



Committee and Date

Council

26 February 2015

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2014

In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

10.00 am - 12.35 pm

Responsible Officer: Karen Nixon

Email: karen.nixon@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252724

Present

Councillors Malcolm Pate (Chairman and Deputy Speaker) and Keith Barrow (Leader)
Councillors Ann Hartley (Deputy Leader), Peter Adams, Andrew Bannerman,
Nicholas Bardsley, Tim Barker, Charlotte Barnes, Joyce Barrow, Tudor Bebb,
Martin Bennett, Thomas Biggins, Andy Boddington, Vernon Bushell, John Cadwallader,
Karen Calder, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Steve Charmley, Peter Cherrington,
Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Steve Davenport, Andrew Davies, David Evans, Roger Evans,
John Everall, Hannah Fraser, Nigel Hartin, Tracey Huffer, Roger Hughes, Vince Hunt,
John Hurst-Knight, Jean Jones, Simon Jones, Miles Kenny, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea,
Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie, Chris Mellings, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley,
Cecilia Motley, Peter Nutting, Mike Owen, Robert Tindall, Kevin Parry, William Parr,
Vivienne Parry, Malcolm Price, Keith Roberts, Madge Shineton, Dave Tremellen,
Kevin Turley, David Turner, Arthur Walpole, Stuart West, Claire Wild, Brian Williams,
Mansel Williams, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood, Tina Woodward and Paul Wynn

84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Director of Commissioning reported that apologies for absence had been received from the following; Mr Gwilym Butler, Mrs Anne Chebsey, Mrs Pauline Dee, Mr Richard Huffer, Mr David Lloyd, Mr David Minnery, Mrs Peggy Mullock, Mr David Roberts, Mr John Tandy and Mr Clive Wright (Chief Executive).

At this point, the Deputy Speaker conveyed his sincere best wishes to Councillor David Lloyd for a speedy recovery following a recent illness, which was endorsed by everyone present.

85 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

86 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2014, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

87 ANNOUNCEMENTS

87.1 Chairman's Engagements

The Deputy Speaker referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by the Chairman and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 25 September 2014, which had been circulated at the meeting.

87.2 Nathan Craig

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services introduced Nathan Craig, a care leaver who was shortly going to start a Master's degree at the prestigious Royal College of Arts in London. As Corporate Parents, Mrs Hartley acknowledged and congratulated Nathan on this wonderful achievement. Nathan who was present, accepted the good wishes and thanked the Council for its support in his education to date. Looking ahead, he welcomed the opening of the new University Centre Shrewsbury and suggested that the Council might consider waiving fees for care leavers in the future, which was duly noted.

87.3 MOD Silver Employer Recognition Award

The Deputy Speaker was pleased to announce that Shropshire Council was the recipient of the Ministry of Defence's Silver Employer Recognition Award, which recognised the outstanding support provided across a range of defence personnel matters, particularly to Reservists.

87.4 Christmas Celebrations

The Deputy Speaker reminded everyone that they were invited to join him in the Foyer at the conclusion of the meeting for a glass of mulled wine before lunch was served in the Column Restaurant.

88 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

88.1 Petitions

The Deputy Speaker advised that two petitions, each bearing more than 1,000 signatures had been received, requesting a debate under the Council's Petition Scheme. Each petitioner was given 5 minutes to open the debate and outline their case, after which there was a debate;

(a) Petition to Keep Westgate House for Bridgnorth Community Use. This was introduced and amplified by Paul Passant, Chairman of the 'Save Westgate for the Community Campaign'. Mr Passant urged the Council to support proposals to keep Westgate House for local community use. Future plans included a walk-in medical centre, some business use, some housing, a restaurant, a construction school and a school of music. Mr Passant spoke about the poor infrastructure in Bridgnorth for housing and urged the Council to transfer the building as an asset for the community.

In response Mike Owen, Portfolio Holder for Resources Finance and Support thanked Mr Passant for his input but said that Cabinet had made a decision in July 2014 to dispose of Westgate and he stood by that decision. There were already many community facilities in Bridgnorth town, fulfilling various community roles. The sale of Westgate House would allow capital receipts and revenue savings and he therefore proposed that for these reasons the Council should take no further action. This was duly seconded by Mr Robert Tindall.

A recorded vote was requested by Mr Roger Evans and duly agreed:

FOR: P Adams, N Bardsley, T Barker, J Barrow, K Barrow, T Bebb, M Bennett, T Biggins, J Cadwallader, K Calder, D Carroll, L Chapman, S Charmley, P Cherrington, G Dakin, S Davenport, A Davies, D Evans, J Everall, A Hartley, R Hughes, V Hunt, J Hurst-Knight, S Jones, R Macey, M Owen, W Parr, M Pate, M Price, K Roberts, M Shington, R Tindall, K Turley, D Turner, A Walpole, S West, C Wild, B Williams, L Winwood, M Wood, T Woodward, P Wynn.

AGAINST: A Bannerman, C Barnes, A Boddington, V Bushell, T Clarke, R Evans, H Fraser, N Hartin, T Huffer, J Jones, M Kenny, H Kidd, J Mackenzie, C Mellings, P Moseley, A Mosley, K Pardy, V Parry, D Tremellen and M Williams.

ABSTENTION: C Lea.

The proposal to take no further action was carried with 42 voting for, 20 voting against and 1 abstention:

(b) Petition to turn back on at least 1 in 3 street lights in Whitchurch - Jane Kirk introduced this petition and urged the Council to switch back on 1 in 3 street lights in Whitchurch for mainly safety reasons but also cited the negative effect on local business' that reduced lighting was having. Some of the lights in Whitchurch were owned by Shropshire Council and went off at 10.30 pm and others owned by the Town Council went off at around midnight.

In response the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Mrs Claire Wild, said she proposed to take no further action. To switch one in three lights back on would create a strobing effect on the eyes when passing through on/off light levels. She also cited the receipt of 3 polls recently, in support of reduced street lighting and that local police had also confirmed that in some areas where street lighting had been reduced, there had been a reduction in crime levels. Mrs Wild said there were other remedies available; such as bringing this to the attention of your local councillor, who in turn could raise any issues at a Bronze Level Task Group.

This proposal was duly seconded by Simon Jones.

Mr Mosley said he was willing to test out data through the introduction of a pilot scheme in Whitchurch and suggested that a public meeting be held to find out resident's views and move this forward. This was supported by several members who shared the concerns outlined. However Mrs Wild proposed to take no further action, which was duly seconded and upheld with 37 members voting for this and 24 against.

88.2 Public Questions

The Speaker advised that three public questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15 – copy attached to the signed minutes.

- (a) Mrs Joyce Brand asked a question about the closure of the Monkmoor Walk-in Centre in Shrewsbury and the future location of Accident and Emergency services in Shropshire, but made no specific supplementary question at the meeting. The Leader offered to meet with Mrs Brand outside of the meeting to discuss her concerns in more detail.
- (b) Mr Patrick Cosgrove asked a question about the funding for the continued rollout of broadband in Shropshire and if slower broadband speeds would be given priority over those that were currently quite acceptable.

Supplementary question:

How will the decision on rural broadband extension taken on 10th December by Shropshire's Cabinet help my neighbour's home-based business where his connection speed has dropped from 1.4 Mb to 0.4 Mb in the last eighteen months, so he is now unsure whether to invest many hundreds of pounds in a satellite broadband system, or wait for an announcement from Connecting Shropshire on what to expect from their plans, because there has been no announcement? There are many, many others in the same situation.

Supplementary answer:

The Leader undertook to get back to Mr Cosgrove on this question following the meeting.

- (c) Ms Vanessa Voysey asked a question about the Cabinet decision to remove any allocation of council tax support grant to Town and Parish Councils for 2015/16 and future years council tax reduction scheme; what consultation had been made, why did Shropshire Council feel it was entitled to retain the money and if this decision could be called in.

Supplementary question

If the Town Councils set their budget in January 2015 and Shropshire Council's decision on funding is made in February 2015, how does it work out timescale wise for Town and Parish Council's?

Supplementary answer

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support replied that the decision made by Cabinet on 10th December had triggered a consultation period ending on 26 February 2015 when Council would take the final decision.

89 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Speaker advised that the following questions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 15 (copy of the report containing the detailed questions and their formal responses is attached to the signed minutes).

- (i) Received from Mr M Kenny and answered by Mr M Owen, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support, about door step lenders and the promotion of Credit Unions in Shropshire – copy attached to the signed minutes.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Kenny asked what the Council was going to do about loan sharks.

In response the Portfolio Holder confirmed that maybe more thought needed to be given to this issue generally but that currently he felt this was well supported in many ways and the Credit Union was soon to be moved to a more suitable location within Shrewsbury town.

- (ii) Received from Mr M Kenny and answered by Mr M Owen, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support, about Shropshire Pension Fund - copy attached to the signed minutes.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Kenny asked when was the Council going to ask the beneficiaries whether they were happy that the Council was investing in companies that promoted death?

In response the Portfolio Holder confirmed that he strongly believed in seeking advice from the 'professionals' and invited Mr Kenny to go with him so they could seek the answer to this question together following the meeting.

- (iii) Received from Mr S Davenport and answered by Mrs A Hartley, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, about projected numbers of children and students in Shropshire schools over the period to 2018 and what action the Council was taking to ensure sustainability of high quality education in our schools over this period - copy attached to the signed minutes.

There was no supplementary question.

- (iv) Received from Mr A Mosley and answered by Mr M Owen, Portfolio Holder for Resources, Finance and Support, about accommodation strategic plans

including objectives and expected outcomes and costs of any leasing/rental agreements - copy attached to the signed minutes.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Mosley asked the Portfolio Holder to explain firstly why high rents were being paid when the Shirehall building was half empty, secondly why was Longbow House not on the list and finally did the Portfolio Holder agree that the absence of an accommodation strategy over the last 4/5 years had led to a waste of resources?

In response the Portfolio Holder confirmed that the development of the University Centre Shrewsbury continued and until this had been decided no decision on the broader accommodation strategy would be made. A draft Asset Management Strategy had been prepared and would be submitted to Cabinet in February 2015.

- (v) Received from Mrs Pam Moseley and answered by Mr S Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e, Culture and Commissioning, about the financial success of The Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery.

By way of a supplementary question Mrs Moseley asked how did the number of paying visitors (18,579) and income (just over £77,000 in a little under 9 months) compare with the projections for both measures set when devising the charging regime, and despite a survey showing that many free visitors would be happy to pay to visit the museum, this had not translated into ticket sales. Finally what measures was the portfolio holder considering to increase footfall through the museum, and was it likely to include any form of free entry or concessionary scheme for local residents?

In response the Deputy Portfolio Holder replied that footfall to date was pleasing and the business case was to build on success so far. Attendance was affected by the weather and in a recent survey of visitors it was pleasing to note that many said they would return to visit the museum again. There were plans for future heritage days. 'Secret Egypt' was a forthcoming exhibition coming soon. With regard the request for local concessions, the Deputy Portfolio Holder reminded Members that this was a Shropshire museum, rather than a Shrewsbury museum and therefore that was not feasible. In conclusion thanks were made to the staff and volunteers involved for their excellent work to date.

- (vi) Received from Mr Roger Evans and answered by Mr S Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, ip&e, Culture and Commissioning, about the relationship between Shropshire Council, Serco and Shropshire Community Trust, accountability and the future running of five leisure facilities.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Evans asked firstly for a copy of the contract, secondly whether or not a £1.2 million investment had been made and thirdly why one of the Trustee applicants was an out of county individual?

In response the Portfolio Holder said he would get back to Mr Evans after the meeting on the first and second points. With regard to the third point, Mr Charmley confirmed that the Chairman of the Trust was from Northampton and that he covered more than one Trust in this post.

- (vii) Received from Mr Dave Tremellen and answered by Mrs Karen Calder, Portfolio Holder for Health, about the siting of a new A&E unit in Shropshire.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Tremellen asked that everyone stop pretending that this would lead to the CCG's preferred option.

In response the Portfolio Holder assured Members that there was no pretence. Proper briefings and genuine consultations were taking place. The most important point to remember was that the new unit had to be financially sustainable.

- (viii) Received from Mr Dave Tremellen and answered by Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning, about the recent announcement by Brandon Lewis MP, to exempt developments of under ten houses from liability to the affordable housing levy.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Tremellen asked how long it would be before the officer's paper was issued.

In response the Portfolio Holder said that he had seen Brandon Lewis earlier that week and he expected the report would be available soon. He undertook to share this report with all members once received.

- (ix) Received from Mrs Charlotte Barnes and answered by Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning, about Eric Pickles new planning guidance for affordable housing contributions from market housing, which removed the need for S106 affordable housing contributions from housing developments of 10 units or less.

By way of a supplementary question Mrs Barnes asked about the impact of the policy with regard to the lower 5 unit threshold in designated rural parishes, and would it affect those parishes mentioned in her original question.

In response the Portfolio Holder confirmed that there was no right to buy policy in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). There was currently an exception policy if you were to sell a right to buy house in an AONB area. A review on this was currently being undertaken by the Government. Once this was complete the Portfolio Holder said he hoped that an exemption would be granted in Shropshire.

- (x) Received from Mrs Vivienne Parry and answered by Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning, about accessible/lifetime housing in Shropshire now and in the future.

By way of a supplementary question Mrs Parry asked why the number of units had dropped from 151 in 2010/2011 to 90 units in 2013/14 and when would numbers return to the higher figure.

In response the Portfolio Holder confirmed that he would look at this again in conjunction with developers, and he was aware that the Government was also looking at this issue. His main concern was that he believed numbers would level down and not up.

- (xi) Received from Mr Andy Boddington and answered by Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning, several detailed questions about Shropshire Council's Homelessness Strategy which was due for review in 2015.

By way of a supplementary question Mr Boddington asked why there was a rise in interventions from 538 in 2009/10 to nearly double that figure; 1026 in 2013/14 and the background behind this.

In response the Portfolio Holder said there did appear to be an increased demand for homelessness services, in part due to welfare reform – including the effects of the spare room subsidy, and JSA sanctions. Pilots suggested that direct payments of Housing Benefit to social tenants as part of Universal Credit which was due to rollout to Shropshire early next year, would further increase the demand for homelessness services. Also changes effected via the Localism Act 2011 meant new social tenancies were at a significantly reduced security of tenure. A recent trend appeared to be the emerging of new social tenants facing possession action by their landlord due to rent arrears resulting from under-occupancy and financial hardship.

The aims of the Homelessness Strategy document placed emphasis on earlier interventions, working together in partnerships and focus on prevention of homelessness in order to increase the efficacy of the Council's services for those in housing need. Since the Strategy's inception Housing Options had developed along with stakeholder partners, several single point of contact referral schemes for individuals in need of supported accommodation e.g. semi-independent accommodation for patients discharged from Redwoods Centre, and a county-wide rent deposit guarantee scheme and housing advice provision administered by Shropshire Housing Alliance.

- (xii) Received from Mr Boddington and answered by Mr Malcolm Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning, about long –term empty homes.

There was no supplementary question from Mr Boddington.

90 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX TAXBASE FOR 2015/16

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K Barrow, and seconded by Mr T Barker 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 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Shropshire Council as its Council Tax taxbase for the year 2015/16, as detailed in Appendix A, totalling 102,411.33 Band D equivalents be noted.
- b) That it be noted there will be some minor changes to the Council's localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme in 2015/16 to reflect minor legislative changes. The scheme is attached at Appendix B with the proposed changes detailed on page 5.
- c) That the exclusion of 11,601.95 Band D equivalents from the taxbase as a result of localised Council Tax Support be noted.
- d) That the continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy of 0% in respect of second homes (other than those that retain a 50% discount through regulation as a result of job related protection) and the inclusion of 649.83 Band D equivalents in the Council Tax taxbase as a result of this discount policy be noted.
- e) That the continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy of 50% for up to 12 months in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties, and the resulting exclusion of 109.33 Band D equivalents from the Council Tax taxbase be noted.
- f) That the continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties, of 100% for one month, i.e. effectively reinstating the exemption, and then a 25% discount for the remaining five months and the resulting exclusion of 266.39 Band D equivalents from the Council Tax taxbase be noted.
- g) That the continuation of the "six week rule" in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties be noted.
- h) That the continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy of 0% in respect of long-term empty properties be noted.
- i) That the continuation of the discretionary power to levy a Council Tax premium of 50% in relation to dwellings which have been empty for more than two years and the resulting inclusion of 209.56 Band D equivalents in the Council Tax taxbase be noted.
- j) That a collection rate for the year 2015/16 of 98% be approved.

It was specifically requested by Mr R Evans that it be recorded that he voted against this item.

91 **TREASURY STRATEGY 2014/15 - MID YEAR REVIEW**

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K Barrow, 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 contents of the report of the Head of Finance be received.

92 **CREATION OF NEW PENSION BOARD**

It was proposed by the Leader, Mr K Barrow, and seconded by Mrs A Hartley, 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 contents of the report of the Head of Finance be noted, in particular the draft Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) governance regulations and the progress made by the Task and Finish Group in implementing the changes for the Shropshire County Pension Fund.
- b) That the setting up of the Pension Board be approved from 1 April 2015.
- c) That authority be delegated to the Head of Finance Governance & Assurance to make minor changes to the Terms of Reference if required once the final regulations are issued.

93 **UNIVERSITY CENTRE SHREWSBURY**

The report for this item was now exempt – see agenda item 18 – which was not for publication by category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

94 **ORGAN DONATION**

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

The Portfolio Holder thanked the health team and particularly Charlotte Cadwallader and Miriam Turner for their excellent work on this item to date. Mrs Barnes endorsed this and undertook to circulate a short video to all members

following the meeting about blood and organ donation which was currently being aired nationally, for their information.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the results contained in the report be accepted as indicative of the views of the population in Shropshire.
- b) That the intention of the Health and Wellbeing Board to send this report to the county's Members of Parliament, the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt and to the Health and Wellbeing Board Regional Network, to spark national debate around the topic of organ donation be noted.
- c) That central government be lobbied to consult all English residents to determine their views on adopting an opt-out system for organ donation.
- d) That the changes to the scheme in Wales (due to commence from 1 December 2015) continues to be monitored.

95 LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEES - UPDATE ON BOUNDARIES

It was proposed by Mr T Barker, Portfolio Holder for Performance, and seconded by Mr R Tindall that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Mrs H Fraser proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Mr A Boddington:

'That this Council asks the Leader and Chief Executive to investigate a consultation with members and town and parish councils on Local Joint Committee (LJC) constitutions, reporting back to Council at it's next scheduled meeting; and making no constitutional changes before that meeting'.

When put to the vote the amendment was lost with a large majority voting against the amendment.

The substantive motion was then put and was duly carried.

RESOLVED:

- a) That changes to the geographies of Local Joint Committees as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and set out below be approved;
- b) That local governance within Shrewsbury will continue to be supported by the Shrewsbury wide LJC; however, the six individual area based Shrewsbury LJCs will no longer meet as formally constituted LJCs, although this does not prevent them continuing to meet as "Neighbourhood Forums" in response to local circumstances.

- c) That Loton & Tern, Burnell & Severn Valley, Longden, Ford & Rea Valley, and Strettondale LJs be consolidated into three new LJs:
 - i. Pontesbury, Minsterley, Longden, Ford, Rea Valley & Loton LJC
 - ii. Tern & Severn Valley LJC
 - iii. Strettondale LJC.
- d) That Highley LJC is joined by Chelmarsh Parish to align with the Highley Place Plan area.
- e) That Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley, LJC merges with Brown Clee LJC to form the Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley, Claverley & Brown Clee LJC Zone, to more closely align with the Bridgnorth Place Plan area.
- f) That the ability to make changes to the LJC constitution, including further boundary changes, be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and local members.

96 MOTIONS

- 96.1 The following motion was proposed by Mr M Bennett and duly seconded by Mr T Barker:

‘The Housing Minister, Brandon Lewis, has recently announced significant changes to the regime under which developers of Market Housing are obliged to make provision for local needs Affordable Housing.

Under the new rules Councils will be unable to require the previous levels of Affordable Housing contributions or provision on all but the larger schemes. This will significantly reduce this Council's ability to make much needed provision for Affordable Housing and reduce our future ability to replicate the significant successes that have been achieved in recent years.

This Council therefore agrees that it will put in place the following course of action.

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister asking him to reverse his decision.
- With other Councils, lobby the LGA to put pressure on Government to reverse the policy.
- Ask the RSA to similarly seek reversal of the decision.
- Through the Portfolio Holder, lobby our local MPs to point out to the Housing Minister the undesirability of the implications of this decision.’

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was carried with a large majority of members voting in favour.

- 96.2 Mr M Kenny proposed to withdraw his motion, as set out below, which was seconded by Mr R Evans and duly agreed:

‘Over many years Central Government have eroded local democracy, taken away powers from local government and have introduced responsibilities based on

central government policies without funding or adequate funding. The quality of life and wellbeing of our constituents be they in need of care, learning facilities, health provision, environmental protection, business development, jobs and in every walk of life has been adversely effected.

Therefore this council instructs the Chief Executive to liaise with other local government chief executives and the LGA to bring to an end the devastating cuts to local services and restore local democracy. The chief executive to report back to council on the results and council then considers its options on what further action to take’.

96.3 The following motion was proposed by Mr A Mosley and duly seconded by Mrs P Moseley:

‘Given that the Future Fit project has reached a critical stage in determining policy and strategy for the future of NHS services in Shropshire, Shropshire Council strongly believes that the retention and development of full A & E services and facilities at the RSH is essential. Furthermore the Council commits itself to pursuing this objective in every way possible and in generally ensuring that there is no reduction in the overall levels of service and quality at RSH which are freely available for residents of Shropshire and neighbouring areas.’

Mr M Bennett proposed an amendment which was seconded by Mrs C Wild, to amend the motion to read as follows:

“Given that the Future Fit project has reached a critical stage in determining policy and strategy for the future of NHS services in Shropshire, Shropshire Council strongly believes in ensuring that there is no reduction in the overall levels of service and quality which are freely available for residents of Shropshire and neighbouring areas.”

After debate and on being put to the vote, the amendment to the motion was carried with a large majority of members voting in favour (42 voted For, 7 Against and there were 12 Abstentions).

A recorded vote was requested and duly agreed:

FOR: N Bardsley, T Barker, J Barrow, K Barrow, T Bebb, M Bennett, J Cadwallader, D Carroll, L Chapman, S Charmley, P Cherrington, G Dakin, S Davenport, A Davies, D Evans, J Everall, A Hartley, R Hughes, V Hunt, J Hurst-Knight, S Jones, C Lea, R Macey, C Motley, M Owen, W Parr, M Pate, M Price, K Roberts, M Shineton, R Tindall, D Tremellen, K Turley, D Turner, A Walpole, S West, C Wild, B Williams, L Winwood, M Wood, T Woodward and P Wynn.

AGAINST: A Bannerman, A Boddington, T Huffer, M Kenny, H Kidd, C Mellings and V Parry.

ABSTENTIONS: C Barnes, V Bushell, P Cherrington, R Evans, H Fraser, N Hartin, J Jones, J Mackenzie, P Moseley, A Mosley, K Pardy and M Williams.

Mr A Mosley had a right of reply and in making this he accepted that the majority of people saw Shrewsbury as central to them and that they had fears for the future. He therefore felt it was his duty to speak up at this point.

The substantive motion was then put and was duly carried.

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

'In amongst the very few actual correct facts given in answer to a previously tabled question it is noted that because it is not in the Articles of Association the elected members who are Directors of IP&E are not required to and consequently are not prepared to attend an Annual General Meeting of IP&E Ltd. This is despite the many verbal commitments given when it was first formed.

Two and a half years after formation this company is still unable to start repaying any of the public money this council has loaned it. This money could have been used to help others and in need of help. An example being the return of long term empty homes back in use which would then provide extra much needed affordable homes for local Shropshire residents. According to data recently seen each long term empty home returned to use has on average meant that Shropshire Council gains over £3,100 in New Homes Bonus. This appears to be a far better use of scarce council resources. Council and local residents need to be reassured that IP&E is not wasting money and the investment made will provide the return promised nearly three years ago.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive

- To discuss with Directors of IP&E alterations that are needed to ensure an Annual General Meeting is held.
- To put into effect the process to implement these changes to the Articles of Association as soon as possible.
- To present a full set of accounts with narrative prior to the public AGM.
- To organise a public Annual General Meeting at which the IP&E Board Chairman together with other Elected Member Directors can present a report, hear concerns and answer the many questions that residents and councillors have.

Failing this, then Council instructs the Chief Executive to stop any more loans being made to IP&E and to put into effect a process to enable all present IP&E staff to once again become Shropshire Council employees.'

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was lost with a large majority of members voting in against.

97 REPORT OF THE SHROPSHIRE AND WREKIN FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

It was proposed by Mr S West and duly seconded, that the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 8 October 2014, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, be received and noted.

In presenting the report, Mr S West was pleased to confirm that the County had been well covered during the recent industrial action strikes which was welcomed and noted.

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

98 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and Paragraph 10.4(3) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following items:

99 CHURCH STRETTON SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORTS AND COMMUNITIES FACILITIES (Exempted by Categories 1 and 3)

The Council received an exempt report by the Head of Customer Support and Assets, a copy of which is attached to the exempt signed minutes on proposals to develop Church Stretton Secondary School Sports and Communities Facilities.

RESOLVED: That the exempt report and recommendations contained therein be approved.

100 STONE HOUSE , LUDLOW (Exempted by Category 3)

The Council received an exempt report by the Head of Customer Support and Assets, a copy of which is attached to the exempt signed minutes on proposals to dispose the vacant Stone House offices in Ludlow.

RESOLVED: That the exempt report and recommendation contained therein be approved.

101 UNIVERSITY CENTRE SHREWSBURY (Exempted by Category 3)

The Council received an exempt report by the Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached to the exempt signed minutes, seeking authority for a partnering arrangement between Shropshire Council and the University of Chester in respect of the University Centre, Shrewsbury

RESOLVED: That the exempt report and recommendations contained therein be approved.

(The full version of Minutes 99 to 101 constitutes exempt information under category 3 of Paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Rules and have accordingly been with-held from publication).

Signed (Chairman)
Date: