



Shropshire
Council

Committee and Date

COUNCIL

19 December 2013

Item

3

Public

MINUTES

MEETING OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Mr P Adams
Mr A Bannerman
Mr N Bardsley
Mrs C Barnes
Mrs J Barrow
Mr K Barrow
Mr T Bebb
Mr M Bennett
Mr T Biggins
Mr V Bushell JP
Mr G Butler
Mr J Cadwallader
Mrs K Calder
Mr D Carroll
Mr L Chapman
Mr S Charmley
Mrs A Chebsey
Mr P Cherrington
Mr G Dakin
Mr S Davenport
Mrs P Dee
Mr D Evans

Mr R Evans
Mr J Everall
Mrs H Fraser
Mr N Hartin
Mrs A Hartley
Mr R Huffer
Mr R Hughes
Mr V Hunt
Mr J Hurst-Knight
Dr J Jones
Mr S Jones
Mr C Lea
Mr D Lloyd MBE
Mr R Macey
Ms J Mackenzie
Mr C Mellings
Mr D Minnery
Mrs P Moseley
Mr A Mosley
Mrs C Motley
Mrs M Mullock
Mr P Nutting

Mr M Owen JP
Mr K Pardy
Mr W Parr
Mrs V Parry
Mr M Pate
Mr M Price
Mr K Roberts
Mrs M Shingleton
Mr J Tandy
Mrs R Taylor-Smith
Mr R Tindall
Mr D Tremellen
Mr D Turner
Mr A Walpole
Mr S West
Mrs C Wild
Mr B Williams RD
Mr M Williams
Mr L Winwood
Mr M Wood
Mrs T Woodward
Mr P Wynn

37. APOLOGIES

The Chief Executive reported that apologies for absence had been received from Mr T Barker, Mr T Clarke, Mr A Davies, Mrs T Huffer, Mr M Kenny, Mrs H Kidd, Mr D Roberts and Mr K Turley.

38. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2013, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

Arising thereon;

Mr A Mosley raised concerns on Minute 23 (page 22), 4th and 5th paragraph down; it had not been recorded that a meeting of Group Leaders had been agreed to as requested.

The Leader stated that if Mr Mosley still felt a meeting was required, he was more than happy to set this up as soon as possible.

40. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 18 July 2013, which had been circulated at the meeting.

41. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

41.1 Petitions

The Speaker advised that a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures to extend the consultation period re. Shrewsbury West Sustainable Urban Extension by 16 weeks had been received from Jan Bevan of Bicton Heath, requesting a debate. Ms Bevan was given 5 minutes to open the debate and outline her case, which was briefly as follows;

Ms Bevan said not all stakeholders had been treated equally and therefore she considered the findings of the consultation should be considered unsafe and unreliable. She believed a consultation should use flexible, appropriate, transparent and efficient methods to inform and engage communities as equal stakeholders in the planning process. It should recognise the value and diversity of hard to reach groups, organisations and individuals, ensuring consultation was proportionate and relevant to the needs of the local communities. Ms Bevan did not believe this had happened in this instance.

A debate ensued with contributions from Mr J Overall, Mr A Bannerman, Mr P Nutting, Mr N Bardsley and Mr R Evans.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Mr M Price thanked Ms Bevan for her comments which were noted and referred everyone to a document entitled 'Shrewsbury West Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) Masterplan Consultations' which had been circulated to all Members and Ms Bevan prior to the meeting, so that all could be fully appraised of the consultation process and procedure that had taken place to date.

Mr Price reminded that the consultation period had already been extended from 4 to 9 weeks following requests for more time. He did want to hear the observations and concerns of those wishing to make comment and with this in mind he said he would be meeting with Bicton Heath Petition Group later that afternoon to go through the points they raised and that he intended to work with the Group right up to the final submission of the Masterplan.

Mr Price therefore proposed that no extension be given to the consultation period and that the Council should continue to work with the Bicton Heath Petition Group during the process and production of the Masterplan. This was duly seconded and the proposition was carried with the majority voting in favour.

41.2 Public Questions

The Speaker advised there were no public questions.

42. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

The Speaker advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15:

- (a) Received from Mr D Tremellen and answered by Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning Housing and Commissioning:

Question:

Can the Portfolio holder responsible for the overall governance of Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing (ST&RH) assure the Council that this arms length management organisation acknowledges their responsibility for the actions of their tenants?

And can we be further assured that Shropshire Towns & Rural Housing acknowledge that they have a duty of care to the whole community, ensuring that operational managers and staff acknowledge that any action by their tenants that has a deleterious effect on areas neighbouring their properties will be addressed without delay and any tenant failing to comply with any issued notice will be given warning of the risk to their tenancy if they fail to comply?

Answer:

Each tenant has a contract with the Council. The contract outlines what the responsibilities of the tenant. ST&RH work to respond to any reports that the contract is not being adhered to. In the most serious cases ST&RH will work with the Council to take the tenant to court to either enforce the contract or to ask the court to evict the tenant. We monitor complaints about ST&RH including complaints that they have failed to take action in cases where the tenant may have breached their contract with the Council.

ST&RH work within communities to ensure that they address issues that affect the whole community. If activity by a tenant is adversely impacting on the community then they will work to address those issues.

If there are any issues that are not being addressed then this needs to be brought to the attention of ST&RH so that they can work to try to resolve those issues.

- (b) Received from Mrs Hannah Fraser and answered by Mr K Barrow, Leader of the Council:

Question:

How many applications have there been to the Council for voluntary severance, and have enough people come forward for voluntary redundancy to avoid the need for compulsory redundancies? If not, could you confirm whether there will now be a programme of compulsory redundancies and how many positions are at risk?

Answer:

The initial date for submission of applications for Voluntary Redundancy was 6th September. On 4th September we had received approx. 400 applications, by close on 6th, that figure had risen to 700 applications. The details of these applications are currently being considered by respective Management teams pending final decision making by directors on 23rd September.

Until this work is completed we will not be able to make an assessment of the requirement for compulsory redundancies. As we redesign services there will be requirements to change the configuration of the workforce and this may result in further redundancies voluntary or compulsory.

Supplementary question:

There will be significant changes to staff numbers, can we have assurances that Shropshire Council will be able to continue and how much will the redundancies actually cost?

Supplementary answer:

Yes it will continue. We are looking at VER's now – we are not rushing. It will cost £12m to deliver and thereafter, each year the Council will be saving £12m.

- (c) Received from Mr Ted Clarke and answered by Mr K Barrow, Leader of the Council:

Question:

What efforts is this Authority making to ensure the retention of Shrewsbury Magistrates Court, and avoid its mooted transfer to Telford?

Answer:

We are not aware of any proposed move of the Magistrates court to Telford.

- (d) Received from Mr Nigel Hartin and answered by Mr M Owen, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support:

Question:

Would the portfolio holder follow the lead of the 6 Yorkshire Councils who have blocked access to the websites of all payday loan companies on Council run computers, instead diverting attempts to access such sites, for example from a library, to a page of financial advice with information about credit unions & voluntary sector organisations.

Would the portfolio holder further agree to use the coalition governments relaxing of restrictions on the amount of interest credit unions can charge for short term loans from April 2014 and the £36M it has set aside to aid the expansion of credit unions by utilising empty or underused Council Property (such as at the old reference library) to open a credit union outlet where people can see it by walking past every day rather than having to go to the Guildhall offices.

Answer:

In response to the first part of your question, as part of being a responsible authority, we continue to work with Credit Unions and other organisations in the voluntary sector to promote responsible borrowing in the very way you describe, and the wide variety of services they offer.

There is capacity within all Council owned ICT equipment to restrict and limit access to any website, although there would need debate and policy decisions on whether this would be an appropriate thing for us to do.

The Council currently restricts access for its staff to a number of internet sites to ensure integrity of its ICT infrastructure and protect its employees from inappropriate material. Whether this should be the case for Shropshire residents should be treated as a separate issue, giving local people the freedom of choice.

I would welcome if Cllr Hartin could share the details of the 6 local authorities in Yorkshire, to enable the Council to discuss best practice and maybe share some learning on this. I would finally add that issues such as this do not need to wait until full Council meetings, should anyone have any initiatives they thing would be of benefit to the residents of Shropshire, then they should be shared, where possible, without delay.

The response to the second part of the question about the credit union developing high street premises is not straight forward:

When the credit union was first established it was recognised that our members and potential members were spread over 1300 square miles and that having an office premises in one area would not benefit 90% of our current or potential customers. So instead of setting up a high street premises we took advantage of a back office location supported by Shropshire Council and then looked to develop access points originally called collection points around the County. Mostly run by volunteers.

Due to changes in the way that people pay into the credit union – largely now automated or by payment card, most of these original collection points have now closed and have been replaced by Outreach services provided largely by members of Just Credit Union staff. These no longer accept payments, but are mainly points at which people can apply to join the credit union and apply for a loan. We currently have 8 of these in operation. Some have been in place for many years e.g. Oswestry and Telford. Others open and close, depending on demand.

In the last few years the Board of the Credit Union have begun to look more seriously at developing shop front premises. They have concluded that it would significantly benefit the business if we had a presence in a High Street location, but only if it was the right premises in the right location with the right investment.

The main benefit of having premises in Shrewsbury would be –

- Advertising – a well-placed shop window and well-designed premises would raise the profile of the credit union and help to present a professional image so that we can attract a wider customer base and grow the credit union.
- Where credit unions have opened a high street premises in the right location – footfall has increased massively. (Note – most credit unions provide services in a significantly smaller geographic area with much greater population density)

However, we have not taken the step to open a high street premises as yet because –

- The cost of running a high street premises in the right area with the right facilities is currently prohibitive. The last property we looked at that was the right size and in the right location to make it worthwhile in terms of increased profile had at an annual rent of £26,000.
- Most of our services have developed to be provided by post or e-mail. We are currently putting our limited investment into developing on line and text based services. A recent survey of our members and potential customers in the area carried out by Experian identified that this was the most likely way that current and future customers would access the credit union.
- When our members do need or want to come and see us they usually have to travel from the outskirts of Shrewsbury or the wider Shropshire area. The Guildhall provides the benefit of being near to the bus and train stations as well as having parking adjacent to the building.
- We have a limited number of staff available. The number of staff on duty at any one time varies at different times of the week depending on how busy we are, at quieter times there may only be one or two people working. This would have security implications if we were in premises on our own.

Supplementary question:

Please can you contact those Yorkshire Councils that are already blocking access, to assess the impact and if it is positive, can we take this forward. In addition to this, can the Council also look at any positive steps we could take to help the Credit Union develop a high street presence.

Supplementary answer:

As per my written response; yes we can look at the 6 authorities involved to discuss best practice and maybe share some learning on this. I should also reiterate that initiatives like this, for the benefit of the residents of Shropshire do not have to be dealt with at full Council – they should be shared, where possible, without delay.

With regard assisting the Credit Union to develop their presence, we will support this as far as we can.

- (e) Received from Mr Nigel Hartin and answered by Mr K Barrow, Leader of the Council:

Question:

Would the portfolio holder agree to carry out an assessment of how Shropshire Council could become an accredited 'Living Wage' Employer, what it would cost, how quickly it could be done and what mechanisms it could use to encourage contractors & other Shropshire employers to also pay a Living Wage.

Would the portfolio holder agree to prepare, based on the above assessment, a fully costed report on moving Shropshire Council to become a Living Wage Employer to be presented to Cabinet & next Council in November.

Answer:

We have already carried out an assessment of the costs of moving Shropshire Council to being an accredited 'Living Wage Employer' by creating a pay structure that would implement the Living Wage.

There are three pay points which fall below the rate for the Living Wage – with 3,400 permanent workers on one of these scales. As part of this current pay settlement the lowest of these Spinal Column points SCP 4 will be removed moving more people nearer to the £7.45 p/h.

The simple approach to paying the Living Wage would see the 3,400 on rates currently below the Living Wage being placed on it. This flat-lining of the lower pay scales at the Living Wage would increase the council wage bill an extra £946,525 per year.

However, a more realistic calculation would keep the different pay scales – which were established to reflect different jobs size and responsibility - but alters the lower pay scales.

After raising the lowest in line with the Living Wage, and the hourly rate each pay scale is valued at is increased by five pence for each scale upwards. This would continue until it crosses with the current structure – affecting the 11 lowest pay scales.

This approach, the more realistic of the two would affect 3,875 employees and increase the council's wage bill by £1,209,822 per year.

Looking at it myself, I find it hard to justify increasing our spend on wages at a time when we are being forced to reduce our spend across the board to meet the required £80 million savings we have to find. Increasing our wage bill would effectively be taking that money from the services we provide.

In the circumstances we find ourselves in, it's not something I find feasible at this time based on the figures we have. Should the circumstances change, then of course we will be more than willing to look into the matter again.

Supplementary question:

Please look again at the numbers of Shropshire Council staff affected and report back to Council so that a full debate can take place.

Supplementary answer:

We currently have to make £80m worth of savings. Is it sensible to talk about increasing costs when the Council will soon be looking at making compulsory redundancies. We do not have the resources to do this at this time.

- (f) Received from Mr R Evans and answered by Mr S Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Business Growth and Commissioning:

Question:

Re. Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) Boiler: I note the recent decision of Cabinet to increase the capacity of the boiler and also the associated expected increase in its efficiency. I also note that more additional waste will be treated increasing the amount to 93,000 tonnes per annum. How much in total of this 93,000 tonnes is now expected to be third party waste.

Answer:

The issue of waste to the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) was examined during the planning process. As previously stated the facility is designed to handle Shropshire municipal waste. Any spare capacity will be filled with commercial waste from the Shropshire area. This has not changed with the boiler upgrade. The planning permission has always allowed for up to 95,000 tonnes of waste to be processed at the facility.

Supplementary question:

An article in the local press in September referred to 93,000 tonnes, as did a Cabinet decision. Therefore where does the 95,000 tonne figure come from and how much will be third party waste.

Can I also be assured that the chimney height and fans are adequate to disperse the smoke efficiently.

Supplementary answer:

I will look into this and get back to you.

- (g) Received from Mr M Williams and answered by Mr K Barrow, Leader of the Council in Mr T Barker's absence:

Question:

Having attended the recent Health Scrutiny Committee that considered Cllr Barker's decision to close two Day Centres for adults with Learning Difficulties and having witnessed the distress of carers who all spoke of their lack of knowledge of plans to close the Day Centre where their family member attended, would Cllr Barker agree that the consultations that had been undertaken in the lead up to his decisions were flawed. If Cllr Barker believes the consultations were not flawed, could he explain how that large number of carers who attended the Scrutiny meeting were so ill-informed about such a fundamental fact.

Answer:

I do not agree that the extensive consultation exercises undertaken on the future of adult social care and day service transformation were flawed.

I also do not accept that the numbers of people who attended the scrutiny meeting were significant or representative of the majority of families whose relatives attend day services. The families who attended scrutiny seemed to have a very clear view about day services namely that they did not want any

change to occur and that the current day centre model was their preferred choice.

Supplementary question:

Can you please establish a cross-party group to review the proposed closures of Sabrina Court and The Hartleys, and to consider the consequences of Personalisation.

Supplementary answer:

We are happy to work across the political spectrum and talk to the various groups about the best way forward.

43. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

It was proposed by Mrs A Hartley, and seconded by Mr N Bardsley that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Mrs A Hartley indicated that if she had not responded to all the questions asked of her, could members please contact her after the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the contents and key achievements identified in the Children's Services report be noted and approved.

44. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mrs J Barrow, and seconded by Mrs P Mullock that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the intentions of the Young People's Scrutiny Committee be noted and that the Chairman be contacted with any further suggestions or issues for the Committee to look into.

45. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH

It was proposed by Mrs K Calder, and seconded by Mrs C Wild that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Mrs A Chebsey and Ms J Mackenzie both requested that it be recorded that they left the room prior to the commencement of the discussion and voting on this report.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be received.

46. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

It was proposed by Mr S Charmley, and seconded by Mrs T Woodward that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be received.

47. ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2012/13

It was proposed by Mr M Owen, and seconded by Mr B Williams that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the position as set out in the report be approved.

48. AUDITED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13

It was proposed by Mr B Williams, and seconded by Mr M Owen that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts be approved and duly signed by the Chairman of the Council (in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011).
- b) That the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance be authorised to make any minor adjustments to the Statement of Accounts prior to 30 September 2013.

49. BUDGET VIREMENTS 2013/14 – PERIOD 4

It was proposed by Mr K Barrow, and seconded by Mr M Owen that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the following virements be approved in accordance with the recommendations from Cabinet.

	In Year Savings	Known Budgetary Pressures
Commissioning	-£2.336m	
Adult Services	-£3.023m	+£8.800m

Children's Services	-£1.556m	+£1.000m
Public Health	-£0.010m	
Resources & Support	-£3.075m	+£0.200m
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	-£10.000m	+£10.000m

- b) That the increase in the gross revenue budget reflecting additional schools funding obtained as detailed in paragraph 5.6 be approved.

50. WEST MERCIA YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2013/14

It was proposed by Mrs A Hartley, and seconded by Mrs K Calder that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

In response to a question from Ms J Mackenzie about what strategies were being put in place to reduce numbers of re-offenders Mrs A Hartley confirmed that they were looking at various ways of working including prevention, and offered to meet with Ms Mackenzie after the meeting to clarify this.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Justice Plan as attached at Appendix A be approved.

51. ADOPTION OF THE ALBRIGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 'LIGHT'

It was proposed by Mr M Price, and seconded by Mr M Pate that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

In speaking to this item, Mr M Pate said he would encourage any Parish to do work towards their own Parish Plan and wished to place on record his thanks to Helen Howie, Principal Policy Officer Planning, for her excellent work in assisting with this Plan.

RESOLVED: That the policies in the Albrighton Neighbourhood Plan 'Light' be endorsed and adopted for development management purposes.

52. ADOPTION OF THE OSWESTRY 2020 TOWN PLAN

It was proposed by Mr M Price, and seconded by Mr M Bennett that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

Mr M Bennett commented on the challenge of bringing together different communities within this flexible document, which recognised Oswestry as a progressive market town. Mr K Barrow agreed it had not been easy but he was pleased to see an excellent end result.

RESOLVED: That the objectives and actions in the Oswestry 2020 Town Plan be endorsed and adopted as material considerations for development management purposes.

53. ADOPTION OF THE BROSELEY TOWN PLAN

It was proposed by Mr M Price, and seconded by Mr D Turner that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

In introducing this report, the Portfolio Holder gave thanks to Dr J Jones who had worked on this Plan which had been completed at no cost to the Council. Dr J Jones in turn wished to place on record her sincere thanks to Helen Howie, Principal Policy Officer Planning who had supported the process greatly.

RESOLVED: That the vision, objectives and policies A1, A3, DS1-DS9, H1-H9, ED1-ED4, VE1-VE2, HP4, HP5, HP8, HP9, ENV1-ENV5 in the Broseley Town Plan (pages 1 -12 of Appendix 1) be endorsed and adopted as material considerations for development management purposes.

54. ADOPTION OF CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2013

It was proposed by Mr S Charmley, and seconded by Mr R Macey that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the revised Contaminated Land Strategy 2013, considered by Cabinet on 18 September and subject to detailed comments from Cabinet, be formally adopted and that a review of the strategy be undertaken no later than 2017.

55. JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

It was proposed by Mrs K Calder, and seconded by Mr G Dakin that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

In introducing the report Mrs K Calder highlighted the value of working together with Telford and Wrekin, which was endorsed by Mr G Dakin.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the voting scheme for the Co-opted Members of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

- b) That the procedure to establish future Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in Section 6 of the report and the consequent changes to the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved.

56. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION: HOUSING FUNCTION DELEGATIONS

It was proposed by Mr M Price, and seconded by Mr K Roberts that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Head of Public Protection be given the powers and responsibilities of the Council in relation to Housing Management.
- b) That the functions and powers as set out in the Appendix to the report be given to the officers mentioned in the corresponding column of the Appendix; such delegations to replace and amend what is currently set out in Part8 of the Council's Constitution (pages H16 to H21, as it relates to Housing matters).

57. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

It was proposed by the Speaker, seconded by the Chairman and

RESOLVED: That the following appointments to committees be confirmed:

Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee

The appointment of Dr J Jones to replace Mr K Pardy.

Young People's Scrutiny Committee

The appointment of Mr K Pardy to replace Dr J Jones.

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

The appointment of Mrs P Moseley to replace Ms J Mackenzie.

58. MOTIONS

The following motion was proposed by Mrs C Barnes and duly seconded by Mr R Evans:

"There are 10,000 people in the UK that need an organ or tissue transplant and three people in the UK die each day waiting for a much needed organ. Many of those waiting, including some who will unfortunately die, live in Shropshire.

Shropshire Council wishes to and has a duty to help all its residents to continue to live a healthy and long life. Every unfortunate and unneeded death affects families as well as the local economy. The social consequence of continued ill health and the effect it has on families is of concern to us all.

We therefore ask our MPs to join us in supporting the drive to introduce the alteration to the organ donation system. For our residents who need help we wish and support the increase in likely availability of essential organs if an automatic opt in is assumed and then relies on individual's to opt out if they do not wish any of their organs to be made available for transplant. We would however also support the need that the wishes of loved ones need to be taken note of but are convinced that the numbers of essential organs available to help our residents would increase by adopting this change. And as councillors could we actively promote organ donation in Shropshire."

It was moved as an amendment by Mr M Bennett that the 3rd paragraph starting "We therefore ask our MP's... be deleted and substituted by 'We therefore urge all public bodies to engage with the public to promote the widest debate on ways in which the voluntary donation of organs based on informed consent can be encouraged.'" This was seconded by Mrs C Wild.

Following discussion, the proposers of the motion and amendment both agreed to withdraw their proposals subject to the matter being referred for consideration to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This course of action was unanimously supported by all Members present.

59. REPORT OF THE SHROPSHIRE AND WREKIN FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

It was proposed by Mr S West and seconded by Mr K Pardy that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

In presenting the report, Mr S West indicated that the report should have included a reference to the recent appointment of Mr John Redmond as Shropshire's newly appointed Chief Fire Officer, which was noted.

RESOLVED: That subject to the foregoing the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

Speaker
.....

Date
.....

The meeting closed at 1.00 p.m.