter)

Black Lion House, 1 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Pratt.

Listed building consent granted.

(v) 1/07/19514/TC Felling of 2 x trees (delegated matter)

8-10 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs M Gaspar.

Consent granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Neither District Councillors attended the meeting.

8. RESTORATION OF CHURCH BELLS

The Bell Ringers of the Parish Church are applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to cover the cost of the restoration of the church bells. Cllr. Wright proposed a letter of support and a donation of £50. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

9. SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

Cllr Pinches proposed free use of the Playing Fields and a donation of £25 for a summer play scheme being run by Revd. Mike Plunkett. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

11. KINGS HEAD, CHURCH STREET

Council are concerned about the poor appearance of the Kings Head in the conservation area. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council, asking if they have any powers to improve the situation or know of any rules we can make reference to.

If Mr Richards cannot help a strong letter should be sent to Punch Taverns, the owners of the Kings Head complaining about its poor appearance.

Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

12. FOOTPATH IN MONTGOMERY ROAD

Some time ago the County Council were asked to put a footpath in Montgomery Road. To date there has been no action. After much discussion Cllr. Magill proposed the following action:

(i) A letter to be sent to the County Council asking them to clear the verges on the west side from Castle Green to level with the 30mph.

(ii) A strong letter to be sent to the Paul Watson, Shropshire County Council asking for action on the proposed footpaths on the A488 between the Bishop's Castle entrances, the footpath on the A488 Colebatch to the Pines and the Montgomery Road footpath.

(iii) To reopen issues with Shropshire County Council on the potential footpath on the east side of the Montgomery Road from Castle Green to Lydham Manor.

(iv) To make enquiries into the cost of cutting back the over growth on the west side of Montgomery Road.

Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

13. CARDBOARD RECYCLING CENTRE AT CROWGATE.

Cllr. Hird proposed a letter be sent to South Shropshire District Council requesting new gates at the cardboard enclosure at the recycling centre.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

14. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Cllr. Gaffney gave an update on the work of the Community Land Trust. Their launch was reasonably well attended and they are now renting an office at Enterprise House for one day a week.

15. VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS

Shropshire County Council feed back on draft Village Speed Limit Policy. Request for two or three Councillors to represent our Council at initial meetings between officers, County Councillors and Parish Councillors. Cllrs. Carroll, Magill, Pinches and Stanley agreed to attend if they are available at the time of the meeting.

16. ACCOUNTS -

Copies of the income and expenditure summary to 30/6/07 were distributed to Councillors.

The Clerk reported that the external audit has been completed and approved.

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Magill reported back from PCCG's meeting. The crime rate in the area is down.

Cllrs Stanley and Carroll reported back from the Lifeline Board meeting. The Lifeline Company is in a difficult financial situation. The Mayor is to ask for a copy of the Bishop's Castle Regeneration report.

18a) CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) Letter from HM Revenue and Customs explaining situation with VAT

(ii) Letter from Public Hall Committee asking for a letter of support for their grant application for improvements to the toilets.

b) Circulation

(i) SPARSE - Sustaining Rural Communities consultation paper may 2007.

(ii) SAPTC agenda and minutes.

(iii) LCR

(iv) Clerks and Council Direct

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Minutes 14 August 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 14th AUGUST 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** none

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 9 as she is a member of Enterprise South West Shropshire.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as the applicant is a friend.

Cllr. Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a as the applicant is a friend.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th August 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

Item 4 relating to item 13 - delete "They have agreed to help with any obstructions." and insert "When pressed Sgt. John Evans agreed the Police have a duty to enforce the law on obstructions."

Item 12 - Delete "30mph" and insert "Mynd View"

Item 17 - line 3 insert "as usual in " so that it reads "The Lifeline Company is as usual in a difficult financial situation"

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

Item 12 - Footpath in Montgomery Road - The Clerk reported that Clive Pritchard had given a quote of less than £50 to trim and tidy the west side of Montgomery Road from Castle Green to Mynd View. It was agreed the Clerk use her powers to authorise this work now and in future when necessary.

5. **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:** none

6. **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:**

a) 1/07/19761/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Sefton, Harley Jenkins Street, Bishop's Castle, Mr & Mrs P Carty.

Resolved - No objection, proposed by Cllr. Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Hird.

b) 1/07/19763/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a horticultural building and alterations to existing vehicular access (delegated matter) OS Field No 8467

Bishop's Castle, SY9 5EU. N & A Coull.

Resolved - Objection - The Council saw no reason to change its original objection on the grounds that this application should go to committee because of the large size of the building and the fact that it is not connected to the farm. Proposed by Cllr. Wright and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

c) 1/07/19768/VC Variations of conditions. Variation of conditions 4(b) of Planning permission 1/05/17600? dated 16th January 2007 to include occupancy under equity mortgage provision. (delegated matter)

Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association.

Resolved - Objection on the grounds that there is a need to protect the provision of rented accommodation. It is not clear from this application whether the variation would continue to provide the rented accommodation. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

e). Notification of planning meeting - 1/07/19692/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 3 no affordable dwellings and 3 no open-market dwellings: construction of estate roads and formation of vehicular and pedestrian access. (delegated matter).

Station Street Garage, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ. G & R Price

Wednesday 15th August 2007, at 2.00pm at The SBS Stadium, Ludlow.

7. **REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Ellis reported on the following.

a) There is to be consultation on local bus services on Monday 20th August 10.00 am to 2.00 pm in the Auction Yard. The suggestion is that large buses should continue to run on the main routes but there should be a demand lead smaller buses to the more rural routes.

b) There are to be business mentoring groups for pupils of the Community College. Volunteers are required to act as mentors.

Cllr. Phillips spoke about the replacement of the Regional Assembly with a regional cabinet, mostly government appointed.

8. **ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION**

Resolved - An Article 4 Direction for Bishop's Castle is to be sought but it is not to include the painting of the outside of the houses. The Clerk to make an application to the District Council. Proposed by Cllr. Wright and seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ACT

9. **SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE REGENERATION COMPANY**

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the recommendations of the feasibility study commissioned by E.S.W.S. be accepted. The recommendations included the establishment of a new regeneration company that would oversee Enterprise House, the Community College community operation and SpArC. Some Councillors expressed concern about the ongoing subsidy of some £100,000. Cllr. Gaffney said that he did not believe there would be any gain in local accountability. Cllr. Carroll said that she felt that there was an opportunity for local control of SpArC. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll, the motion was defeated with 4 votes for, 8 votes against.

10. **UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Update on Unitary Authority from meeting held on Tuesday 14th August 2007 with SALC.

Cllr. Gaffney reported that there was no new information but went on to explain a little more about the process of changing to a Unitary Authority. The new Unitary Council will be elected in May 2008 and shadow the current County and District Councils. Cllr. Phillips thought this would be for about three months.

There will be 27 area committees based on the current County Council Divisions. These will be made up of the elected Unitary Councillors for that area and at least one representative from each of the Parish Councils in the area. The area committees will have money available to spend. Cllr. Phillips estimated around £40,000 per year.

Cllr. Phillips explained that there will be a Joint Interim Board, consisting of representatives of the six Principal Councils, to set up the workings for the Unitary Authority.

11. **UNSUITABLE FOR HGV'S SIGN**

Resolved A request be made to the Highways Department, Shropshire County Council for the following:-

a) An "unsuitable for HGV's" sign at both ends of Castle Street.

b) An "unsuitable for HGV's" sign at both ends of Welsh Street.

c) An "HGV recommended route" sign at Moat Hill at the junction of Kerry Lane and at the entrance to Kerry Lane by the Church.

Proposed by Cllr. Hird and seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

12. **SKATEBOARD PARK**

Resolved a) Approval for BCSA to enclose the tarmac area of the skatepark with a fence whilst the new ramp is being installed.

b) Approval for BCSA to hold a skate/bmx event on the afternoon of September 15th

12 - 5 pm, if wet to hold the event on the afternoon of the Michaelmas Fair.

c) To provide a litter bin by the Skateboard Park.

Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Magill.

13. **COUNTRY ACCESS STRATEGY FOR SHROPSHIRE 2008-2018**

Draft document for the Countryside Access Strategy for South Shropshire including a feedback form. To be circulated and put on the next agenda for discussion.

14. **ROSPA REPORT ON PLAYING FIELDS**

Feedback on the Rospa report on the Playing Fields that was made available to Councillors. It said that "the new facility, was absolutely fantastic, excellent play value for both toddler/junior age groups."

15. **PAYMENT OF BT ACCOUNT**

Resolved - The Clerk to have the authority to pay the BT account and any similar accounts by Direct Debit if it saves this Council money. The payment to be shown on the agenda as usual Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Wright..

16. **PLAY CHEST GRANT SCHEME**

Council were advised that money is available for up to 75% of total costs to a maximum of £3000 for new or improved play facilities.

17. **LOCAL MEETING**

Council would like the following matters discussed at the Local meeting on Monday 8th October 2007.

a) Policing - It has not come up to expectation.

b) What powers will be devolved down when a Unitary Council comes into being.

c) More details on the joint Interim Board when changing to a Unitary Council.

d) Bus services.

e) What powers of scrutiny will the Area Committees have.

18. **STREET LIGHTING REPORT**

The street lighting report from V & W electrics was shown to Councillors. The Clerk is looking into the cost of the more urgent work.

19. **THE PLANNING PACK**

At the request of Cllr. Hird the Planning Pack has been downloaded. It is in the office should any Councillor wish to borrow it.

20. **ACCOUNTS** -

21. **REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.**

Cllrs Carroll reported that she and Cllr. Holton had visited the new houses off Grange Road. She said they were built to a high standard of sustainability and were very energy efficient. Whether for sale or rent they were all built to the same standard. All had gardens and some are quite large. There is considerable space between the new development and the old Grange Road houses. Councillors were concerned that it appears the only input they will have in the allocation is to say whether applicants are local. The Clerk to investigate further.

22a) **CORRESPONDANCE.**

(i) Philip Dunne - Re meeting about Big Lottery Fund.

(ii) Copy of a letter from John and Diana Beddoes of Colebatch to Peter Phillips requesting a footpath from Colebatch to Bishop's Castle.

(iii) Letter from Carol Naden of 38 High Street requesting Council recommendation of her being local for the purposes of affordable housing at Grange Road.

(iv) Rural Transport Strategy Local Consultation. Road shows on changes being considered to rural bus services. Bishop's Castle - 20th August at the Livestock Market 10am - 2pm.

(v) Peter Phillips re Post Watch.

(vi) Copy of a letter from C J Day to Karen Bavastock in reply to her letter of 17th July 2007. Cllr. Hird pointed out that the information in the letter was incorrect and a 2.5 mw power plant could not produce 13 megawatts of heat.

b) Circulation

(i) Wasteless Society Newsletter

(ii) SCC - Village speed limits

(iii) H.M. Revenue & Customs

(iv) The Playing Fields

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

Minutes 16 October 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

Councillors stood for one minutes silence in memory of Len Gwilliam who passed away last week. A well respected past Councillor and Mayor who worked very hard for Bishop's Castle.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr. Hird and Cllr. Farr.
Proposed by Cllr. Pinches, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 11 as she is a member of the Christmas Lights Festival Committee.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as he is a friend of the applicant.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th September 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Item 9 line 7 should read "made" not "mad".

Item 13 line one delete "Is there an"

Item 21 - Insert after line 2 "The Partnership makes grants to not for profit organisations through the Community Chest scheme (up to £500 for each application) and the Opportunities fund. It has a sum of £40,000 to distribute."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

A meeting has been arranged with Phil Crossland, Assistant Director, Transport and Highways, Shropshire County Council, in Bishop's Castle to discuss yellow and white lines on Thursday 15th November 2007 at 9.30am.

The Mayor distributed copies of a letter he has written to Prof. Pahl. in reply to Prof. Pahl's letter to Councillors with regard to the donated bench.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/19946/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a balcony (delegated matter)
Chapel View, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, G. Price.

Resolved. No objection proposed by Cllr. Stanley, Seconded by Cllr. Morris.

b) 1/07/19924/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a conservatory,
The Grange, Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr Tilling.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

Cllr. Gaffney left the room and Cllr. Pinches took the chair.

c) 1/07/20031/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a replacement dwelling (delegated matter)

The Pines, Colebatch, Bishop's Castle. Miss Hicks

Resolved An objection on the grounds that the proposed building is bigger in footprint than Pines itself and therefore too prominent. If the application is permitted a section 106 should be included stipulating that it is not sold separately to the Pines in the future. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Cllr. Stanley did not vote.

Cllr. Gaffney returned and took the Chair

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/07/1/07/19761/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Sefton, Harley Jenkins Street, Bishop's castle, Mr & Mrs P Carty.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/07/19763/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a horticultural building and alterations to existing vehicular access (delegated matter)

OS Field No 8467 Bishop's Castle, SY9 5EU. N & A Coull.

Application withdrawn.

(iii) 1/07/19768/VC Variations of conditions. Variation of conditions 4(b) of Planning permission 1/05/17600?f dated 16th January 2007 to include occupancy under equity mortgage provision. (delegated matter)

Land adjoining Grange Road Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Association

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/07/19720/F Planning Permission (full) Erection of extension to dwelling (delegated matter)

Cross Keys Cottage, Castle Street. SY9 5BY M. Ellison

Planning permission granted.

(v) 1/07/19885/TC :Tree Works (conservation Area), Felling of a walnut tree (delegated matter)

Stoney Pound, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. R.G. & M Jones.

Application withdrawn.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ellis.

8. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Resolved (unanimous): Strong letters to be sent to South Shropshire Housing Association and South Shropshire District Council, with a copy to the press asking them to apply stringent local criteria to Housing Association houses falling vacant when residents have moved into affordable housing using the "local" rule. Also requesting if possible a section 106 to this effect on the vacated houses. The letter to point out that the present system is making a mockery of the "affordable homes for local people" policy and asking if this Council can be assured in the future that the "local" rule will apply to all these vacated houses. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ATC

9. MICHAELMAS FAIR

Resolved (unanimous): A letter be sent to the Michaelmas Fair Committee congratulating them on a very successful fair, the best that Councillors can remember, and thanking them for their continuous hard work. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr. Morris. **ATC**

10. FOOTWAY FROM KING'S HEAD TO THE AUCTION YARD

Resolved: An application be made to the Map Review Officer, Shropshire County Council, requesting that the path from Church Street to the Auction Yard adjacent to the Kings Head be put on the definitive map as it has been an open right of way as long as anyone can remember. (More than twenty years) Proposed by Cllr. Magill, seconded by

Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ATC

11. STREET CLOSURES

Resolved (unanimous): No objection to the following street closures. Proposed by

Cllr. Magill and seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

a) Sunday 11th November - Remembrance Sunday Parade

High Street and Church Street - 10.40am - 11.00 am and 11.55.am - 12.15 pm.

b) Saturday 1st December - Christmas Lights Festival

12.00 - 22.00 Church Street, High Street, and Market Square.

17.30 - 18.30 Six Bells to the Union Street/ Station Street crossroads.

12. PLANNING WHITE PAPER - Cllr. Hird

Planning White Paper and response to it by South Shropshire District Council. (The white paper can be found on the Communities and Local Government web site and the planning white paper policy can be found on the SSDC web site.)

To be discussed next meeting. Please can Councillors read. Copies available from the above web sites or ask the Clerk.

13. RESTORATION OF TOWN BENCHES

Emma Ransford has offered to restore some of the Town Council benches at a cost of £50 to the Council for materials.

Resolved (unanimous) Emma Ransford to be thanked and her offer accepted after liaison with the Mayor or the Clerk to ascertain which benches are to be restored and how they are to be done. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ATC

4. BISHOP'S CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Resolved (unanimous) Following Cllr. Farrs resignation Cllr. Carroll is to take on the role of Town Council representative on the primary school governors. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

15. PORTFOLIO

The Clerk explained to Councillors that the portfolio had achieved 5 distinctions, 18 passes and 3 fails so had failed overall. The feedback sheet was then read to Councillors. The Clerk went on to explain that she has spoken to John Ward (County Training Officer) who has advised that it can be resubmitted in a short space of time.

Resolved (Unanimous): The improvements are made and the portfolio submitted at a cost of £55. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

ATC

16. ACCOUNTS

Resolved: (unanimous) The following accounts are all accepted. Proposed by Cllr.

Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney reported on the PACT meeting, Most of the discussion was on the speeding of traffic. It is difficult to get the Traffic Police out to catch speeding motorists. Vandalism in the playing fields was discussed and there are to be prosecutions. Drug abuse in the Town was also discussed. Sgt. John Evans from Church Stretton reported that he does not get reports of crime associated with drug problems from Bishop's Castle.

The Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney then reported on the Lets Talk meeting. He explained that it was a good meeting with very reassuring comments regarding the future of Stone House hospital. The closure of small primary schools was also discussed.

Cllr. Gaffney then reported on a site meeting on a piece of recreation land at Brick Meadow. Residents were not in favour of a playground on this site. Lisa Bedford, Regeneration Officer, South Shropshire District Council is to recommend that the Town Council decide how the earmarked £15,000 should be spent. It must be on play equipment.

18a) CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership - Drop in networking and celebration event. Monday 12th November 4.30 - 7.00pm

b) Circulation

(i) Shropshire Association of Parish & Town Councils - Agenda & minutes

(ii) Town & Parish Standard.

(iii) Shropshire County Council document on Speed Management Strategy.

(iv) Bishop's castle Marches Partnership

(v) South Shropshire Housing Association home finder information.

(vi) Press release from Cllr. Peter Phillips on school closure.

(vii) SSHA Annual Report 2006/7

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Meeting 18 December 2007

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill,

W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr. Pinches, (Prejudicial interest)

Cllr. Hird (unwell). Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllrs. Stanley and Carroll declared a personal interest in item 3 as they are friends of Mrs Denton and Mrs Pinches.

Cllrs Gaffney, Farr, Furber, Holton, Magill, Morris, Dr. Penney and Wright declared a personal interest in item 3 as Mrs Pinches is the wife of a fellow Councillor.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

To consider the recommendations for the appointment of a replacement Clerk by the interviewing Councillors. Cllr. Gaffney explained there were five applicants, all of which were interviewed by the working party. All candidates were asked the same questions. The interviewing panel were favourably impressed with all candidates who brought a variety of skills and experiences and all interviewed well. After close consideration and consensus of opinion Mr Bone is recommended for the post.

Resolution Mr David Bone be offered the post of Town Clerk, beginning on 1st February 2008 on the NALC recommended pay scales spinal column point 15. At the end of a three month probationary period consideration to be made whether the spinal column point should be increased. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Minutes 11 September 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morris

Cllr. Gaffney proposed item 26 be considered before item 25 as press and public are to be excluded from item 25. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as her mother-in-law is a direct neighbour to the applicant.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 11 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 14 as he is a member of the Bishop's Castle Group.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 20 as he is a member of the Stone House equipment fund.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 28 as he is a member of the Castle Land trust.

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 28 as he is a member of the Castle Land trust.

Cllr. Wright declared a personal interest in item 18 as he is a friend of Prof. Pahl.

Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 11 as he is a Director of the Wasteless Society.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th August 2007, having been

circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 11- Reply from Glyn Shaw, Shropshire County Council with reference to HGV signs requesting a site meeting.

Previous meetings

Gates at Crowgate.- Reply from Mark Foxall, Waste Services team saying he has passed the request to the Senior Property Surveyor asking him to look into the installing of new gates.

Colebatch Footpath - Several letters from Cllr. Peter Phillips to County Council officers in support of a footpath from Colebatch to Bishop's castle.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

(a) 1/07/19885/TC :Tree Works (conservation Area), Felling of a walnut tree (delegated matter)

Stoney Pound, Union Street, Bishop's Castle. R.G. & M Jones.

A letter was read from Mrs Stanley objecting to the application.

Resolved A strong objection on the grounds that this is a very attractive eighty year old tree that is not causing any harm. Proposed by Cllr.Wright, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

b) Reports of Planning Applications:

(i) 1/07/19692/F Erection of 3no. affordable dwellings and 3no. open-market dwellings: construction of estate roads and formation of vehicular and pedestrian access (county matter)

Station Street Garage, Bishop's Castle. G & R Price

Permission refused.

(ii) 1/07/19735/F Erection of replacement roof to resindial and retail building (delegated matter)

Flat 63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. The Co-operative Group.

Planning permission granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Ellis reported that the District Council had a long discussion on Unitary, looking at the way forward. Elections could now be in 2009. There is to be a nucleus at Shrewsbury with three sub divisions in the north, central and south. These areas will meet once a month with local meetings quarterly. The town and parish councils will have a lot of input in these local meetings.

Cllr. Ellis went to say there had been a long discussion about the abbatoir and there was much concern that it might not open again. They may try to formulate a local buy out.

8. GRASS CUTTING IN PLAYING FIELDS

There have been complaints about the poor grass cutting in the playing fields. The Clerk reported that she is aware the field is not being cut properly and is liaising with the contractors. When and how well the field is cut is being monitored. The Clerk has written to the contractors to complain.

Resolved - A second letter to be sent to the contractors saying that this Council are very concerned about the standard of the grass cutting and expect the contractors to honour their contract properly. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

9. PARKING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE.

The Clerk read a letter from Phil Crossland, Assistant Director, Transport and Highways, Shropshire County Council suggesting that the only way to solve traffic problems in Bishop's Castle is double yellow lines on Salop Street, Market Square, Welsh Street, Boars head junction and Station Street, enforced by ParkRight.

Also letters from the Police and fire Service to Mr Crossland.

Cllr. Stanley reported on the difficulties with parking in Market Square.

There was considerable discussion when the following comments were made.

(i) Cllr. Stanley commented that the yellow lines were very confusing and that one can safely park on some yellow lines but in other areas with no yellow lines it is very dangerous to park.

(ii) The Police are obliged to come out if there is an obstruction, especially if a car is parked on a white line.

(iii) White lines are guide as to whether cars are at risk.

(iv) Cllr. Magill felt double yellow lines were a good idea.

(v) Cllr. Gaffney explained that Park Right enforce law indiscriminately. People who park outside there house on the pavement in Welsh Street would be fined.

(vi) It was generally felt that a single yellow line did not achieve anything.

(vii) It was commented that it is important for buses and the fire service to get through.

Resolved (a) Ask Mr Crossland to come to Bishop's Castle to discuss the problems.

(b) To ask for assistance from the local Police at the PACT meeting.

(c) For a working group of Cllrs. Stanley, Magill, Pinches Gaffney and Carroll to walk the area and mark on the map where lines are, or are not required. Cllr. Stanley to organise.

Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

10. COUNTRY ACCESS STRATEGY FOR SHROPSHIRE 2008-2018

Cllr. Gaffney explained the document and highlighted particular sections.

Resolved - Cllr. Gaffney to complete the questionnaire on the Countryside Access Strategy for Shropshire 2008-2018 (circulated) on behalf of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr magill.

11. WASTELESS SOCIETY

The Wasteless Society to be awarded a grant of £120 to enable them to employ a person to clear up at the recycling centre. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Wright.

12. PROPOSED CHANGES TO RURAL BUS SERVICE

The Clerk updated Councillors on the proposed changes to the bus services in South Shropshire. The general opinion was that it was a good idea with the following reservations: :

It could be very difficult for visitors. The system should be well advertised and explained at every bus stop.

Concern was expressed about losing buses from Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury.

Will fares be reasonably priced?

Resolved - The Clerk to complete the questionnaire for the Council makin g the above comments. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Wright.

13. CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARIES

Review of Conservation Area Boundaries by South Shropshire District Council. Is there an **Resolved** There is no urgent need to review the boundaries in Bishop's castle. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

14. BIOMASS PLANT

Invitation from Mr Day for the Mayor, Cllr. Gaffney and one other Councillor to visit the Eccleshall plant after commissioning/connection.

Cllrs. Dr. Penney, Hird, Holton, Magill and Pinches expressed an interest in visiting the Eccleshall Plant.

Resolved - (a) To write to Mr. Day asking if the Mayor and five Councillors can visit the Eccleshall Plant. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

(b) To contact Stafford Borough Council asking for a copy of the planning regulations and conditions of planning. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

15. BIKE TRACK

The bike track is very overgrown with thistles and nettles, hence unusable at present. **Resolved (7 votes to 4)** - To spend £50 for spraying the bike track this year and then look into long term management by strimming. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by

Cllr. Magill.

16. PLANNING WHITE PAPER - Cllr. Hird

Discussion on the Planning White Paer and response to it by South Shropshire District Council. (The white paper can be found on the Communities and Local Government web site and the planning white paper policy can be found on the SSDC web site.)

Cllr. Hird explained that if the white paper is approved planning consent will be given by an unelected commission. The Town should have a policy and tell District Council. To be discussed at the next meeting. **Next agenda.**

17. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Resolved - The rent from the Flea market on the day of the Christmas lights festival to be donated to the Christmas lights festival. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr.Farr

18. BENCH DONATED BY PROF. PAHL

Resolved A letter of thanks to Prof. Pahl for the bench he has donated to the Town. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Magill. Councillors were concerned that it is not very well secured.

19. CLERKS CONTRACT

To be dicussed at a future meeting.

20. STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL

Resolved A letter to be sent to Jo Chambers, Chief Executive of Shropshire PCT congratulating her on her appointment and thanking her for continuing support to maintain Stone House hospital with its NHS medical and nursing services. A copy of the letter to be sent to the papers. Proposed by Cllr. Hird, seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

21. BISHOP'S CASTLE MARCHES PARTNERSHIP

Cllr. Carroll explained to Councillors that the Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership was involved in the distribution of second homes Council tax.

Resolved Cllr. Carroll to continue to be the Town Council representative on the Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

22. SHROPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Resolved - Cllr. Magill to attend a meeting at the local fire station on 18th October and to complete the questionnaire on the future organisation of the fire service on behalf of the Council. Proposed by Cllr. Magill, seconded by Cllr. Hird.

23. VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS POLICY

Resolved - This Council supports the recommendations of the draft village speed limit policy. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr. Hird.

24. FOOTPATH FROM COLEBATCH TO BISHOP'S CASTLE.

The proposed footpaths submitted by the residents of Colebatch were discussed. Cllr. Carroll explained that members of public at Colebatch feel uncomfortable walking through Mr Jones farmyard. Cllr. Carroll visited the farmyard to discuss matters with Mr Jones. He says that nobody in the family makes it uncomfortable for walkers. Cllr. Carroll pointed out that it is public right of way and if there are more complaints it would have to report to County Council. Mr Jones has been approached by the County Council to divert footpath but he would have to pay in the region of £1,500 for the diversion which he is not willing to do.

Resolved - To respond to the letter from the residents of Colebatch explaining that they have every right to use this footpath and the Town Council has been given assurances that there will be no problems. If there are problems the residents should let Council know immediately. To pursue the making a footpath on the route of the green line (adjoining the road from Colebatch to the Pines). Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved

26. ACCOUNTS

Press and Public were excluded for item 26.

25. APPLICATIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Consideration was given as to whether applicants for affordable housing are local.

27. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Pinches agreed to attend the 6 towns meeting on Thursday 13th September at Church Stretton.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Letter from David Jones, Old Castle Land trust regarding dog mess on the Castle Land.

(ii) Letter from Sarah Rollason, Learning and Culture, Shropshire County Council giving informatoion on the Walking for Life project. (circulate)

(iii) Letter from Bishop's Castle Group (circulate)

b) Circulation

(i) Take off

(ii) LCR

(iii) Communications working group agenda and minutes

(iv) Reform to Empty Property rates

(v) Clerks & Councils Direct

Standards board agenda and minutes can be found on www.southshropshire.gov/static/pape5016

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.14 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 4/12/2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies are accepted: Cllr. Farr and Cllr. Morris. Proposed by Cllr. Pinches, seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 12 as he is Chairman of the Community Land Trust.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2007, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10 - Letters of thanks have been received from West Shropshire Talking Newspaper, Hope House Childrens Hospice, Citizens Advice Shropshire.

Item 12 - Letter from Ann Hartley, Shropshire County Council in reply to our letter expressing concern over proposed school closures.

Item 14 - Biomass planning application. The mayor reminded Councillors that even though the planning application has been withdrawn (see item 6a) Councillors should refrain from expressing opinions about the application as this Council is likely to have to consider a resubmission of the application in the future.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

a) Sister Sandra Bradbury, Stone House Hospital - Sister Bradbury updated Council on the future plans for Stone House Hospital. The PCT has now decided Community Hospitals are the best arrangement offering services locally. The first plan was for 16 beds, 4 ensuite rooms and 3 x 4 bedded units. There will be a new entrance and new reception area and new nurses station. Also an increased outpatient capacity and a relatives room. There will be a lot more training for staff and a mobile diagnostic area. The local G.P's support the plan and there is interest from consultants who would like to have onsite clinics. The second plan is expected to be approved by Christmas, with work starting just after. As many beds as possible will be retained while work is carried out. The hospital nurses will work more with district nurses, with hospital nurses going out into the community.

b) Ron Davies - Mr Davies spoke about his planning application for the land behind 36 High Street through to Station Street. He explained that he has worked with the District Council to see how the site can be developed to add to housing stock of Bishop's Castle. There was initially a difficulty of including the affordable housing element. This has been solved by demolishing the red barn and bungalow to put six houses on that site and building a further six houses at Castle Green. Mr Davies said he would remain to the end of the meeting to answer any questions.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/07/20106/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of a Biomass Power Plant and alterations to existing vehicular access.

Bishop's Castle Industrial Estate, Crowgate, Bishop's Castle.

Bishop's Castle Biomass Power Ltd.

South Shropshire District Council planning department has advised that this application has been withdrawn

b) 1/07/20112/TC Tree works (conservation area) (Delegated matter) Felling of an acacia, a western hemlock, a silver birch and two pine trees, lopping a maple.

The Middle Bailey, Bull Lane, Bishop's castle. Mrs G Roberts.

Resolved An objection on the grounds that the trees are well away from any property and therefore cause no danger of damage. Anxieties about problems caused by gales can be met by lopping. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

c) 1/07/20130/CM Application by the County Council seeking planning permission for installation of extension to existing demountable youth service building.

The Community College, Brampton Road, Bishop's castle.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

d) 1/07/20114/F Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling.

14 Corporation Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs D Collins.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

e) 1/07/20119/TC Tree works (conservation area) (Delegated matter) Reduce in height yew trees.

The Old Vicarage, Church Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr G. S. Hemmings.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Holton.

f) 1/07/20146/F Planning permission (Full) (Delegated matter) Erection of an extension and alterations to dwelling and erection of a domestic garage.

Brooklyn House, Woodbatch Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr R. A. Kimber.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Pinches.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Georgie Ellis reported on the following:-

a) Biomass plans. She has had an enormous post bag. She thanks people for writing but will not be able to answer all the letters individually.

b) Proposal for Childrens Centre at primary school. Cllr. Ellis asked for any thoughts on this matter to be sent to herself or Frances Phelps. There will be a consultation meeting in January.

c) Closure of the abattoir. There has been a big meeting with all concerned. There is a big demand to keep an abattoir in business. Advantage West Midlands are prepared to pay a salary for a marketing manager for one year.

d) Primary schools - Cllr. Ellis reminded Councillors that many children from Bishop's Castle are sent to Lydbury North or Norbury because they are church schools. Lydbury North could be one of the schools under threat.

e) Unitary - There have been 29 councillors on the Joint Implementation Board. This is to be reduced to 19 until the 2009 election of members of the Unitary Authority.

8. QUALITY COUNCIL

The Mayor advised Councillors that Bishop's Castle Town Council has achieved the Quality Status. He thanked Mrs Ince, the Clerk and Cllr. Carroll, previous Mayor for their hard work in preparing the application. He went on to explain that the Quality Status lasts for four years when we have to reapply. To do this we must ensure we have a qualified Clerk or a Clerk working towards qualification and Clerk and Councillors will have to show they have undertaken training in this time. Cllr. Gaffney went on to explain that we are not sure at present what extra roles we will be able to take on but one he thought would be appropriate is the management of the Crowgate recycling site.

9. PRECEPT

Resolved (unanimous) To set the precept for 2008/9 at £44,320 the same as last year. The Mayor noted that this would produce a slight decrease in residents council tax contribution for the Town Council. He continued that the Town Council will still be in a position to expand and improve services by increasing the hours of the Clerk, making provision for management of green spaces, a track to the allotments, extra help at the farmers markets, help at the Crowgate recycling site and lighting of footpaths. All other Council responsibilities will be adequately covered. Proposed by Cllr. Wright and seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

Cllr. Carroll spoke about the possibility of a Youth Council. To be discussed at another meeting.

10. STREET CLEANING

Resolved To request the District Council to employ a street cleaner in Bishop's Castle for one extra day a week. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

11. SALARY INCREASE

Resolved An increase in the Clerk's salary from £8.387 per hour to £8.595, back dated to April 2007 in line with NALC recommendations and the new salary scales. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

12. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST -

Cllr. Gaffney explained that there is a meeting on 17th December where the initial Board will be appointed. At this meeting the Community Land Trust will invite the Town Council to send two representatives to sit on this Board.

Resolved Cllrs Stanley and Holton to be the Council representatives. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney and seconded by Cllr. Hird.

13. CROWGATE RECYCLING CENTRE

Cllr. Hird reported that he has written to Bill Jones, South Shropshire District Council explaining the problems at the Crowgate recycling centre. Cllr. Pinches suggested a camera would deter fly tippers.

Resolved The Town Council make every effort to take over the management of this site, not including the fortnightly skips or the collection of fly tipped waste. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Hird.

14. ACCOUNTS

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllrs Carroll and Stanley reported back from the Enterprise South West Shropshire Board meeting. Cllrs Carroll and Stanley had hoped that ESWS Board members could discuss the hours and salary of the Chief Executive. Discussion on the matter was difficult because the Chief Executive was not present and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board chose not to discuss it. Several members were absent and others unavoidably late. Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council gave some good advice. Changes in Board structure have been recommended and the Board must think about which direction it is going in. The part of Enterprise South West Shropshire on show at Enterprise House is run very well by Mike Ashwell and his Staff but the regeneration side is not doing very well. For example it did not give the support to keep the abattoir open that was expected of it.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the Town Council representative to the Board of Enterprise South West Shropshire express the Town Council's disquiet at the lack of a frank discussion on the role, performance and remuneration of ESWS members of staff, especially the Chief Executive. The Town Council would like an appropriate evaluation to be carried out as soon as possible. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll reported on a PACT meeting. As few people attend these meetings it was agreed to hold two PACT meetings a year, one of which is attached to the Lets Talk meeting. In place of these meetings the Police would like to hold surgeries at the Town Hall from 7.00 - 7.30pm on the same evenings as Council meetings.

20a) CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Letter from Shropshire County Council regarding road closure at Clun Bridge.

(ii) Letter from Shropshire County Council regarding village speed limits.

(iii) Letter from Mrs Green regarding planning application 1/07/20188/F.

(iv) Letter from Shropshire County Council regarding the temporary closure of footpath 30.

(v) E-mail from Cllr. Peter Phillips encouraging people to attend the Scrutiny Panel discussing Primary Schools Policy.

b) Circulation

(i) Stone House Forum - Notes on meeting on 26th October 2007.

(ii) SALC Annual report 2006-7

(iii) The Playing Field

(iv) Speaking Out - West Midlands LGA

(v) LCR

(vi) Clerks and Councils Direct

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Minutes 6 November 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2007 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J. E. Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J.E. Gaffney, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, K.E.C. Pinches M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr. Morris and Cllr. Hird Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Farr.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as she is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr. Holton declared a personal interest in item 10 as she is a member of The House on Crutches museum and BCHRC.

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is a Trustee of the Old Castle Land Trust.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 9b(x) as she is an owner of the adjacent property.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 16th October 2007, having been

circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Holton.

Item 6c line 7 should read "Cllr. Stanley voted against".

Item 17 line 12 should read "It may have to be on play facilities."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

1. MATTERS ARISING

Item 8 Affordable Housing - A letter from Paul Sutton, Managing Director, South Shropshire Housing Association was read explaining the letting policy of affordable houses. The Mayor is to invite Mr Sutton to speak at a future meeting.

From previous meetings:-

(i) Cllr. Carroll reported on a meeting about the future of the Crowgate Child Centre. The County Council has decided to build a new child care facility at the primary school site. It is to be built by next year. This will allow the Crowgate nursery to move but will not give any expansion to services and the capacity will be slightly less. Lisa Bedford, Regeneration Officer, South Shropshire District Council had hoped for an expansion which would include babies and after school facilities. She is seeking grant funders to build an extension to the planned building.

(ii) The Clerk reported that the Project Planning grant application for the Town Hall renovation has been posted.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

(i) Heather Ladyman - (Treasurer of the Allotments Association) asked the Council to consider budgeting for the improvement of the track across the bike track to the allotments.

(ii) Andrew Cunningham - (Bishop's Castle Group representative) explained to Councillors that the Bishop's Castle Group had a meeting with the Biomass developers, with Phillip Dunne (M.P) present. Mr Dunne is to ask the District Council for an extension to the planning period.

Cllr. Gaffney moved that item 14 be brought forward and discussed before item 7. Seconded by Dr. Penney and approved.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

1/07/20069/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a log store with roof top seating area. (delegated matter)
10 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Lynn Townsend.

Resolved No objection. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Magill.

b) Reports of Planning Applications

(i) 1/07/19946/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a balcony (delegated matter)

Chapel View, Station Street, Bishop's Castle, G. Price.

Planning permission granted.

14. PROPOSED BIOMAS PLANT

Request from the Bishop's Castle Group for a referendum on the proposed Biomass plant under LGA1972 para 3 sch. 12, para 18, sub para 4 and 5.

Cllr. Gaffney explained that the Bishop's Castle Group decided not to call a referendum at their meeting yesterday evening.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that in view of this decision the agenda item be dropped. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and agreed.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Georgie Ellis (District Councillor) reported on the new arrangements for getting planning for housing. Applicants wishing to build for the open market are required to pay £30,000 when the property is sold. (Up until now it has been £60,000 when planning is granted). Applicants who are prepared to sell or pass on property within the affordable criteria will not pay.

She also reported that there have been a lot of meetings about the proposed Primary school closures. Shropshire receives a low per capita grant from the government at present. The formula is to be altered but there is no knowledge as to how it will change. Cllr. Ellis reported that the County Council is now looking for 1.2 million pounds of savings.

Cllr. Ellis then spoke about the plans for the Crowgate child centre. She was asked if the centre will be independent of the Primary School. She said it would be.

The Children's Services of the County Council would look favourably on the Crowgate Team running it but tenders would have to be sought. The cheapest would not necessarily be taken but the best for the community.

Cllr. Ellis then went on to talk about the abattoir. There is to be a meeting with vendors, wholesalers and suppliers. They are looking for someone who will revive it as an abattoir. It is an industrial site and will have to be used as such.

8. RESIGNATION OF THE CLERK

The Clerk has given notice that she intends to retire on 31st January 2008.

Resolved (unanimous)

a) Cllrs Carroll, Gaffney, Dr. Penney, Magill and Wright to form a working group to conduct interviews and recommend an appointment.

b) The new Clerk to be employed for 22 hours per week on SCP 15 or higher if experienced. The Mayor explained to Councillors the increase in hours would involve approximately 3% increase in the Councils budget. If possible the new clerk will work part time in January with Mrs Ince and Mrs Ince to work some hours in February to help the new Clerk.

Proposed by Cllr. Wright and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

9. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

All changes to take effect from 1st April 2008.

(i) Town Hall cleaners salaries. Cllr. Wright proposed an increase to £6.50 per hour. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll. The proposition fell by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and passed by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention.

(ii) Street cleaners salary. Increase to £6.00 per hour. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Carroll. The proposition fell by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and passed by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention.

(iii) Toilet cleaners salary. Increase to £6.00 per hour. Proposed by Cllr. Wright, seconded by Cllr. Carroll. The proposition fell by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no change. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and passed by 5 votes to 4 with one abstention.

(iv) Mayors allowance. Increase to £340. Proposed by Cllr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved.

(v) Hire of Town Hall. Increase to £39 per day or £6.50 per hour whichever is cheaper. Proposed by Cllr. Holton. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

(vi) Hire of Friday market stall. Increase to £6.60. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

(vii) Hire of Farmers market stall. To remain the same. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

b) **Resolved** that the following are recommended by Council for the preparation of the budget.

(i) Training costs for Clerk and Councillors. £125 budgeted for this year and not spent to be carried forward. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Magill.

(ii) Repair and renewal of street furniture. £500 to be budgeted. Proposed by Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Farr.

(iii) Town centre enhancement. (Hanging baskets etc.) £300 to be budgeted. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Magill. (9 votes to 2)

(iv) Playing Field supervision. £3,500 to be budgeted. Proposed by Cllr. Wright and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

(v) Weeding in playing fields. £1,000 to be budgeted. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley, seconded by Cllr. Wright.

(vi) Footpaths - surfacing. £2000 budgeted. The money not spent this year to be carried forward. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Magill.

(vii) Allotments. £1,000 to be budgeted for the work on the track. Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Magill.

(viii) Donations. £1,500 to be allocated for donations. proposed by Cllr. Pinches, and seconded by Cllr. Carroll.

(ix) Reserves - The reserves for the Town hall renovation and new street lighting to be carried forward. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney and seconded by Cllr. Farr.

(x) Town Hall renovation. No extra money to be allocated. Proposed by Cllr. Gaffney and seconded by Cllr. Pinches

(xi) Footpath lighting - £1000 suggested. Decision to be taken at the Councils next meeting in the light of the Precept required by the rest of the budget.

Proposed by Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Magill.

10. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Resolved The following offers for financial support under section 137 of the Local Government Act are to be made.

Old Castle Land Trust	£50	
South Shropshire Talking Newspapers		£50
Hope House Children's Hospices	£50	
Dial a ride	£50	
House on Crutches museum	£50	
BCHRC	£50	

£50 also to be awarded to Citizens Advice Bureau.

Cllr. Farr reminded Councillors of last year's decision to allocate only £600 for applications of financial support. £195 has already been distributed, leaving only £405 for these applications. After the above payments £55 is still available for future applications in this financial year.

Proposed by Cllr. Farr and seconded by Cllr. Stanley.

11. WASTE BIN AT OAK MEADOW

Resolved: A waste bin to be provided by the new play area in Oak Meadow. Proposed by Cllr. Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

12. PROPOSED SCHOOL CLOSURES

Resolved: A strong letter to be written to Ann Hartley, Cabinet member for Children's Services, Shropshire County Council deploring the closure of primary schools. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Wright.

13. CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS.

Resolved: The following is adopted and added to Bishop's Castle Town Council standing orders.

"Members of the Public are allowed to attend meetings of the council for the purpose of making representations, giving evidence or answering questions."

Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney and seconded by Cllr. Holton.

15. ACCOUNTS -

16. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

17a) CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk explained that a letter has been received from Derek Latimer, a blue badge holder, who has received a Town Council letter for parking in the passing bay. The Clerk explained that Blue badge holders are entitled to do this. Councillors agreed to be more careful and a letter of apology will be sent to Mr Latimer.

(b) Circulation

(i) Shropshire Hills AONB Annual Review

(ii) Wasteless Society Newsletter

(iii) Proposed Biomas Plant, Gill and Jim Lawler

(iv) West Mercia Police Authority.

(v) A healthier future- The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.