

Minutes 10 January 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 10th JANUARY 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird,
Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney, and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Magill, Cllr. Evans,
Cllr. Pinches, Cllr. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Davidson - Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6b as her Mother-in-law's house backs on to the property.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 6b as the property can be seen from his property.
Cllr. Farr declared a personal interest in item 7 as his wife is a committee member for Friends of the Playing Fields.
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley declared a personal interest in item 11 as she owns the building that it may be attached to.
Cllr. Davidson - Stanley declared a personal interest in item 12 as she is a personal friend of Carol Kinmond.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 17 as she is a member of the P3 group.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 18 as she is a member of the Tourism Group.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 as she has an allotment off Laburnum Alley.
Cllr. Blundell declared prejudicial interests in items 12 and 19 as until today he is the street lighting contractor and in future may tender for work.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) As the circulated minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th December 2005 were incorrectly printed, it was agreed that the correct copy should be circulated and agreed at the next meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10a) (ii) A letter of explanation has been received from Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council with an apology if offence had been caused. Cllr. Wright commented that it was a half-hearted apology.
Item 18 Cllr. Gaffney explained that he had been approached by two households in Welsh Street regarding the rainwater drainage problems. The Mayor explained that the Clerk had previously spoken to Shropshire County Council about the problems but it was some months ago. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to Ian Rutherford (Shropshire County Council) pushing for an urgent solution to the problem. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
Item from a previous meeting. - Cllr. Carroll reported that a letter had been received from Jonathan Brown, Community Land Trust asking if he could speak at the next meeting. Cllr. Wright proposed that Jonathan Brown be invited to speak at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Dr. Penney requested that he be asked to come at 9.00 pm.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Paula Middleton requested to speak about item 14. (Her letter regarding Stone house Hospital). She expressed her concern about the piecemeal development of the Town and the major problem of parking. She asked the Council to be pro-active in its approach to planning.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that item 14 be brought forward. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

14. STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL

Consideration of the letter received from Mrs Middleton. Cllr. Carroll reported that she had attended a meeting at the Public Hall where she had put forward Mrs Middleton's suggestion that a new hospital be built at the Crowgate Business Park. This was not considered a good idea for the following reasons:- a) Coverage Care could not afford it. b) The District Council Planning Department may not give permission because a hospital is not classed as business use. c) The Bishop's Castle doctors are against it. There was some discussion on Mrs Middleton's letter. Cllr. Wright felt that Mrs Middleton's point was that the Council should make representation but he felt there was not really anything that the Council could do. Cllr. Dr Penney felt the Council should be more pro-active and should approach the new planning officer to invite him to Bishop's Castle for a meeting to discuss the future shape of Bishop's Castle. Cllr. Carroll felt that a design statement was required. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the new planning officer be invited to Bishop's Castle to discuss how the Council could be more pro-active in planning decisions. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. Cllr. Gaffney asked if Councillors would prefer the hospital to be on the Crowgate site. Cllr. Wright felt that Stone House was better in the centre of the Town as people could easily walk to it, therefore reducing the use of cars. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed that Mrs Middleton be allowed to comment on the discussion. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Cllr. Carroll proposed the meeting be adjourned to allow Mrs Middleton to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.
Mrs Middleton explained that the main point of her letter was to stress the traffic problems in the Town and ways to reduce it.

Cllr. Carroll resumed the meeting.

Tony Barnes, Community Fire and Safety Officer for Bishop's Castle spoke to give an update on the progress of the fire safety and fire alarm programme. He reported that 80% of houses in Bishop's Castle do not have a working smoke alarm. He explained that traditional smoke alarms need testing weekly, cleaning six monthly and the batteries changing every year. A special alarm has been designed that will last 10 years and does not need a battery. Funding has been given for 750 of these alarms for this area. The fire service are cold calling on houses and if they do not have an alarm they will fit one or two in each house, depending on the size of the house, free of charge,. He explained to the Council that he would like to set up a warden type system to find out which houses do not have alarms. He would like the Council to consider how they can help with this system. He then went on to explain about Shropshire Care and Repair - Bogus caller task force. This program has funding to install security chains, barrel viewers and mirrors to the houses of the more vulnerable. (People on income support or the elderly for example.) The Fire Service are being paid to install these security items at the same time as they install the smoke alarms. The Police are backing the project. There will be a launch on Friday 27th January at 2. pm.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/05/17776/OE Overhead Electricity Supply -Installation of an overhead line. Pumping Station at Oakley Borehole, Bishop's Castle. Wayleave Survey and Engineering Ltd.
Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) 1/05/17205/F Erection of a dwelling: conversion of (existing) building to domestic garage and store; use of land for the (temporary) siting of a mobile home. The Bakery, Church Street, Bishop's Castle, Mr Thorpe and Ms Bath.
Appeal to the Secretary of State. Cllr. Wright proposed no change to previous comments. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/04/16360/F Erection of a dwelling; formation of a vehicular access: installation of a septic tank.
The Ponds, Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Leek.
Planning Permission Granted.

(ii) 1/05/17660/F Erection of chlorination kiosk; erection of an extension of pump station building; erection of a 2m fence; construction of estate roads and widening of existing access and 1 x access.
Oakley Farm Puming Station, Bishop's Castle. Severn Trent Water Ltd
Planning permission granted.

7.PLAYING FIELDS

Update of the financial situation of the Playing Fields Project as at 31/12/05.
(summary included) Cllr. Wright proposed that the playing field accounts be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

8. PRECEPT

Discussion took place and questions were asked about the precept figures provided. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the precept remain the same as last year at £39 820. Seconded by Cllr. Hird. Cllr. Wright proposed an amendment that the figure be increased by 5% (1% per household) to £41 811 as the Town has more amenities that the Council need to take care of. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell. The amendment was carried (6 votes for, 2 votes against) and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved (5 votes for, 2 votes against). Cllr. Dr. Penney voted against.

9. BUS TIMETABLES AT THE BUS STOP AND OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL.

Cllr. Gaffney explained that the timetables on the Town Hall and the bus shelter do not show the times of the return journeys to Bishop's Castle. It was generally felt that there is room on the timetables to show the return journey. The public are told that subsidies will be cut if the services are not used. All efforts should be made to encourage the public to use the services. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter to this effect be sent to Jean Smith, Transport and Administration Officer at Shropshire County Council asking for the return journey timetable to be put in the case. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

10. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND JOB DESCRIPTION FOR TOILET CLEANER.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the contract and job description for toilet cleaner (see attached) be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that this contract format be used for Town Hall Cleaner and Street Cleaner. Suitable amended copy to be approved by Council first. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

11. HANDRAIL ON STEPS IN MARKET SQUARE AT THE JUNCTION WITH HIGH STREET

Request for a handrail adjacent to these steps. A letter was read from Laurie Stanley, owner of the adjacent property saying he is willing for a handrail to be put on his property as long as the design is approved by Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council. Cllr. Wright proposed a handrail be put on the road side of the steps. Mr Richards advice to be sought regarding design. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.
Cllr. Blundell left the room

12. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

A letter was read from J Blundell and J. Whittall explaining that because of the problems associated with the light in Castle Street they would not be renewing their contract. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Messrs Blundell and Whittall thanking them for all their good work over the years, especially for all the money they have saved the Council. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. A letter was read from Carol Kinmond expressing her dissatisfaction with the manner in which the light in Castle Street was repaired. Cllr. Dr. Penney commented that he understood that the bright light was less expensive but it was quite unsuitable. After some discussion Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Central Networks be contacted to repair any lights immediately needing attention and that tenders be sought for the long term.
Cllr. Blundell returned

13. WELSH STREET - STREET CLEANING

Cllr. Blundell proposed that the Clerk investigate further as to what part of Welsh Street Andrew should clean. Is it as far as the Wintles? The Clerk to speak to Andrew if he should be cleaning further. If more hours are required then come back to Council. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

15 ACRE OF LAND - ALLOTMENTS

Consideration of the reply received from Cllr. Hurst-Knight and the minutes of the meeting where the decision of a 6 month break clause was reached (see attached). Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Cllr. Hurst-Knight requiring a break clause of 12 months. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr. Dr. Penney took the Chair.

16. LABURNUM ALLEY (FROM KISSING GATE TO UNION STREET)

Cllr. Wright proposed that tenders are sought for the laying of scalpings on the section of Laburnum Alley from the kissing gate to Union Street. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.
Cllr. Carroll returned and took the Chair.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be extended for five minutes to discuss item 21 Accounts. Other items to be postponed to the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

The Mayor reported that Carol Kinmond had requested that Cllr. Blundell rescind the comment in his letter in item 12 that Mr and Mrs Kinmond had been abusive and aggressive. Cllr. Blundell said her would say sorry if he had offended anyone.

21. ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

23 b) Correspondence for circulation

- (i) Local Council Review
- (ii) SSDC - Standards Committee - Agenda 10/1/06 and Minutes 29/11/05.
- (iii) South Shropshire Furniture Scheme
- (iv) South Shropshire Housing Association - Annual report
- (v) Salopian Recorder
- (vi) Shropshire Ambulance Service, Serving your Community.

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

Minutes 31 January 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R.A. Evans, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - J. Gaffney
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 11 as she is treasurer for the Tourism Group.
Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in items 14 and 15 as she is a member of the P3 Group.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a fund raiser for the skateboard association.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
a) Minutes of the Council meetings held on Tuesday 6th December 2005, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. Minutes of the Council meetings held on Tuesday 10th January 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley. Seconded by Cllr. Farr.
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING
Item 14 from 6th December. The Clerk advised Council that a Council cannot complain to the Local Government Ombudsman, it has to be an individual or group of individuals.
Cllr. Blundell proposed that the Clerk put an article in the press with this information. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

The item regarding the youth shelter from a previous meeting was raised by Cllr. Carroll. She informed Council that there would be a meeting on Tuesday 7th February at 6.30 pm at Abbey Fields to discuss with residents where they would like the shelter. The South Shropshire Housing Association will notify residents of the meeting.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:
Jonathan Greig - Item 6c - Plans for 25 High Street. Mr Grieg read two letters of support for the intended work. He explained that the work involved was minimal and reversible. He felt this conversion would bring another residential property to the centre of the Town where it was much needed and would also keep a shop open.

Cllr. Wright proposed that Evelyn Bowles be allowed to speak at item 10. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:
a) 1/05/17776/OE Overhead Electricity Supply, Termination of overhead line and installation of underground cable.
Pumping station at Oakley Borehole, Bishop's Castle. Wayleave Survey.
Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

b) 1/06/17789/F Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling,
Haylor, 8 Lavender Bank, Bishop's Castle.
Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

c) 1/06/17804/F and 1/06/17805/LB Planning Permission (Full) and Listed Building Consent. Change of use of shop on ground floor and residential unit on first floor. (delegated matter)
25 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Nick Buy.
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

d) 1/06/17787/F Planning permission (full) Erection of a dwelling.
Land adjoining Fairfield, Woodbatch Road, Bishop's Castle. Mr R Griffiths.
Cllr. Morris proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

d (i) 1/06/17820/F Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling (delegated matter)
8 Bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr. J Russell.
Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.
(i) 1/05/17600/F Erection of 20 dwellings, formation of access road and associated works and alterations to 21 Grange Road to form new community centre.
Land adjoining Grange Road, Bishop's Castle. South Shropshire Housing Ass.
Planning permission granted.
(ii) 1/04/16441/0 Erection of 2 no dwellings.
46 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs C Pugh.
Outline planning permission granted.

7. SKATEBOARD PARK
a) Request from the Bishop's Castle Skateboarding Association for the Town Council to take over the running of the Skatepark project in the medium to long term, once it is fully equipped, or in the short term if the Skatepark committee becomes unviable.
Cllr. Dr. Penney commented that if the skateboard association ceased to function there may be difficulty in getting grants and money may have to be paid back.
Cllr. Hird explained that there were three granted applications being processed which could not proceed unless there is a skateboard association. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the skateboard association be encouraged to keep going. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.
b) The Skateboard Association has requested £2000 towards the fundraising effort to purchase and install 3 main ramps for the skate park. Also a grant of £1000 to fund a youth worker to build a team of Skatepark users with whom the Town Council could liase over matters arising in relation to the Skateboard use and maintenance. Councillors earmarked £2000 in December for the skateboard park. How would they like it allocated. Mrs Robertson distributed information at the December meeting on the current situation and future planning of the skateboard park. Cllr. Hird proposed that there should be no decision regarding the money earmarked until the skateboard association has a revived committee and it has had its AGM. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

8, PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLEY ACCOUNTS
Cllr. Hird queried the fact that the expenditure on the quarterly accounts did not agree with the cheques authorised on the minutes.. The Clerk explained that the playing field accounts, council tax and bank charges were not shown on the minutes. Cllr. Wright proposed the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.
Cllr. Hird has requested a meeting with the Clerk and the Internal Auditor. Cllr. Blundell proposed that there be no action before the end of year audit in April. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. (6 votes for, 3 against. Cllr. Dr. Penney voted against.)
Cllr. Hird has requested a review of the Risk Assessment - Finance. Cllr. Wright proposed that the risk assessment presented is accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved. Cllr. Magill proposed the programme for the Certificate of Internal Financial Control presented be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

9. TOWN HALL RESTORATION
Cllrs Wright and Dr. Penney agreed to sit on the Town Hall Restoration Committee with representatives from other bodies in the Town. (The Mayor to sit as Chairman) The first meeting to be on Tuesday 21st February 2006.

10. ARCHIVES
Mary McKenzie, County Archivist has visited the Town Hall to look at the old papers. She recommends as a first step that:
a) The following go to the County archives:-
(i) Two very old minute books in the deed box.
(ii)The minutes held in the Town Hall before February 1998.
(iii) Old cash books and audit papers.
(iv) List of donations 1996 and 1997
(v) 1972 local government reorganisation papers.
(vi) Town Hall Clock papers.
(vii) Town Hall renovation papers 1980's.
(viii) Millenium celebration papers
(ix) Valuation list - rateable values.
It is suggested that in our Town hall restoration bid we ask for money to microfilm these documents for the BCHRC.
There was some discussion amongst Councillors after which Cllr. Davidson - Stanley proposed the meeting be closed for Evelyn Bowles to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Ms Bowles explained that she was very surprised that there had been no contact with Mary McKenzie and themselves as they had worked together closely in the past and BCHRC was seen as complementary to the County Archive service. She explained that the BCHRC was open several days a week and could be open at most times on request. The advantage over the County archives was that if papers were stored there they would still be in the ownership of the Town Council whereas if they went to Shrewsbury they would never come back. She also explained that voluntary organisations were the way for the future and used in many areas.
The Mayor restarted the meeting.
Cllr. Blundell proposed the above listed papers stay in Bishop's Castle. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Wright proposed that the above listed papers are stored in the Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre and if funding becomes available they are microfilmed for the County Archives. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.
b) The following are destroyed:-
(i) Old invoices, cheque book stubs and bank statements over seven years old.
(ii)Old copies of the Society of County Clerk and Local Council Review's
(iii) Typists copies of correspondence prior to 2002 as they will be found under subject correspondence.
(iv) Planning correspondence prior to 2000 as the Planning office should keep archives of these.
Cllr. Blundell proposed most of the above second list of papers are destroyed, keeping a small selection as an example of papers of the time. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK
The meeting was then adjourned for Jonathan Brown from Land for People.
Mr Brown explained that at present their Powys affordable homes project is working with three communities in Mid Wales on affordable housing schemes. And this is grant aided by various bodies. They are hoping to secure funds to deliver similar projects in Shropshire where they will launch the Bishop's Castle Community Land Trust in spring 2006. He explained the policies of the Land Trust and that they hope to build affordable houses not subject to the rules and regulations of housing associations. Mr Brown explained that they hope to do a housing needs survey in Bishop's Castle later in the year. Cllr. Carroll commented that she thought the Housing Association had already carried out a housing needs survey and suggested they liase. Mr Brown then explained that when they are ready to launch the Land Trust in Bishop's Castle they would like the support of the Council.

The Mayor restarted the meeting.

11. TOWN CENTRE FLORAL DECORATIONS
Cllr. Magill proposed that under section 137, £184 be given to the Tourism Group towards the cost of floral decorations for the Town. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

12. POLICE OPERATIONS IN BISHOP'S CASTLE.
Information on Police Operations carried out in Bishop's Castle on 25th November and 16th Decomber. General update on Policing in Bishop's Castle.
This item to be discussed at the next meeting. NEXT AGENDA

13. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - MARCH 14TH
Cllr. Blundell proposed the same format as last year. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

14. FP 22 BOWLING GREEN CLOSE AND FP 24 LOVE LANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.
Application for the diversion of these two paths. Cllr. Blundell proposed no objection to the diversion of footpath 22. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.
Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a diagonal route for FP24 rather than the suggested longer route. (ie. From School House Lane, diagonally to the left hand corner of the field then straight down the side of the bark mill. If this is not done the problem will arise in future with two paths, the designated route and the walked route.
Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

15. FOOTPATH 46 BY CASTLE HOTEL
Cllr. Carroll summarised a letter from Paul Crampton, Countryside access team, Shropshire County Council explaining the legal implications of this footpath. Cllr. Blundell proposed no action be taken. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

16. FIRE AND SAFETY
Cllr. Carroll proposed this item be adjourned to the next meeting because of shortage of time. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

17. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT.
Tenders have not been received so this item could not be discussed. The Clerk explained there were two types of contract.
Type 1 - All the lamps are changed at the beginning of the contract and then every three years. Lamps are cleaned annually and then all repairs are free expect those caused by vandalism.
Type 2 - Call out charges, manpower and parts are paid for each light repaired.
It was suggested tenders were sought for both types so that comparisons could be made.

18. ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Cllr. Davidson-Stanley offered to attend meetings of the Arts Advisory Council to represent the Town.

19. LOAN OF BENCHES
Maggie Love, Arts Access, has requested the loan of 6 benches and the carved chair from the Council chamber for one week. They will remain on the stage in the Music Hall Shrewsbury for the Shrewsbury Youth Theatre production of The Roses of Eyam.
Cllr Davidson-Stanley proposed no objection provided the proof of insurance has been seen. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

20. ACCOUNTS. -
It was proposed by Cllr. Hird that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

21. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.
Cllr. Carroll reported she had been to a meeting of the Bishop's Castle SpArC leisure Group. It has been set up to support and promote the SpArC building which opens on 1st April. The Chairman is Ray Pahl. They have lottery funding for an exhibition of masks and Matthew Evans and Robin Cruise are developing a digital film library.
People can book the SpArC building on line.
Cllr Carroll also reported on a meeting to form a partnership between Enterprise House, The Community College, and SpArC.
Cllr. Magill reported that she had been to the launch of the "Bogus Callers Task Force".

22. CORRESPONDENCE.
a)(i) Shropshire County Council - Changes to the operation of the registration service in South Shropshire.
(ii) Citizens Advice Shropshire. Letter of thanks for the donation.
(iii) Letter from Mr & Mrs Griffiths, , 3 Pound Close requesting a letter from the Town Council confirming they are eligible for affordable property. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed Council give their support. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

b) For Circulation
Wasteless Society newsletter.
Local Council Review
Clerks & Councils Direct
Path Times
Regional View
Heart of England - Business Development Programme
Bishop's Castle Redevelopment Steering Group - Briefing paper.

Cllr. Blundell proposed item 16 be discussed. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

16. FIRE AND SAFETY
At the last meeting Firefighter Tony Barnes mentioned a warden type system to discover houses without smoke alarms etc. This was discussed briefly by Councillors. Cllr. Blundell commented that nothing could be set up at present as there is no money in the budget but proposed that Council agree in principle to a warden system. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

23. INVOICES PAID FOR FRIENDS OF BISHOP'S CASTLE PLAYING FIELDS.
Metalmalarky - £105
Lynne Farr - £315
Helen Dawson - £119.40
E.S.W.S. £21.11

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

Minutes 28 February 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 28th February 2006 AT 8.00 PM

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Blundell

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 17 as he is a Director of the Wasteless Society.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 as she rents an allotment in Laburnum Alley.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 31st January 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

From previous meeting - Letter from Cllr. John Hurst-Knight noting our request for a break clause of 12 months.

From a previous meeting letter of thanks from Dial-a Ride for our donation.

Item 14 - Skateboard park. A letter from Fiona Roberson saying that Bishop's Castle Skateboarding Association do not wish to take up grants such as the big lottery fund because of the extensive long term conditions.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Jessie Rowlands spoke on behalf of the Skateboarding Association (item 14) He said that he lived in Bishop's Castle and had recently joined the Skateboarding Association. At the last meeting there were six parents and six young skateboarders. They have planned six fund raising events. He explained that at a show of hands at the Community College 86 young people had shown a direct interest in the skateboard park. It was thought that about 20 pupils at the Primary School were interested. He thought that when it is completed interest would grow in the Town. He asked the Council to give their approval for the installation of three larger ramps and a small tool box to store brooms etc. Also for the wooden fence and the other points on the agreement. He thanked the Town Council for all their help.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/17899/F Planning permission (Full) Erection of an extension to dwelling. 1 Station Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. R. Bunting.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection, seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

aa) 1/06/17916/F Planning permission (full). Erection of a dwelling (committee matter).

Land adjacent to Fair View Farm, Colebatch, Bishop's Castle. D. R. Griffiths. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the plans be considered at this meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Dr Penney proposed there be strong support for the application. Seconded by

Cllr Pinches and approved.

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/17776/OE Termination of overhead line and installation of an underground cable.

Pumping Station at Oakley Borehole, Bishop's Castle.

Wayleave Survey and Engineering Ltd.

No objection

(ii) 1/06/17789/F Erection of an extension to a dwelling.

Haytor, 8 Lavender Bank, Bishop's Castle. Mrs M. Tantrum

Planning permission granted.

(i) 1/06/17820/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.

8 bull Lane, Bishop's Castle. Mr J Russell

Planning permission granted.

7. VAT REFUND

The VAT office has refused to refund all the VAT because it does not meet the criteria. The invoice in question is SDW for the tarmac on the skatepark. The VAT element is £1,946.07.

The criteria for claiming the VAT is:-

a) BCTC places the order for the works.

b) BCTC receives the supply.

c) BCTC receives a VAT invoice addressed to BCTC

d) BCTC pays from its own funds.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this be noted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

8. USE OF MARKET SQUARE.

Bishop's Castle Parish Church would like to use the Old Market Place on Sunday 9th April and

Friday 14th April. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

9. BISHOP'S CASTLE CARNIVAL 2006

Request for use of the playing field on Sunday 2nd July by the Carnival Committee.

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

10. OAK MEADOW GRASSED AREA.

a) Report on meeting with residents.

Cllr. Carroll reported that Joan Grant is the Bishop's Castle representative for the Residents Association. At the meeting residents explained that they would like the area for the mid aged children to kick a ball about. They would like chain link fencing at each end to protect the houses (cost approx £350) and a piece of wall for children to kick a ball against. (South Shropshire District Council may do the foundation and provide a few bricks). The Residents would like fencing similar to the small children's playground along the road edge (cost approx £2000) with a safety zig zag fence at the end of the footpath.(SSDC will provide) They would like the shelter at the opposite end to the path as far as possible from the road.

The Clerk reported that there is possible funding in this financial year from the Community Safety fund and possibly funding next year from the Community Fund.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the Clerk apply for both types of funding, the Community Safety Fund as soon as possible. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

There was some discussion about the height of the wall. Residents to be consulted and it brought back to Council.

b) Treasurers Account money. Cllr. Wright proposed the account be closed and the money used on the Oak Meadow grassed area. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that item 14 be brought forward. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

14. SKATEBOARD PARK.

a) A précis of the report from Skateboarding Association was read giving the information that 86 young people were interested in improving the facilities at the skatepark. Of these 50 had provided their contact details. Six young people and six adults attended the last meeting.

b) Approval required for back safety fence. Cllr. Pinches proposed a five foot fence be installed along the back of the skateboard park, joining up with the fence along the jubilee gate entrance. The Skateboarding Association to pay for the part behind the skateboard park, the Town Council to pay for the rest. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

c) Approval required for the Skateboarders to put up a Health and Safety notice board. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed that the meeting be closed so that the representatives from the skateboard Association could answer some questions about BMXers. Seconded by Cllr. Wright. The Skateboarders felt it was quite safe and normal for a few BMXers to use the site but they would have to give priority to skateboarders. The majority of BMXers would prefer to use the BMX park.

The meeting was resumed.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the attached notice be displayed on a notice board at the skate park. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

d) Suggested working agreement with Skateboarders Association. Cllr. Gaffney proposed the circulated working agreement be accepted with the following amendments.

Item 8b to read:- BCTC to place all orders of work after being agreed by the Town Council.

Item 8e to read:- BCTC will pay for the goods from the Town Council accounts.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr. Magill took the Chair.

11. LABURNUM ALLEY

Consideration of tenders for laying scalplings from the kissing gate to Union Street.

SDW - £1700

Andy Mellor - £1780

K. Watkins - £1682.50

Cllr. Wright proposed that the SDW bid be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll returned.

12. STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT.

Consideration of Street Lighting Contracts.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this item be discussed at the next meeting when all the information is available. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

13. CLERKS MATTERS

a) Cllr. Gaffney proposed the Clerk receive one increment and NALC's recommended pay increase. New hourly rate from 1st April. (NALC recommendations) £8.225 per hour from £7.804 Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

b) Agenda - The problems that arise in giving three clear working days notice were discussed. Cllr. Morris proposed the Clerk be paid an extra hour for each Council Meeting to enable her to come to Bishop's Castle on the Tuesday prior to the meeting to enable her to post the Agenda. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

15. PLAYING FIELDS

a) Vandalism of lamps. Update on situation. Cllr. Carroll explained there had been two incidents of vandalism of lights on the Playing Field. The first incident involved some local boys who were known to Cllr. Blundell. Cllr. Blundell is believed to have arranged for the boys to pay for the damage and to do some work on the playing fields to make amends. As far as is known this has not happened. Cllr. Pinches proposed that Cllr. Blundell be formally asked to undertake the necessary repairs to the two lights damaged by the boys as quickly as possible at no cost to the Council. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

The second incident was of a more serious nature and has been reported to the Police and is being claimed on the insurance.

b) Local Residents have requested that the lights on the Playing Field are put on a timer to switch off at night because when they are on young people gather in the early hours of the morning. Proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney, seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved. Cllr. Carroll reported that the Reverend Plunkett will liaise with Irene Stelfox, the youth worker, and they hope to visit the playing fields in the early hours to talk to the children.

16. LEAFLET HOLDER

Cllr. Magill proposed that the six towns leaflet holder be put in the entrance hall of Town Hall. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Pinches volunteered to put it up.

17. WASTELESS SOCIETY - Cllr Hird

Cllr. Hird explained that cardboard recycling is now being used more than expected and they have a rota of volunteers to move it. The Wasteless Society would like a donation to pay a person to tidy up for one hour on a Monday. Cllr. Pinches proposed a donation could be given as soon as possible of £300 to cover the cost of paying a person for one hour a week. The Wasteless Society will organise it. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

18. SIGNPOST AT THE JUNCTION OF THE NEW WINTLES ROAD WITH WELSH STREET.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley proposed that a request be made to the County Council for a direction sign at the junction of the new Wintles Road and Welsh Street. The sign to say Castle Green and Montgomery in one direction, Mainstone, Bishop's Moat and Kerry Ridgeway in another direction and Town Centre in the third.

Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

19. Accounts. -

20. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.

Cllr. Carroll reported on the meeting of the Town Hall Restoration Group. It was attended by Cllr. Carroll, Cllr. Magill, Cllr. Dr. Penney, the Clerk, Sue Cooper and several members of the Civic Society. Cllr. Wright had sent his apologies. It was agreed that visits should be made to the Clerk at Ludlow to see the Buttercross and to visit the Millennium Green Project. These have both received Project Planning Grants. It was also agreed to go to Birmingham to see Chris Tomlin, the adviser for the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr. Dr. Penney reported that he had been at a dinner and spoken to Algernon Heber Percy, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, who is the Chairman of the Walker Trust.

It is possible that when the Pines is sold there may be some money available for education purposes from the Trust. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Cllr. Dr. Penney and the Clerk write a letter to Mr Heber Percy requesting funding for the Town Hall. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

21. Correspondence.

a) (i) Shropshire Archives and Archaeology - Invitation to an open evening on Thursday 9th March 2006, 5.00pm - 7.30pm.

b) Circulation

(i) SSDC Standards Committee - Agenda for meeting 7th February 2006 and minutes for meeting 10th January 2006.

(ii) SCC Cabinet paper - Highway maintenance

(iii) West Midlands Regional Assembly - Speaking out

(iv) The Playing Field

(v) Standards of Conduct in English Local Government - The Future

(vi) Shropshire Access Partnership.

(vii) SCC Sustainable Resource Management (4 booklets)

22. Invoices paid for Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields.

R. Williams - £100.00

Paul Jasper Trees - £104.48

E.S.W.S. - £63.23

A. R. Jones - £4700.00

Roger Page - £19.98

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the above be noted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Annual Meeting Minutes 14 March 2006

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2006 AT 8.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL, BISHOP'S CASTLE.

Present: Councillor J. M. Carroll, Mayor in the Chair.

Councillors: M. Davidson Stanley, R. A. Evans, S.A.Farr, N. Hird, J.A.Magill, Dr. G.N. St John Penney and R. D. Wright

County Councillor P. Phillips, Lisa Bedford (South Shropshire District Council) and 4 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Phillip Dunne M.P., Cllr. Pinches and District Cllr. Heather Kidd.

1. Matters arising from the thirty - second Annual Town Meeting.

The minutes of the thirty-second Annual Town Meeting were approved as a true record by full Council on Tuesday 3rd May 2005.

Report following the thirty-second Annual Town Meeting held on 19th April 2006.

a) Parking in Station Street.

A meeting was held in Station Street with representatives of the Shropshire County Council and the line painting agreed. Unfortunately it was too wet on that day to do it. The Clerk is still chasing the County Council for action.

b) Parking.

The ticket system is still in operation and the white lines on the junctions seem to have improved the situation here.

d) Dogs mess in Oak Meadow.

Clean up signs were put on the fence and a bin has been installed by the school.

e) Water in Station Street

A meeting was held with Ian Rutherford of Shropshire County Council at the Three Tuns and actions were agreed to alleviate the situation. The Three Tuns were to put in a channel to drain the water and the County Council were to put in a gulley to take the water off the road Still not completed.

f) Auction Yard

The Police have been into the Auction yard and booked some of the youngsters for various offences.

g) Sign for school lane.

Signs have been ordered for both ends of School Lane. The District Council will put them up when they are in the area.

2. Questions and comments from the floor.

Cllr. Wright asked if anyone had noticed an improvement with the boy racers in the Auction Yard. Cllr. Carroll reported that a prosecution had been brought against someone and she believed it had improved but the problem has now been transferred to the Crowgate Business Park by the vets. Mr Allwood of the vets wishes the gate to be locked but realises the Wasteless Society needs access. In the past Graham Biggs, Chief Executive of South Shropshire District Council has confirmed that he is happy with the gate being locked if he has letters from the businesses occupying the site saying what is happening and that they are in agreement.

Cllr. Dr. Penney requested that the problems with the new lights in Grange Road be looked at. It was explained that a plan was drawn up following the requests from the residents meeting. Cllr. Dr. Penney suggested that in future copies of the final plan be put in letterboxes before work commences. The Clerk explained that she is going to telephone unhappy residents and hopefully reach an agreement.

Cllr. Peter Phillips requested a list of all the work outstanding from the Shropshire County Council and he will follow it up.

Cllr. Peter Phillips reported that the Bishop's Castle Squash Club has had its first ever home match. This has been impossible in the past as there were no suitable courts. He explained that the SpArC project will be finished by 20th April and will be opened to the public on 3rd April. Cllr. Wright asked who will manage the complex. Cllr. Phillips explained that the County Council manage the school side and the District Council manage the community side. The joint management is common across Shropshire but what is unusual is that the building is open to the public during school hours.

Cllr. Magill asked if the Mayor could update those present on the situation on the Castle green / Wintles junction. The Mayor explained she had no further information as it appeared the County Council had no power to make something happen. The situation was the same with the lights in Welsh Street. It was suggested that the residents of the Wintles might like to put some pressure for the official opening of the road and completion of the junction. It was thought that there is a Management Committee. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this be investigated and members be invited to the April Town Council meeting where it can be discussed. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson- Stanley.

Lisa Bedford, representative from South Shropshire District Council and the Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership explained that there will be a meeting at the Community College on Tuesday 28th March at 6.30pm on the issues and options paper of the new planning system. David Frances, Policy Planning Officer will be giving the presentation and all Councillors are invited. Lisa also reported that the new Head of Planning and Environment is Jake Berryman. James Caird will continue working with him for some time.

Lisa also explained that the Community Chest scheme will be re-launched at the beginning of this month. It proved very popular last year, particularly will village halls, play areas etc and Lisa recommended early applications.

Cllr. Carroll reported that the Playing Field had its final inspection this week by Doorstep Greens. They were very pleased with the project and the final instalment of the grant will be in the bank within a week.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley reported that the work the fire-fighters were doing on fitting smoke alarms and security bolts etc was brilliant and working very well.

Julia Parker asked the Mayor to update the meeting on the Town Twinning. The Bishop's Castle junior football team is to go to St Marcel this year, also the Phillipa Whittaker choir.

There being no further comments the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Minutes 28 March 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 28th MARCH 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: J. Blundell, M. Davidson - Stanley, R. A. Evans, J.E. Gaffney, J.A. Magill and K.E.C. Pinches.

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Dr. Penney, Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Wright Cllr. Farr.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

- a) Declaration of personal interest - none:
- b) Declaration of prejudicial interest: - none

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th February 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Gaffney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Evans.

Item 15b) line 2 should read "...switch off at midnight because when they are on...."

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 14th February 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Magill. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley.

Both sets of minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4 - The allotments. Council was updated with information regarding the problems of obtaining a twelve month break clause. Cllr. Carroll reported that following the request from a resident she had approached Phillip Dunne the M.P.

Item 7 - VAT refund - The Clerk reported that just over £20,000 VAT refund had been deposited in the bank.

Item 10 - Grassed area in Oak Meadow - The Clerk reported that there had been a site meeting with residents who had requested a 1.2m wall. Grants have been sought for the different fencing.

Item 14 - A copy of the skateboard accounts were handed to Councillors.

Item 17 - The £250 awarded to the Wasteless society in the 04/05 financial year was not claimed and paid back into the account in the 05/06 financial year so this can be repaid in this financial year. The extra £50 to be paid out of the next financial year.

Item 18 - A direction sign has been put up on the junction of Welsh Street and the Wintles Road. It is now thought that was not in response to our letter but was already in progress. It does not have all the directions on it. The Clerk to ensure the County Council is aware of this.

Item 20 - A letter has been received from Mr Heber Percey saying that our request for a donation towards the Town Hall restoration will be considered.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

Peter Wall spoke on item 6a, planning application for the balancing pool. He said the pool was very dangerous because it was badly guarded, being less than 100yds from a housing estate with over 50 children playing. He said the pool was too deep and had a soft bottom. He asked Councillors to consider the dangers of the pool and object to the plans.

5. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18001/F Planning permission (full) Formation of a balancing lake (retrospective application made under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act) (committee matter) The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (Bishop's Castle) Ltd.

Ways of making the pool safer were discussed. Cllr. Blundell proposed an objection on the grounds that Council were lead to believe initially that it would be a reed bed. The fence is inadequate to keep children out, the bottom is not a hard surface and it is too deep for an area highly populated with young children. Cllr. Carroll said children could not actually get through the fencing, they would have to climb over it. She gave her personal view that children should be taught that water is dangerous and that they should not climb fences. Younger children should be supervised. The proposition was seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved with four votes in favour. Cllr. Magill and Davidson-Stanley abstained. Cllr. Carroll voted against.

b) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/17787/F Erection of a dwelling.

Land adjoining Fairfield, Woodbatch Rd. Bishop's Castle. Mr. R. Griffiths

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/06/17804/F and 1/06/17805/LB Change of use of shop to to shop on ground floor and residential unit on first floor.

25 High Street, Bishop's Castle. Nick Buy

Planning permission granted.

7. FOOTPATH FROM GRANGE ROAD TO KERRY GREEN

A letter was read from Mrs Price asking for the footpath from Grange Road to Kerry Green to be covered in tarmac. George Stoyan from South Shropshire Housing Association has e-mailed to say that he will liase with other Housing Association people. A letter was read from Cllr. Wright saying that he believes this Council should undertake the metalling without delay. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to the Housing Association telling them that the Town Council intends laying tarmac on the path and repositioning the gate. If the Housing Association has any objections please notify the Council within two weeks of the date of the letter. After this date tenders to be sought. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

8. MICHAELMAS FAIR

Cllr. Magill proposed the Michaelmas Fair has free use of the playing fields for the 23rd and 24th September. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. The Clerk will contact the Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields to see if any information needs to be passed on to the Michaelmas Fair with regard to the newly refurbished field.

9. POLICING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

Inspector Payton has agreed to come to the next meeting, therefore this agenda item will be discussed further at that meeting. The Clerk reported that the police office is now manned 9am - 3pm Monday - Thursday, 9.30am to 12 noon on Friday. Ann Gutteridge will be back on light duties in a couple of weeks. There are to be 14 community support officers in the County of which Bishop's Castle is to receive two by April 2008. There should be one by the end of this year.

10. NOTICES FOR PLAYING FIELDS

Approval requested for the notices to go on the playing fields. Cllr. Gaffney proposed the following changes to the notices. (i) The play area notice should be "The Town Council expects you to treat this play area with respect. Please no alcohol and no dogs." Instead of "The use of alcohol is prohibited in this play area and in the interest of health dogs are excluded from this play area."

(ii) The playing fields notice should read "These are your playing fields" instead of "This is your playing field" and do not use the words "dog poo" but rephrase using "dog fouling" The piece about dog fouling should be moved to the first sentence. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

11. HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

a) Window cleaner - Cllr. Blundell proposed a three monthly clean of the Town Hall windows by Clear and Clean Ltd at £25 a time. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

b) Cllr. Blundell proposed the Town Hall cleaner to be paid for up to 12 hours to enable her to spring clean the Town Hall. The Clerk to approach her to see if she is willing.

c) Chair - Cllr. Gaffney proposed the broken chair in the office be repaired. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

12. HOLIDAY COVER

The Clerk will be on holiday at the time of the July meeting. Cllr. Magill proposed that a person be paid to take minutes at the meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

13. TOWN HALL TOILETS

The Mayor informed Council that there will be an official handover of the Town Hall toilets by the South Shropshire District Council on Thursday 30th March at 11.30 am. The notices that will be situated in the toilets were circulated. Cllr. Blundell proposed that the opening times be put on a notice on the door and directions to the Auction Yard for when they are closed.

14 CROSSROADS - BRAMPTON ROAD AND KENNELS BANK

Lights were requested at these junctions some time ago. There have been several accidents since then. Should further representation be made to the County Council. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to the Shropshire County Council requesting lights at these junctions because there have been so many accidents. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

15. PLANTING ALONG THE FOOTPATH ADJACENT TO OAK MEADOW

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that up to £100 be spent on planting on the bank adjacent to the new footpath by Oak Meadow. Andy Harold has offered to organise a community planting.

Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

16. STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT

Consideration of street lighting contracts. There was considerable discussion about street lighting contracts, whether local electricians would be interested, whether a three year contract was best or whether to have lights repaired when required. Letters were read from Cllr. Hird and

Cllr. Dr. Penney asking for local electricians to be considered. Cllr. Blundell felt that an annual contract was a waste of money as the lights are old and it is not always a lamp that goes. Also the new lights do not need the lamps replacing. He suggested Rise Hire be contacted. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Prisman be approached to repair lights as and when required. The Clerk to investigate Rise Hire and local electricians. A separate record to be kept of street light repair costs so that these could be compared in the future and considered against contract prices. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

17. LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW

The Local Council Review is published every two months. Cllr. Magill proposed that £17 per year is paid to continue receiving Local Council Review. Seconded by Councillor Gaffney and approved.

18. ACCOUNTS

19. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Mayor reported on the Core Strategy, issues and options meeting held by South Shropshire County Council earlier this evening. She explained that it introduced the new planning system. Eventually residents would be consulted on where new houses should be built. The results of this consultation would eventually be the framework on which planning applications were judged. It is very broad. The District Council wishes to consult as many people as possible in the early stages. All Councillors present were given a copy of the document. A questionnaire can be downloaded from the web or requested from the Clerk. A questionnaire will be sent from the Council but individual Councillors can also send in their own copy. The questionnaire from the Council will be completed at the next meeting.

Cllr. Carroll also reported from the meeting of representatives of the six towns. The production of the tourism leaflets was discussed at some length as Ian Kemsley, chairman of the South Shropshire Tourism Association, was present. Funding would soon stop for the production of the leaflets. It was suggested the town group together to approach the Rural Regeneration Zone for funding from Advantage West Midlands. It was asked at the meeting that three things that each town needs are noted.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley reported on the AGM of the South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council. She said it was an excellent meeting attended by people who had their hearts in the right place. There were interesting issues on the awarding of grant money.

Cllr. Carroll reported on a meeting of the Food Group. A Farmers Market and Food events survey had been carried out. Bishop's Castle Farmers Market needs more stalls. All the markets said they needed more publicity. It was suggested that a "Friends of the Market" group be formed that could help promote the market. Most stall holders felt the markets were financially successful as they met customers and it helped to promote their food.

Cllr. Gaffney reported on a Community Land Trust meeting. He said that a housing needs survey is about to be carried out in Bishop's Castle. All households will be approached. He reported that the South Shropshire Housing Association has not actually completed a full survey. The Community Land Trust will be compiling a set of rules. Cllr. Gaffney suggested the Town Council have a look at them when they are ready.

Cllr. Magill proposed the meeting be extended for five minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

20. a) Correspondence.

(i) A letter was read from Richard Suggett, Shropshire County Council giving notification of the road closure at 6 Kerry Lane. Cllr. Blundell expressed concern that the road had been closed for two weeks and there was no sign of any work in progress. Cllr. Carroll proposed that the Clerk contact Mr Pritchard to find the reason for the delay and if the answer is not satisfactory to write to the County Council expressing dissatisfaction. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

(ii) A letter was read from Ben Calder asking for information as to where he could plant three young oak trees. Cllr. Magill proposed on the verge along straight mile. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

b) Circulation

(i) Standards Committee - Agenda 7th March 2006, Minutes 7th February 2006.

(ii) Information from charity "No Panic"

(iii) South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

(iv) Clerks and Councils Direct

(v) Local Council Review

(vi) Town and Parish Standards: 06

(vii) Standards CFommittee - Agenda 28th March 2006, minutes 7th March 2006.

22. Invoices paid for Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields.

Clive Pritchard - £171

Keepers Nursery - £339

S.D.Watson - £465

B.C.B.S. - 27.28

A.R.Jones - £4,700

L.Farr - £106.07

Ransfords - 14.45

W. O'Leary - £625

Grant of £33030 received from Groundwork UK.

Cllr. Blundell proposed the above be noted. Seconded by Cllr. Evans and approved.

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

Minutes 25 April 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 25th APRIL 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Magill

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as the applicant is a friend and near neighbour.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley declared a personal interest in item 12 as Mr Morgan is a tenant.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 as he also employs the Town Hall cleaner.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Blundell. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley.
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING Relevant information from previous meetings.

(i) Town Hall restoration - A letter was read giving a reply from the Walker Trust regarding funding for the Town Hall restoration. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a reply be sent to the Walker Trust explaining that we will send a more detailed application towards the end of the year. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

(ii) Street lighting contracts. - The Clerk has contacted Roger Lennox and Gavin Cooke. They are both considering the possibility of taking on a street lighting contract. Rise Hire is not suitable as it is only a hire service for vans with platforms. They do not repair lights.

(iii) Lights in Welsh Street - A letter was read from Dyanne Humphries, South Shropshire District Council saying there was no mention of street lighting in Welsh Street in the Days planning application for Oak Meadow. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Day's be contacted asking them to replace the light they took away, explaining that the Council will go to the small claims court if they are not able to. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

(iii) Allotments - The request for a twelve month break clause on the piece of land requested for allotments at the Crowgate Business Park is to be discussed at the cabinet meeting on 9th May. Cllr. Carroll will be attending to speak for the 12 month break clause.

(iv) Stone House Hospital - The feasibility study was presented to the Board on 28th March. It recommends the site is sold to Coverage Care and the building is knocked down and rebuilt. There will be 12 hospital beds and 3 spot beds. At present there are 18 hospital beds but 5 are used for Shrewsbury and Atcham patients. Under the new proposals Shrewsbury and Atcham patients would not be eligible to use the beds. There is to be public consultation with meetings at the Public Hall. Cllr. Wright proposed that it was not now necessary to invite Jackie Ingham to the Council meeting to speak as Councillors could go to the public meetings. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

(v) Town enhancement - The Mayor reported that the Town enhancement signs are now finished with the sponsor plaques in place. The other new road signs ordered will be erected on Thursday.

(vi) The Clerk reported that she has written to the South Shropshire Housing Association advising them that the Council wish to tarmac the path from Kerry Lane to Grange Road. As she has not had a reply she will go out to tender.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18073/LB Listed Building Consent. Alterations to dwelling (delegated matter)

2 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. H. Dartnall

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

b) 1/06/18088/TC Tree works (Conservation Area) Reduction in height of an ash tree by 3m (delegated matter)

7 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard

Cllr Dr. Penney proposed that there be an objection on the grounds that the tree only be reduced in height by 1m as advised by the tree warden. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications. - none

e) Notice of planning meetings.

1/06/18001/F Planning permission (full). Formation of a balancing lake at the Wintles, Bishop's Castle. A meeting to be held on 26/4/06 at the Coors Stadium, Ludlow.

Plan 1/06/18141/F was brought to the attention of Councillors as it is on the Bishop's Castle boundary. Conversion of rural buildings to provide 5 x holiday let units with ancillary communal accommodation, local history and educational room. Oakley House, Stank Lane.

7. POLICING IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

Inspector Payton reported on the Policing situation in Bishop's Castle. He said the problem was that there are only 34 Police Constables in South Shropshire to cover 24 hour policing. There are two officers in each town and the rest work in cars out of Ludlow. The problem in Bishop's Castle was that Andy Dawson left to take up a CID position and Ann Gutteridge has been off sick. The position is now improved as Anne is back at work and John Summerfield is to be in post from May 11th. As Bishop's Castle has such a low crime rate (three reported incidents in 25 days) it takes a low priority when allocating police. South Shropshire is to have 14 Community Support Officers (CSO's) by 15 months time. Bishop's Castle is to have three of these officers. Inspector Payton explained that CSO's are employed by West Mercia and are in uniform. They have the powers to stop people and vehicles and to collect fixed penalty fines. They reassure the public and feed back information. If they had more powers there would be more paperwork. Cllr. Gaffney asked about the two raids in Bishop's Castle. Inspector Payton explained there was some success and that it does no harm to have a show of strength if there are problems.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley asked if PC Summerfield would be on duty in the evening as this is mainly when the problems with young people occur. Inspector Payton explained that there would be as many evening shifts as day shifts. Council were reassured that PC Summerfield would be involved with community policing and would keep his eye on the playing fields. Cllr. Blundell suggested a key to the playing fields be kept at the Police station to enable easy access. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

8. CORE STRATEGY, ISSUES AND OPTIONS- Completion of questionnaire.

Councillors received copies of the document at the last meeting. As Councillors did not have copies of the questionnaire Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this be item discussed at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved. The Clerk will obtain copies of the questionnaire for all Councillors and it is suggested they each fill it in before attending the meeting. ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. POST OFFICE CARD ACCOUNT

The Government plans to terminate the Post Office Card Account. Cllr. Wright proposed that the meeting be closed for Mrs Furber of Bishop's Castle Post Office to explain the situation. Seconded by Cllr. Davidson-Stanley and approved.

Cllr, Furber explained that a POCA (Post Office Card Account) is a plastic card instead of a paper order book. The termination will cause confusion and uncertainty to the elderly and they will be very vulnerable drawing money at a cash point. This termination will also cause the decline of rural post offices along with the fact that TV licences will not be sold at Post Offices, nor budget payments or TV stamps. The DVLA is also campaigning for road tax to be renewed by telephone or online. She explained that rural post offices are an important link for the community and will be greatly missed, particularly by the more vulnerable.

The meeting was resumed and Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a strong letter of support be written to Phillip Dunne,our M.P. with a copy to Mr Blair, Prime Minister. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. PARKING IN THE TOWN

A letter has been received from Margaret Griffiths asking Council to take action to improve the parking in the Town. She raised the following points.

(i) Parking/congestion in Station Street. - It was reported that the markings are now in place for parking bays.

(ii) Parking in the Town - There was much discussion on this item. Cllr. Carroll proposed letters be sent to Hall's (regarding their land behind the Boar's Head) and SpArC asking if their parking facilities can be publicised. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

(iii) Hole in the road in Station Street. The Clerk will approach the County Council again.

(iv) Lights in Welsh Street. - This has been discussed under another item.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

11. E.S.W.S. VACANCY ON THE BOARD FOR A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NORTHERN PARISHES.

Would Council like to suggest a suitable representative? Councillors felt that as this was for the northern parishes it should not be discussed by this Council.

12. TOWN HALL CLOCK

The Town Hall clock needs some repair. John Morgan is willing to do it. In the region of £250 - £300. Cllr. Gaffney explained the work that was required. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the work be carried out. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

13. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR TOWN HALL CLEANER.

Approval needed for employment contract for Town Hall cleaner. Hours and rate of pay unchanged. Cllr. Blundell proposed the Town Hall cleaner's contract be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

14. ALTERATIONS TO PRIORITY AT THE BOARS HEAD JUNCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO ROADS AND PAVEMENT SURFACES

Report on site meeting held on Monday 10th April with representatives of Shropshire County Council. There is to be a change of priority at the Boars head junction with traffic automatically going into Station Street. The entrance to Church Street will be narrowed to single lane width. The surface will be a different colour for the first stretch which will eventually run throughout the conservation area. The traffic signs and pedestrian signs will all be on one new finger post. The pavement outside Whittles will be laid with paviers the same colour as in Market Square. The bus shelter will be moved back slightly to give more turning space for the buses. Cllr. Blundell requested a letter be sent to the County Council explaining that there needs to be enough room for lorries to turn into Church street at carnival time. Also to check that Central Networks are not likely to dig up the road in the near future.

15. GUTTER AT 11 WELSH STREET. (Cllr. Davidson-Stanley)

A letter was written in November 2005 asking the occupant to repair his gutter. The gutter has not been repaired and is in a worse state. Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to South Shropshire District Council reporting the problem as they have the powers and expertise in these matters. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

16. Accounts.

a) Presentation of annual accounts. Cllr. Wright proposed the annual accounts are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

17. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.

Cllr. Carroll reported on the Launch of the "Wasteless Escape" organised by the Wasteless Society and funded by the Energy Savings Trust. It aims to reduce energy usage in Bishop's Castle homes.

Cllr. Davidson-Stanley reported that she had been to a Board meeting at Enterprise South West Shropshire and that there had been a very interesting talk by Cllr. Gaffney.

18. Correspondence.

(i) Cittaslow, Ludlow - First Annual Conference - Thursday 4th May 2006.

(ii) Defra - Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

(iii) Peter Phillips - A Unitary Council for Shropshire. The Mayor suggested that the Chairman of SALC, a Telford Councillor be invited to speak to the Council.

(iv) Invitation to the World Religions exhibition at the church.

(v) Letter from the Public Hall Committee inviting Councillors to their AGM and updating Councillors on repairs to be undertaken. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to the Public Hall Committee recording the Council's delight at their progress and asking to be kept informed of future progress. Also suggesting that some agreement could be reached so that the AGM and Council Meetings were not on the same day. Seconded by Cllr. Blundell and approved.

(vi) Letter from Deb Hughes, Countryside Access Manager, Shropshire County Council regarding Off - road vehicle usage in the countryside. - Next agenda

b) Circulation

(i) Regional Action

(ii) Salopian Recorder

(iii) Standards committee - Agenda 4th April and minutes 7th March.

(iv) NHS Serving Your Community

19. Invoices paid for Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields.

Clive Pritchard - 227.50

E.S.W.S. £35.46

Village Outreach £7.00

Windrush willow £14.00

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

Minutes 23 May 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 23rd MAY 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, R.A. Evans, S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, J.A. Magill, W. J. Morris, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Blundell), Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Pinches

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Farr declared interests in items 6a and 6c as he is a Governor at the College.
Cllr. Morris declared an interest in item 6c as the applicant is a working associate.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is Chairman of the steering group of the Community Land Trust.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Magill declared a prejudicial interest in item 6b as the applicant is her nephew.
Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6d as he owns property in the vicinity.
Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 as the person who raised the issue is a friend.
Cllr. Dr. Penney declared an interest in item 16 as he has a cheque to be approved.
Cllr. Carroll declared an interest in item 16 as she has a cheque to be approved.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Farr.
Item 9, line 5 should read Mrs Furber not Cllr. Furber.

b) Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Magill.
Item 2 - insert "as a National Health hospital" after "Stone House hospital".
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a) Item 4 - Lights in Welsh Street.- Mrs Roden 14 Welsh Street Gardens has sent a copy of a letter from Day's Solicitor to the Victoria Management Company Ltd. saying that Day's would erect one street light and the Shropshire County Council a second. Ian Rutherford, County Surveyor for the County Council has said he will pursue the matter.

Item 10 - Mr Rutherford has advised that a £30,000 project is due to start on 12th June to repair the sewers in Station St. It will tap into the main culvert in the Auction Yard and go up Station St as far as the hole. If there is enough money it may go up further. The marking for car parking will be completed as soon as the drainage work is completed. Cllr. Morris proposed that a space be left outside the chapel when marking out the parking spaces. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and agreed.

b) Cllr. Carroll thanked those Councillors that attended the Civic Sunday parade and she said she was pleased that so many members of the public were in the parade, especially young people.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18167/TC Tree works (conservation area) Lift lower crown and removal of branches of oak tree (delegated matter)

Bishop's Castle Community College. Mrs E. Williams

A letter was read from Mrs Daniels, Tree Warden.

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

Cllr. Magill left the room.

b) 1/06/18143 Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling.

1 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. A. Evans.

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

Cllr. Magill returned.

c) 1/06/18184/F Planning permission (full) Formation of a football pitch with perimeter fencing and associated access gates and under-pitch drainage. (delegated matter).

Bishop's Castle Community College, Brampton Road, Bishop's Castle. Enterprise South West Shropshire.

A letter was read from Mrs Daniels, Civic Society

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection provided a large splay is provided onto the A488. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney left the room

d) 1/06/18203/F Planning permission (full). Erection of 12 dwellings

(plots 14 - 17 and 20-27 inc) (revised designs) (committee matter)

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle, Living Villages (BC) Ltd.

A letter was read from Mrs Daniels, Civic Society

Cllr. Gaffney proposed no objections but a comment should be made about the continual unsatisfactory plans. (Plot 23 was mentioned but the Clerk has been advised by the Planning Office that there is no plot 23). Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney returned.

e) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/05/1195542 The Bakery, Bishop's Castle - Appeal Decision -

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/06/18001/F Formation of a balancing lake, The Wintle's, Bishop's Castle.

Planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/06/18073/LB Alterations to dwelling at 2 Welsh Street.

List Building consent granted.

7. CORE STRATEGY, ISSUES AND OPTIONS - COMPLETION OF QUESTIONNAIRE.

Councillors were requested to complete the questionnaire before the meeting.

The Council completed a joint questionnaire. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the questionnaire be sent off with the yes box ticked for all the questions that received five or more votes. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. .

8. OFF ROAD VEHICLES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

As part of the development of the Countryside Access Strategy the Shropshire County Council Countryside Access Manager is seeking views on the use of "Green lanes", even if there are not any in our parish.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a reply be sent saying that this Council does not wish to encourage the recreational use of Green Lanes by motorised vehicles.

Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

9. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.

a) Request for Councillors to help with the distribution of the housing and business survey. (To go out with the newsletter at the beginning of June) Copies will be available at the meeting. Councillors were asked to contact Cllr. Gaffney if there is anything in the survey that they do not approve of by 30th May. Cllr. Magill proposed that Councillors agree to deliver the survey with the newsletters. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

b) Request for a donation of £50 for a prize to be given to a winner picked at random from the returned forms.

A letter of support from the Bishop of Hereford was read.

Cllr. Dr. Wright proposed that a donation of £50 be given as a prize to encourage the return of the forms. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

10. BISHOP'S CASTLE DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB

Request for use of the playing fields on Thursday 22nd June between 7.00pm and 8.30pm.

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

ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr. Gaffney took the Chair.

11. AFFORDABLE HOUSES AT BANKS HEAD

Bishop's Castle Town Council requested that Banks Head and Colebatch be put on the 'D' list for development. Banks Head has been omitted. Request for approval to write to South Shropshire District Council asking for it to be included. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the District Council. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Carroll returned.

12. SEWERAGE IN CHUIRCH LANE

Continued problems of drainage in Church Lane have been reported. This has been a long standing problem which was discussed by Councillors. In periods of heavy rain the soak aways become saturated and sewerage overflows on to the lane. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Environment Agency requesting an underground sewerage system for Church Lane. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

13. ACRE OF LAND AT CROWGATE

Cllr. Carroll updated Council on the developments regarding the allotments. The Shropshire County Council has agreed to a twelve month break clause and a 7.5 year lease. Graham Biggs, Chief Executive, South Shropshire District Council is to arrange for the site to be pegged out and a lease drawn up. Cllr. Carroll outlined the main points on the lease.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the Mayor be given the authority to sign the lease when it is available. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

14. WINTLES DEVELOPMENT.

Concern that the workings at the Wintles are causing problems for neighbours.

eg. Unnecessarily noisy working. Noise at night. Residents of Welsh Street not allowed to park on gravel. There was some discussion amongst Councillors about relationships between the Wintles development and the rest of the Town. It was felt that the Town Council should take the responsibility to integrate with the Wintles development and that it would help the integration if the Wintles took down some of their signs. Cllr. Wright proposed a dialogue take place between the Residents Association / Management body and the Town Council. The way to do this to be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr. Davidson-Stanley offered to find out the details of the person to contact. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

NEXT AGENDA

15. CLOCK TOWER AND BELL

A letter was read from John Morgan saying the work has been completed on the clock but advising that the clock tower may not be structurally sound. We have been advised that a structural engineer should look at it. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council be approached and asked who would be the best person to contact to look at the structure. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

16. ACCOUNTS

Internal Auditors report.

The Clerk explained that the accounts have passed the internal audit and read out five matters brought to the attention of the Council by the Auditor.

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

Cllr. Carroll reported on a visit to the Buttercross at Ludlow. The Buttercross has received a Project Planning Grant, Paul Russell, Clerk for Ludlow explained. The way forward for Bishop's Castle is to find out exactly what Wheatley Lines, the architects, did, also costings for things that are required, a complete structural survey and precise measurements of what is here at present. A meeting with Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, South Shropshire District Council should be called as soon as possible.

18.a) CORRESPONDANCE.

i) SCC - Local Transport Plan - final version available

ii) Letter from Thomasina Carlyle Palmer, 28 Brick Meadow regarding the gate and footpath to Bowling Green Close. The Clerk will chase the solicitors organising the moving of the footpath. Cllr. Carroll will arrange to have the metal kissing gate removed.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

iii) SCC - Consultation on draft supplementary guidance on managing waste in new development.

(iv) Lynne Farr, on behalf of the Friends of the Playing Fields suggesting the festivals group together to buy community port toilets for the playing fields. Cllr. Carroll proposed that the Friends are advised that the Town Council has no objections and think it is a good plan. And they should approach Dave Palliser to liaise with the festivals. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

(v) A letter was read from Mrs Jones, Bishop's Castle W.I. regarding the Stone House hospital.

(vi) A letter was read from Cllr. Peter Phillips regarding the Stone House hospital.

b) CIRCULATION

(i) Standards committee - Agenda 18th May and minutes 28th March.

(ii) West Mercia Police Authority - Police restructuring

(iii) Clerks and Council Direct

iv) Come and Play - South Shropshire Play.

(v) Shropshire County NHS Service Plan

(v) The Playing Field.

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

Minutes 20 June 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 20th JUNE 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

PRESENT Councillor J.M. Carroll, Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors: S.A. Farr, J.E. Gaffney, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney,
and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince, Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Davidson-Stanley, Blundell, Evans, Morris, Cllr. Gaffney will be delayed.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:
Cllr. Hird declared personal interests in items 6b (neighbour of applicant),
7 (former fundraiser for skateboard park), 9 (owns property in Welsh Street.)

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:
Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial interest in item 18b as she has an account to be paid.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Magill.

Item 7 should read "Councillors were requested to read the questionnaire before the meeting and could complete the questionnaire as an individual if they wished."

Item 9 should read Cllr. Wright, not Cllr. Dr. Wright.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 12 - Forms and a letter have been received from the Environment Agency in relation to the drainage in Church Lane. The form, to register a dispute, has to be completed by an individual living in the Severn Trent area. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Chris Evans, a resident of Church Lane, completes the form. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Item 13 - The agreement for the allotments site is with Snows the solicitors. It is to be a seven year lease as more than seven years involves land registry.

Other meetings - Closure of Post Office Account.- Reply on behalf of Tony Blair saying our letter has been sent to the Department of Work and pensions.

Reply from Philip Dunne saying he is continuing to raise the issue whenever he can.

Parking in Bishop's Castle - Reply from Hall's saying that the land behind the Boers Head could not be used as a car park.

Town Centre Improvements - The paviers selected by the Mayor, (the same as in Market Square) were considered by Colin Richards, Conservation Officer, to be of an inferior quality not suitable for Bishop's Castle.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

6. Town & Country Planning Act:

a) 1/06/18245/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of an extension to dwelling. (delegated matter)
Corn Cottage, Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. Mr Evans and Ms Netherton
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

b) 1/06/18294/F Construction of a manege (delegated matter)
Yew Tree Farm, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Boniface.
Cllr. Hird proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the plans for 53 Church Street be considered. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

c) 1/06/18303/F AND 1/06/18304/LB Planning permission (full) and listed building consent. Erection of an extension to dwelling; existing lean-to to be demolished; internal and external works to dwelling.
53 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. R. Anderson.

Cllr. Wright explained that he had looked at the property and that most of the work was internal. Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18045/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.
8 Corporation Street, Bishop's Castle. C. Jones.
Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/06/18088/TC Reduction in the height of an ash tree by 3m.

7 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard.

Consent granted.

(iii) 1/06/18167/TC Lift lower crown and removal of branches of oak tree.

Bishop's Castle Community College, Bishop's Castle. Mrs Williams.

Consent granted.

(iv) 1/06/18143/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.

1 Pound Close, Bishop's Castle. A. Evans

Planning permission granted.

(v) 1/06/18184/F Formation of a football pitch with perimeter fencing and associated access gates and under-pitch drainage.

Bishop's Castle Community College, Brampton Road, E.S.W.S.

Planning permission granted.

e) Planning meeting - 1/06/18203/F Planning permission (full) Erection of 8 no dwellings (plots 14-17 inc and 20), 21, 23 and 27.

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd.

Wednesday 21st June 2006 at 2.00 pm at the Coors Stadium.

Cllr. Wright proposed item 7 be moved to after item 17 as Fiona Robertson has not arrived. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

8. WINTLES DEVELOPMENT

At the last meeting it was agreed to liase with a Management / Residents group. The Clerk has made enquiries and a Residents/ Management group will not be formed until all the houses are built and occupied. At present Living Villages manage the site. What is the way forward now? Cllr. Wright proposed that nothing further be done at present. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

9. LETTER FROM DAVID HUNT, 5 WELSH STREET GARDENS.

Mr Hunt complains about the lights, the culvert and the sinking pavement in Welsh Street/Welsh Street Gardens. Cllr. Carroll proposed a letter is sent to Mr Hunt explaining that these points are not matters for the Town Council and informing Mr Hunt that Mrs Cory at no 4 Welsh Street Gardens owns the culvert and suggest that he contacts her. Also to suggest that the County Council and the Management Committee should be approached regarding the other matters. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

10. WAR STOCK.

Suggestion to sell war stock as a tidy up. It is worth £13.45 and gained interest of £0.46 last year.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the war stock is sold. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

Cllr. Gaffney arrived.

11. MAY FAIR

The four year contract with the May Fair has expired. Mr & Mrs Wynn would like to continue coming and either have another four year or ongoing contract. They request rents only rise moderately if at all.

Cllr. Hird proposed another four year lease with similar rises in rent. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

12. BISHOP'S CASTLE TOURISM GROUP

Request for the Town Council to take over the responsibility for the up the pole baskets and suggest that sponsors could be found.

Cllr. Dr. Penney expressed the opinion that the Town Council should not take over the organisation of the baskets. Cllr. Carroll explained that it would be a pity if the baskets had to go because there was no money to plant them. Cllr. Magill proposed the Town Council take over the organisation of the planters and approach businesses and ask them for their support for five years. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

13. CHARTER 88 - CAMPAIGN FOR A MODERN AND FAIR DEMOCRACY- EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND LOCAL COUNCILS.

a) Council is asked to pass a resolution of support for this campaign.

b) Council is asked to send the enclosed letter of support to our MP.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that the information is circulated in a separate envelope and discussed at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

14. SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL SCRUTINY - HOMELESS VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

A representative of the Council is invited to a meeting on 17th July at Ludlow.

Would Councillors like a question raised or opinion given?

It was suggested that Cllr. Davidson-Stanley might like to attend the meeting. There were no questions raised or opinions given.

15. REPRODUCTION BOUVARD PICTURE.

Where would Councillors like it hung.

Cllr. Hird proposed the picture be put on the wall where the St Marcel pictures are hanging in the Council Chamber. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

16. DEPUTY TOWN CRIER

Mike Shanahan, Town Crier, would like to suggest Abbie Hemmings as Deputy Town Crier. Mike Shanahan will pay the subscription and lend a uniform. Cllr. Dr. Penney said he was not happy with having a Deputy. Cllr. Farr proposed that Abbie Hemmings be asked to be Deputy Town Crier. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

17. DRAFT POLICY ON VILLAGE SPEED LIMITS.

Council opinion is requested. Document to be circulated before the meeting.

The document had not completed the circulation but Cllr. Wright gave a précis of the document. He said it was not relevant to Bishop's Castle at present Also he was not happy that it took account of actual fatalities and injuries. He felt it should take account of the risk of injury and fatalities. The paper was discussed generally. Cllr. Wright proposed the paper be accepted but should state that this Council feels that the risk of fatalities and accidents should be taken into account, not the actual fatalities and accidents. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. It was suggested that our County Councillor should represent us at the meeting.

7. SKATEBOARD PARK

The following requests have been made from the Skateboard Association

a) A key for the playing fields

b) Permission to install 2 or 3 benches by the skatepark.

c) Permission to hold an evening event at the skatepark

d) Permission to hold a one day skate festival.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed all the above requests be approved. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

18. ACCOUNTS. -

It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that the following accounts except Energy Services are accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr. Gaffney took the Chair.

c) It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that the following accounts are all accepted. Seconded by Cllr Wright and approved.

J. Carroll - Mayors Allowance and telephone - £485

Cllr. Carroll returned and took the Chair.

19. Report of recent meetings attended by Council representatives.

20. Correspondence.

The Clerk explained that John Ward, Local Council Development Officer had visited herself to talk about Quality Councils. He would like to give a presentation to the Council at the August meeting. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed he be invited at 9.15pm. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

a) (i) Lydbury North Womens Institute

A letter regarding the closure of Stone House Hospital was read. It was agreed a letter should be sent to Mrs Palmer explaining that her letter had been read and that Stone House Hospital would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

(ii) South Shropshire District Council - Policy Committee meeting 22nd June 2006. Cllr. Dr. Penney will be attending this meeting and he was asked to express Council opinion against the merger of Police forces.

(iii) South Shropshire District Council, Planning Policy Consultation. Request for names and addresses of anyone wishing to receive consultation information. No Councillors wished to have information sent to them personally.

(iv) Sally Chappell - House on Crutches Museum - Regarding 1 in 6 road sign.

It was suggested that Colin Richards be consulted on the best way to ensure the sign is retained.

(v) Evelyn Bowles - BCHRC - Regarding state of Chapel Yard. Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to Ian Rutherford, County Surveyor, with a copy of the letter from BCHRC asking Mr Rutherford to provide us with a plan and a price urgently. An adequate pavement is required for the disabled. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

(vi) Friends of the Playing Fields - A request for Council approval for an open day on Sunday 23rd July. Cllr. Gaffney proposed approval and support be given.

Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

b) For circulation

(i) Getting to grips with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

(ii) Notes on the SALC meeting of 22nd April 2006 held to discuss Unitary Authorities.

(iii) Speaking out, West Midlands Regional Assembly

(iv) The Community Strategy for South Shropshire.

(v) Shropshire Hills, news and views.

(vi) Landscape Access Recreation - Doorstep Greens.

(vii) South Shropshire District Council - Standards sub-committee. Agenda for Monday 3rd July. (Local investigation hearing)

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Minutes 18 July 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 18TH JULY 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Blundell

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 6a as she is a friend of the applicant.
Cllr Stanley declared a personal interest in item 13 as she is secretary of the BC Christmas lights festival.
Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in item 13 as she is chairman of the Christmas lights festival.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in items 6a and 6c as he own property in Welsh Street.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is campaigning for a NHS hospital.
Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in items 10 and 12 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society.
Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 8 as he is involved in Charter 88.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a prejudicial interest in item 6b as he owns property in the vicinity.
Cllr. Magill declared a prejudicial interest in item 6c as she is a cousin of the applicant.
Cllr. Stanley declared a prejudicial interest in item 11 as she owns the building attached to the Town Hall.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 20TH July 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by

- Cllr. Gaffney.
(i) Item 4 Typing error, should read, "Reply from Hall's saying land behind the Boars Head could not be used as a car park. (Not Boers Head)
(ii) Item 11 regarding the May Fair rents, should read, "Cllr. Hird proposed another four year lease with at least a £25 a year rise in rents"
(iii) Item 17 should read Cllr Wright gave a précis of the document. He said it was not relevant to Bishops Castle at present except that there could be the possibility of a 20 MPH speed limit within main shopping roads."
The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Response to Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, SSDC will keep the council informed.
(ii) Closure of Post Office Accounts. The Post Office card account could be abolished in 2010. After that pensioners and others receiving benefits will have to open a bank account. Cllr Gaffney suggested we wait to hear from our local post-mistress on the on-going situation.
(iii) Letter from our insurance company advising that the council has received £840.78 for the vandalism to the Lampposts in the Playing Fields.
(iv) Letter from Chris Evans regarding the drainage issue in Church Lane. He is happy to complete the form but is concerned there will be an overwhelming amount of correspondence over a long period of time. He is prepared to deal with this if the Town Council will give him assistance and support and if necessary take over.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: The following spoke on item 7 Stone

House Hospital.

Mary Holton

Mrs Holton does not want Coverage Care to take over the hospital. There is a house for sale currently on the site, possibly this could be used as part of the renovations. She very much hopes there are alternatives.

Mr Owen - Hopton Heath

Mr Owen said his wife is a staff nurse at the hospital and he complained about the way the staff had been treated, he does not want Stone House hospital to close. He went on to say that the amount of money spent on the SpArC project is ludicrous in comparison, he said Shrewsbury hospital was in crisis and we need the Town Council to support the staff and hospital.

Mrs Paula Middleton

Mrs Middleton spoke about alternatives to the Coverage Care proposition and said she had attended a meeting where she had learnt that consultants from SSDC were working on various alternatives and she very much hoped that the Stone House Hospital would remain.

Cllr Dr Penney proposed that item 7 be moved forward and discussed now. Seconded by

Cllr Hird and approved.

7. STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL.

Cllr Jane Carroll said we were offered a complete package by Coverage Care, which would include people being nursed in their own homes in addition to the services already provided by Stone House Hospital.
General discussion took place where Cllr Dr. Penney talked about bed numbers, occupancy and anomalies re: statistics and validity of figures from Coverage Care. Reductions in nurse's salaries were discussed.
Cllr Hird went on to say that it must go to a 24-bed hospital and he believed Coverage Care could not provide the promised services.
Cllr Wright agreed that the 15th June meeting was not satisfactory, he was in favour of Coverage Care as a non-profit company but he agreed with Mr Owen from Hopton Heath and the comments he had made regarding nursing staff. He suggested that the Friends of Stone House remain vigilant and encourage them to report back to the Town Council.
Cllr Gaffney proposed that letters should be sent to the Primary Care Trust and the Health Overview Scrutiny, Shropshire County Council saying that the Town Council and all residents value the continuation of hospital services. The level of care, number of beds and any reduction of this number need to be safeguarded. It needs to be ensured that the conditions of service, staffing and salaries stay as they are with the NHS and these will apply to any future recruitment.
Seconded by Cllr Dr. Penney but to include that there will be one-month deferment so consultation can take place. The motion was carried. ACTION TOWN CLERK

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

- a) 1/06/18359/LB Listed Building Consent. Installation of a velux roof window (delegated matter)
2 Moat House, Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle.
Cllr. Wright proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Penney and approved.

Cllr. Dr. Penney left the room.

- b) 1/06/18382/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of 4 dwellings (Plots 18, 19, 32 and 33 - Revised scheme).
The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd.

Cllr Carroll proposed no objection and Seconded Cllr Wright and approved.
Cllr Dr. Penney returned

Cllr. Magill left the room

- c) 1/06/18409/LB Listed Building Consent. Installation of 3 no. roof lights (delegated matter).
4 - 6 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. Mrs J Slavin.

Cllr Gaffney proposed no objection, seconded Cllr Wright and approved.
Cllr. Magill returned.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

1/06/18203/F Erection of 8 dwellings (plots 14-17 inc and 20, 21, 23 and 27) (revised design)

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages (BC) Ltd.

Planning permission granted.

There was a discussion re affordable housing, Cllr Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the planning officer to invite him to the September meeting. Seconded by Cllr Magill and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

8. CHARTER 88 - CAMPAIGN FOR A MODERN AND FAIR DEMOCRACY - EMPOWERING CITIZENS AND LOCAL COUNCILS.

a) Council is asked to pass a resolution of support for this campaign.

b) Council is asked to send the enclosed letter of support to our MP.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed a resolution of support for this campaign be passed a the enclosed letter of support sent to our M.P. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.
ACTION TOWN CLERK

9. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this item be discussed at the August meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. NEXT AGENDA

10. AMENITY SKIP FACILITY AT CROWGATE.

Letter from Graham Hemmings regarding its future. A general discussion took place but no decision was reached the skip facilities are safe until the end of the financial year. We will then be informed of any changes.

Cllr. Stanley left the room.

11. TOWN HALL RESTORATION.

Report on meeting by the Mayor and Clerk with Sula Rayska. Sula is willing to manage the project Planning Application for a fee of £500. Cllr.Dr. Penney proposed Sula Rayska be asked to manage this application. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Cllr. Stanley returned.

12. ENERGY SURVEY

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the energy survey be circulated and discussed at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. NEXT AGENDA

13. BANNERS FOR FESTIVALS.

Cllr. Pinches proposed that festival banners be placed on the Town Hall using the existing brackets. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. Letter to be sent to the Festivals Officer.

ACTION TOWN CLERK

14. OLD POLICE STATION

Letter from Geoffrey Tilling, Proprietor of the Grange Nursing Home about the condition of The Old Police Station. Cllr. Dr. penney reported that he has already spoken to South Shropshire District Council regarding the problems at this site. The District Council will contact the owners of the property and ask them to secure the property.

15. WEST MERCIA POLICE MERGER

Letter from Philip Dunne requesting Council to write once more to the Chairman of the Police Authority and to the Home Secretary in support of West Mercia's case. Councillors agreed to leave on the table.

16. BOOKS IN THE TOWN HALL

How should the books that were in the Mayors Parlour be disposed of? Stephen Roberts, a Parliamentary Historian from London has said they have no value. Cllr. Wright proposed that a letter be sent to Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre asking them to take the books and deal with as they see fit. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. ACTION TOWN CLERK

17. ACCOUNTS

17. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

19. Correspondence.

(i) Mr D'Alesio, Shropshire County Council regarding street lighting in Love Lane.

It was agreed that only the Town Council need be consulted. ACTION TOWN CLERK

(ii) Morgans, Solicitor regarding footpath 22 and part of 24 saying they wish to consult the ramblers group regarding the changes. They will contact Councillors after this consultation..

b) Circulation

(i) Salopian Recorder

(ii) Clerks and Council Direct

(iii) SSDC Standards Committee - Minutes of 18/5/06 and Agenda for 4/7/06.

(iv) Proposals to merger Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology with Walford and North Shropshire College. If you feel we should make representation please contact the Clerk.

(v) AONB

20. Invoices paid for Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields

Oaker Wood Leisure - £245

W O'Leary - £80

Harriett Carty - £8.10

C. Pritchard - £50

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Minutes 15 August 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Farr

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllrs Hird and Gaffney declared personal interests in items 7a and 9 as they are members of the Wasteless Society.
Cllrs Hird and Dr. Penney declared personal interests in item 13 as they are campaigners for an NHS hospital at Stone House.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

There were no declarations of prejudicial interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 July 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.

Item 3, line 1 should read 20th June not July.

Item 7, line Delete "he was in favour of Coverage Care as a non-profit company."

Item 7, line 15 should read "The level of care and number of beds need to be safeguarded." (delete "and any reduction in this number").

Item 7, line18 should read "but to include "Council supported one month deferment so further consultation can take place"".

Item 7, after line 19 insert " Cllr. Pinches opposed the Trust being allowed the freehold of the land in case in future years the site became housing land."

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING (information from previous meetings.)

Item 6 - A letter from Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building Control was read accepting the invitation to the next meeting but requesting that the meeting be earlier.

Cllr. Carroll suggested the next meeting begin at 7.00pm. Cllr. Wright said that he felt that the meeting should commence at 8.00pm as usual because the public may wish to listen to Mr Berriman and there could be confusion if the normal times were changed. It was agreed that the meeting should commence the same time as usual. ACTION TOWN CLERK

Previous meetings.

Land for people - A letter of thanks was read from Jonathan Brown for the distribution of questionnaires and an update on the response to them. At the closing date there had been 260 survey replies and 15 people had signed up as members.

Shropshire County Council - A letter of thanks for the response to the draft policy on village speed limits.

Shropshire County Council - A reply to the request by the Town Council to adopt the 1 in 3 and road narrows signs. Also an update on the Chapel Yard situation.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to Mr Fisher saying that the Town Council wished to take the signs at the top of the High Street into their ownership so that they could not be removed. Seconded by Cllr. pinches and approved.

Abbie Hemmings - A letter of resignation as deputy Town Crier.

The Community College - A letter in response to the request for parking at the site. Cars of people not using the site may park at times of festivals only.

South Shropshire District Council - Refusal to the request for Banks Head to be included on the 'D' list with regards to planning. Cllr. Carroll proposed a letter be sent to David Francis, Planning Policy Officer, asking if Banks Head can be considered at the next review as it is so similar to Colebatch. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18466/TC Tree works (conservation area)

Remove ash trees from hedgerow. (delegated matter)

5-7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. S. Hankin

A letter was read from Mrs Daniels, Tree Warden. Cllr. Wright proposed no objection including the suggestion the ashes are pollarded. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

b) 1/06/18492/F Planning permission (full)

Change of use of garage/workshop to offices and warehousing. (delegated matter)

New Street Garage, Bishop's Castle. Mr A McLeish

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

c) 1/06/18506/F & 1/06/18507LB Planning permission (full) and Listed Building consent. Erection of extension and renovation to public house. (delegated matter).

Kings Head Inn, 48 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Punch Taverns.

A letter from Mrs Daniels, Civic Society was shown. Cllr. Morris proposed no objection as long as there is a condition that the public footpath through to the Auction yard is renovated. This is owned by the property. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved. The Clerk to advise Ian Rutherford, Shropshire County Council, District Surveyor, of the planning application and suggested condition. ACTION TOWN CLERK

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18303/F & 1/06/18304/LB Erection of an extension to dwelling: existing lean-to

to be demolished: internal and external works to dwelling.

53 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr. R. Anderson.

Planning permission and listed building consent granted.

(ii) 1/06/18294/F Construction of a manege.

Yew Tree Farm, Bishop's Castle. Mr and Mrs D. L. Boniface

Planning permission granted.

7. ENERGY SURVEY

a) Report on energy efficiency survey carried out by David Finney, Wasteless Society.

b) What are Council's aspirations regarding energy efficiency in the Town Hall?

A discussion took place about the Council's aspirations. Cllr. Gaffney said encouragement should be given to Mr Finney and the Wasteless Society volunteers. To explain the Council is pleased with the report and when the renovation goes ahead the Town Hall should have the best possible insulation. The building should be made as carbon neutral as possible. Cllr. Gaffney proposed a response be made to Mr Finney thanking him for his report and stating that the inspirations of the Town Council are as high as possible. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

8. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

Dog fouling and litter control. The two questionnaires were completed. Copy attached.

9. CROWGATE RECYCLING CENTRE.

Cllr. Hird explained that the amount of plastics and cardboard collected at the Crowgate recycling centre had grown considerably. It was now too much work for volunteers to keep this tidy. It was suggested a person be employed for three hours per week to work with the volunteers. They would be paid the minimum wage.

Cllr. Hird asked if the Town Council could employ a person. Cllr. Carroll explained that this would not be possible as the Town Council does not own the land. Cllr. Carroll proposed a sum of £350 be paid to the Wasteless Society under section 137 to enable them to pay a person. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

10. VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Carroll proposed that the closing date for applications for co-option of a Councillor be Monday 4th September and interviews take place on Thursday 7th September. The Clerk to advise Councillors of applicants and times. Any Councillor wishing to can be part of the interviewing panel. We must ensure there are at least three Councillors. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

11. TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cllr. Gaffney proposed a letter be sent to the new Head of Bishop's Castle Primary School expressing the Council's concern at the traffic congestion by the school and asking him to encourage children to walk to school. The letter to offer any help that the Town Council can give. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

12. RUBBISH IN THE PLAYING FIELDS

Cllr. Carroll explained that there has been several complaints about the litter in the playing fields. Andrew Broome is paid to pick up litter one hour a week. He has been approached and he does not want more hours. He would rather not do his present hour. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Clive Pritchard is paid for two hours a week until the end of September to enable him to do any tree or garden work, to pick up litter, keep an eye on the play equipment and generally look after the playing fields. He is already paid by the Friends for one day a month for tree and ground work. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

13. STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL.

Cllr. Gaffney explained that several people had put their name to a proposition suggesting that a way out of the uncertainty would be for the building to be handed over to Coverage Care and the NHS lease back a section of the building which they could continue to run as an NHS hospital. This is a realistic plan which would meet the concerns expressed. Cllr. Dr. Penny proposed that Stone House hospital be put on the next agenda as a decision item when the proposition can be discussed and a decision made as to whether to support it. More information should be available at this point. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. NEXT AGENDA

9.00 pm Cllr. Gaffney proposed the meeting be adjourned to allow John Ward, Local Council Development Officer to give a presentation. (see end of minutes)
Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

9.30 pm the meeting resumed.

14. FARMERS MARKET

Cllr. Stanley explained that all the small Farmers markets in South Shropshire were having a big push in October to expand. Bishop's Castle now has 20 stalls booked for October which would use Market Square as well as the Town Hall. A road closure order has been sought. Village Outreach will be applying for a grant to purchase 10 stalls and canopies. These could be used for any event in Bishop's Castle. Cllr. Wright proposed the idea be approved in principle. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

15. CONSULTATION MEETING ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTION

Invitation to send a representative to a consultation meeting on Tuesday 29th August at Craven Arms. Cllrs Magill, Stanley, Carroll and Gaffney expressed an interest in attending.

16. MAYORS SUNDAY / MAYOR MAKING

Cllr. Carroll explained that there had been a suggestion to combine Mayor making and Mayors Sunday on a Tuesday evening. The Mayor making ceremony would take place in the Town Hall followed by a procession to the Church. There would be a short service at the Church followed by a procession back up the hill to refreshments in the Town Hall. There was some discussion on this idea. Cllr. Dr. Penney felt it would be better on a Sunday. Some Councillors felt it was illegal to have the Annual Council meeting on a Sunday. The Clerk to check. It was agreed to put this item on the next agenda to give Councillors more time to consider the idea. NEXT AGENDA

17. ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that the external audit had been successfully completed.

The quarterly income and expenditure account had been circulated. The Clerk answered questions from Councillors. Cllr. Gaffney proposed the quarterly accounts be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

None

19. CORRESPONDANCE.

(i) Central networks - Information on funding for community project

(ii) Kaye Chambers - Suggestion that street lights should be turned off at night.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that this letter be considered at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Hird and approved.

(iii) Letter from Cllr. Peter Phillips regarding the Wintles

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(b) Circulation

(i) Path Times

(ii) Local Council Review

(iii) Steps programme at the Community College.

(iv) SSDC Local Development Framework - Feedback from public meetings.

(v) The Playing Field

(vi) SSDC - Draft Statement of Community Involvement - Affordable Housing interim planning guidance. (separate envelope).

20 ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE

Approval to apply for an entertainment's licence for the Town Centre streets and playing fields at a cost of £200.

To be considered at the next meeting.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.04 p.m

John Ward, Local Council Development Officer spoke about the advantages of being a Quality Parish Council, especially if a Unitary Council comes into being. He explained that criteria had to be met in eight areas which are:-. Electoral mandate, Qualified Clerk, Regular meetings, Communications, Annual report, Accounts, Ethical Framework, Other information. He gave more details of each of these areas, also, how to go about applying and the cost to the Council. This subject is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Minutes 12 September 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

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

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr Hird (Another meeting) and Cllr. Stanley. (Another meeting.)

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Gaffney declared personal interests in items 6a, b, e as he is a friend of the applicants.

Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 10 as he is a director of the Wasteless Society.

Cllr. Morris declared a personal interest in item 6a as he is a neighbour of the applicant.

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

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Farr declared a prejudicial interest in item 25 as payment to his wife is to be authorised.

Cllr. Stanley proposed a prejudicial interest in items 17, 18, 19, 20 as her property is adjacent to the Town Hall.

Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building Control, South Shropshire District Council spoke about planning matters.

Mr Berriman explained there were two main areas to planning. The Policy Development Framework and Development control. He then explained the Policy Development Framework. He explained that the Core Strategy - issues and options was the important document. There will be consultation in the spring which is a key stage where the Town Council can influence the decision making in this area.

The other area that the Town Council can have influence is the Regional Spatial Strategy. There will be consultation on this in January where the Town Council can have some influence.

He then went on to talk about Development Control. This is where the Town Council can influence the outcome of local planning applications. He has written a paper which is a guide to the planning process for parish councils. When it is approved it will be taken to all parish councils by an area officer who will explain it.

The purpose of the paper is to help parish councillors make the most constructive comments. Cllr. Wright asked if this would give locals councils a greater weight than individuals. Mr Berriman replied that it did not give a greater weight but hopefully the comments would be more relevant and therefore more notice taken of them. He then went on to talk about the affordable housing policy. Cllr. Wright queried the lack of enforcement. Mr Berriman explained that two enforcement officers are now in place and a clear enforcement policy should be in place soon. He realises there has been a problem and is working to improve the situation.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 15TH August 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney.

b) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd August 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Wright. Seconded by Cllr. Farr.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 6c - Letter from Ian Rutherford, Divisional Surveyor, Shropshire County Council saying he will try talking to his colleagues in SSDC planning.

Item 4 - Letter from C. Fisher, Assistant Divisional Surveyor granting the Town Council ownership of the 3 in 1 and road narrows signs.

Meeting of 22nd August - Item 6a - Letter of objection to plans for Coppice House by Miriam Lennox.

Previous meeting - Phillip Dunne - letter of thanks for support for the Sustainable Communities Bill

Local Works Campaign Coordinator - Letter of thanks for support for the Sustainable Communities Bill

Wasteless society - letter of thanks for donation to assist in the employment of a person at Crowgate.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK:

a) Mary Holton spoke about Stone House Hospital. She urged Council to support an NHS hospital in the Town.

b) Jonathan Greig spoke about plans 6b and 6e. He explained that because of a change in the law the second plan had to be resubmitted therefore they had become separated. They were in fact the same project. He asked Council to consider them favourably.

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18579/F Planning Permission (Full) Erection of a Conservatory. (delegated matter)

51 Welsh Street, Bishop's Castle. K. Chambers.

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

b) 1/06/18594/TC Tree works (conservation area) Felling of 2 x elder, 4 x larch and 2 x birch.

58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr & Mrs Greig.

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

c) 1/06/18580/MNT Misc Notification. Erection of 3 x poles to support overhead electricity line. (delegated matter)

Bishop's Castle sub station, Love Lane Industrial Estate. Central Networks, East.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection with the recommendation that if possible the cables are put underground. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

d) Planning permission (full) Erection of an agricultural building for livestock and feed store; alterations to (existing) vehicular access (delegated matter).

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

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the recommendation be that this application goes to committee because of the large size of the building and the fact that it is not connected to the farm. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

e) Planning permission (full) Erection of a domestic garage/greenhouse (delegated matter)

58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle JF & MC Greig.

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

f) FOR INFORMATION ONLY Use of the Bakehouse as unfettered residential accommodation. (delegated matter)

Bakehouse Cottage, Market Square, Bishop's Castle.

e) Reports of planning applications

(i) 1/06/18409/LB Installation of 3 no roof lights.

4-6 Welsh Street, Mrs J Slavin,

Listed Building Consent granted.

(ii) 1/06/18382/F Erection of 4 dwellings (Plots 18,19, 32 & 33 - Revised scheme)

The Wintles, Bishop's Castle. Living Villages BC Ltd.

Planning permission granted with the following as part of the conditions:

No other part of the development shall be commenced until drainage works for the disposal of surface water and foul sewage have been carried out in accordance with the details to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The development permitted shall not be commenced unless and until the approved mini-roundabout proposed for the junction of Castle Green with the new estate road has been completed and the estate road has been laid out to adoptable standards

(iii) 1/06/18466/TC Remove Ash trees from hedgerow.

5-7 Castle Green, Bishop's Castle. S. Hankin.

Consent granted.

7.a) CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There has been one application for the vacancy of Councillor - John Howell.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that Mr Howell be invited to an interview. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Councillors will be informed of the date and time. All Councillors are welcome.

b) Newspaper article regarding resignation of Cllr. Blundell.

The Clerk advised Council that to date neither the Mayor nor the Clerk has received any form of resignation from Cllr. Blundell.

8. STONE HOUSE HOSPITAL

There was some debate about the future of the Stone House site. Cllr. Carroll proposed that Council request that Shropshire County Council retains freehold of the site. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Primary Care Trust requesting that the NHS have control of hospital beds and staff. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to the PCT requesting that the arrangements between both parts of the hospital be more flexible. Seconded by Cllr. Wright. The proposition fell, 3 votes in favour, 5 against.

Cllr. Gaffney proposed that a letter be sent to the leader of South Shropshire District Council and to the consultants conducting the feasibility study stating that the Stone House Hospital should not be part of any Ludlow based hospital trust. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Action Town Clerk

9. MAYORS SUNDAY/ MAYOR MAKING

Cllr. Pinches proposed that there be no changes to the format of Mayor Making and Mayors Sunday. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

10. LETTER FROM KAYE CHAMBERS

Ms Chambers requests that street lights are turned off at night. Cllr. Wright proposed that investigations be made to see whether it is feasible to turn the lights off between 2am and

5am. An article to be put in the next newsletter to seek residents opinions. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. Action Town Clerk

11. DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cllr. Magill proposed that Council support the Statement of Community involvement. Seconded by Cllr. Carroll and approved with Cllrs. Gaffney and Pinches voting against.

12. AGENDA FORMAT (Cllr. Dr. Penney)

Discussion took place on the format of the agenda. Should the words information, discussion, decision etc be on the agenda. Cllr. Gaffney proposed they remain on the agenda but are not binding. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

13. LIGHTING IN LOVE LANE

The Shropshire County Council lighting scheme for Love Lane was considered. Cllr. Wright felt the lighting at the Kennels crossroads was rather excessive. Cllr. Magill felt that this is a very dangerous junction and should be very well lit. Cllr. Wright proposed there be seven lights at the Kennels crossroads. Seconded by Cllr. Magill. Cllr. Pinches proposed an amendment that there be only four lights . Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney. The amendment was put to the Council and overruled.

The proposition was then put to the Council and approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed the scheme for the College crossroads be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. It was agreed that all properties in the area and the college should be consulted.

14. JUNCTION OF LOVE LANE AND BRAMPTON ROAD

Cllr. Magill proposed that a roundabout be requested at this junction. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Action Town Clerk

15. GRANGE ROAD FOOTPATH

Consideration of tenders.

Ken Watkins - £1120

SDW - £1380

Andy Mellow - £1470

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that Ken Watkins tender be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be extended for ten minutes. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

16. BISHOP'S CASTLE BOWLS CLUB PAVILLION

Cllr. Morris proposed a letter of support be sent to the Bishop's Castle Bowls Club to aid it in its application for a Heritage Lottery Fund to enable the octagonal Georgian clubhouse to be saved. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved. Action Town Clerk

17. TOWN HALL BELL TOWER.

Consideration of the report by the South Shropshire District Council structural engineer following his inspection of the tower. The Clerk advised that the report has not yet been received. Next Agenda

18. ELECTRICAL REPORT

Consideration of the periodic electrical report on the Town Hall, (summary enclosed)

Cllr. Gaffney expressed the opinion that because of the urgency of the work required it should be completed as soon as possible. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed Gavin Cooke be asked to complete the work. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

Action Town Clerk

19. TOWN HALL EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND FIRE ALARMS.

Consideration of tenders.

G. Cooke - £3350, RMW - £4596, Jeremy Blundell - £1007

Cllr. Wright proposed that Gavin Cooke' tender be accepted, but the Clerk to try to negotiate a cheaper price as he is being given both pieces of work. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Action Town Clerk

20. TOWN HALL RENOVATION PARTNERSHIP

We have been advised to set up a partnership to aid the application for funding for the Town Hall. It is hoped this partnership will be made up of 4 Councillors and 2 members of each of the following:- Civic society, Wasteless Society, BCHRC, SWSAHS.

Cllrs Dr. Penney, Wright, Gaffney and Carroll are to represent the Council on the Partnership.

21. SIX CASTLES CYCLEWAY.

Councillors are invited to make comments on the proposed signing of the Six Castles Cycleway. There were no comments made.

22. STREET LIGHT AT THE JUNCTION OF UNION STREET AND MARKET SQUARE.

This new light was put in the wrong place. Consideration of letter from Central Networks who wish to charge £2283 to remove the existing light and put up a wall light. Cllr. Gaffney proposed the Clerk write a strong letter to Central Networks explaining that they put the light in the wrong place so they should move it free of charge. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Action Town Clerk

23. QUALITY PARISH

Following the presentation given at the last meeting.

a) Approval of a report and summary of income and expenditure to be sent out with next newsletter.

b) Approval of the payment of the Clerk for 20 hours to complete the training course. Next Agenda

24. BANK SIGNATORIES.

It was agreed sometime ago that all Councillors should be signatories on the bank account. (The Clerk and two Councillors to sign each cheque.) Cllr. Carroll proposed new bank mandates are signed. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

25. ACCOUNTS

26. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

27. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no time to read the correspondence. All to be carried to the next meeting.

(a) (i) Letter from Biddulph Town Council thanking the Council for permitting the Town Crier to participate in the British Championships.

(ii) E-mail regarding the Shropshire History Project.

(iii) Letter from Margot Daniels regarding the felling of a tree in Billingsley Close.

(iv) Letter from John Howell, Kemp Valley Group re the Brockton incinerator.

b) Circulation

(i) Regional View

(ii) South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Minutes 10 October 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

Councillors: M. Davidson - Stanley, S.A. Farr, N. Hird, J.A. Magill, Dr. G.N.St.J. Penney,

K.E.C. Pinches and R.D. Wright.
In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hird (late, at another meeting), Cllr Gaffney, Cllr. Morris

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Stanley declared a personal interest in items 11a, b, c as she is secretary for the Christmas lights festival.
Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in items 11a, b and c as she is Chairman of the Christmas lights festival.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

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

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Farr with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright.
It should have been noted that Cllr Stanley arrived just before item 3.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Item 10 - Letter from Mr D'Alesio, Shropshire County Council regarding the turning off of street lights at night. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Clerk make further enquiries into cost and who would pay for the County Council lights to be adapted. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

Item 13 - Letter from Mr D'Alesio regarding the lighting in love lane and suggested roundabout. Cllr. Dr Penney proposed a letter be sent to the Chair of the Cabinet Committee expressing the Council's deep concern over the dangers at the Brampton Road crossroads. To ask for action to be taken before the end of the year because of the urgency of the matter. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

Cllr. Wright proposed that in view of Mr D'Alesio's letter the original lighting scheme for the kennels crossroads be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

Item 18 and 19 - Electrical work expected to start on October 23rd

Item 8 - Stone House Hospital - Letter from Phillip Dunne acknowledging receipt of our letter.

Letter from Peter Phillips regarding the meeting about Stone House Hospital. Copies have been circulated.

Items from previous meetings - Wintles junction. Package from Shropshire County Council regarding the Wintles Junction. Available to Councillors if they wish to look at it.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

Letters from Colin Richards, SSDC Conservation Officer and Sarah Hanson, SSDC planning officer regarding the Co-op were read.

a) 1/06/18612/AD and 1/06/18613/LB Advertisement consent and Listed Building consent.

Display 2 x externally illuminated fascia signs and 1 x externally illuminated projecting sign

(delegated matter)

Co-op food store, 63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. CHS retail financial services.

Cllr. Wright proposed no objection with the condition that the lights are turned off when the shop is closed. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

b) 1/06/18701/AD Advertisement consent and 1/06/18702/LB Listed Building consent.

Installation of 3 x window vinyl advertisements.

63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Cooperative Group. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed an objection on the grounds that large pictures of food are not suitable for the conservation area. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

c) 1/06/18660/LB Listed Building Consent - Insertion of replacement window and a door, formation of steps.

26a High Street, Bishop's Castle. R. A. Nicholas.

A letter of objection was read from John and Mary Stradling, The Barn, Chapel Yard.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed an objection on the grounds that the steps would be a potential danger to the public. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

d) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18579/F Erection of a conservatory,

51 Welsh Street, K. Chambers.

Planning permission granted.

(ii) 1/06/18594/TC and 1/06/18592/F Felling of 2 x elder; 4 a larch and 1 x ash.

58 Church Street, Bishop's Castle.

Mr & Mrs Greig.

Listed building consent and planning permission granted.

(iii) 1/06/18492/F Change of use of garage/workshop to offices and warehousing.

New Street Garage, Bishop's Castle. Mr A McLeish.

Planning permission granted.

(iv) 1/06/18580/MNT Erection of 3 x wooden poles to support overhead electricity line.

Bishop's Castle Sub Station, Love Lane Industrial Estate. Central Networks East.

No objection.

(v) 1/06/18543/F Erection of an extension to dwelling.

Coppice House, Woodbatch Road. A. Rice.

Planning permission granted.

(vi) 1/06/18359/LB Installation of a velux roof light.

2 Moat House, Bishop's Castle. Mr H Dartnall.

Application withdrawn.

7. CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILOR

a) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed John Howell be co-opted as a Councillor. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. The Mayor welcomed John onto the Council.

b) The resignation of Jeremy Blundell as Councillor was read. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the same format as last time for interviews. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

8. QUALITY PARISH

a) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a report and summary of income and expenditure for 2005/6 be sent out with next newsletter. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

b) Cllr. Wright proposed the Clerk be paid for 20 hours to complete the CiLCA training course. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

9. STREET CLOSURE ORDER - Remembrance Parade

Sunday 12th November 2006 from 10.40 am to 11.00 am and 11.55 am to 12.15pm. High Street and Church Street. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection.

Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

Cllr. Hird arrived.

10. ALLOTMENTS

Consideration of letter from Snows, Solicitors regarding the exclusion of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Provisions. Cllr. Wright proposed no objection to the exclusion of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 Provisions. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

11. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL

a) Cllr. Wright proposed that no more than £500 (including VAT) be spent on the installation of exterior electrical connections in the walls of the Town Hall for the Christmas lights. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

b) Request for use of the Town Hall free of charge for the weekend 25th/26th November for the Christmas Lights Festival. Cllr. Magill proposed no objection.

Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

c) Permission to apply for a Temporary Events Notice for the sale of alcohol in Market Square to enable mulled wine to be sold. Cllr. Magill proposed no objection.

Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

12. COMBINED NEWSLETTERS

Lydbury English Centre would like to combine Newsletters. They have a circulation of 300 and would distribute there and put money in. Some discussion took place about setting up a combined newsletter. It was felt there was not enough information for a decision to be reached. Cllr. Wright proposed that someone from the Lydbury English Centre should be invited to the next meeting to give more information. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

13. BENCH IN CHURCH STREET.

The Hemmings Brothers have asked that the bench behind the bus shelter in Church Street be moved as it is causing a nuisance. (It is on their land) Cllr. Wright proposed the bench be put on the south side of the Old Market Place. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved. Cllr. Magill proposed that a notice is put on the bus shelter apologising for the removal of the bench and explaining why it has been moved. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved. ATC

14. CLEANING OF ROBES

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the three robes (Mayor, Deputy and Clerks) should be cleaned at a cost up to £100 total. (The fur to be removed). Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved. ATC

15. TOWN HALL BELL TOWER

The report by the South Shropshire District Council structural engineer following his inspection of the tower has still not been received but it is understood the work required is minor.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for repair work to be carried out up to £100 once the report arrives. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

17. ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Cllr. Dr. Penney that the following accounts are all accepted except for Severn Trent Water which he felt was excessive. The Clerk to investigate and pay when satisfied that the amount due is correct. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

18. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

19. CORRESPONDANCE

(i) Letter from Biddulph Town Council thanking the Council for permitting the Town Crier to participate in the British Championships.

(ii) Letter from Mrs Daniels regarding the cutting down of a tree in Billingsley Close.

Cllr. Carroll proposed that the Clerk should forward the letter to Jake Berriman, Head of Planning and Building Control, having first sought the approval of Mrs Daniels. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

ATC

(iii) Letter from the Kemp Valley Group regarding the proposed incinerator at Brockton.

Cllr. Carroll informed Councillors that at present no planning applications have been received. The application will go to the County Council. She advised that discussion should not take place until official planning permission has been sought. Cllr. Carroll proposed that a letter be sent to the Planning Officer at the County Council requesting that a copy of the plans be sent to Bishop's Castle Town Council when they are submitted. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

ATC

(iv) Letter from Bill and Beth Hendley re floodlighting of the Church. Councillors felt this letter was not relevant to the Town Council.

(v) Letter from Jack Hughes regarding the kissing gate on the footpath from Station Street to the College. Cllr. Wright proposed that the P3 group take action to remove the kissing gate nearest to Station Street. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

(vi) Invitation to Bishop's Castle Marches Partnership Annual Event on Monday 13th November 2006.

b) Circulation

(i) South Shropshire Sport and Leisure Advisory Council

(ii) LCR

(iii) Clerk and Councils Direct

(iv) Rural Services Review

(v) South Shropshire District Council, Standards Committee Agenda for 19th September 2006, Minutes for 4th July.

(vi) Exerts from the Clerk "When a member can be a council officer."

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.37 p.m.

Minutes 7 November 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

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

In attendance: Mrs. J. Ince

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 6a as he is a customer and a friend of Bishops Moat Garage.

Cllr. Carroll declared a personal interest in item 7 as she has an allotment next to Bill Hendley.

Cllr. Gaffney declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a member of the Wasteless Society with Bill Hendley.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a Crowgate volunteer with Mr Hendley and is a committee member of BCHRC with Mary Holton.

Cllr. Hird declared a personal interest in items 8 and 9 as he is a committee member of BCHRC and knows Mr Fielding of Chapel Yard.

Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 7 as he is a friend of both candidates.

Cllrs Stanley and Carroll declared personal interests in item 16 as they are members of the Christmas lights Committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2006, having been circulated, were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Dr. Penney with the following corrections. Seconded by Cllr. Wright

Item 12 should read Lydbury North Parish Council not Lydbury English Centre.

Item 19b(vi) should read excerpts not exerts

The minutes were approved and signed by the Mayor.

4. MATTERS ARISING - Relevant information following the last meeting.

Item 6a 1/06/18660/LB - Revised application which had to be responded to within 7 days.

Cllrs Carroll, Dr. Penney and Pinches agreed there should be no objection to the new plan as long as the step did not protrude more than 25cm. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed no objection retrospectively. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

Item 19 - Further information from Kemp Valley Group. To be filed until planning application received.

Item 19 - Update on letter from Mrs Daniels to Bromfield Carinthia regarding the tree felled in Billingsley Close. Bromfield Carinthia apologised saying that they were not aware it was in the conservation area. They have planted a shrub.

Previous meetings.

(i) Letter of acknowledgement from Trish Anderson - Primary Care trust

(ii) Glyn Shaw, Shropshire County Council - acknowledgement to request for roundabout at Love Lane / Brampton Road junction.

(iii) Letter from Mr D'Alesio saying grant for lighting in Union Street will not be paid until the light at the top is sorted out.

(iv) Allotments - Lease agreement is completed. Copy received with the original held at Snows.

(v) Response from the letter to the Head of the Primary School regarding walking to school routes. Mr Barker has said that he is in favour of encouraging children to walk to school and that they have a travel plan but he has not had time to study it yet.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18802/F Planning Permission (full) Erection of a 12m radio broadband monopole (delegated matter)

Moat Hill Garage, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle. Qi Comm

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

b) 1/06/18804/F & 1/06/18805/CA Planning permission (full) and Conservation area consent - 1. Erection of carport and potting shed on site of existing outbuildings to be demolished. 2. Demolition of dilapidated outbuildings (delegated matter)

16-18 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Mr J Holt

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

c) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18643/F Erection of an agricultural building for livestock and feed store: alterations to (existing) vehicular access.

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

Planning permission refused.

(ii) 1/06/18613/LB Listed Building Consent - Display of 2 x externally illuminated fascia signs and 1 a externally illuminated projecting sign.

Co-op food store, 63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. CHS Retail Financial Services.

Listed Building consent granted.

(iii) 1/06/18660/LB Insertion of replacement window and a door; formation of steps.

26a High Street, Bishop's Castle. R.A. Nicholas

Listed Building Consent granted.

(iv) 1/06/18623 Grant of Certificate of lawful use or development. Bakehouse Cottage.

7. CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR

Mary Holton and Bill Hendley were applicants interviewed for co-option as a Councillor. Both candidates had been interviewed previously by some Councillors. A resume of these interviews was read.

Cllr. Wright proposed a private ballot be taken. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved. Mary Holton was voted (6 votes to 5) to be co-opted onto Bishop's Castle Town Council.

8. DONATIONS

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the following financial support be given under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

West Shropshire Talking Newspaper - £25

Hope House Children's Hospices - £25

Marie Curie Cancer Care - £25

Relate - £25

NO Panic - £25

House on Crutches Museum - £200

BCHRC - £200 on the assumption that charges will not be made for the storage of Town Council papers.

All seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

9. SURFACING OF CHAPEL YARD

There was much discussion about the resurfacing of Chapel Yard with letters read from Sue and Tony Stanton-Martin who are against any work being undertaken in Chapel Yard and Evelyn Bowles on behalf of BCHRC requesting improvements to the footpath and lighting. Plans drawn up by the County Council were examined. Cllr. Carroll explained that the plans were being discussed in principal at present. It is not known how much the County Council will pay and who will pay for the rest. Cllr. Wright proposed that the path, including the area by Barclays Bank and outside the BCHRC be improved according to the plan.(shaded on plan) The remaining road should be left at present. Seconded by Cllr. Magill. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed an amendment that the path and area outside Barclays should be improved according to the plan (hatched area) but the area outside BCHRC should be considered when the safety issues raised had been investigated.

Seconded by Cllr. Hird. The amendment was approved and put to the Council as the substantive motion and approved.

10 PARISH GUIDE TO THE PLANNING PROCESS 2006

The Parish Guide to the planning process has now been published. Cllr. Magill proposed the area planning officer be invited to a special meeting to introduce it.

Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that neighbouring Councils be invited . Seconded by

Cllr. Morris and approved.

11. DRAFT PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY FOR SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

Cllr. Wright proposed that each Councillor receive a copy of the Draft Planning Enforcement Policy for South Shropshire. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a monthly e-list

of all enforcement cases be sent to the Clerk on a confidential basis. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

12. DOOR TO GENTS TOILET

Cllr. Hird proposed that the outside door to the gents toilet be move to the road side of the porch. Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

13. LIGHTING OF FOOTPATHS.

Cllr. Carroll explained that there have been several requests for light on the newly tarmaced town paths. She is investigating the idea of low level LED lights which would be battery operated with solar recharge. She has been in discussion with the Wasteless society and David Woodward, project manager at the Wintles. They are hoping to put this type of light on the Wintles. The Mayor explained that in the near future she is to be given a demonstration of these lights. Councillors agreed that they would like to be contacted to enable them to join her.

14. SUGGESTED DATES FOR 2007

Council meeting Tuesday 9th January (5 weeks)

Council meeting Tuesday 30th January (3 weeks)

Tuesday 13th March - Annual Town Meeting

Tuesday 15th May - Annual Council Meeting (Assuming an election is held on 3rd May)

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

Mayor's Sunday to be confirmed after the Mayor and Deputy meet with the Curate.

15. FARMERS MARKET.

a) Cllr. Wright proposed Road Closure notices (2 @ £54 each) be purchased for the Farmers Market. Seconded by Cllr. Gaffney and approved.

b) Cllr. Gaffney proposed road closure notices for Market Square for each Farmers Market until end of March. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

c) Cllr. Gaffney proposed a Temporary Events Notice for the December Market be obtained at a cost of £21. Any stalls selling alcohol will be charged an additional £10. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

16. STREET CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 25 November from 12.00 hrs to 22.00hrs

Church Street, High Street, Market Square from Mace/Nationwide (Union Street/Station Street crossroads) to Autolycus (junction with Salop Street) and Union Street/Welsh Street Junctions.

Saturday 25 November 17.30hrs to 18.30 hrs

Lower part of Church Street.

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

17. COMBINED NEWSLETTERS

Last meeting the idea of combining newsletters with the Lydbury newsletter was discussed. After further discussion with the Lydbury English Centre who produce the newsletter it was suggested the most practical way forward is to exchange newsletters and print pieces of interest. Councillors were concerned as the Lydbury English Centre is commercial enterprise. Cllr. Wright proposed that the Lydbury North Parish Council be consulted and if they are involved in the newsletter then be invited to meet Bishop's Castle Town Councillors to discuss the way forward. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

18. ACCOUNTS

19.REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Mayor reported on the Town Hall Renovation Partnership meeting. This was the first official meeting with members of the Town Council, Civic Society, Wasteless Society, BCHRC, SWSHAS and Sula Rayska the project manager. Sula reported that she had been in touch with John Wheatley the architect previously used who had been very helpful. She explained that she felt the way forward was to meet Chris Tomlin of the Heritage Lottery Fund who would advise the best way forward to applying for a heritage lottery grant. Ways were discussed as to how the Town Council could raise matched funding.

The Mayor reported on a meeting of the Crowgate Childcare Centre. The District Council has given them notice to quit by September 2007. The new building at the bottom of the Primary School field will cost half a million pounds with £200,000 revenue costs. The new set up will meet the Government criteria including food education, parenting, care of the child from birth etc, There will need to be a finance meeting to see how much the County Council will pay towards it.

20.CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Copy of letter from David Woodward, Living Villages to Jake Berriman, Head of Planning South Shropshire District Council explaining the problems with the removal of the pole and lighting.

(ii) Countryside Alliance - Request to put up a card in support of the Post Office. Cllr. Gaffney felt that although Council supports the Post Offices the card is unsuitable as it advertises a political group. It was agreed to cut the bottom piece off.

b) CIRCULATION

(i) Wasteless Society Newsletter

(ii) Doorstep Greens in the West Midlands

(iii) Shropshire County NHS Strategic Service Plan

(iv) SALC - Annual report

(v) South Shropshire District Council - Standards Committee - Agenda 7th November, minutes 19th September.

20. Invoices paid for Friends of Bishop's Castle Playing Fields

Cllr. Magill proposed the playing fields accounts be noted. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Meeting 5 December 2006

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2006 AT 8.00 PM.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hird, Cllr. Gaffney

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

a) Declaration of personal interest:

Cllr. Magill declared a personal interest in item 6d as she is a friend and work colleague.
Cllrs Stanley, Carroll and Wright declared personal interests in item 7 as they live and work in the town centre.
Cllr. Magill declared a personal interest in item 7 as she has a shop in the town centre.
Cllr. Dr. Penney declared a personal interest in item 13 as he is a committee member.
Cllr. Holton declared a personal interest in item 11 as she is a member of the management committee.

b) Declaration of prejudicial interest:

Cllr. Carroll declared a prejudicial meeting in items 8d and 15b as she is Mayor.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2006, 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 - Relevant information following the last meeting

Item 7 - Correction to the resume. Bill Hendley said he was standing as chair for the Friends of Stone House, not that he was going to be Chair as reported.
Item 8 - Letters of thanks have been received from BCHRC (cost of shelf storage space £20), No Panic, Relate, West Shropshire Talking Newspapers and Hope House.

Item 9 - Resurfacing of Chapel Yard. Acknowledgement from Chris Fisher (SCC) saying he has asked Jake Wentworth of Mouchel Parkman to give us a progress report in time for the meeting. Letter from Jake Wentworth reassuring Council that the width of the pavement is adequate for wheelchairs etc and that the new surface will not present a slip hazard. He also advises that drainage is installed as part of the scheme. Dr Penney proposed a letter be sent to Mouchel Parkman asking them to commence with the work of the pavements and the drainage. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Previous meetings:- Jake Berriman, planning. Invitation to attend site planning meetings.

Cllr. Wright proposed that the Clerk contact the most appropriate Councillor for the plans. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

Billingsley Close - Letter from Dyanne Fisher saying Billingsley Close is not in the conservation area.

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO SPEAK: none

6. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT:

a) 1/06/18929/LB List Building Consent. Installation of replacement door and painting of dwelling. (delegated matter)
35 Welsh Street. M Ellis-Jones.
Cllr. Farr proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

b) 1/06/18867/TC Tree works (conservation area). Felling of a flowering cherry tree. (delegated matter).

19-21 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard.
Cllr. Stanley proposed no objection with the recommendation that two trees are planted nearby. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

c) 1/06/18866/TC- Tree works (conservation area). Felling of a flowering cherry tree. (delegated matter).

17 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. C. Pritchard.
Cllr. Stanley proposed no objection with the recommendation that two trees are planted nearby. Seconded by Cllr. Howell and approved.

d) 1/06/18868/F Planning permission (full) Erection of an extension to dwelling. (delegated matter)

22 Oak Meadow, Bishop's Castle. Miss S. Taylor.
Cllr. Farr proposed no objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

e) 1/06/18899/LB Listed Building consent. Installation of a hand rail.

Bishop's Castle Town Council. (Information only.)

f) Reports of Planning Applications.

(i) 1/06/18701/AD, 1/06/18702/LB Installation of 3 x window vinyl advertisements.

63 Church Street, Bishop's Castle. Cooperative Group Ltd.
Permission refused on the grounds that the scheme is considered incongruous and of inappropriate design at this location within the conservation area.

(ii) Erection of a 12m radio broadband monopole.

Moat Hill Garage, Bankshead, Bishop's Castle. Qi Comm.
Planning permission granted.

8. PARKING ISSUES IN BISHOP'S CASTLE

a) Cllr. Carroll explained that there had been a meeting with PC Jon Summerfield to discuss parking problems in Bishop's Castle. She explained that Park Right deal with yellow lines but the Police can deal with any obstructions. ie. junctions and passing places. She explained that Park Right is a body set up by the County Council and all the District Councils of Shropshire to enforce parking restrictions. She has spoken to the Traffic Manager at the County Council who advises that the Parking Attendants cannot enforce parking restrictions on pavements unless there is a yellow line. He also said the Parking Attendants are supposed to be helpful and courteous.

Cllr. Wright proposed the meeting be closed to enable Members of the Public to speak. Seconded by Cllr. Stanley and approved.

Peter Hughes said that traffic and parking problems were brought about by inconsiderate and thoughtless drivers. He went on to say that two solutions had been tried but were unsuccessful. One relying on drivers to be considerate and the other the notices put on cars by Councillors. He said he welcomed stewards who enforced parking restrictions.

Jill Thomas then asked how many tickets had to be given to make it worthwhile for the attendants to come. She felt they were a waste of money.

Kate Pratt said that as a newcomer she was very impressed with the understanding drivers showed for each other in Bishop's Castle.

Sue Wilmer also felt that people managed traffic well in Bishop's Castle and that Parking Attendants were unnecessary.

Loveday Hickey asked what time of day the attendants would be present. She was informed it was 8.00am until 6 pm.

The meeting was then reopened.

Cllr. Carroll went on to explain that P.C. Jon Summerfield is our community officer. He has said that he will be speaking to people who park on junctions or in the passing bays and if necessary issue tickets for obstruction.

She explained that Mr Buzzacott (SCC) had informed her that all yellow lines in Shropshire are to be reviewed from January 2007.

The Council then went on to discuss the problems of the yellow lines. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Buzzacott and another to the Chairman of the District Council asking that the Parking Attendants show more servility to the Police and residents when carrying out their duties and that they are less harsh when in training. Secondly to point out the inaccuracy of the leaflet which says that they will give fixed penalty notices to owners of cars parked on pavements or verges. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved. Cllr. Stanley proposed that a request be made for the yellow lines in Bishop's Castle to be reviewed urgently. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved. I

9. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

It was agreed the following to enable the 2007-8 budget to be set.

Any changes will take place from 1st April 2007 unless agreed otherwise.

a & b) Cllr. Wright proposed all cleaners salaries rise by 5%. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

c) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed the Clerks salary rise in line with NALC recommendations with the addition of one increment. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

e) Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed £125 be budgeted for training. Seconded by Cllr. Morris and approved.

f) Cllr. Holton proposed the Town Hall rents be raised to £35 per day or £6 per hour, whichever is less. (£60 if upstairs and downstairs are used) Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

g) Cllr. Wright proposed Friday Market rents increase to £6.50 per table. Seconded by Cllr. Magill and approved.

h) Cllr. Stanley proposed Farmers Market rents for indoor stalls and people providing their own outside stalls remain the same. If tables are provided rents rise to £12.50. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney.

i) Cllr. Holton proposed that the following reserves are carried forward.

Town Hall renovation £33,600

Street lighting £24,000

The Mayor left the room and Cllr. Magill took the chair.

Cllr. Wright proposed the Mayors allowance remain the same. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

The Mayor returned.

The following figures were suggested as figures for the budget.

Repair and renewal of street furniture - £1000

Town Hall renovation £8,000

Footpaths (surfacing and lighting) - £3000

Allotments - £2000

Office improvements (Laptop and broadband) - £800

Playing fields supervision - £1000

Lighting schemes - £8,000

9. UNITARY AUTHORITY

a) Report on SALC meeting attended by Cllr. Carroll. Most people at the meeting were in favour of a Unitary Authority. Shrewsbury and Atcham Council were against.

b) Invitation to a meeting to discuss the Local Government white paper and case for single Unitary Council.

Thursday 7th December 2006 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, South Shropshire District council presented by Mrs H Kidd.

10. SOUTH SHROPSHIRE PLAY AREAS

South Shropshire District Council seeks Councils opinion whether they would be interested in taking over play areas. Maintenance money would be transferred. Lisa Bedford, Regeneration Officer, SSDC explained that a questionnaire was being sent to the residents of Brick Meadow to seek opinion as to what they wanted done with a small piece of open space. There is £15,000 to be spent on it or this money can be spent on another play area in the Town. She also explained that the slide in Oak Meadow is not up to safety standards and needs money spent on it. Cllr. Magill proposed that the Town Council take over the running of the Oak Meadow play area. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

11. SIGNAGE FOR OLD CASTLE LAND TRUST AND BCHRC

Council has requested signing for the Old Castle Land. (two signs).

BCHRC has requested a sign in Station Street in place of the old library sign on the lamp post.

We now have the costings.:-

Sign in Castle Street by the steps - £125.00 plus vat.

Sign at Bank House area. Sign against Bank House (listed building) £416 (possibly £102, under investigation)

Or fixed on up the pole post outside Autolycus £148.00 plus vat.

BCHRC sign - £132.60 plus vat.

Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed this item be discussed at the next meeting with pictures available and more information from Colin Richards. Seconded by Cllr. Farr and approved.

12. STREET FURNITURE (Cllr. Hird)

Concern over the amount of street furniture in Bishop's Castle.

In the absence of Cllr Hird this item is to be passed to the next agenda.

13. OLD CASTLE LAND TRUST.

Cllr. Stanley proposed a donation of £400 for the old Castle Land Trust. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

14. SPOTLIGHT.

Cllr. Carroll reported that spotlight had a membership of 250, mostly under 20 years of age. Cllr. Dr. Penney proposed a donation of £250. Seconded by Cllr. Wright and approved.

Cllr. Carroll left the room and Cllr. Magill took the Chair.

15. RECORDS FOR THE FUTURE.

a) Shields on Mayors chain - Suggestion that a 30 cm chain be put across the back of the chain to make it easier to wear.

b) To address the problem of the expense of the shields.

Cllr. Stanley proposed that option F be accepted (to make up a chain to match the original with 7 shields of 1mm thick in it.) Seconded by Cllr. Pinches and approved.

b) Photographic record - Cllr. Stanley proposed that the photographic record be continued. Seconded by Cllr. Holton and approved.

16. COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Cllr. Carroll reported that the Community Land trust report is due to be published shortly and every Councillor will receive a copy.

17. RESIGNATION OF TOWN HALL CLEANER.

Ali Fox has resigned as Town Hall cleaner. Cllr. Wright proposed Claire Grant be offered the position of Town Hall cleaner. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

18. FARMERS MARKET.

Cllr. Farr proposed that the Clerk apply for a Temporary Events Notice for alcohol at the January and February Farmers Markets. (£21 each - stall holders to pay an additional £10) if required. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Penney and approved.

19.

20. REPORT OF RECENT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

21. Correspondence.

(i) Copy of a letter from David Woodward (Living Villages) to Mr Berriman (SSDC) with regard to the Wintles Road.

(ii) Rob Surl, Shropshire County Council, Shrewsbury transport Innovation Fund Study.

b) Circulation

Shropshire Hills - News and Views

Bishop's Castle, Clun and Surrounding Parishes Lets Talk Meeting. - Note of proceedings.

South Shropshire Arts Advisory Council

South Shropshire Sport and Leisure Advisory Council

South Shropshire Guide

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