

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 06/01/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON JANUARY 6th 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C Pinches, Deputy Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, Dr.G.N.St.J.Penney,
M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr J Gaffney (Business Trip), Cllr S. Farr (ill), Cllr J Magill (holiday), Cllr J Morris (Work) Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney, seconded by Cllr Holton and approved

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest in Item 6d as the applicant is his son.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in Item 6d as a family member is a patient of the applicant.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in Item 9 as he is Treasurer of the Bishop's Castle Group.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in Item 11 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society who are promoting this.

Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in Item 6a as she is a director of ESWS.

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in Item 6a as she is on the board of ESWS

B) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in Item 11 as she has a business adjoining the Town Hall.

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in Item 17 as she has a business adjoining the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections: in Item 18, the last sentence should read: "...with a ceiling of £50.00 subject to the approval by the Council or the mayor or mayor's deputy." Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney

The minutes were approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. The clerk has received an email from the fire service concerning the removal of white lines. In general they don't believe the change to yellow would make any difference to ease of access. The Clerk is still waiting to hear from the ambulance service.

2. The light at the bottom of Castle St/ Welsh St cannot be reinstalled on No 15. The Clerk is going to contact Mr & Mrs Taylor at number 13 about it. To appear on next agenda.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/08/21034/F Planning Permission (Full)

Erection of extension to provide office accommodation and installation of a (replacement) external staircase. Enterprise House Station St Bishop's Castle

South Shropshire District Council. Cllr Hird proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

b) 1/08/21382/F Planning permission (Full)

Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling.

1 Station St Bishop's Castle

Mr R Bunting. Cllr Wright proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

c) 1/08/21278/F Planning Permission (Full)

Erection of a timber storage barn, Greenfields Farm. Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle

Mr A Jones. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

d) 1/08/21399/F Planning Permission (Full)

Erection of 2x holiday let units and a summerhouse. The Old Surgery, Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Dr A Penney. Cllr Holton proposed no objection,

seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

e) 1/08/21432/TC Tree Works Conservation Area.

Fell Leylandii and a holly bush, reduce height and width of border hedging plants. Unicorn House, 64 Church St, Bishop's Castle Ms Susan Rose.

Cllr Wright proposed objection as although he had no objection to the trimming of the trees, the applicants should not have access to the public car park as it would restrict two places. Cllr Wright proposed the clerk should write to property services about this matter. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

f) Any other plans

g) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/08/21174/F

Erection of a shower block and use of land for the storage of 10 further caravans. Foxholes Montgomery Rd Bishop's Castle Mrs Wendy Jones

Planning permission approved.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

County Cllr Peter Phillips sent two letters, one confirming his opposition to the Biomass plant and the second referring to the Wintles' pole and his efforts to get it removed.

8. LAND AT KERRY GREEN, BISHOP'S CASTLE.

South Shropshire Housing Association would like the Town Council's agreement to proceed with the transfer of this piece of land. Cllr Carroll

proposed that we accept this seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

9. REPRESENTATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AT THE BIOMASS INQUIRY.

Cllr Wright proposed that as Mr Dawes would be speaking for the Bishop's Castle Group, and that this would give the Town Council the opportunity to question the applicants, the Council should form a united front with the Bishop's Castle Group. Seconded by Cllr Hird and approved.

10. ROSPA INSPECTION FOR OAK MEADOW PLAY AREA.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this Council ensures, before taking over the play area, that the District Council's Inspection certificate is in date.

Seconded by Cllr Hird and approved.

Cllr Stanley left the Chamber and took no part in the discussion.

11. PHOTO-VOLTAIC CELLS FOR THE TOWN HALL ROOF.

Cllr Hird explained that several public buildings in this Town are looking into photo-voltaic cells and that there is funding available. He proposed a feasibility study, and to seek Listed Building Consent. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

Cllr Stanley returned to the Chamber.

12. ADVERTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

The clerk has prepared a "directory" style for the adverts, does the Council want to move to this style, and what cost would the Council suggest. Cllr

Wright proposed that this was left on the table for the clerk to clarify matters. Seconded by Cllr Carroll.

13. COUNTY-WIDE MARKET TOWNS PARTNERSHIP.

Cllr Carroll proposed that this matter should be left until after the forthcoming Six Towns Meeting. Seconded by Cllr Stanley.

14. BISHOP'S CASTLE ABATTOIR.

1) The Town Council has been asked to approach the South Shropshire District Council for some disbursement funds on behalf of the purchasers of the abattoir. District Councillor Ellis explained that the SSDC were awaiting the sale of some land before granting any disbursements. Cllr Carroll

proposed that a letter could be sent requesting money for the abattoir as and when funds become available. Seconded by Cllr Furber and approved.

2) Should the Town Council buy shares in the abattoir.

Cllr Hird proposed that the clerk write to the people involved as the Council could not buy shares in this company without first seeing a prospectus.

Seconded by Cllr Stanley and approved.

15. THE NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME. INFORMATION ONLY.

The Clerk explained that the old model for Council's to publicise their workings expired on the 31st December 2008 and a new model would be

available to view in January 2009. As this Council has a website, and publishes agendas and minutes, the new model should not be very different.

16. REPLACEMENT OF LIGHT AND BRACKET OUTSIDE SHELLEY CASTLE ST.

The clerk explained that this light has been out for 6 months. The contractors recommend replacing the lantern at a cost of £249.36. This would

also involve the cost from e-on to remove the supply and fit a double pole isolator so that a new light can be connected. Cllr Dr Penney proposed

that we leave the light as it is part of the new lighting scheme for Bull Lane/Castle St, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

Cllr Stanley left the Chamber and took no part in the discussion.

17. LIGHTS AND SHADES IN THE TOWN HALL.

The clerk explained that several shades have been broken in the Market Hall. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Clerk is given permission to sort out the lights as she sees fit, seconded by Cllr Holton and approved.

Cllr Stanley returned to the Chamber.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

19a) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation from SALC to attend information evenings.

b) Circulation

1. SALC AGM Motion concerning Affiliation fees.

2. LCR

3. Your Views Count. Police Service.

4. Communities in Control

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.15

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 03/02/2009

Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3rd 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr M Stanley (Unwell) Proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Holton

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllrs Carroll, Gaffney and Wright declared a personal interest in item 6a as they all have businesses in the town centre and this plan would remove potential shop premises.

Cllr Carroll and Cllr Dr Penney declared a personal interest in item 8 as they are members of the Town Twinning committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections: in item 6e the sentence should read: "the applicants should not make an access to the public car park as it would restrict two parking places." and before item 17 omit "Cllr Stanley left the room and took no part in the discussion." Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

1. The clerk has contacted the residents of 13 Welsh Street about the new street light. They are happy to have it on their property.

2. The Clerk has received a cheque from Severn Trent for £33.85 as interest on monies paid for work on the allotments.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mr Colin King spoke on behalf of The Marches Community Choir. He explained that the chorale and orchestra from St Marcel

will be visiting Bishop's Castle in July. They had four requests: 1) Permission to use the Town Crest on a gift for each member of the French group.

2) To use the Town Hall as a venue for their welcome on Thursday 2nd July. 3) They wished the Mayor and other Councillors would attend the reception at Walcot Hall on Friday 3rd July. 4) They have a shortfall in their finances and would welcome a donation.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/09/21497/F Planning permission (Full) Change of use, conversion and extension of ground floor commercial unit to form additional residential accommodation. 34 High St. Bishop's Castle SY9 5BQ Mr R Davies.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

b) Any other plans

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/08/21062/O Erection of a dwelling. Plot at the North East end of Station St Bishop's Castle. J Bateson This application has been withdrawn.

d) 1/08/21382/F Erection of extension and alterations to dwelling. Mr R Bunting 1 Station St Bishop's Castle Granted, subject to conditions.

e) 1/08/21366/F Erection of extension to dwelling. The Mount Bull Lane Bishop's Castle. Mrs H Willis. Granted, subject to conditions.

f) 1/08/21034/F Erection of extension to provide office accommodation and installation of a (replacement) external staircase. Enterprise House Station St Bishop's Castle. SSDC Granted.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ellis began by reminding Councillors that the proposals outlined in the Core Strategy on Issues and Options should be studied closely here as they have been in Shrewsbury and Ludlow. Of special concern is the matter of the 27,000 houses to be built in Shropshire. Cllr Ellis pointed out that the number of houses built would be proportionate to the existing size of the hamlet, village or town.

8 CHOIR VISIT FROM ST MARCEL.

Having considered the requests outlined in item 5, Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council agree to the first three, seconded by Cllr Carroll.

Cllr Pinches proposed a donation of £250.00, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

9. SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEES.(LJCS) FOR INFORMATION.

Cllr Gaffney explained that the LJC for the area of Bishop's Castle, which will replace the Marches Partnership, could potentially be a very large committee as there would be representatives from all local Parish/Town councils. It will take over some of the functions of the Partnership, and will have a budget of around £20,000.

10 CORE STRATEGIES ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Councillors, having attended the meeting on the 29th January at the Community College, had considered the options. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this Council's response should be option E. Cllr Dr Penney felt this option was more flexible than the others. Bishop's Castle needs a mixture of houses and with this option any housing development in Bishop's Castle would be: "in proportion to (its) present size" therefore retaining the socio-economic balance of the Town. Seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

11. APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT FOR PHOTO-VOLTAIC CELLS ON THE TOWN HALL ROOF.

Cllr Hird explained that as yet there has been no reply from the company, Dulas, who have been carrying out a feasibility study on the roof. He proposed that this item is left on the table until a reply is forthcoming.

12 QUOTATION RECEIVED FOR REPAIRS TO THE ROOF.

The clerk has received a quotation from South Shropshire Roofing for £20,360. The clerk explained that other quotations were sought. Councillors read the description of work covered. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council accept this quote, with the addition of a new, retractable flag pole.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

13. TOWN HALL RENOVATION.

Cllr Carroll explained that the Town Hall Renovation group has asked Evelyn Bowles and Richard Moulson to prepare the first stage of the Heritage Lottery Fund application. Evelyn and Richard are prepared to do this at a cost of approximately £2000.00. plus some expenses of around £200(Quotation and explanation circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.) Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council should accept this quotation, seconded by Cllr Penney and resolved.

14. CASTLE GREEN PARKING.

Cllr Magill explained that she has received many complaints about the parking at this junction. She reminded Councillors that the whole junction needs re-aligning, but Shropshire Council do not think it is a dangerous junction. Cllr Magill proposed that the Clerk write to the residents advising them not to park right on the junction or on the bricked surface as that is specifically for lorries to use when rounding the bend from Montgomery Rd. Cllr Magill felt that the clerk should also write to Shropshire Council to ask them to re-align the junction.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

15. A REQUEST FOR NEW BINS.

The Clerk explained that Cllr Stanley had asked this to be on the agenda. Cllr Pinches proposed that there should be one outside the Co-Op, but not the one in the Market Square as there is one outside the Chinese Takeaway. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

16 REQUEST FOR STREET SIGNS ON LABURNUM ALLEY.

Cllr Carroll explained that there are now two houses which are using Laburnum Alley as their address. Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk ask the Highways department for a street sign. As the opening is narrow, the sign should preferably go on the wall of the Pink House. The residents of this house are happy for this to go ahead. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

17. REQUEST FOR A NEW VACUUM CLEANER FOR THE TOWN HALL.

Cllr Carroll proposed the clerk should go ahead with this, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

18. BISHOP'S CASTLE ALLOTMENTS CONFIDENTIAL.

Cllr Carroll requested that this item be moved to the end of the agenda.

19. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR.

The clerk explained that Mr John Nicholls has offered his services again. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council accept him seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

20. BISHOP'S CASTLE LIGHTFOOT COMPANY AND THE HOUSING ENERGY SURVEY

Mr Dave Tomlinson would like to give a 20 minute talk about the work of this company to support a bid for a £300 grant from the Council. Cllr Wright proposed 15 minutes before the next meeting (3rd March) i.e. at 7.45, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

21. GRASS CUTTING IN THE PLAYING FIELDS. (INFORMATION)

The clerk is to invite quotations from three companies for a three year contract.

22. DATE FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

Councillors agreed that this should be on the 7th April 2009

23. BCHRC: PERMISSION TO USE THE WATERCOLOUR OF THE TOWN HALL

The clerk explained that BCHRC would like to use this watercolour to appear on the cover of a SWSHAS/Logaston Press Booklet: Bishop's Castle's Jacobean Market Hall. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council gives its permission, seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

24. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Carroll reported that she had attended a Six Towns meeting where it was agreed that under the new unitary authority, Town Councils should not have to discuss with the County which parts of their service they were willing to abandon. This was not considered to be a reasonable way forward.

Rather, Town Councils should be in a position to decide the appropriate services they could take on. Cllr Carroll proposed that this Council should write to the Implementation Executive drawing attention to this lack of consultation in the decision-making process.

18. BISHOP'S CASTLE ALLOTMENTS CONFIDENTIAL.

Cllr Carroll explained that the Allotment society has been awarded a grant of £7600 from Awards For All which could not be in the public domain until 10th February 2009. The Allotment Society need the Town Council's permission for a compost toilet, a 14`x8` greenhouse, and a 7`x4` communal shed. No allotment space will be used by these developments. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council gives its permission, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

25a) CORRESPONDENCE.

i) Shropshire Core Strategy: Issues and Options. To download this go to:

www.shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire/planning.nsf

The clerk has a copy in the office.

ii) Clerk from Churchstoke requires help with allotments scheme.

iii) Lavender Bank path.

iv) SALC Courses

B) CIRCULATION

i) NALC Legal Briefing

ii) Shropshire Council Highways and Traffic Newsletter

iii) NALC Policy & Parliamentary Consultation

iv) Shropshire Council Update

v) Summary of Shropshire Council's response to the Government Consultation Document: Prosperous Places....

vi) Powys Local Development Plan Newsletter

vii) Clerks and Councils Direct.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

*****PLANS/DETAILS OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEING CONSIDERED WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO INSPECT DURING TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE MEETING, BETWEEN 7.40 P.M. AND 8.00 P.M., OR OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOWN CLERK*****

If you have difficulty reading these minutes an alternative format can be provided.

If you have difficulty with the stairs to the Council Chamber and wish to attend the meeting, please contact the Clerk as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

Bishop's Castle Town SPECIAL Council Meeting 23 February 2009

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 23RD 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, K.E.C. Pinches, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Dr Penney (away) Cllr W.J.Morris (working) Proposed by Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr Holton

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in the matter before the Council as he is Treasurer of the Bishop's Castle group.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: None

The Mayor, Cllr Gaffney moved to suspend the meeting to allow Mr Michael Dawes to speak. Seconded by Cllr Wright.

Mr Dawes spoke for the Bishop's Castle Group, which is representing the Council at the Inquiry into the Biomass Plant.

Mr Dawes explained that the BC Group's specific concerns were to do with the Air quality and Noise of such a plant. The figures for which are not in the public domain. He and the rest of the group felt that to present a satisfactory case, some expertise was necessary to counter the consultants used by the appellants. The District Council has put £100,000 aside to pay for the Inquiry, yet have done nothing. Perhaps some of this money could be used for the acquisition of these consultants. In the interim he wanted to ask the Town Council if it could underwrite this expense, which would be in the region of £5000.

Mr John Rimmer, a member of the public spoke against this proposal. He felt that as a Council Tax payer, he did not think that the Town Council should give this money as not everyone in the town is against the Biomass Plant. He was concerned about a rise in Council Tax.

The Council Meeting was resumed.

1. TO CONSIDER ACQUIRING EXPERT ADVICE TO PRESENT THE COUNCIL'S CASE AT THE BIOMASS INQUIRY.

Cllr Dr Penney, in a letter, outlined his concerns about health issues, the effects on tourism of such a large plant, and said that having already committed some money to fighting this plant we should commit the extra money now.

Cllr Pinches proposed that the Town Council is prepared to spend up to £5000, and that the clerk should write to the District Council asking them to reimburse the Town Council for this expense. Seconded by Cllr Hird.

Councillors voted in favour of this proposal without opposition.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 03/03/2009

Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

Before the meeting at 7.45, Mr. Dave Thomlinson spoke about the work of Light Foot Enterprises, formerly the Wasteless Society. He explained that the company has been running for three years. In that time they have completed on average about 40 Home Energy Surveys a month, helping home owners to cut their energy bills and reduce CO2 emissions. These were mainly in Bishop's Castle and Clun but he went on to say that they were expanding geographically. Due to this expansion, they have been seeking additional funds. Grants have come from the Waterloo Foundation, the Welsh Assembly and a small amount from the Area of Natural Beauty. Most of their revenue goes on staff but they now need to improve their advertising with a banner and table top displays. Light Foot is also hoping for success in the Big Green Challenge to be decided in November. Two members of the company will also be helping with the Town Hall renovation group.

The Council Meeting commenced at 8.00pm.

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

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Wright declared a personal interest in item 6b as he is a friend of the applicant.

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

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

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in Items 17 and 18 as she has a business attached to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. The clerk has received the transfer documents for Oak Meadow and Brick Meadow which have been signed and returned to Medlicott Snows.

2. The clerk has received a copy of the reply from Penny Spencer in response to Cllr Welch's concerns re Environmental maintenance grants discussed at the last 6 Towns meeting, and communication links with Town Councils. The clerk sent a letter to Shropshire County following last meeting and has also received a response.

The whole document is in circulation.

3. Cllrs Register of Interests will have to be completed again this year, sometime in April/May

4. Monitoring officers are doing free road shows at moment, which are well worth a visit.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mr Geoff Grimes has withdrawn his request to speak at this meeting and would like to speak at the next Council Meeting.

Mr R. Fowke spoke about his planning application (item 6b.) He explained that the tree in question is a large Ash tree (or possibly two trees) which is undermining some of their out buildings. They intend to replace it with pear trees and a Yew hedge which should improve the look of the area.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/09/21489/TC Tree Works (Conservation Area) Pruning of a pear tree. Valley Coach House, High St. Bishop's Castle. Mr E D Mason. Cllr Dr Penney proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Pinches.

b) 1/09/21561/TC Tree works (conservation area) Felling of an Ash tree. 23 High St Bishop's Castle. Mr R Fowke, Ms C Denham. Cllr. Pinches proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Holton. Cllrs voted 10-1 in favour

c) Any other plans: None

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

i) 1/08/21399/F Erection of two holiday let units and a summerhouse. The Old Surgery, Bull Lane Bishop's Castle Dr A Penney Granted subject to conditions.

ii) 1/08/21400/CA. Demolition of existing garage. The Old Surgery, Bull Lane Bishop's Castle. Dr A Penney Granted.

iii) 1/08/21278/F Erection of a timber storage barn. Greenfields Farm, Kerry Lane Mr A Jones Granted

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Phillips, in a letter, reported that he has finally got the County Council's agreement that they will remove the Wintle's electricity pole paid for by the bond lodged with the County by the Living Villages Trust.

Cllr Ellis reported that the Local Joint Committees have now been established with the final edition of the new Boundaries .

8. STREET CLOSURE ORDERS

Cllr Magill proposed no objection to the street closures in the Market Square for Sunday April 5th 2009, 10.00-10.30, and on Friday 10th April, 12 noon -12.15 for a short service, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved. Decision

9. REQUEST FROM THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE FOR USE OF THE PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Pinches proposed no objection to the Carnival using the playing fields free of charge with the proviso that they cover their own insurance costs. Seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved. Decision.

10. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF): BROWN FIELD SITES.

Proposed by Cllr Pinches that this Council's response to the LDF is that we ask for the preference for brown field sites to be removed from our proposal. The pre-supposition in Bishop's Castle is not in favour of brown field sites as Councillors feel strongly that the Town has reached the limits of density, in line with other settlements where the same constraints apply. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

11. A REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE LIGHT FOOT COMPANY.

Cllr Carroll proposed that we offer £375.00 and ask the Company for advice on the insulation of the Town Hall roof, and for the second part of the Town Hall energy survey. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

12. A REQUEST FOR A DONATION FROM CRUCIAL CREW.

Bridgnorth and District Crucial Crew have asked for a donation of £5.00 for every Bishop's Castle child attending this year's event . There are 27 children. Cllr Magill proposed that £135.00 should be awarded, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

13. PARKING ON CHURCH ST AND STATION ST BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Concerning Station St., Cllr Gaffney proposed that the clerk should write to Halls Auctioneers requesting that the farmers park more considerately on auction days, to allow the bus to pass, and to write to the County Council to have one white line as agreed previously at the junction of New St and Station St on the East side of the road.

Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

A letter was read out from a shopkeeper on Church St. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the problems on Church St should go on the next agenda. The problems outlined in the letter concerning obstruction and damage to sun blinds however were a legal matter and the police should be informed.

Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

14. GRITTING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

Cllr Gaffney explained that he was particularly concerned with the Housing Association houses on Grange Rd where the elderly are often unable to go out due to the footways being icy. Cllr Gaffney proposed that this Council should ask the County about the possibility of gritting specific footways in the Town and will investigate further in pursuit of revised delegated powers. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

15. DELEGATION/DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS. ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT.

Cllr Gaffney explained the link between this item and item 14. He proposed that he and Deputy Mayor Cllr Pinches should fill in the form together, seconded by Cllr Pinches and resolved.

16. THE PARISH PLAN, THE WAY FORWARD.

Proposed by Cllr Carroll that a copy of the plan should be sent to all Councillors to consider and that it should be on the next agenda. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

17. PHOTO-VOLTAIC CELLS ON THE TOWN HALL ROOF.

Cllr Stanley left the chamber and took no part in this discussion.

Cllr Hird explained the quotation received from Dulas to place a renewable energy system on the roof was for £18,862. The Council could receive a 50% grant for this from the low carbon Building programme, and a further 50% grant from the Community Sustainable Energy Programme. Other Public Buildings in the area were also looking into this, and that we could combine our work with that of the Public Hall. Cllr Carroll proposed that Cllr Hird should go ahead with the grant applications on behalf of the Town Council, and a separate one for the Public Hall. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved. Councillors thanked Cllr Hird for his hard work in pursuing this matter.

18. INSULATION FOR THE ROOF.

Cllr Wright proposed that the Clerk should look into the cost of wool as an insulator for the Town Hall roof, and that the Light Foot Company may be able to help. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

Cllr Stanley returned to the chamber.

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Dr Penney and Cllr Pinches both attended the funeral of Mr Jim Jones who for many years was a pike and mace bearer for the Town Council.

Councillors had attended the Inquiry into the Biomass plant and expressed their disappointment with South Shropshire District Council who offered no evidence whatsoever.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

i) Members Code of Conduct, (DVD and Guide in Circulation) Letter from Veronica Calderbank.

ii) Marches Partnership Farewell party 10th March Public Hall Bishops Castle 5.30-7.30.

iii) CPRE event on 13th March The Future of Rural England. Church Stretton .

cpre@cpreshropshire.org.uk

b) CIRCULATION

i) SALC/SCC meeting update

ii) Electoral services newsletter.

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 31/03/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 31st MARCH 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

At 7.50, Mr Geoff Grimes explained to the Council the: " Buy Local Scheme."

This scheme has been initiated by the Area of Natural Beauty (AONB) which in itself exists to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Shropshire Hills. The Buy Local scheme aims to produce a strong, healthy local economy. The AONB is producing a directory of all businesses which participate in the scheme. There could be many advantages in using locally sourced produce, for example in reducing energy and transport costs, and increasing local employment. If a business wants to join the scheme, there is a £25.00 joining fee. The AONB will assist businesses to grow, in order to preserve the economic future of the area.

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

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved : The following apologies were accepted: Cllr KEC Pinches (Lambing) Proposed by Cllr Holton, seconded by Cllr Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in Item 6B as she is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr Furber declared a personal interest in item 6B as he is a friend of the applicant.

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

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Holton declared a prejudicial interest in item C as she lives close to the planned structure.

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 as she has a business attached to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 3rd March 2008, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Wright with the following corrections:

In the first paragraph of Mr Dave Thomlinson's address, substitute "which carries on some of the work of the Wasteless Society" in place of "formerly the Wasteless Society". In item 4, no 1 should read... "the transfer documents for the play area at Oak Meadow, and the green space at Brick Meadow..." Seconded by Cllr Hird and approved.

b) Minutes of the special Council Meeting on Monday February 23rd 2009 having been circulated were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gaffney with the following corrections: The first sentence of Mr Dawes' comments should read: " Mr Dawes spoke as the representative of the Council...", and the second sentence should read: " Mr Dawes explained that the Council's specific concerns...". The final sentence should read: " ...it could underwrite this expense, which would not exceed £5000." seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. The clerk has received a response from West Mercia police concerning parking in the Town to be discussed in Item 10.

2. The clerk has received an email from Cllr Peter Phillips concerning Local Joint Committees.

3. Cllr Phillips has also sent the clerk the copy of a letter he sent to Mr Graham Biggs addressing the cost to this Council of consultants for the Biomass Inquiry (Special meeting 23.2.09)

4. The LCBS (low carbon based scheme) phase 2 grant for funding the photo-voltaic cells has been refused, hopefully temporarily, as all the money has been used. (Item 17 3.3.09)

5. Cllr Gaffney was unable to send this Council's concerns over brown field sites (Item 10 3.3.09) as the web site would not accept his submission. He has requested a paper copy.

6. Cllr Gaffney has looked into the implications of the delegation/ devolution of services (item 15 3.3.09) and is concerned that the amount of work it is suggested that the Town could take over does not correlate with the money that would be forthcoming. (The clerk advised that Mr Chris Edwards, Delegation/Devolution officer, will be attending the next Council Meeting (28.4.09) and will answer Councillors' queries then.)

7. The clerk has not had time to write to Mr. Graham Biggs about the matter concerning the special meeting, (23.2.09) with reference to the District Council reimbursing the money spent by the Town Council on Consultants for the Biomass Inquiry. The Clerk will write to the Planning Implementation Executive. The clerk has received a letter from Cllr Peter Phillips who has raised this matter with Mr. G Biggs.(see above no 3)

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mr Richard Leadbetter: Concerning planning application:1/09/21603/F &1/09/21604/CA

Erection of an extension to a supermarket and associated warehouse facility. 2. Demolition of a dwelling (15 Church St). Harry Tuffins supermarket.

Mr Leadbetter is very concerned as this is a terrace of two hundred year old houses in a conservation area. No survey seems to have been carried out and he fears that the demolition of No 15 could compromise the structure of his house, no 13. There will be problems of noise and dirt with the demolition and with the extra cars parking, and warehouse noise. The Town will also lose a good dwelling house and the streetscape will be changed irrevocably.

Mr Gwyther is very concerned about the parking on Church St (item 10). Parking is very limited there, and some cars/vans are parked all day reducing the parking space for shoppers. He would like to see better regulation with yellow lines limiting parking.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:To consider response to:

a) 1/09/21610/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of extension to residential care home The Pines Colebatch Bishop's Castle Mr Hicks. Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

b) 1/09/21549/F Planning Permission (Full) Retrospective application for the erection of an agricultural building for housing livestock. Watermead Woodbatch Rd Bishops Castle Mr R Lennox. Cllr Wright proposed no objection as this application is presumably the result of an enforcement order, and the neighbours have not made any objections. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

c)1/09/21603/F & 1/09/21604/CA Planning permission (full) and Conservation Area Consent. 1. Erection of an extension to supermarket and associated warehouse facility 2. Demolition of dwelling (15 Church St) 17 Church St Bishops Castle Harry Tuffins Supermarkets Ltd.

Cllr Wright proposed objection to this plan. He agreed with the points raised in the letter from the Civic Society: demolishing this cottage in a terrace of similar properties in Church St would have a deleterious effect on the street scene of the conservation area. Secondly, it is improper to eliminate a residential property and its garden when housing is so much in demand in the Town. Thirdly, this is a serious over-development of the site. The parking spaces shown on the plans would be inaccessible when deliveries were taking place. Tuffins already has extensive buildings and car parking space behind the supermarket frontage which could be used instead of damaging the conservation area. If permitted, it would create a bad neighbour to properties nearby which suffer already from the traffic the supermarket generates. Cllr Wright also wanted to add that the parking and queuing at the moment is very unsatisfactory but the impact of the traffic and noise on the adjacent properties if this proposal were passed would blight the neighbours' lives. Cllr Gaffney added to this proposal that the loss of an affordable house is absolutely contrary to Council policy. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved. The proposal was upheld 9-1

d) Any other plans

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

i) 1/08/213339/F Erection of extension to dwelling 31 Corporation St Bishop's Castle Mr Darren Price Granted

ii) 1/08/21432/TC Fell leylandii and a holly bush; reduce height and width of border hedging plants Unicorn House 64 Church St Bishops Castle Ms Susan Rose Granted.

7.REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Ellis reported that this is the last evening of the District Council which ends at midnight tonight. Some of the Councillors are to remain on the Implementation Executive until June 5th:Hilary Clayton Smith in Planning, and Jack Williams in Licensing.

The Onny Valley PC Tourism group would like to have links with the Bishop's Castle website to promote their Places To Stay.

Mr Matthews at Bishop's Castle Building Supplies would like to discuss with councillors planting for the screening of the building.

Two long serving councillors on the SSDC have been made Honorary Aldermen: Mr Neville Stevens and Mr Joe Meredith. Many of the officers have retired and some have moved to work for the new Shropshire Council.

Cllr Dr Penney thanked Cllr Ellis for all her hard work, and Cllr Gaffney expressed the appreciation of all Councillors.

8. TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR THE PLAYING FIELDS MAINTENANCE.

The clerk has received three quotations for the grass cutting in the playing fields. Cllr Dr Penney proposed to accept the cheapest quotation seconded by Cllr Hird. Cllr Gaffney proposed that Councillors should accept Fastrack as they have done an excellent job this year and are not the most expensive, seconded by Cllr Carroll. The first motion fell by 3 votes to 8, the second motion was passed by 8 votes to 3 and resolved.

9. TO CONSIDER THE COST OF RENEWING THE TOWN HALL INSURANCE.

The clerk has received the renewal forms from the brokers WPS. Cllr Dr Penney proposed to bring this back to the next agenda, whilst the clerk pursued some more quotations, seconded by Cllr Hird.

10.TO CONSIDER THE PARKING PROBLEMS ON CHURCH ST.

Councillors sympathised with Mr Gwyther's summary of the situation. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that to increase the number of parking spaces, the clerk should write to the businesses in that part of the Town suggesting that they could park off the road where possible. The clerk should also pursue the implementation of the white lines scheme and extend the scheme to Church St. Seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

11.TRANSFER OF LAND AT KERRY GREEN.

The clerk has received a letter from Mr McCaul at the South Shropshire Housing Association. The transfer is going ahead, and Mr McCaul asked if this Council would be prepared to meet the legal costs which could possibly amount to £500.00. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk should reply welcoming the news of the transfer and suggesting that this council would pay for one hour of the solicitor's time up to £225.00 Seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

12. THE PARISH PLAN, THE WAY FORWARD.

Cllr Carroll explained that the Parish Plan needs updating and suggested that a working group of Councillors should be set up to do this. Cllr Carroll was happy to volunteer as was Cllr Magill.

13. SOLAR PHOTO. VOLTAIC SYSTEM ON THE TOWN HALL ROOF AND PLANNING APPLICATION.

Cllr Stanley left the room and took no part in the discussion.

Cllr Hird explained that unfortunately the funding from the Low Carbon Building Scheme has failed as they have run out of money. However, he has applied to Awards For All for £7,000. and a second application has been sent to Communities Sustainable Energies Project for £9431. The Clerk is to send off the planning application.

Cllr Stanley returned to the Chamber.

14.TO CONSIDER THE INADEQUACY OF THE BUS TIME TABLES.

Cllr Wright explained the shortcomings of the time tables, he proposed that the clerk should write to the Transport Officer requesting full time tables to be posted at all stops, as well as on the Town Hall notice board. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

15.TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FROM THE MICHAELMAS FAIR COMMITTEE.

The clerk has received a request from the Michaelmas Fair Committee to put a banner in front of the Town Hall as last year and to erect a stage before the south face of the Town Hall also as last year. They also asked whether a rod could be put permanently underneath the guttering at the top of the south face of the Town Hall so that banners could be placed more easily. Finally they suggested that part of the Town Hall renovation could include flattening that part of the High St immediately below the Town Hall to form a permanent "stage". Cllr Carroll proposed that the Michaelmas Committee should have permission to put the banner up and to erect a stage as last year and that the other suggestions could be put to the Town Hall Renovation Partnership. Seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

16.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

17. Correspondence.

1. Interim Planning Guidance (IPG) on Affordable Housing: Consultation Draft. Document forwarded to Councillors with Agenda.

2.Wintles residents Association Update.

3. Lisa Bedford's new email: lisa.bedford@shropshire.gov.uk

4. Rural Regeneration Zone Conference: Friday 3rd July 10.00am to 1.00pm Ludlow racecourse.

5. General enquiries no. for Shropshire Council, from 1st April: 0345 678 9000

6. Salc Courses: Councils as Employers,Recruitment and Selection of Staff,Community Engagement, The Power of Well Being

b) CIRCULATION

1. Salc ANNUAL Subscription

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.04 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 09/04/2009

MINUTES OF BISHOP'S CASTLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 9TH 2009 AT 8.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Councillor Jim Gaffney, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: M.Davidson Stanley, M.E.Holton, R.D.Wright, J.A.Magill, J.M.Carroll, M. Furber, W.J.Morris, K.E.C.Pinches, S.A.Farr, N. Hird.
Two members of the public.

In attendance: Mrs M. Denton, Town Clerk.

Apologies received from Cllr Dr Penney, Cllr Peter Phillips.

MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ON THE 11TH MARCH 2008.

1. Parking: a group of Councillors met with Council officials to work out where white lines should go, the clerk then had to write to the Police for their permission to change from yellow to white. Unfortunately, although Fire and Ambulance are generally supportive of the move, the police would want yellow lines and Park Right. The debate continues.
2. The salt bin on Union St. The District Council did agree in principle that the plastic bins could have wooden covers. However it is most unlikely that they will fund the wood.

Following on from this, subjects raised concerned:

Anti-social behaviour, which seems to be regularly occurring in the town from Thursday to Sunday, lasting until the early hours of the morning. The Police cannot give us a permanent presence, as the Town is comparatively peaceful.

The common factor seems to be the lateness, is this due to pubs and takeaways staying open too late, which will draw in non-locals. It was suggested that the clerk should write to the Licensing Authority asking them to review the terms of the license.

The grit bin on Union St could be moved to the other side of the road.

The cleaning is not unblocking many of the drains in the Town. It was suggested that they should be thoroughly cleaned at least twice a year.

The nest swing in the playing field has not yet been fixed.

Verges are over-growing at Kennels Bank and at Crowgate. Craven Arms do their own verge cutting. The clerk should find out who does this and what it costs.

The Town Council's blog is up and running. Perhaps people could comment on parking restrictions.

Stone House refurbishment is on hold for a short while but hopefully problems will soon be ironed out. There will be only 10 beds.

There is no news yet about the Wintles development.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 28/04/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 28TH APRIL 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, 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.

Cllr Peter Phillips & Cllr Georgie Ellis

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

Cllr Gaffney suspended the meeting for 30 minutes for Councillors to listen to and question Mr Chris Edwards of Shropshire Council Environmental Management.

Mr Edwards explained that minor environmental maintenance grants exist for Town and Parish Councils to complete minor maintenance works. It used to be £700.00, now it is £3000. With the new Shropshire Council the scheme has widened to include street-scene activities such as litter-picking, road sweeping and graffiti removal. This scheme does not mean that the Shropshire Council will stop doing these activities, but the Town Council can apply for grants for extra maintenance on top of the Shropshire Council's work up to a value of £3000.00.

The Meeting resumed:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Morris (Working), Proposed by Cllr Pinches seconded by Cllr Hird

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

a) Declaration of personal interest:

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Dr Penney with the following corrections: Item 6c) Before the discussion began insert : "Cllr Holton left the room", the vote should read "9-1 Upheld" Following the report insert "Cllr Holton returned" In Item 7 The name "Jack" should be "Jackie" In item 8, the second sentence should read: "Cllr Dr Penney proposed to accept the cheapest quotation of £1377 incl.VAT,seconded by Cllr Hird. Cllr Gaffney proposed that Councillors should accept Fastrack's quotation of £1614.60 incl.VAT, as they have done an excellent job this year and are not the most expensive. (The third company quoted £1800)" In Item 16 the final line should read: "Cllr Dr Penney stated that no account should be settled by way of a cheque made out to cash."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor

4.MATTERS ARISING

1. (23.2.09) The clerk has received a reply from Mr G Biggs concerning the request made from this Council for reimbursement of money spent providing consultants for the Biomass Inquiry. Mr Biggs explained that SSDC could not do this at it would seem that they were supporting this Council's stance over the issue of the Biomass Plant.

2. (31.3.09 Item 11) The clerk has received a reply from Mr McCaul from South Shropshire Housing Association agreeing to our proposals regarding fees.

3. The new lantern has now been fixed by V & W on no 13 Welsh St. We are now awaiting Eon to connect the power supply.

4. The Town Hall renovation Group met last week. They are still in the preliminary stage of general suggestions.

5. (3.2.09 Item 15) The clerk is pursuing the matter of the Bin outside the Co-Op. There seems to be a problem with space, highways may have to be consulted. They have also offered to move the bin from the High St across to the chemists but will need to find out what the objections are.

6.Frances Hall, the new regeneration officer has been to see the clerk. She explained that all the Local Joint Committees will have a senior officer of the Council chairing the meetings as they are anxious to quell fears that our views will not be listened to. She would like to attend the next Council meeting on the 26th May.

7. (3.2.09 Item 16) The clerk has received a reply from Mr. Glyn Shaw refusing our request for a sign at Laburnum Alley. Mr. Shaw also said they were unable to do anything about the Wintles' Pole as it is on a private road.

8. (31.3.09 Item 13) Cllr Hird reported that in the Chancellor's Budget £45m was allocated to the Low Carbon Building Scheme phase 2, so there are now possibilities of receiving some help. He also felt more quotations are needed for the woolen insulation of the roof.

9. Cllr Carroll has met with arborealist Sue Cooper concerning the trees for screening BCBS. Ms Cooper advised planting on the ditch side of his fence to cover both the fence and the building. The planting will be of native species and should commence in October.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 09/00231/FUL & 09/00232/LBC Erection of a sunroom and detached workshop/garage. The Conery, Stank Lane, Lydbury North .Cllr Wright proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Pinches and resolved.

b) Any other plans: None

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

i) 1/09/21489/TC Pruning of a pear Tree. Mr E D Mason Granted.

ii) 1/09/21497/F Change of use, conversion and extension of ground floor commercial unit to form additional residential accommodation. Mr R Davies Granted

7. REPORT BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Georgie Ellis expressed her concern over the difficulties at the Public Hall and the licensing of their dances. There was concern over the action taken by the police on the night in question. Cllr Ellis also wanted to correct an error that was in Cllr Phillips "Annual Report" in which he stated that Cllr Ellis had "prevented" a discussion on anomalies arising from the Haining Croft planning application. This was in fact not true, as Cllr Ellis was unable to discuss these matters due to legal restrictions.

Cllr Ellis has also been in touch with Tom McCabe and asked him to come to Bishop's Castle to look at the employment opportunities, the business park and funding for the Community Land Trust. Mr Jake Berriman has also mentioned that a scheme has been adopted to put as much capital into the Community Land Trust project as possible.

Cllr Peter Phillips wished to express his thanks to all concerned after working closely with this Council for many years. Bishop's Castle Council, he said, is treated with respect and the Town Council had to be congratulated on that.

He expressed his disappointment over the lack of movement on the Wintles' Pole affair, and his concerns over the running of SpARC, the theatre staff have gone, as have the grants for Arts and Sports. On a more positive note, ESWS has finally received the funding from the Football Foundation for the MUGA (multi use games area) and the Hospital refurbishment is also going ahead.

Councillor Gaffney expressed his thanks for both Councillors and wished them both luck in the forthcoming elections.

8.A REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS.

Councillors felt that Standing Orders needed only one amendment, which was in Item 70. This should read " A member of the public, or a Councillor who has declared a prejudicial interest in any other matter on the agenda, may address the Council within the meeting for a maximum of 3 minutes, if they have given their name to the Clerk before the meeting."

9. UP THE POLE PLANTERS

As three of the planters are awaiting repair the clerk wondered whether to seek quotations only for the ones that are not broken.

The broken ones need new inset and carrots. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk should check the guarantees and replace the parts that have failed, seconded by Cllr Pinches and resolved.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the clerk seeks a price for those planters which are in place, seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

10. PUBLIC HALL CHARITY EVENT STOPPED.

Councillors expressed their outrage and bemusement at the police preventing this event from happening. Councillors stated that the Public Hall does not have a bad reputation, and that the police have every opportunity to put forward their concerns through the licensing procedure. Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk should write immediately to Inspector McKail outlining Councillors outrage at this unjustified action. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

11.PROBLEMS FOR CHILDREN CROSSING KERRY LANE.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that the clerk should write to Shropshire Council requesting a road sign for traffic calming, and that we could paint a line where the playing fields drive meets the road, and cut back the bushes as far as possible, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

12. LABURNUM ALLEY / CASTLE GREEN JUNCTION REQUESTS.

Concerning the Castle Green junction Cllr Gaffney proposed that the clerk should write to Shropshire Council and complain about the lack of implementation of the plan that they have got. It was a condition of the planning application that this junction should be made safe. Concerning Laburnum Alley, this Council will investigate an acceptable sign. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

13. LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE.

Cllr Wright proposed that Cllr Carroll should be the representative, seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved.

14. BUSINESS RATE REFERRAL SCHEME.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that we would defer payment, seconded by Cllr Farr and resolved.

15. TOWN COUNCIL INSURANCE.

The clerk reported that two brokers had looked into the insurance and neither could match the original quotation. Last year's insurance amount was £2250.48, this year's is £2324.05

16. DOES THIS COUNCIL STILL WANT TO RECEIVE PAPER COPIES OF PLANS.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council would want to receive paper copies of plans seconded by Cllr Pinches and resolved.

17. SHOULD THIS COUNCIL APPLY FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE LEASE ON THE ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr Gaffney proposed that we should apply for a 99 year lease, seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Carroll reported that she had attended a Southern Area Forum. There is £160,000 available to spend over the Southern area and the Partnership seems to be working.

19. Correspondence.

1. From Peter Phillips to Phil Crossland re Street Works in Bishop's Castle

2. From Graham Biggs re Costs at Biomass Inquiry.

b) Circulation

1.Strategy and Development Newsletter No 2

2. ICO Freedom of Information DVD

3. LJC Final recommendations

4. Peter Phillips on Tom McCabe's Visit.

5. Shropshire Playing Fields Association.

6. Explanation of Business rate referral.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 26/05/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON MAY 26th 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, M. Stanley.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

The Mayor suspended the meeting to allow Ms Frances Hall from Shropshire Council to talk about the Local Joint Committees (LJCs). Ms Hall began by saying that the LJCs are intended to be a way for town and parish councils to wield influence with Shropshire Council. There are thirteen parishes therefore 3 unitary Councillors will attend with 1 in the Chair. There will be elected representatives from each parish. There will be 4 open meetings a year when members of the public can attend, but only the representatives have a vote. These should be seen as an opportunity to bring people to account for their actions/decisions.

£49,000 has been allocated for each LJC, which must be spent between the thirteen parishes.

The first meeting is on the 7th July in the Public Hall in Bishop's Castle and will be an open meeting. There is also a pre-meeting on the 16th June at SpArc. for representatives from each parish.

Ms Hall will be based in Bridgnorth, but will be at Enterprise House for one day a week, either a Tuesday or a Thursday.

Councillors thanked Ms Hall for this information.

The Mayor resumed the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved : The following apologies were accepted: Cllr J Gaffney,(Away) Cllr J Wright,(Away). Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney, seconded by Cllr Hird.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Magill declared a personal interest in item 6e 3 as she is a friend of the applicant.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in items 8 & 11 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 6d as the appellants are neighbours.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 as she has a business in the attached building.

Cllr Hird declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 as Natasha Hird is his daughter.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Dr Penney, and seconded by Cllr Holton

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Hird reported that the Budget had allocated £45 million for the LCBP (Low Carbon Building Phase, so he was hopeful of getting a grant for the pv cells. The Historic Buildings Inspector does not have any problem with pv cells. He added that the Town Hall Renovation Partnership should meet with Sarah Lowe as she could input valuable information. Cllr Hird was going to approach the Community Fund for but would have to do it in conjunction with Enterprise House and the Public Hall.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: Mr Wilkinson.

Mr Wilkinson of Autolycus explained that it was difficult running a business when vehicles, especially vans parked right in front of his windows.

Often, vehicles park on the pavement and compromise the safety of pedestrians particularly those with push chairs or in wheel chairs, who are forced into the road on what is a blind corner.

He would like the Town Council to put some bollards along the pavement in that area.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that Item 16 should be brought forward, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

6. REQUEST FOR BOLLARDS

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Council should request four bollards specifically for this site as it is a blind corner, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 09/00359/FUL erection of a stand alone Eco Study Centre, Bishop's Castle Community College, Brampton Rd. Bishop's Castle Cllr. Hird proposed this Council supports this application, seconded by Cllr. Magill and resolved unanimously.

b) 09/00374/FUL erection of extension to a dwelling. 10 Coronation Cottages, Lydham Bishop's Castle. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this application should be sent back to Lydham as this Council does not consider their applications, seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

c) 09/00400LBC & 09/00399/FUL Installation of a flue. Unicorn House 64, Church St Bishop's Castle. Cllr Stanley proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr. Morris and resolved.

d) 09/00574/FUL Erection of an extension to a dwelling, demolition and relocation of a dormer window and insertion of a roof light. 23 High St Bishop's Castle. Mr. R. Fowke.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed no objection with the following proviso that it has been drawn to this Council's attention that a right of way exists which passes through the shop.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection without this proviso, seconded by Cllr Stanley. Voting was 4 in favour, 6 against therefore the amendment fell. Cllr

Morris seconded the original proposition, which was upheld by 6 votes to 4.

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

i) 1/08/20643/F Erection of 2x affordable dwellings. Land behind 58 Church St. Bishop's Castle. Clare and Jonathan Greig. Granted

ii) 1/08/20895/F Erection of a dwelling. Revised scheme. Land at Turnpike Cottage 10 Kerry Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mrs P Matthews. Granted.

iii) 1/09/21561/TC Felling of an ash tree. 23 High St. Bishop's Castle. Mr R Fowke & Ms C Denham. Granted

iv) 1/09/21610/F Erection of extension to residential care home The Pines, Colebatch, Bishop's Castle. Granted

7. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ellis gave what could have been her last report in which she stated her concerns about how planning is going to work under the unitary authority. She recommended that all Town Councillors must read each planning application well and ensure that plans are photocopied for our records. Councillors should continue to voice their feelings about plans.

SpARC: Hopefully, there will be a representative from the Town Council on the users group who can feed ideas to the new Council.

She finished by saying what a pleasure it has been working with Bishop's Castle Town Council, and that we must keep up with the good work.

8.THE WASTELESS SOCIETY AT CROWGATE.

The change from the South Shropshire District Council to the new Unitary Council is having a damaging effect on the waste collection at Crowgate.

Cllr Hird proposed that this Council should: 1) double the money paid to Andrew Broome, 2) pressurise Shropshire Council into putting up CCTV on the site and 3) start collecting cardboard within the compound. This waste collection is a Town asset and should not be allowed to diminish.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and resolved.

9. LOCAL CONNECTIONS.

Cllr. Hird left the room and took no part in the following discussion.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this Council passed all three as being local, seconded by Cllr Morris. Cllr Stanley raised an amendment that the Lennox boys are local but she was unsure of Natasha Hird. Seconded by Cllr Carroll. The vote taken was 4 in favour, 5 against this amendment. The vote on the original proposal was 5 in favour and 4 against, therefore the amendment fell, and the original proposition stood.

Cllr Hird returned to the room.

10.COUNCIL LAND TO THE NORTH OF ENTERPRISE HOUSE.

This land has been left vacant due to Embreys relocating. It is bad for the Town to have a derelict site like this; it also represents a drop in income for Enterprise South West Shropshire. It would be very useful for the Town if it could be used for Office space.

It was proposed by Cllr Stanley that this Council should write to the Estates office at the Shropshire Council to see what if anything is being

proposed for this site and to state that this Council will expect the Council to enforce the agreement to return the land to its original state.

Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

11.QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY ENERGY & THE WASTELESS SOCIETY.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that this questionnaire should be delivered with the June News, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

12.NEW FLAG POLE

It was proposed by Cllr Hird that this Council purchase a new, 3.5m high flag pole for the Town Hall, seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

13. REQUEST FROM THE CARNIVAL COMMITTEE.

Cllr Stanley left the room and took no part in the following discussion.

Cllr Magill proposed that there was no objection to the Carnival wishing to have a banner across the Town Hall as last year, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

Cllr Stanley returned to the room.

14.REQUEST FROM THE MICHAELMAS FAIR COMMITTEE.

Cllr Stanley proposed that there should be no objection to the Michaelmas Fair using the recreation field as long as they bear the cost of the insurance. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

15.REQUEST FOR WHITE LINES.

Cllr Farr proposed that this Council objects to the white lines being placed at the junction of Corporation St and Union St as there were few problems on that junction, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

17. ROAD CLOSURE FOR MAYOR'S SUNDAY.

High St and Church St will be closed from 10-45 - 11.00, and 11.45 - 12.00 Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

18.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Stanley reported that Enterprise South West Shropshire had been successful with their application for a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and that there were still problems with the running of SpARC

19. Correspondence.

1. Establishing Local Connections. South Shropshire Housing Association.

2. Marches Community Choir. revised date for St Marcel visit

3. SALC Course on Planning Monday 8th June Shirehall Shrewsbury.

b) Circulation

1. Customer First Point from Cllr Peter Phillips.

2. SALC New Tools in the Box For Local Councils.

3. From Cllr Phillips re Teme Leisure

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 23/06/2009

Draft MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, 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, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Farr (family illness), Cllr Furber (away) Cllr Stanley (Away) Proposed by Cllr Gaffney, seconded by Cllr Hird.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest: Cllr N Hird declared a personal interest in item 18 as he is a member of the Bishop's Castle Group.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday May 26th 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Carroll with the following corrections: Cllr W.J.Morris should be listed as those councillors present. In item 2, Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 9. In item 4, the first sentence should read: ".(Low carbon Building Programme phase 2.." and the last sentence should read ".to approach the Community Fund for a grant.." In item 8, no 1 Should read; "double the money paid to the wasteless society, which could allow them to pay for some extra hours for Andrew Broome. Item 18 The amount paid to Lexis Nexis should read "£59.05". Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

b) The Annual Town Meeting minutes were not the correct ones for this year and will be considered at another meeting.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1.Cllr Hird reported that he was unable to procure a grant for the photo voltaic cells on the roof from the Community Fund as there was insufficient evidence given that this is a community project. He is re applying to Awards For All.

Cllr Hird also reported that a surveyor is coming to give an estimate for the loft insulation.

2. Item 8 CCTV and The Wasteless Society, Cllr Hird has asked Shropshire Council for this CCTV camera.

3. Item 9 Local connections: Cllr Gaffney stated that he had spoken to the Housing Enabling Officer Mr David Garrett, and he had stated the Town Council should request that two of the criteria be met by applicants, the Council's satisfaction with this evidence would be the third criteria. Cllr Gaffney suggested that in future, when seeking local connection, those involved should apply by sending their own information to the Town Council; they could also attend the relevant Council Meeting themselves.

4. Haining Croft : the clerk read out an email from County Cllr Peter Phillips concerning this development and some apparent inconsistencies with decisions by the planners.

5. The Wintles Pole The clerk read an email from County Cllr Peter Phillips making clear that the Shropshire Council is going to resolve the problem of the pole and the junction at Castle Green.

6. The Clerk has received a reply from Mr Phil Crossland concerning the bollards outside Autolycus (item 16 26.5.09). The pavement has to be 2m wide, which it is. He suggests a site visit to determine where the bollards should go.

7. The clerk contacted Irene Stelfox for some help in paying for the allotment drive. However, this money had to be spent by the end of January and has now gone.

8. The Clerk has received a hard copy of the Shropshire Council contacts list.

9. The clerk has received a letter from Mr Christopher Hill concerning the request for the 99 year lease on the allotments. Unfortunately, he feels it is inappropriate to extend the lease on this land.

10. Several incidents in the playing fields have been reported to the clerk: a youth (16 years old) broke his leg whilst playing on a swing. Community Officer Nick Williams, has warned the youngster who was riding his motor bike round the playing field that he could have his bike removed if there was any more trouble. The Police are expecting the King's Head to change hands soon, and they are making efforts to stop under age drinking and disorder in the Town. Names have been given to the police about the vandalism in the playing fields and they are following it up.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) Reports of Planning Applications:

1/09/21549/F Retrospective application for the erection of an agricultural building for housing livestock. Watermead, Woodbatch Rd Bishop's Castle Mr R Lennox

Granted

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

8.TO CONSIDER THE BUSINESS PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.

Following the talk from Mr Chris Edwards, Cllr. Carroll proposed that this Council approve the business plan drawn up which will provide more extensive management of the green areas in the Town, according to need, which the Clerk will administer. Cllr Penney seconded this motion with the proviso that once the money was spent, no more would be allocated. Unanimous vote in favour.

9. PLANNING MEETING REPORT.

Cllrs Carroll, Holton and Pinches attended this meeting in Shrewsbury. Cllrs felt that the emphasis has changed in that planners seem very conciliatory and would rather meet objections than go to appeal. This will put more power in the hands of individual officers rather than committees. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that Mr Jake Berriman and Ms Wendy Marston should be invited to talk to the Town Council about this new approach as well as the Haining Croft development. Seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

10 EXTRA LAND FOR THE ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr Hird proposed that the clerk should write to Mr Hill to request the .3 of an acre, which is unused and adjacent to the allotments. Seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved.

11.REPORT FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR.

The clerk has received the internal auditor's report and can now send the accounts to the external auditors Mazar.

12. CHANGE OF VENUE FOR ELECTION.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney that the Public Hall is the best venue for a polling station and that the clerk should write to Shropshire Council to clarify the situation. Seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

13. APPLICATIONS FOR ROAD CLOSURES FOR THE MICHAELMAS FAIR AND CARNIVAL.

Michaelmas:

Day 1: 19th Sept 2009: Market Square, Union St between Church St and Corporation St, Church St & High St 07.30 - 22.30; High St, New St & Salop St 12.00 - 22.30;

Church St, Station St, & Kerry Lane 12.30 - 13.30.

Day 2: 20th Sept 2009: Market Square, Union St (between Church St and Corporation St); Church St between 12.00 and 17.30 hrs; High St 12.00 - 21.00 ; Church St, Salop St, Station St, and Kerry Lane 15.30 - 16.30.

Carnival:

B4385 Brampton Rd, Church St, Station St, High St, Market Square, Salop St, New St, Harley Jenkins St, Union St, Corporation St, and Kerry Lane. 12.00 - 14.30. July 5th 2009

Cllr Gaffney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Carroll, with the amendment that Pound Close should be kept clear for access. Resolved

14. KINGS HEAD FOOTPATH.

The clerk reported that there are some difficulties with Punch Taverns' mortgagee: Deutsche Trustees who have asked for searches to be made to determine what, if any, utilities lie under the proposed path. The Town Council has been asked to pay the bill for these searches. Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk should continue to negotiate with the parties in question. Seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

15.RE-CONNECTION OF STREET LAMP: WELSH ST.

The clerk reported that Eon have asked the Town Council to pay for this new connection, and for a way leave. Cllr Carroll proposed that a site meeting should be arranged. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved. It has also been reported to Councillors that a pole at Castle Green appears to be unsafe. Cllr Penney proposed that the clerk write to Central Networks for assurance that this pole is safe. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

16 PAYE BY DIRECT DEBIT

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the Clerk could set up a direct debit for PAYE to HMRC. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

17. NEW DESIGN FOR ADVERTS IN THE NEWSLETTER.

Cllr Carroll proposed to accept the new design and to charge £20.00 per year for the adverts to be reviewed in the Autumn, seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

19a) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Funding fair Ludlow Racecourse. 13th July 10.00 - 12.00

2. LJC Public Meeting 7th July, 7.00pm Public Hall

3. SALC Courses:

ACAS Shrewsbury 25th June

Information Governance: Shrewsbury 13th July

Quality Parish Scheme : Shrewsbury 15th July

New Councillors :Telford 20th July, Shrewsbury 23rd July

4. Email re lamppost removal on Bowling Green Close. (Done I think on 12th June)

b) Circulation

1. SALC Consultation/ Key Structure.

2. The Playing Field

3. The Model Code of Conduct 2007

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 21/07/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 21st JULY 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches Mayor in the chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J. Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr M Stanley, on holiday, proposed by Cllr Gaffney, seconded by Cllr Hird.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr S Farr declared a personal interest in item 6a as he is a personal friend of the applicant.

Cllr N Hird declared a personal interest in item 6b as he has made the listed building consent application.

Cllr N Hird declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in item 17 as he called for the survey and quotation from Domestic & General Insulation Ltd.

Cllr J Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 11 as he is an executive director of Co-Create.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd June 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr J Carroll with the following corrections: Item 4 no 10, remove "Community Officer" and replace with "Police Constable", item 8 the first sentence should read "...Cllr Carroll proposed that this Council approve the £3000 business plan..." Seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved. Three payments missed off these minutes will be on July 21st Minutes.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. The clerk has received an email from Cllr Peter Phillips concerning the Haining Croft development. It is lengthy so is in circulation.

2. The Clerk has received a reply from Nick Taylor concerning Haining Croft. He will be able to attend on August 18th but only to discuss planning in the general context of how Shropshire Council deals with things.

3. The clerk has received an email from Inspector Mackaill concerning the King's Head and the change of licensee.

4. The clerk has received a reply concerning the polling stations from Mrs KM Smith Elections Officer. She has obtained a list of auctions from Halls and will arrange to visit the Public Hall to observe the impact the auction has on the Hall and the area around it. Item 12 (23.6 09)

5. The clerk has received a form for LJC grant funding.

6. The clerk has received supportive emails from Cllr Peter Phillips concerning our requests for the extension of the allotment lease and the request for extra land.

7. The clerk is still in correspondence with Eon concerning No 13 Welsh Street. The residents have assured the clerk that no way leave is necessary as numbers 13/15 used to be one house, so all communication from Eon has always come to No 13.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mrs Rita Coxall,(Planning Application 09/01040/FUL) Mrs Coxall is very angry about the development at the Bakery. She is concerned that the materials used are not in accordance with the original plans, and that the height is now 8.1 metres.

Amy Burns (Co Create Item 11) CoCreate have planned a week-long event involving music,drama,dance, storytelling and costume workshops. The event will take place in August. They are seeking a donation from the Council for this to go ahead.

Karen Baverstock (Crowgate Business Park item 9) Ms Baverstock is concerned about the lack of use at the Crowgate Business Park. She has been in communication with Shropshire Council who reiterate that they will not make any decisions on this land until after the Biomass Inquiry Report. Ms Baverstock has ascertained that the Biomass Plant does not have any option on any land at Crowgate. She feels the Town is losing money as this land is not being utilised economically.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 09/01192/FUL Extension of single storey side and rear extension. Mr M Love c/o Mr H Jones 45 Grange Rd Bishop's Castle Cllr Carroll proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Hird.

b)09/00930/LBC Installation of 2 no. photovoltaic renewable energy cells on roof. Town Hall High St Bishop's Castle. Cllr Gaffney proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr Hird.

c) Any Other Plans:

09/01040/FUL These plans have only just arrived and were not on the Agenda. Therefore, Cllr Gaffney proposed that the clerk should ascertain whether they could be discussed at the next full meeting on the 18th August even though that is beyond the 21days consultation period. Cllr Gaffney also proposed that a site meeting should be arranged one week before the meeting. If Shropshire Council refuse to extend the consultation period, Cllr Gaffney proposed a special meeting on the 4th August to discuss the plans, with a site meeting next week. Seconded by Cllr Dr. Penney and resolved.

7.REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR.

Whilst the clerk has not received a report, there are many emails included in relevant items and in the circulation.

8. INSTALLATION OF A BENCH ON THE RECENTLY ACQUIRED LAND AT KERRY LANE.

The clerk informed the meeting that this transfer still has not gone through. Cllr Penney proposed that this item should be left on the table, seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved.

9.USE OF THE CROWGATE BUSINESS PARK.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk write to Shropshire Council to ascertain the situation concerning plots on the Business Park, and to request that the Bishop's Castle Town Council could take over its management. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

10. CANCELLATION OF BUSES.

Cllr Wright proposed that the clerk should write again to the Transport Authority over the timetable issue, and whether Shropshire Link could adequately take over from the deregistered buses. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and resolved.

11.REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM CO-CREATE

Cllr Gaffney proposed that this Council should donate £300.00 to enable this event to go ahead. Seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

12.REVIEW OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS.

Cllr Gaffney explained that this register needed to be updated at regular intervals. The clerk gave out the new forms to all present.

13.FARMERS' MARKET MOVE TO THE PUBLIC HALL.

Cllr Carroll is in the process of finding interested people in the Town who would be willing to help with the Farmers' Market.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that the new system of organising the Farmers' Market should continue for two months, and then Councillors will re-assess the situation. The clerk should look into the possibility of renting the Public Hall. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

14. ARE THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR STREET CLEANING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE SATISFACTORY.

Concern was expressed that Andrew Wallace is not doing his job as well as he could. There was also some concern at the level of litter following the beer festival most of which emanated from the local takeaways.

The Mayor suspended the meeting to allow Mr Neville Richards to add his views. As a licensee he felt that the Beer Festival brought a lot of business into the town, and he agreed that most of the litter was not generated by the pubs.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

Cllr Carroll proposed that the clerk should write to Shropshire Council concerning Andrew Wallace, and that we could request extra, temporary bins at Festival time. Cllr Carroll also proposed that Shropshire Council could put some pressure on the takeaways concerning this litter problem.

Seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved.

15.ENTERPRISE SOUTH WEST SHROPSHIRE (ESWS) : REVIEW OF WEBSITE HOSTING.

Cllr Wright proposed that the fee should be kept at £200.00 seconded by Cllr Hird. Cllr Carroll as an amendment proposed that the fee should be raised to £250.00. seconded by Cllr Gaffney. Cllr Wright withdrew his proposal, and Cllr Hird withdrew his second. The amendment was passed and resolved.

16.INSTALLATION OF BOLLARDS OUTSIDE THE MEN'S TOILETS AT THE TOWN HALL.

Cllr Carroll proposed the installation of bollards in this place to be used on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays when there are markets in the Town Hall. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

17. QUOTATION FOR INSULATION OF THE TOWN HALL ROOF.

Cllr Hird explained that he needed this quotation to obtain a grant for the photovoltaic cells. Cllr Carroll reminded the meeting that the Heritage Lottery Fund does not accept any form of insulation in the roofs of listed buildings except sheep's wool or hemp. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that Cllr Hird should consult with Mr John Yates and this can come back as an agenda item next month. Seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved.

18. ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATIONS BULL STREET AND CASTLE ST.

Electricity works in Bull St, from 24th August for 6 weeks, diversions in place.

Electricity works in Castle St. from 1st September, diversions in place

Both closures taken down for the weekend of the Michaelmas Fair (19th and 20th September)

Cllr Carroll requested an extra 5 minutes

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

20a) CORRESPONDENCE

1. Consultation on Local Development Framework Core Strategy will commence on August 19th and last for 8 weeks.

2 Grant Funding Local Joint Committee Application Form

3. Letter from Dr J. Gray

4. Public Transport News is now being published monthly and is available at:

www.shropshire.gov.uk

-Transport & Streets

-Public and Passenger Transport

-Shropshire Link

-Public Transport Latest News.

Circulation

1. Speed Management Strategy - Consultation on Vehicle Activated Signs Policy.

2. Wasteless Society Newsletter

3. AMT (Action For Market Towns) National Convention.

4. Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2009 - 14

5. Consultation on the Visions, themes and cross-cutting issues for Shropshire's new Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 - 2020

6. SALC Special General meeting: Saturday July 25th

7. DEFRA bio-diversity Survey

8. Correspondence re Haining Croft.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.07pm

PLANS/DETAILS OF ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS BEING CONSIDERED WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO INSPECT DURING TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE MEETING, BETWEEN 7.40 P.M. AND 8.00 P.M., OR OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE TOWN CLERK*

If you have difficulty reading these minutes an alternative format can be provided.

If you have difficulty with the stairs to the Council Chamber and wish to attend the meeting, please contact the Clerk as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 04/08/2009

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON AUGUST 4TH 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

Before the meeting began, the Mayor asked Mr Peter Thorpe to speak about the planning application: 09/01040/FUL Application under section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of a dwelling; conversion of (existing) bakery to domestic garage/workshop (revised scheme) (retrospective)

The Bakery, Church St, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

Mr Thorpe applied to build a two storey, three bedrooled house which was granted permission at appeal (Ref No APP/K3225/A/05/1195542) Since then, the house has been built with some changes to the plans. Mr Thorpe felt that he has taken into account the views of some of the local people who had objected to the original plans. In 2006, the height of the house was 8.1metres, this had been considered too high and was the reason for the first refusal of planning. Consequently the height of the building has been reduced by 50 cm. The house has also been remodeled which has meant that the bulk of the building has been reduced. The house is in the same location. The pitch of the roof has been reduced from 55? to 30? the level of the ground floor has been lowered. The design has become more "barn like" which is trying to echo some of the traditional aspects of a barn in this locality. The roof is now of retained Welsh slate. The wall cladding was originally to be timber but is now of brick and some metal cladding.

Mrs Coxall, a neighbour, then asked Mr Thorpe whether he could confirm that Inspector's had returned to view this building. Mr Thorpe replied that he could not confirm that.

Mrs Coxall felt that the building's position had changed but Mr Thorpe said it had not. Mrs Coxall felt that in a conservation area, surrounded by bungalows, this building was totally out of place.

Mr R Gwyther felt that this building was not in keeping with the local vernacular. It should have a lower profile and be less conspicuous. It is out of keeping with other buildings in the conservation area. He is also concerned that no-one seems to be keeping an eye on developments, there is a problem with enforcement.

Cllr Wright proposed that the formal meeting should start, seconded by Cllr Dr Penney.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor in the Chair.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved The following apologies were accepted: Cllr Hird (holiday) Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney seconded by Cllr Carroll.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

1. 09/01040/FUL

Application under section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of a dwelling; conversion of (existing) bakery to domestic garage/workshop (revised scheme) (retrospective)

The Bakery, Church St, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire

Cllr Dr Penney said that this building has been put up without planning permission so local people were unable to have their say. He proposed that this Council should object to this application on the grounds that: the building is not true to the vernacular, the roof is no higher because the pitch has been lowered, the profile is higher; there are no photographs of the viewpoint from local neighbours who are most affected, there has been a failure to negotiate materials and the shape of the gables is not in keeping. There has been no respect paid to the planning process.

Seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved : Votes in favour: 10, abstention: 1

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that a letter should be sent to Cllr Tudor Bebb Chair of Planning, with copies to Cllr Keith Barrow Leader of Shropshire Council and Cllr Peter Phillips, Member for Bishop's Castle, concerning the failure of enforcement.

Seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 18/08/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 18th AUGUST AT 8.00 PM.

Before the meeting, Mr. Nick Taylor, Assistant Director of Strategy and Development spoke to the Council concerning planning matters in general, with some reference to the Haining Croft development and to the Bakery. He explained that planning matters can be quite critical to several parties and it is rare that all are eventually happy with the outcome. Judgement and balance have to be applied to all decisions. Planners have guidelines by which they operate which are national policy and which are frequently revised. For example, one such revision concerned the developments in the numbers of affordable houses built across the County. Planners are also constrained by targets they have to reach both at County level and those laid down by central government.

Bishop's Castle Town Councillors expressed their concerns to Mr. Taylor. Largely the concerns refer to the inconsistencies of planning decisions. Councillors feel let down by the planning process. They feel that the views of the Town are rarely heard, that enforcement is not carried out and that their faith in the planners has been eroded. Mr. Taylor agreed that enforcement was difficult and often they have to rely on members of the public or town and parish councillors informing them of potential infringements. He acknowledged that there could be improvements made with enforcement but that would probably mean extra staff, which in the current economic climate could be difficult. Cllr Pinches then opened the meeting.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

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

In attendance: Mrs. M. Denton

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Resolved: The following apologies were accepted: Cllr J Morris (Working) Proposed by Cllr Dr Penney, seconded by Cllr Hird

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. N Hird declared an interest in item 6(a) as he is a friend of the applicant

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr M Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in items 8 and 12 as she has a home and business attached to the town hall

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Hird with the following corrections: Item 10: the first sentence should read " ...Transport Authority over two issues, firstly the inadequacy of the timetables, and secondly..." Item 17: Insert after "...Mr. John Yates, 'English Heritage Historic Building Inspector',..." Seconded by Cllr Wright.

b) Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2009, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Dr Penney with the following corrections: The penultimate paragraph under item 6 should begin: "Cllr Holton....." the second sentence should begin: "She proposed..." Seconded by Cllr Hird.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. A site meeting was held with Mr. Phil Crossland and Martin Allard concerning the adoption of white lines. In principle the Shropshire Council have no objection, this has to be agreed with Inspector MacKail. Cllrs Pinches and Carroll plus PC Williams are to meet with the Inspector for a site meeting on the 17th September.

2. The clerk has received a letter from Shropshire Council concerning the 773 Newtown and 860 Telford services. From 8th September M & J travel will take over these operating on alternate Tuesdays

3. Central Networks checked the pole at the end of the track to the Bowling Green on Bull Lane. They found no fault with it. Members of the public can phone 24/7 if they see a problem on: 0800 3281111.

4. The clerk has received a letter concerning the litter problem after festivals. Shropshire Council can provide extra staff to litter pick. If extra bins are required, Veolia have to be contacted and there will be an extra charge.

5. Concerning our street cleaner, he has had some extra training and will be closely monitored.

6. The clerk has received a letter concerning the Regulatory Committee meeting on the 25th August concerning the Bakery Planning matter: 09/01040/FUL.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Mrs. Price. Concerning white lines on Station St opposite the end of Salop St. (item 13) Mrs. Price explained the problems they are having with vehicles parking on the pavement at this location and the dangers for pedestrians who are forced into the road on this blind bend. This is hampering their business and they are also coming in for criticism as people assume the vehicles parked belong to the Price's. The bus also cannot pass safely. They would like white lines and a Keep Clear sign if possible or maybe some bollards.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that item 13 should be brought forward to discuss at this stage, seconded by Cllr Wright.

13. WHITE LINES ON STATION ST.

Councillors agreed with Mr. & Mrs. Price. Cllr Dr Penney stated that there have been some complaints from the doctors' surgery about the difficulties for pedestrians. Cllr Stanley proposed that the clerk should write to the Highways department to request white lines and Keep Clear signs on the east side of Station St opposite Salop St. Seconded by Cllr ? and resolved.

The clerk read a letter from Mrs. Griffiths who had written concerning the white lines outside their property on Station St which have been obliterated by the recent top dressing of the road surface. She hopes that these will be reinstated. Cllr Furber also felt there was a problem further down Station St. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council should ask the Highways department to replace the white line from Mrs. Griffiths' house, and for it to continue as far as Ransford's gate. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 09/01913/AGR Erection of a storage shed Beech-O- Cwmago, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle SY9 5JL Cllr Dr Penney proposed no objection seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

b) 09/01407/FUL Use of land for and formation of, football pitch with perimeter fencing, lighting, and associated access gates and under-pitch drainage. Bishop's Castle Community College, Brampton Rd Bishop's Castle SY9 5AY

Cllr Stanley proposed no objection subject to the lighting going off before 11.00pm. Seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved.

7. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The clerk has not received a report but Cllr Phillips has contributed several communications included in different items.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

The Council is currently reviewing procedures. Cllr Carroll proposed that the Council delegate powers to the Clerk to take some action on these matters. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

9. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM MIKE PLUNKETT

Dr Penney proposed that £100 should be donated to Mr Plunkett to improve the club's sound system. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

10. ROSPA REPORT ON PLAYING FIELDS

The clerk stated that the ROSPA report highlighted two areas of concern: the two flat bed swings outside the main play area, which need some maintenance. Cllr Carroll proposed that the work on these should be done. Seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved.

11 INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The clerk drew attention to the comments made by the internal auditor that:

1.The bank reconciliation does not agree with the total receipts in the cash book. (The clerk explained that the Interest from the Business Money Manager Account is added in at a later stage.)

2. Two cheques which have been written in, numbers, dates and payees have now been added.

3. The bank reconciliation should not have figures rounded up or down.

4. Box 8 of the Annual return should be equal to box 7.

5 Minutes December 2008 item 15 Multicultural Music Festival. This was brought forward to "Members of the public wishing to speak" Resolutions to make payments under a "public session" are ultra vires and the matter should have been resolved at the appropriate point on the agenda.

6. Where an increase in staff pay has been agreed, the actual amount should be minuted and not just the percentage.

7. Cheque 102979 £306.50 was a payment to the Allotment Society but there was no supporting documentation. (In future the clerk should ask for a receipt).

8. Where the minutes say a quotation has been accepted, the agreed value and name of the supplier should also be minuted.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that these points were noted. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

12. ROOF INSULATION FOR LISTED BUILDINGS

Cllr Hird stated that Mr John Yates, English Heritage Historic Buildings Inspector, confirms that fibreglass insulation can be used in the Town Hall roof.

Cllr Penney proposed that the quotation from Domestic and General Insulations for £538.25p plus 5% VAT (Meeting on 21st July 2009 minuted item 17) should be accepted, seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved.

14. METAL DETECTING IN THE PLAYING FIELDS.

Cllr Holton proposed that the Council objects to metal detecting in the playing Fields as it would also involve the digging of holes which would be unsafe, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

15. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON SPARC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Cllr Carroll explained that it would be useful for a Councillor to be on this advisory committee. Cllr Dr Penney proposed that Cllr Magill should be the representative, seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

16.ACCOUNTS –

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney, that these accounts are all accepted except the £2000 to the Youth Council as this Council would like a report on the progress of the Youth Council first, seconded by Cllr Carroll and approved.

Salaries - £863.78

Andrew Wallace - £24.23

Mrs M Denton – expenses £38.24

Clive Pritchard £94.00

Fastrack Maintenance £180.55

Viking Direct £40.18

ROSPA Playsafety £113.85

V & W Electrics £165.51

Arrow Supplies £385.59

Youth Council £2000

Keith Pinches Mileage £39.92 (replacing cheque for Cllr. Carroll last month)

Allotment Society £326.55

Npower (Playing Fields) Amended bill DD £125.84

David Jones (replacing cheque for Birmingham Assay Office) £22.95

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr Stanley reported that she had been to an Enterprise South West Shropshire meeting, there was still concern over the lack of development in the former Emburey's factory. She urged this council to consider taking over the ownership of these buildings and asked for this to be put on the next agenda.

18. CORRESPONDENCE.

1. The clerk has received a contact list for all members of the LJC.

2. Letter received from Ms K Bavastock

3. Shropshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy: Consultation on 'Policy Directions'

4. Marches Community Choir

5. Collaboration Benefits

6. Sustainable Community Strategy Questionnaire.

7.Environmental Maintenance Deep Cleans

8. Margot Daniels letter The Bakery.

9. Mrs Griffiths White Lines on Station St.

b) Circulation

1. The Playing Field

2. Shropshire Core Strategy Policy Directions Executive Summary

3. Independent Policy Commission into Primary School Reorganisation.

4. NALC Parish Partnership (Collaboration Benefits)

5. The Caer Volunteer Newsletter No 25.

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

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 01/09/2009

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 8.00PM.

Present: Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor in the Chair.

Councillors: J.M. Carroll, S.A.Farr, M.Furber, N.Hird, W.J.Morris, Dr.G.N.St John Penney, M.Stanley, and R.D.Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Resolved: that those of Cllr J.E.Gaffney (holiday) were accepted. Proposed by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Wright.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

a) Declarations of Personal Interest: None.

b) Declarations of Prejudicial Interest: None.

3. TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY CLERK.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that Mr Tim Ward, who is employed by Shropshire Council and is also Clerk to Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council be appointed the Council's temporary clerk for six weeks working five hours a week on a salary of £8.661p per hour. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved.

4. TO SELECT A COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A NEW CLERK.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that the Mayor, Cllr Pinches, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Gaffney, Cllr Hird, Cllr Dr Penney and Cllr Wright are the committee. Seconded by Cllr Morris and resolved.

It was proposed by Cllr Stanley that the post of clerk, preferably a qualified clerk, is advertised as soon as possible for two consecutive weeks in the Shropshire Star and the South Shropshire Journal; an advertisement is e-mailed to SALC and the Powys Council' equivalent and an advertisement placed in Enterprise House.

Applications to be received no later than 1st October. Seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and resolved.

The Acting Clerk to draft the advertisement. The Mayor and Cllrs Carroll and Wright to approve it.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 15 September 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mr. T Ward (Acting Town Clerk), Unitary Councillors Phillips & Mrs. Kidd, Representatives of The Bishops Castle Group, and about 50 members of the public.

In opening the meeting the Mayor advised that he proposed to suspend the meeting for 30 minutes after agenda item 5 to enable members of the Bishops Castle Group to make a presentation to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr W J Morris (work commitments) and Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney (delayed on holiday)

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Holton and duly resolved that the apologies be accepted

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as he was Treasurer of the Bishops Castle Group

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Hird and duly resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday August 18 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record

It was proposed by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record subject to the following corrections -

The addition of Cllr Magill to the list of apologies received

The addition of "or extra if required" to minute 3 to read "It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney that Mr Tim Ward, who is employed by Shropshire Council and is also Clerk to Chirbury with Brompton Parish Council be appointed the Council's temporary clerk for six weeks working five hours a week or extra if required, on a salary of £8.661p per hour. Seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved."

4. MATTERS ARISING.

The Clerk informed the meeting that a letter had been received from the Assistant Director of Strategy and Development at Shropshire Council in response to the Councils letter to Keith Barrow, Leader of the Council. It was agreed that this should be circulated to Councillors

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had contacted the person who had enquired about the possibility of metal detecting on the playing fields informing him of the decision of the Council to not to allow this

Cllr Carroll reminded Councillors that the Council had agreed to pay half the cost of the new lighting system to be installed in conjunction with the works in Bull Lane and Castle Street. She went on to say that she had been informed that the scheme would now not take place and that the lights would be left as they are, but that the tops of the poles would be removed.

Cllr Gaffney inquired as to whether there had been there had been any progress regarding the white lines in Station Street. He was informed that there was nothing to report

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr Alex Simmons spoke in support of The Kings Head. He introduced himself as one of the partners in the business and stated that they were aware of the problems and were working to alleviate them. He asked that the town bear with the Licensees whilst they were addressing the problems. The Mayor thanked him for his contribution.

Ms Sarah Halliday spoke in support of the application for 2 dwellings at Watermead, Woodbatch Road. She urged the Council to support the application, which would mean that two members of a local family could remain to live and work in the town.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that the meeting be suspended for 30 minutes to allow the presentation by the Bishops Castle Group on the subject of the Biomass Plant

Ms K Baverstock Chair of the Bishops Castle Group spoke of her disappointment that despite the powerful case made by opponents the Inspector had seen fit to grant planning permission for the Biomass Plant. She added that she was proud of the case that the group had made and claimed some moral victory in the addition of several new conditions. She went on to thank the Town Council for their support both financially and in other ways and also thanked the residents of the town for their support. She went on to say that the group looked to the Town Council for guidance in the way forward and that there was need to be realistic as there was risk of failure and award of costs against the Group.

Mr Hugh Band informed the meeting that it was a fact that there was a fundamental issue regarding the land at the Business Park. He went on to say that the Bishops castle Group had received assurances that BCBPC had no option on the land at the Business Park and that this meant that the granting of planning permission had led to a planning gain to the owners of the land - AWM and Shropshire Council and that in order to fulfil their duty to obtain the best price for the land it would be expected that the land should be advertised nationally. He went on to say that some of the gain should come back to the Town Council. He then outlined other options which included The Town Council lobbying Shropshire Council not to sell the land for the purpose for which planning permission was granted and possibly getting the Council to sell the land to the Town Council for some sort of community use, money being raised through fund raising possibly in conjunction with the Bishops Castle Land Trust.

Mr Dawes explained that there were two routes that could be followed

1. An appeal under planning law which would have to be lodged within 6 weeks of the date of the decision or
2. A judicial review of the decision. He went on to say that notice of a request for a judicial review would need to be lodged within 3 months.

He added that whatever route was taken expert advice would be needed in the form of a specialist barrister which would not be cheap and that to get preliminary advice as to whether there was a case for a judicial review would cost in the region of £750 - £1000 and that if the decision was taken to go forward costs could amount to upwards of £30,000.

Cllr Wright asked whether costs could be awarded against the Group if the Judicial Review failed. Mr Dawes said that there was always the possibility that costs could be awarded but that it may be possible to argue public interest and get a protected costs order
Cllr Phillips commented that following the planning appeal route had small chance of success and that it was a big leap to ask for a judicial review but there may be the possibility of finding a solicitor to do the work pro-bono but that would still leave the threat of costs being awarded. He went on to say that it was clear that the Unitary Council need to obtain the best benefit from the sale of the land but that it was not obliged to sell the land and added that the Town Council should press the Unitary Council to attach tough conditions on the sale of the land which would make it unattractive to buyers

There was further discussion regarding the way forward and then the Mayor thanked the Bishops castle Group for their presentation and for all their hard work.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gaffney, seconded by Cllr Holton and duly resolved that the meeting resume.

6. BIOMASS PLANT

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright that: -

1. The Town Council underwrites the cost of obtaining expert legal advice as to the potential success of an appeal or judicial review up to a maximum of £1000.00
2. The Town Council appoint a member to attend the meeting between the Bishops Castle Group and Shropshire Council on 18 September 2009
3. The Town Council write to Shropshire Council to ascertain whether they would be willing to sell the land to the Town Council for community use
4. The Town Council continue to work with other organisations to explore other avenues.

This was resolved with one vote against.

It was also resolved that Cllr Magill would attend the meeting with Shropshire Council

7. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

The following Planning applications were considered: -

09/01864/FUL Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act for erection of a shed (retrospective) at 16 Castle Green Bishops Castle.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Gaffney and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objection to the application.

09/02106/FUL Erection of extension to existing office accommodation at Ransfords Sawmills, Station Street, Bishops Castle.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Gaffney and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objection to the application.

09/02183/LBC Installation of a satellite dish; existing aerial to be removed at Harp House, 26 Church Street, Bishops Castle. SY9 5AA.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Holton and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objection to the application.

09/02215/FUL Erection of 2 dwellings at Watermead, Woodbatch Road, Bishops Castle. SY9 5AS.

It was proposed by Cllr Hird and seconded by Cllr Holton and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objection to the application.

09/02404/TCA To selectively clear stems of self set sycamore, elder and ash trees, to remove 1 hawthorn tree and to prune away from wires one sycamore tree within Bishops castle Conservation Area at Castle Land, Communal Green, castle Green Bishops Castle.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Stanley and duly resolved that the Council has no objection to the application subject to the work being carried out by a qualified tree surgeon

09/02360/COU Change of use of part of premises from A1 - Retail to A3 - for sale of food and drink at 32 Church Street Bishops Castle

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that the application be considered at the next meeting of the Town Council.

Reports of Planning Applications.

The Clerk reported that the Council no longer received the detailed reports that they received from the District Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the planning department to request that details reports are sent in future.

Email from Planning Enforcement Assistant Shropshire Council asking Councillors to identify any areas of concern regarding planning enforcement.

The Clerk reported that following concerns expressed by Councillors at the last meeting he had received an email from the Planning Enforcement officer asking them to identify area of concern with regard to planning enforcement. He asked Councillors to advise him to let him know and he would pass them on to the relevant officer. It was also agreed that an item be put in the next newsletter asking members of the public to alert Councillors to any areas of concern.

8. REPORT BY UNITARY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Phillips reported that Enterprise South West Shropshire was concerned regarding the length of time it was taking to relet the space formerly occupied by Embrys. He reported that this was having an effect on the finances of ESSW, as they were not receiving their part of the rental.

He went on to say that Teme Leisure had altered their charging structure and that this was penalising season ticket holders and items that had previously been included were now charged for separately.

Mr Phillips informed the meeting that he had concerns with regard the number of Arts Officers in the County as previously there had been 7 and this was being reduced to 5.

Cllr Carroll commented that the Town Council had appointed a representative to the SPARC user group. The Acting Clerk informed Councillors that he had advised Teme Leisure of the Councils representative and that he had been informed that they would inform her of meetings directly

9. FORMER EMBREY'S FACTORY

Cllr Hird expressed concern with regard to the roof of the building, as there was a lot of asbestos and stated that the Town Council should not consider taking over the building until this was resolved.

Cllr Carroll commented that the board of ESSW would like to take over the running of the whole building and to reinstate the small units that were originally there.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Hird and duly resolved that the Town Council does not take over the units but supports ESSW in their wish to take over an management of the building and the letting of units for small businesses, and that any remedial work needed should be undertaken by Shropshire Council prior to ESSW taking over the building

10. UPDATE PARISH OF PARISH PLAN

Cllr Carroll informed Councillors that the Parish Plan, which was completed in 2005, was in the process of being updated and asked would Councillors be prepared to distribute questionnaires with December newsletters. Councillors agreed to do this. Councillor Carroll asked whether any councillors would like to join the Steering Group to help compile the questionnaire. Cllr Stanley agreed. Cllr Holton asked that museums be included in the questionnaire. Cllr Carroll agreed to this.

11. INCIDENTS AT KING'S HEAD.

The Mayor commented that recent events at the Kings Head had led to a request that the Town Council ask for a review of the premise licence. Cllr Wright commented that there was need for firm evidence before a review could be requested. Cllr Carroll commented that she was aware that the police, the Environmental Health Department and the Licensing Officer were aware of problems. Cllr Gaffney commented that he had had a long conversation with the co-licensee who had only recently taken over the pub and that he was taking action to try to alleviate the problems. Cllr Carroll commented that she welcomed the steps the licensee was taking. Cllr Holton suggested that a small item be put in the next newsletter asking residents to log any incidents.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved that the Council do not request a review of the Premises Licence at this time but continue to monitor the situation, and that the Clerk write to the Licensee advising him of this decision

12. PEOPLE WORKING IN THE PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that it had been brought to the Councils attention that people working on the playing field should have CRB checks and that Clive Pritchard and Petra Bindloss should have formal contracts regarding their work.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Magill and resolved that those people working regularly on the playing field should have valid CRB checks and that the Town Council should pay any costs associated with obtaining the CRB checks, and that Clive Pritchard and Petra Bindloss should have formal contract.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Shropshire Council to see if they could get the CRB checks done on the Councils behalf.

13. OAK MEADOW PLAY AREAS

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved that following the transfer of the 2 Oak Meadow play areas to the Town Council they be added to the annual ROSPA inspection.

14. ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATIONS

Closure of Market Square between Union Street Junction & High Street Junction on 17 October 2009, 21 November 2009, 19 December 2009, 16 January 2010 and 20 February 2010 for the Farmers Market (Diversions in place)

Closure of High Street, Church Street, New Street, Harley Jenkins Street, Union Street and Station Street on 8 November 2009 between 10.30am and 12.15pm for the Remembrance Sunday Parade (Diversions in place)

Closure of Market Square, High Street, Church Street and Harley Jenkins Street on 5 December 2009 between 12.00 noon and 11.00pm for the Christmas Lights Festival. (Diversions in place)

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Magill and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objections to the road closures.

15. ACCOUNTS –

a) It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Farr and duly resolved that the accounts listed below be approved

Salaries £863.78
Andrew Wallace £ 24.24
Bishops Castle Building Supplies
£ 11.64
Fastrack Maintenance £180.55
P Bindloss £ 80.00
Shropshire Council - Annual Fee Premises Licence Town Hall

£180.00
Shropshire Council - Annual Fee Premises Licence Town Centre & Adjacent Streets

£ 70.00
Mazars - Annual Audit Fee £655.50
D W Cole - investigation of water leak at allotments
£ 60.00

Cllr K Pinches - cutting of duplicate keys
£ 16.00

Clive Pritchard Playing Field Maintenance
£109.00

Payment made by Direct Debit

Atlantic Electric and Gas
£361.53

Councillors expressed concern at the large bill received from Atlantic Electric and Gas and agreed that the meter should be read and the bill adjusted accordingly.

Councillors noted receipt of the external audit and the comments made regarding the need for accuracy when completing the form.

16. TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM INSURERS REGARDING WORK REQUIRED IN THE TOWN HALL

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the insurers regarding the work required in the Town Hall following Mr Davies' accident. It was agreed that quotes for the work should be obtained and brought back to a future meeting of the Council

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

There were no reports.

18. CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Letter from Mr Kerswell regarding ragwort growing at the Business Park. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Shropshire Council asking that they attend to the problem.

b) Copy of letter from Ransfords to Shropshire Council regarding the need for improvement to the crossroads adjacent to the Community College. It was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

c) Shropshire Housing - Annual Report

d) Shropshire Council Rights of Way User Survey. The Clerk has copies of the questionnaire if anyone would like to complete one.

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 9.58pm

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 13 October 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

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

In attendance: Mr. T Ward (Acting Town Clerk) and three members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M. Furber (other meeting) and Cllr J.A. Magill (Illness)

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that the apologies be accepted

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Hird declared a personal interest in agenda item 9c, as he was Treasurer of the Bishops Castle Group

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in agenda item 6a, as the applicant was a business tenant

Cllr Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 10, as he was a Director of the Wasteless Society.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cllr Gaffney pointed out that it was Sarah Crowley not Halliday that had spoken in favour of the planning application for two dwellings at Watermead, Woodbatch Road'

Cllr Gaffney asked that Paragraph 3 of minute 11 be amended to read Cllr Gaffney commented that he had had a long conversation with the co-licensee who had only recently taken over the pub who stated that he was taking action to try to alleviate the problems

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Stanley and duly resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday September 15 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record subject to the alterations above.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

The Clerk informed the meeting he had spoken to the Planning Officer regarding receiving copies of full planning decisions and had been informed that the Council were introducing an email alert system which would advise Town & Parish Clerks when the planning system was updated and relevant information could then be downloaded from the Council Website.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to the Council regarding the ragwort on the Business Park and he had been assured that it would be dealt with in the very near future

Cllr Wright asked whether it had been ascertained if Shropshire Council were able to carry out CRB checks on the Town Councils behalf. The Clerk advised him that they were and that he was awaiting receipt of the paperwork to set this up.

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that there had been no further progress with the letting of the units at Enterprise House formerly occupied by Embreys

Cllr Hird informed the meeting that the application for grant funding from the CSEP had been unsuccessful

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr Dawes updated members on progress regarding the Biomass Plant. He informed the meeting that the Bishops Castle Group had met with members and officers of Shropshire Council who had confirmed that, as there was no formal option on the land the Council was obliged to advertise the plot nationally to obtain best value for the Council. He then outlined the possible outcomes for the site: -

1. The site could be sold to another consortium
2. The current developer could make an offer to buy the land
3. The person that has planning consent on part of the land could contact the Council to take up the option he has.

He added that Council officers had indicated that it may be willing to receive an approach from the community to acquire the plot for some sort of community use, and that he felt that quite a lot of members of the community would contribute towards the acquisition of the land.

Mr Dawes informed the meeting that he had prepared the brief for the barrister whit regard to taking forward a judicial review.

Cllr Holton asked whether if the existing planning on one half of the area was taken up would this mean the end of the biomass plant. Mr Dawes informed her that the plant could be moved sideways but that this would involve a new planning application and all that went with it.

The Mayor thanked Mr Dawes for his update.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

The following Planning application was considered: -

09/02360/COU Change of use of part of premises from A1 - Retail to A3 - for sale of food and drink at 32 Church Street Bishops Castle.

Cllr Wright asked whether this application would include the possibility of take away food. He was advised that A3 status was for restaurants and cafes not takeaways.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney and seconded by Cllr Holton and duly resolved that the Town Council has no objection to this application

Reports of Planning Applications.

There were no reports

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and duly resolved that Item 9c be taken next

9c. Cllr Gaffney explained that the decision taken at the last meeting to underwrite the cost of obtaining expert legal advice had been called into question. He added that advice had been sought and that whilst the decision had been in order it had been suggested that it might be advisable to confirm the decision.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that the Town Council confirms the decision taken at the last meeting that the Town Council underwrites the cost of obtaining expert legal advice as to the potential success of an appeal or judicial review up to a maximum of £1000.00.

There was one vote against.

7. TO RECEIVE REPORT OF MEETING WITH INSPECTOR MACKAILL AND TO DISCUSS ANY FURTHER MEASURES REQUIRED

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that a meeting had been held with Inspector Mackaill and PC Williams to discuss the Councils policy regarding parking in the town. She informed the meeting that the Inspector was reminded of the Council's policy regarding parking and that a tour of the town was undertaken to point out the problems.

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that Mr Gwyther had attended the meeting to explain problems he was having outside his shop with inconsiderate parking and traffic driving up the pavement and that following further discussion it had been felt that the problem could be solved by installing bollards on the pavement, similar to those at the top of the town which had proved very successful.

Cllr Stanley enquired whether the installation of bollards would include any road markings as at the top of Union Street. Cllr Carroll stated that there wouldn't be any markings.

Cllr Gaffney asked how far the bollards would go. Cllr Carroll stated that she felt that a small number of bollards would be needed from where the pavement was dropped by the Old Bakery to outside Mr Gwyther's shop.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Dr Penney and duly resolved that bollards be installed on the pavement from the Old Bakery to outside Gwyther's Shoe Shop.

Cllr Morris informed the meeting that the sign from the car park had been removed as it had been set on fire. Cllr Carroll informed him that it had been removed by Shropshire Council. It was agreed that a metal sign should be installed to replace the one that had been removed

8. REPORT BY UNITARY COUNCILLOR

There was no report as Cllr Phillips was away

9. ACCOUNTS –

a) Councillors considered the schedule of accounts for payment.

The Mayor asked what the funding for youth activities would be used for. Cllr Carroll stated that she would get a report from Irene Stelfox regarding this. It was agreed that this payment would be held over pending receipt of Ms Stelfox's report.

Cllr Stanley commented that the cost of advertising the vacancy for a Clerk seemed excessive. Cllr Wright pointed out that the Council had agreed the amount of advertising that would be done. Discussion followed regarding the effectiveness of the advertising.

Mr Hird commented that where we used external contractors it would be good practise to offer the work to others. Cllr Carroll agreed that it would be good that the work was put out to tender and that this should be done after a service contract was drawn up and that this could be done after the Maintenance Grant had been received from Shropshire Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Farr and duly resolved that the accounts listed below be approved

Salaries £ 272.18
Andrew Wallace £ 24.24
Clive Pritchard £ 96.00
P Bindloss Playing Field August & September & Other Work £ 365.00
BT - internet £ 110.36
Enterprise South West Shropshire £ 14.05
Fastrack Maintenance £ 180.55
Midlands News Association - Clerk Advert £ 817.88
V & W Electrics £ 107.52
Severn Trent Water £ 259.96
Janes Petal & Gift - Polish for Town Hall £ 15.00

Payment made by Direct Debit

Npower - Electricity in Playing Field
£ 20.18

Npower - Electricity in Town Hall £ 253.85

b) Councillors considered a request for a grant from the Rhythms of the Heart Festival. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that a grant of £150.00 be made.

The Clerk advised the meeting that a request for a grant had been received from the West Shropshire Talking Newspaper for the Blind. It was agreed that this request should be brought to a future meeting.

10. BISHOPS CASTLE ZERO WASTE PLACE

Cllr Hird informed the meeting that The Wasteless Society had received an approach from Shropshire Council regarding making Bishops Castle a Zero Waste Place. He explained what this would entail and added that an article had appeared in the Sunday Times stating that Bishops Castle was one of six places selected by DEFRA for this scheme. He went on to say that Shropshire Council had agreed to fund a recycling site and that he had been to look at a similar project in Ditton Priors. Cllr Hird requested that the Town Council support this initiative.

Cllr Gaffney expressed concern that Shropshire Council had obtained the grant funding for this scheme without prior consultation with the community, especially as the application listed 1000 volunteer hours. He suggested that the Council write to Shropshire Council expressing conditional support asking for further details regarding what is proposed, as it is not clear what is proposed and the scheme needs much more consultation.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved that Before Bishops Castle Town Council can welcome news of the successful grant application it needs more details and would request a meeting with James Thompson, Waste Prevention Officer Shropshire Council to obtain further details of the scheme.

11. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CROSSROADS ADJACENT TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cllr Stanley commented that there were an increasing number of accidents at the crossroads by the Community College and that there should be improvements to the junction to alleviate this. Councillors discussed several options.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved that the Town Council request that the Highways department be contacted to ascertain what improvements could be made to the junction.

12. CLERKS SALARY

The Acting Clerk informed the meeting that he had received advice from SALC with regard to the appropriate level of salary for the Clerk based on size of Council and responsibilities of the Clerk and that this would be SCP26, which equated to £11,594 per hour

It was proposed by Cllr Wright, seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved that the Clerks salary be set at SCP26 - £11,594 per hour.

13. TREE WARDEN

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that there was need for a new Tree Warden to be appointed and explained what was involved. Cllr Dr Penney stated that he would be prepared to take on the position.

It was proposed by Cllr Hird and seconded by Cllr Carroll and resolved that Cllr Dr Penney be appointed Tree Warden.

14. BULL LANE LIGHTING SCHEME

Cllr Carroll commented that the council had agreed to get a scheme drawn up for improvements to the street lighting on Bull Lane and Castle Street. She went on to say that following consultation, residents of Castle Street had stated that they did not want any more lights.

Cllr Dr Penney commented that it was essential that a check be made to ascertain whether the lights involved were highway lights.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved that the Council should proceed with the Lighting Scheme proposed for Bull Lane subject to a check being made that the lights involved are not highway lights.

15. WORKS AT KINGS HEAD

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that further work was required to complete the improvement to the area adjacent to the Kings Head, which included work to the garden area and installation of footway lighting. She went on to say that some of the money required could be found from the Shropshire Council maintenance grant and that an application for this was made to the Local Joint Committee for the capital costs of £500 and asked that the Town Council make this application.

Cllr Hird asked whether the Tourism Group should make this application. Cllr Carroll explained that the Group had already made a grant application.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Stanley and resolved that the Town Council make an application to the Local Joint Committee for a grant to cover the capital costs of the remaining work required to complete the improvement scheme

16. BINS IN AUCTION YARD

Cllr Carroll commented that the Auction yard was one of the main car parks of the town and that there were no litter bins and asked that the Council consider installing bins.

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved that the Town Council install 2 bins in the Auction Yard car park.

17. COMPUTERS

The Clerk informed the Council that the current laptop was exceedingly slow that Shropshire Council were running a scheme which would supply free laptops to Town and Parish Councils. He went on to say that the old computer tower and monitor were now obsolete. Cllr Carroll suggested that the old computer could be donated to the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme for recycling. Cllr Holton commented that it should be ensured that the hard drive is cleared of all items. Cllr Carroll commented that Mike Ashwell at Enterprise House could do this.

It was proposed by Cllr Dr Penney and seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved that the Town Council apply for a new laptop from Shropshire Council and that the old computer tower and monitor be donated to the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme for recycling after the hard drive had been wiped.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

a) Cllr Hird informed the meeting that he had attended that last meeting of the Local Joint Committee and that several funding applications had been approved. He went on to say that other items had been discussed regarding the Shropshire Link bus service and a presentation from Jake Berriman on the Core Strategy

b) Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that she had attended a meeting of Enterprise South West Shropshire and that concern was expressed regarding the fact that the units formerly occupied by Embreys were still empty. She went on to say that concern was also expressed regarding the fact the Teme Leisure were objection to the construction of the multi use sports area at the Community College.

c) Cllr Stanley informed the meeting that she had attended a meeting of the South Shropshire Business forum, which had received a presentation from Mike Ashwell on the future of broadband in rural areas

18. CORRESPONDENCE.

a) A letter had been received from BT asking whether the Town Council wished to adopt the phone box in Colebatch, which actually was in the Town Council area. It was agreed that the letter should be passed to Colebatch Parish Council as it may be of interest to them.

b) A letter had been received from Mr R Freeman regarding the current state of the cycle track. It was agreed that Cllr Carroll and the Clerk should agree a reply to the letter.

c) Notification of the SALC AGM was received. No Councillor wished to attend

d) An environmental maintenance street cleaning survey was received; Cllr Carroll and Cllr Stanley agreed to complete the survey.

e) The notice of failure of funding application to the Community Sustainable Energy Programme was noted by Councillors. Cllr Hird informed the meeting that a new application would be submitted

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 9.58pm

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 27 October 2009

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

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, W J Morris, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mr. T Ward (Acting Town Clerk) and three members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Dr St J Penney (other commitment)

It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Carroll and duly resolved that the apologies be accepted

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

3. TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPOINTMENT WORKING GROUP REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN CLERK.

The Acting Clerk informed the meeting that the Appointment Working Group was recommending that Mrs Diane Malley be appointed as Town Clerk. He went onto say that Mrs Malley was currently Clerk to Tanworth in Arden Parish Council and also acted as internal auditor to several parish councils and had previously be Clerk to Droitwich Spa Town Council. The Clerk informed the meeting that Mrs Malley held the CiLCA qualification and also the BTEC National Certificate in Public Administration.

In response to a question from Cllr Gaffney the Acting Clerk confirmed that references had been sought and were very satisfactory.

It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved that the recommendation of the Working Group be accepted and that Mr Diane Malley be appointed as Clerk to the Council

4. TO AMEND THE BANK MANDATE

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that with the appointment of the new clerk the bank mandate would need amending to remove the previous Clerk and add the new Clerk to the list of signatories. She went on to say that following advice received from SALC cheques should be signed by any three of the signatories not 2 councillors and the clerk as present.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved that the bank mandate be altered to remove the previous Clerk and add the new clerk to the list of signatories and that cheques be signed by any 3 of the signatories.

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 9.58pm

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 10/11/2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.

Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J Gaffney, N. Hird, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, W J Morris, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mr. T Ward (Acting Town Clerk)

Prior to the start of the meeting James Thompson, Waste Prevention Officer – Shropshire Council gave a presentation on the Zero Waste Initiative. He explained that the Council has been awarded £10,000 to work with voluntary organisations in the town on waste reduction projects. He went on to give details of the projects that were planned and then answered questions from Councillors. The Mayor thanked Mr. Thompson for attending the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Dr St J Penney (Illness)

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Gaffney and duly resolved that the apology be accepted

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Farr declared a personal interest in minute 6a as he was a friend of the applicant.

Cllr Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in minute 8 as she lived and had a business attached to the Town Hall

Cllr Morris declared a prejudicial interest in minute 8 as he had submitted a quote for the work.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Stanley and duly resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 13 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

The Acting Clerk informed the meeting that there was an error on the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2009 in that the time the meeting ended was 8.22pm not as stated

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Stanley and duly resolved that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday October 27 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record subject to the amendment above.

4. MATTERS ARISING.

Cllr Stanley stated that she wished to raise the future running of the business park and whether the Town Council should apply to run the business park. Cllr Carroll commented that the Council had previously written to the Council to request that more land be made available to extend the allotments. Cllr Gaffney also commented that it had been suggested that the Town Council apply to extend the length of the lease on the allotment area. It agreed that the Clerk should write to Tom McCabe to request a meeting with Council Officers to discuss the future management of the Business Park and to request an extension to the lease of the allotment area and to request that more land be made available for the allotments.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to the planning officer who was dealing with the planning application at Tuffins and she had advised him that she had been in conversation with the applicants agent and had advised him that the application would be refused on a number of grounds and had given him the opportunity to withdraw the application. She had gone on to say that she anticipated that the application would be withdrawn or refused in the near future and that the Council would be advised accordingly.

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that she and the Mayor had met with the Streetscene Officer and it had been agreed that one bin would be installed in the auction yard adjacent to the new notice board.

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that she had spoken to the youth officer with regard to the cycle track and she had suggested that a hedge should be planted between the track and the allotments. She went on to say that free trees could be obtained from the Unitary Council and that the youth group would plant them. It was agreed that this should be pursued.

Cllr Gaffney expressed concern that vehicles were using the path passed the King Head and enquired as to whether any measures could be taken to prevent this. Cllr Carroll explained that once the right of way was dedicated action could be taken to prevent vehicular use.

Cllr Stanley stated that she had been investigating potential locations for a new notice board and had found a potential site at the Co-Op. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Manager of the Co-Op to request permission to put an external notice board at the Co-Op.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr Luckhurst suggested that more information points should be installed in the town. He distributed photographs of rotating display boards that may be suitable. It was agreed that further research should be done on the matter.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

The following Planning application was considered: -

09/02842/FUL Erection of extension to dwelling (revised scheme) at Longhope, The Cabin Bishops Castle SY9 5JG

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Holton and resolved that the Council has no objection to the application

To receive notification of appeal to Planning Inspectorate - The Bakery, Church Street Bishops Castle.

The Clerk informed the Council that notification had been received that an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate over the refusal of retrospective planning permission at the Bakery, Church Street, Bishops Castle. He informed Councillors that the comments made in objection to the original application would be taken into consideration at the appeal. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Inspectorate to request that a site visit be carried out as part of the appeal to ensure that the full effect the building had on the surrounding area was fully appreciated

c) Reports of Applications.

The Clerk informed the Council that Listed Building consent had been granted for the installation of photo voltaic cells at the Town Hall. Cllr Hird informed the meeting that planning permission would now need to be applied for.

7. ACCOUNTS –

a) Councillors considered the schedule of accounts for payment.

Cllr Hird expressed concern that he felt that the work carried out by Petra Bindloss was unsatisfactory and her account should not be paid.

Councillors felt that as we had a contract with her we could not withhold payment but that Cllrs Hird, Gaffney and the Mayor should meet with Ms Bindloss to discuss the situation with her

Cllr Gaffney commented that the bill for the legal fees for the creation of the footpath was greater than that agreed by the Council. The Clerk pointed out that the bill nett of VAT was £750 which was under the amount agreed. It was agreed that the payment be authorised but that payment should be held until confirmation of the creation of the right of way was received.

It was proposed by Cllr Morris and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly resolved that the accounts listed below be approved

Salaries £ 272.18
SALC - Training Course £ 60.00
Fastrack Maintenance £ 134.55
Ford & Warren - Legal Fees Footpath Creation - Kings Head £ 868.50
Charles Ransford £ 20.95

Payment made by Direct Debit

BT £ 96.54

b) To receive a report regarding what the funding of £2000.00 for youth activities will be used for and to agree payment of funding.

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that she had spoken to Irene Stelfox who had informed her that the money granted by the Council had been used as follows: -

£1000 as matched funding for the South Shropshire grant for work involved in setting up the youth council

£500 to conduct a youth survey

£500 for extra core youth work with the youth council.

Cllr Gaffney expressed dissatisfaction with the level of detail received and asked that a written report of the youth council's work be brought to the next meeting before payment is made. It was proposed by Cllr Stanley and seconded by Cllr Hird that Ms Stelfox be asked to provide a written report on the work of the Youth Council for the next meeting prior to payment being agreed.

8. WORK REQUIRED IN THE TOWN HALL

Cllr Wright commented that the tenders had not been obtained correctly as contractors had not had sight of the detailed specifications. It was agreed that further quotes should be obtained after contractors had received copies of the full specifications and that a special meeting be held to consider the quotes received in order that the work can be carried out within the timescales set by the HSE

9. REPAIR OF RAILINGS AROUND THE COPPER BEECH TREE AT THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE STREET AND WELSH STREET

Cllr Gaffney informed the meeting that he had been approached by local residents regarding the railings around the copper beech tree at the junction of Castle Street and Welsh Street. Councillors expressed concern that the railings were on private property and that it may set a precedent if the Council arranges repair. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Carroll that the Council makes a grant of £200 to local residents to enable them to get the railings repaired.

10. PLANTERS IN THE TOWN

Cllr Gaffney commented that he had received complaints regarding the planters in the town. Cllr Carroll commented that the way the planters were currently done was not satisfactory and that something needed to be done. She went on to say that there were several tops for each of the planters and that these could be planted in succession to ensure a good display throughout the summer and that the cost of maintaining them could be met from the environmental grant. She also suggested that the planter posts could be reduced in height. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Wright and resolved that a trial of the plan outlined by Cllr Carroll should be carried out on 4 of the planters. There was one vote against.

11. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM LEADER FUNDING APPLICATION

Cllr Gaffney explained that the South Shropshire Youth Forum was applying to the Leader Fund for funding to enable them to carry out environmental projects with the youth of Bishops castle. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Farr and resolved that the Council writes to the Youth Forum in support of their application

12. LIGHTING OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that recently a member of the public had fallen outside the Town Hall and that the First Responder had commented that the area outside the Town Hall was quite dark. It was proposed by Cllr Gaffney and seconded by Cllr Carroll that a timer switch be installed on the outside light on the town hall and that the light be switched on till 11.00pm to ensure safety outside the town hall

13. DIGITAL CAMERA

Cllr Hird informed the meeting that several years ago the Council had bought a digital camera to put on the town hall but that it had never been erected and was stored at Enterprise House. He went on to say that he had been advised that the camera was now obsolete and that maybe it could be offered to the Primary School. It was proposed by Cllr Holton and seconded by Cllr Hird and resolved that the camera should be disposed of, and should be offered to the primary school.

14. TOILETS IN AUCTION YARD

Councillor Hird informed the meeting that when the toilets were closed people were urinating and defecating in the area behind the toilets and that some sort of barrier needed erecting to prevent this.

It was proposed by Cllr Hird and seconded by Cllr Gaffney and resolved that a request be made to Shropshire Council that they install gates or barriers at the back of the toilets in the Auction Yard

15. SIGNAGE ON B4358

Cllr Carroll informed the meeting that a request had been received from the Bishop's Castle P3 Group that the Council ask Shropshire Council to put "No footway " signs on the B4358 on the Bishops Castle side of the Lagden Lane junction and some 20 yards on the BC side of The Cottage Farm as this was a length of road between two footpaths. She went on to say that there was existing posts that the signs could be attached to.

It was proposed by Cllr Carroll and seconded by Cllr Morris and resolved that a request for signs be made

16. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Mrs S Gould - Letter re planters

b) Mrs S Gould - Letter re HGV signage on Union Street – It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Highways Manager regarding this matter

c) Miss M Savage - Letter re parking at the top of Union Street – It was agreed that the situation should be monitored and that the police should be alerted to the problem and asked to take any action necessary.

d) Mr & Mrs P Hughes - Letter re lighting on path between Castle Cars and Bowling Green Close – Mr Furber confirmed that the hedge in question did belong to Halls. It was agreed that a letter be written to Halls requesting that they cut the hedge back to improve the lighting along the path.

e) Shropshire Council - Standards in Local Government

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 9.58pm

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting 24/11/2009

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON 24th NOVEMBER 2009 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C. Pinches, Mayor in the Chair.

Councillors: J.M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J Gaffney, N Hird, M.E. Holton, R.D. Wright,

In attendance: Mrs. D. Malley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons from:

Councillors W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney and M. Stanley.

Proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Hird.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Councillors Carroll, Hird and Wright declared a personal interest in item 3. Work in the Town Hall as they know personally a contractor who has submitted a quotation.

1. Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Councillor Pinches declared a prejudicial interest in item 3. Work in the Town Hall as one of the contractors leases premises from him. Councillor Pinches left the room whilst this item was being discussed.

3. WORK IN THE TOWN HALL:

The Mayor left the room, Councillor Carroll took the Chair.

Two quotations had been received to carry out the safety works in the roof attic. The quotations and were read out.

It was noted the two quotations had very little difference in price and it was thought that both contractors would carry out the work satisfactorily. A discussion took place of when the contractors could carry out the work taking into account the HSE report requiring the work to be carried out in December.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk make further enquiries of when each contractor could undertake the works and appoint the contractor who could carry out the work soonest. Proposed by Councillor Holton and seconded by Councillor Gaffney.

The Mayor returned to the room and took the Chair.

4. PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS AT THE TOWN HALL

Councillor Hird reported there has been an offer of grant of £7,000 from Awards For All. This together with the grant offer from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme would provide £16,431 towards the total cost of £18,000 for the project. So far the grant application to the Community Sustainable Energy Programme (BRE) had been unsuccessful.

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the grant offer from Awards For All and re-apply for the BRE grant. Proposed by Councillor Hird and seconded by Councillor Carroll.

5. PRESENTATIONS AT THE NEXT MEETING

IT WAS RESOLVED to invite the project officer for the Town Hall Renovation Partnership to give a presentation at 7.30 p.m. before the next Town Council meeting on 8th December 2009.

Proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Gaffney.

IT WAS RESOLVED to invite a representation at 7.45 pm before the Town Council meeting on 5th January 2010 regarding the idea of two new bus services to facilitate adult education and leisure from Bishops Castle and Clun to Shrewsbury.

Proposed by Councillor Carroll seconded by Councillor Gaffney.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Bishop's Castle Town Council Meeting

08 December 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER AT 8.00 PM.

Prior to the meeting Evelyn Bowles gave a report on behalf of the Town Hall Renovation Partnership regarding the work carried out, the outline proposals and the initial enquiry made to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In brief the proposals included the repair of the Town Hall, improved access and facilities and the future uses of the building. To be successful for Heritage Lottery Funding, it needs to be demonstrated that the project deals with conservation, participation and learning. The partnership has sought expert advice and local opinion on the project, it was felt important not to clash with other existing venues in the town. Beyond conservation, the outline proposals includes restoration and adaptation of the building to include new and modern uses. The partnership has spoken to English Heritage and the Conservation Officer and has confirmed that adaptation is acceptable to ensure the future of the building. It was proposed to remove the stair case from the council chamber and the kitchen from the hall and remove the paneling to the hall windows to create a lighter, larger, more attractive amenity space. The toilets would be re-arranged to create internal and external toilets, a lift would be added and the council chamber returned to its former glory.

The Tourist Information Centre could be moved to the hall and screened off to allow uses for other activities such as art exhibitions, small private parties, wedding ceremonies, civic functions, a museum and festivals.

In answer to questions raised by Councillors it was said that restoration of the external fabric of the building should be included in the project. There was a concern raised by Councillors that the proposed uses could mean giving up an assured income from the Markets. Evelyn Bowles questioned if the Friday Market is assured and indicated that the donations received at the museum in its current location would cover any other losses of income.

The Mayor then opened the meeting.

PRESENT Councillor K.E.C.Pinches, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. M. Carroll, S.A. Farr, M. Furber, J Gaffney, M. E. Holton, J.A. Magill, Dr St J Penney, M. Stanley and R.D. Wright.

In attendance: Mrs. D Malley (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N. Hird (holiday) and Councillor W.J. Morris (Illness).

It was proposed by Councillor Carroll and seconded by Councillor Holton and duly resolved that the apologies be accepted

Unitary Councillor P. Phillips had also sent his apologies (illness)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr Penny declared a personal interest in item 13. c) as he is a Trustee.
Councillor Farr declared a personal interest in minute 6a ii) as he was a friend of the applicant.
Councillor Stanley declared a personal interest in item 10 as she is Town Council representative on ESWS and a prejudicial interest in item 8 as she lives and has a business attached to the Town Hall
Councillor Holton declared a personal interest in item 13 a) as she is a Trustee of The House on Crutches, and a member of the sub-committee of BCHRC
Councillor Carroll declared a personal interest in item 13 d) as she is a member of the Christmas Lights Committee and a prejudicial interest in item 10 as she is a director of ESWS.

3.a) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2009

With the amendments of:

4. Matters arising, clarify 3rd line should read 'Council had previously written to **Shropshire** Council'.

7. Accounts, second paragraph, amend to read Councillor **Hird** commented.

It was proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Carroll and duly resolved that the amended minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th November 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

b) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2009

It was proposed by Councillor Gaffney and seconded by Councillor Wright and duly resolved that the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th November 2009 be signed by the Mayor as a true record.

4. PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was proposed by Councillor Pinches to alter the order of business to move Matters Arising after Planning Applications. Seconded by Councillor Carroll. All in favour.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK

Mr Smith had expressed a wish to speak regarding item 10. Teme Leisure Maintenance of SpArc but had not given notice. It was proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Holton and duly RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting before item 10 to allow Mr Smith to address the Council.

Mr Hemmings addressed the Council regarding plans 09/03304/FUL Haining Croft, Church Lane.
Mr Hemmings reported the new proposal was no better than the previous proposal and there were factual errors in the application. The same traffic constraints exist, the lane is used as a footpath by vulnerable people, currently there are more pedestrians than vehicles that use the lane. A measurement had been made of the width of the lane by the Rectory wall, the measurements are less than those stated in the application. The junction with Kerry Lane has limited visibility.
The drainage details as per the planning application are not practical, in addition the intention is to drain surface water into a private ditch that is already at capacity.
The density of the proposal for a conservation area is too great and the proposals are to remove 40% of the trees. These should be protected.

6. TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) The following Planning application was considered: -

i) 09/03304/FUL Haining Croft, Church Lane, erection of 11 residential units (including 5 affordable) and associated outbuildings.

Objection. Although the number of dwellings has been reduced, the reasons for refusal of the previous application still remain:

- Virtue of scale, grouping and mass represent an over development of this sensitive site within Bishops Castle conservation area, impacting in turn upon the level of traffic generated along Church Lane in terms of safety and general nuisance and upon open nature of the site, its setting and mature tree cover to the extent that it would be harmful to and not respect the character and appearance of the area contrary to the provisions of policy E6 of the SS Local Plan and the provisions of PPS1 and PPG15
- It is considered that the limited visibility and width of the approach road to the site is inadequate to serve the number of dwellings proposed and could lead to dangerous conditions on the highway for both pedestrians and vehicular traffic.
- The drainage proposals are not practical, they propose to discharge surface water into a private ditch which is already at capacity.

Proposed by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Dr Penny.

ii) 09/02842/FUL Longhope, The Cabin, Bishops Castle, erection of extension to dwelling (revised scheme)

No Objection. Proposed by Councillor Stanley, seconded by Councillor Magill.

iii) 09/03323/TCA 7 Grange Court, Kerry Lane. To fell one Western Red Cedar within Conservation Area.

Objection. Proposed by Councillor Dr Penny, seconded by Councillor Carroll.

iv) 09/03227/CPE 21 High Street, application for Certificate of Lawful Development for use as a dwelling.

No objection. Proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Magill.

b) Reports of Applications.

None.

7. MATTERS ARISING.

The Clerk reported that Castlewood have been appointed to carry out the works to the Town Hall roof space.

An update was requested on the removal of the yellow lines from the town. It was reported the Police Inspector had stated it was not a police matter, however, Councillor Phillips has been pursuing the matter.

It was noted there were several matters still outstanding from older minutes for example a litter bin near to the Co-op. A list of outstanding matters should be drawn up.

8. ACCOUNTS -

a) Councillors considered the schedule of accounts for payment.

It was proposed by Cllr Morris and seconded by Cllr Wright and duly **resolved** that the accounts listed below be approved

Salaries and Inland Revenue	£ 1,332.59
Shropshire Council - closed top bin at Auction Yard	£ 255.63
Cherry Green Access	£ 119.31
Fastrack Maintenance	£ 134.55
BCBS	£ 14.75
ESWS - centre usage	£ 35.19
C. Pritchard - repairs to shelter	£ 47.00
C. Pritchard - playing field maintenance	£ 64.00
Royal British Legion - wreath	£ 25.00
SLCC - subscription renewal	£ 135.00
K.E.C Pinches - expenses for Mace Bearers,	
Stationery and mileage	£ 71.60
D. Malley - post office	£ 9.56
T. Ward - expenses	£ 14.11
V&W Electrics Ltd	£ 166.32
G Latchford - 3 baskets	£ 37.50
Petra Bindloss	£ 100.00
Shropshire Council - planning application fee	£ 85.00
<u>Payment made by Direct Debit</u>	
Atlantic Electric and Gas - toilets	£ 618.36

It was delegated to the clerk to make the following payment once notification

of the transfer is received:

Ford & Warren - Legal Fees Footpath Creation - Kings Head

£ 868.50

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9. TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

a) Councillor Carroll proposed a motion to fully support the proposals so far as put forward by Evelyn Bowles. The matter will be required to go to public consultation but does require the support of the Town Council to proceed.
Councillor Dr Penny proposed an amendment to the motion in that the wording should be 'to support the proposals so far as put forward by Evelyn Bowles.' It was felt the proposals should not be fully supported as they may remove the Town Hall's only source of income.

The motion with the amendment was seconded by Councillor Magill. It was duly RESOLVED that the Town Council support the proposals so far as put forward by Evelyn Bowles.

b) It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of Peter Napier regarding repairs required to the roof and proposed to invite Shropshire Roofing to resubmit their tender based on the new recommendations. Proposed by Councillor Gaffney, seconded by Councillor Carroll.

10. ADJOURN MEETING TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK

It was RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting to allow Mr Smith to address the Council. Proposed by Councillor Gaffney, seconded by Councillor Wright.
Mr Smith reported that he was a member of SpArc and was concerned that the cost of membership had nearly doubled and there was an administration fee charged to pay by direct debit. The membership fee was now nearly as much as for Ludlow Leisure Centre however SpArc is open for much fewer hours than Ludlow.

11. TEME LEISURE MAINTENANCE OF SPARC

Points of concern are:

- Membership charges are in line with Ludlow Leisure Centre, however the SpArc is not open anywhere near as many hours
- Teme Leisure said Bishops Castle would be treated on its own merits but it has clearly not been
- Teme Leisure's anti community stance in that they were obstructive to the construction of the astro turf pitch; will not allow users of the astro turf to use the changing rooms; will not allow ESWS to link up the electricity although payment was offered for the usage; visitors of the school cannot use the SpArc car park even when SpArc is not open
- Extra administration charge for payment by direct debit even though most other organisations offer a method when paying by this method
- The lease has still not been signed
- Shropshire Council are not taking responsibility for the Leisure Centre.

At this point Councillor Carroll, who had declared a prejudicial interest in ESWS left the room.

It was noted the Town Council had previously not supported ESWS taking over the management of the Leisure Centre, this was mainly due to financial reasons, however the situation has now changed and it is understood Teme Leisure claim a subsidy from Shropshire Council for any shortfalls.

It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Shropshire Council and copied to Mike Ashwell and Grant Perry at ESWS. The letter should question the way Teme Leisure is running the Leisure Centre and to request Shropshire Council reconsider putting the management of SpArc to ESWS. The letter should highlight the anti community stance of Teme Leisure and request Shropshire Council do take responsibility for their building. References should be made to the business case put forward that all services to be brought up to the top standard. Proposed by Councillor Gaffney, seconded by Councillor Magill.

Councillor Carroll returned to the room.

12. MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING FIELDS

It was noted that the management plan for the playing fields has slipped and action should be taken on immediate points with a detailed schedule of works drawn up for ongoing maintenance.

Councillor Dr Penny proposed a working party should be set up to agree action on immediate points and draw up the schedule of works. The working party to consist of Councillors Pinches, Carroll, Holton, Farr and Hird. Seconded by Councillor Pinches, four voted for, five voted against. The party was lost.

Councillor Gaffney proposed the working party should be set up to agree action on immediate points and draw up the schedule of works. The working party to consist of Councillors Pinches, Carroll, Holton and Farr. Seconded by Councillor Carroll, six voted for, two voted against. The proposal was carried.

13. ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS

It was RESOLVED to accept the invitation from Shropshire Council to be identified within the Partner Membership in Action for Market Towns on condition it there is no cost to the Town Council. Seconded by Councillor Stanley.

14. BUDGET

It was agreed the precept should remain the same as the previous year.

It was thought sensible to retain the earmarked reserves for Town Hall Renovation at £56,624.

It was noted the budget for street lighting for the current year is £26,275, of that £7,767 has been spent during the year and £12,000 is anticipated for Bull Street. This will leave £6,508 in earmarked reserves for street lighting.

The £3,000 Environment Grant received during current year should be entitled Town Centre Maintenance of Green Areas. The title for youth should be changed to Youth Support and the budget increased to £3,000.

It was agreed to recommend the budget with the above changes to the Council meeting of 5th January 2010.

15. REQUESTS FOR GRANTS

a) Bishops Castle Heritage Resource Centre: It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £200 to the museum and £200 to the Resources centre.

Proposed by Councillor Stanley, seconded by Councillor Magill

b) West Shropshire Talking Newspaper: It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £50 to West Shropshire Talking Newspaper. Proposed by Councillor Gaffney, seconded by Councillor Holton

c) Castle Land Trust: It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £400 to the Castle Land Trust. Proposed by Councillor Gaffney, seconded by Councillor Magill.

d) Christmas Lights: It was RESOLVED to award a grant of £500 to the Christmas Lights Committee. Proposed by Councillor Farr, seconded by Councillor Stanley. Councillor Carroll was thanked for the enormous work carried out in the Christmas Lights Committee. Councillor Magill had been asked to mention that local people had thought the amount of lights were poor.

e) Marie Curie Cancer Care: It was RESOLVED to award £50 to Marie Cure Cancer Care. Proposed by Councillor Stanley, seconded by Councillor Wright.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Shropshire Council - speed limit policy

b) Shropshire Council - Land sale for biomass. It was considered Shropshire Council should be pressed to make their intentions known however Councillor Stanley advised patience, that the matter is in hand.

c) Shropshire Council - proposed election fees, it was noted.

d) Mr and Mrs Bennett, objected to an advertising hoarding near the steps on the southern side of their house. The clerk was asked to check if the manager of the Co-op had been written to regarding a notice board..

e) Royal British Legion - A thank you for attending the Remembrance Sunday Parade

f) Shropshire Council - Polling Station - will be moved back to the public hall

g) Community Land Trust - Grants will be received to enable 2 affordable homes to be built at the back of the Kings Head.

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 9.52pm