

CRAVEN ARMS TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Craven Arms Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 29th October 2019 commencing 7.30pm in the Community Centre Craven Arms

Councillors:

Cllr D Mills (Chairman)

Cllr N Carter

Cllr A J Willetts

Cllr R Conway

Cllr N Stephens

Cllr V Bailey

Cllr D Evans

In Attendance:

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Cllr S Demos and Cllr A Rao

51/19 Members of the Public:

No Members of the Public present

52/19 Declarations of Interest:

Personal Interest - Cllr D Evans – Chairman of Southern Planning Committee Shropshire Council.

53/19 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September 2019 were agreed by the Town Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

54/19 Matters arising from the Minutes:

No matters arising

55/19 Chairman's Items:

a) Town Councillor Vacancies – The Clerk reported that as there had been no request to hold an election for the Town Council can now co-opt to the vacancies. The Clerk will put a notice advertising the vacancies on the Town Council Notice Board and Website.

b) Youth Service Consultation - The Clerk had responded to the Shropshire Council Consultation about the future of Youth Service Strategy suggested that this should be adequately funded by Shropshire Council.

c) Library Services Consultation - The Clerk had made the following response to Shropshire Council Consultation on the future Library Service Strategy: The current draft strategy details a three-tier hierarchy of library service:

Tier 1: 7 libraries in the larger towns to continue being fully funded by Shropshire Council

Tier 2: 7 libraries to be progressively funded over a five-year period by Town Councils and Community Organisations

Tier 3: 7 libraries in smaller towns to be entirely funded and managed by local community groups within five years

In Craven Arms the Library is situated at the Craven Arms Community Centre and managed by HALO Leisure Services on behalf of the Craven Arms Playing Fields Association.

Craven Arms Playing Fields Association receive an annual payment of £10,000 from Shropshire Council for the management of the Library Service this for a three-year period until 30th September 2021.

Although Craven Arms Town Council does not make a direct contribution towards the Library Service the Council makes a Grant of £12,000 per year towards the running costs of the Community Centre.

Craven Arms Town Council agrees with the submission of Church Stretton Town Council that the funding assumptions underpinning the three-tiered Strategy are neither sustainable nor fair with the service also being used by residents from other parish area.

In respect of the Tier 3 Service it is anticipated that the Library Service is to be entirely funded and managed by local community groups within five years – this needs to be reconsidered in the Strategy Review as it is the view of Craven Arms Town Council that this proposal is not feasible and would see the loss of the Library Service in Craven Arms.

56/19 Highway Items:

a) Drainage and Flooding - Following the recent heavy rainfalls and the issues with blocked drains and culverts Cllr D Evans has arranged for representatives of the Town Council to discuss the matter with the Drainage and Flood Risk Manager on Tuesday 5th November 2019.

Cllr D Evans and Cllr N Carter and other volunteers were thanked for their work in keeping clear the culverts and the delivering of sandbags during the recent storms.

b) Cleaning of Highways - Concern was expressed at the untidiness of areas of Craven Arms due to lack of highways cleaning by Shropshire Council the Clerk to refer this to the relevant department of the Council.

c) Oak Tree Dale Street Craven Arms - A member of the Natural Environment Team at Shropshire Council has examined the Oak Tree situated in Dale Street Craven Arms which is subject to a TPO but is owned by Shropshire Council and has recommended the removal of some major deadwood which is overhanging the footway.

57/20 Amenity items:

a) Craven Arms Playing Fields - The Town Council agreed to the renewal of a seven-year lease of the Land at Newington Way Craven Arms with the Craven Arms Playing Fields Association subject to the amendment of clause 2.6 to read "May provide children's fixed play equipment."

b) CCTV – The Clerk reported that he was meeting with representatives of Shropshire Council and the Local Police to discuss the progress on the replacement of the current CCTV system and would report to the next meeting.

c) Christmas Lights/Christmas Trees – Cllr S Demos had arranged for the putting up of the Christmas lights and the delivery of the Christmas Trees and the switching on of the lights to be held at the Fire Station on Friday 29th November 2019.

d) We don't Buy/Smart Water Kit – The Town Council considered the purchase of a Smart Water Kit for each property in the Craven Arms Town Council Area this scheme in co-ordination with the Police and Crime Commissioner on which a presentation had been received at the last Meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr D Evans and seconded by Cllr D Mills and agreed by a vote of 6 For and 1 Against that The Town Council partake in the scheme at an estimated cost of £6,000 to the Town Council.

58/19 Planning Items:

The Town Council discussed the options that may be available for the future of the parcel of land (formerly the Old Labour Club Site) in Corvedale Road Craven Arms on which there was now outline planning permission for a dwelling and garage.

Further consideration will be given to the various options which could result with the Council working with a Local Housing Association to develop the land, sell the land on the open market, work with the agents selling the adjacent empty property or to just keep the land and renew the planning application in the next three years.

59/19 Financial Items:

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Water Plus	326	181.80	Rates
Arrow County supplies	327	200.33	Toilet Supplies
Eon	328	235.20	Street Lighting Repairs
G R Morris	329	1,120.00	Amenity Work
V Stone	330	50.00	Payroll Admin
Inland Revenue	331	120.00	Tax
C E Williams	332	743.21	Disbursement
Royal British Legion	333	40.00	Donation

60/19 Reports from Shropshire Council and any other Organisations to which the Council have an appointed Representative:

Cllr N Stephens reported on the meeting of the South Shropshire Area of Parish and Town Councils which had received a presentation by Shropshire Councillor G Butler Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place, Planning and Regulatory Services.

61/19 Next Meeting:

Next meeting: Tuesday 26th November at Craven Arms Community Centre commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman