

**CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL**

**Clerk: Mr C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU**

**Email: [cewilliams1@btinternet.com](mailto:cewilliams1@btinternet.com) Phone: 01584 874661 Website: [www.cravenarmstowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.cravenarmstowncouncil.org.uk)**

**Minutes of the Craven Arms Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November commencing 7.00pm at the Craven Arms Community Centre.**

**Councillors:**

Cllr D Mills (Chairman) Cllr N Carter Cllr D Evans Cllr S Demos Cllr J Rickson Cllr N Stephens  
Cllr R Conway Cllr A Rao

**In Attendance:**

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

**Apologies:**

Cllr V Bailey Cllr S Demo Cllr J Rickson and Cllr A J Willetts

**36/20 Members of the Public:**

No members of the public present.

**37/20 Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr N Stephens declared a Personal Interest as member of the Craven Arms Youth Group.

Cllr D Evans declared a Personal Interest as Chairman of the Southern Area Planning Committee.

**38/20 Minutes:**

The Town Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**39/20 Matter arising from the Minutes:**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**40/20 Chairman's Items:**

There were no matters to report.

**41/20 Highway Items:**

There were concerns about the appearance of the empty Craven Arms Hotel and the vandalism that was occurring particularly to the hanging baskets over the pavement the details of which had been passed to the security firm monitoring the building.

Cllr N Carter had reported to Shropshire Council Customer Services the damage to the road sign in School Road Craven Arms and had also reported several blocked drains.

The Clerk reported that the overhanging branches bordering Brook Road and the footpath to the rear of Craven Arms Hotel are to be trimmed back by the Town Council.

**42/20 Amenity Items:**

- a) **CCTV** – The Clerk reported that the work to install the CCTV by the Public Conveniences Shrewsbury Road Craven Arms and by the roundabout at the entrance to Corvedale Road Craven Arms should be completed by the end of November 2020. In respect of the CCTV camera to be installed near the Railway Bridge Clun Road work is still awaited by Shropshire Council for the installation of the new street column on which the new camera will be installed.
- b) **Christmas Light/Christmas Trees** – Cllr D Evans reported that the Christmas Lights and Christmas Trees will be installed by the end of the month for the Christmas period.
- c) **Update from Craven Arms Flood Group Representatives** – A further update will be provided Mr J Bellis Drainage and Flood Risk Manager Shropshire Council following discussions with the Environment Agency.
- d) **Councils Parcel of Land Corvedale Road Craven Arms** – It was agreed by the Town Council that discussion can take place with representatives of Shropshire Council and the Town Council (The Clerk, Cllr D Mills, Cllr R Conway and Cllr D Evans) concerning the possible sale of the land. A report will be made to the next meeting of the Council.

**43/20 Financial Items:**

The Clerk had produced a statement of Income and Expenditure to the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 which showed balances of £236,661.

The Following accounts were approved for payment:

Craven Arms British Legion - £50 – Wreath

South Shropshire Youth Forum - £627.50 – COVID 19 Grant

G Morris - £510 – Amenity Work  
C E Williams - £676 – Disbursement  
Npower – Street Lighting - £774.39

**44/20 Planning Items:**

No Planning Items

**45/20 Reports from other Organisations:**

No items to report

**46/20 Craven Arms Discovery Centre:**

The Town Council considered the report that had been produced by the Clerk following notification by Connexus that they were considering transferring the ownership of the freehold of the building and land at the Craven Arms Discovery Centre to either the Town Council or to Grow Cook Learn although it is understood that any proposals would also have to be agreed by Shropshire Council.

Representatives of the Town Council had meet with Grow Cook Learn and Connexus to discuss the proposals which involved securing a legal charge for the outstanding £250,000 loan provided by the former South Shropshire Housing Association to Grow Cook Learn against the building and land should the building or land eventually be sold.

The Representatives of the Town Council were not prepared to accept the securing of a legal charge against the building and land.

The Representatives of the Town Council also had concerns about the future capital repairs that would be required to the Discovery Centre and therefore proposed that the building could be passed to Grow Cook Learn but that the meadows be given to the Town Council who would then lease the meadows to Grow Cook and Learn.

By passing the meadows to the Town Council this would ensure the long-term security of the meadows for the benefit of the local Community which the Town Council had tried to obtain in 2014 when Shropshire Council transferred ownership of the building and land to the former South Shropshire Housing Association now merged with Connexus.

The Town Council have been informed by Connexus that because they wish to protect the outstanding loan by some form of a legal charge on the centre and or meadows their board would be reviewing the offer from Grow Cook Learn who have accepted such a charge if the building and meadows was transferred to them.

The Town Council noted the report and will await the comments of Shropshire Council on the suggested transfer.

**46/20 Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – venue to be determined dependant on COVID 19 restriction

Chairman