



Committee and Date

Council

24 February 2022

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022

**In the The Auditorium - Theatre Severn, Frankwell Quay, Frankwell, Shrewsbury.
SY3 8FT**

10.00 am - 2.40 pm

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Councillors Vince Hunt (Chairman), Lezley Picton (Leader), Brian Williams (Vice Chairman), Ed Potter (Deputy Leader), Roy Aldcroft, Jeff Anderson, Caroline Bagnall, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Bernie Bentick, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Peter Broomhall, Julia Buckley, Garry Burchett, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Steve Charmley, Ted Clarke, Rosemary Dartnall, Steve Davenport, Mary Davies, Julian Dean, Geoff Elner, David Evans, Julia Evans, Roger Evans, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Mike Isherwood, Mark Jones, Simon Jones, Duncan Kerr, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Hilary Luff, Nigel Lumby, Robert Macey, Richard Marshall, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Ian Nellins, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Chris Schofield, Dan Thomas, Edward Towers, Dave Tremellen, Kevin Turley, David Vasmer, Alex Wagner, Claire Wild, Rob Wilson, Leslie Winwood and Paul Wynn

At the start of the meeting the Chairman made a presentation to Tracie Watson, Head of the Leaving Care Team to mark the Leaving Care Team winning the National Personal Advisers Team of the Year at the annual Care Leavers Awards.

54 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Boddington, Gerald Dakin, Richard Huffer, Tracey Huffer, Richard Huffer, John Price and Robert Tindall.

55 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.

There were no declarations made.

56 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

57 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by himself and the Vice Chairman since the last meeting of the Council on 23 September 2021, which had been circulated by email.

The 2022 New Year Honours recipients list had been circulated and the Chairman confirmed that he had written, on behalf of the Council, to all recipients to congratulate them and acknowledge their achievements.

58 Public Questions

The Chairman advised that public questions had been received from Ed Shirley, Stephen Mulloy, Paul Wiseman, Beverley Jones and Alan Jolley. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting.

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 13th January, 2022, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

59 Setting the Council Tax Taxbase for 2022/23

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Jeff Anderson that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

By way of amendment Councillor Nigel Hartin proposed that an additional recommendation be added that "Council request Government to allow Local Authorities in England discretion to vary council tax premium" The amendment was seconded by Councillor David Vasmer.

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated

On being put to a recorded vote, with 55 Members voting in favour, 11 against and no abstentions as follows:

FOR:

Councillors Aldcroft, Anderson, Bagnall, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Broomhall, Buckley, Burchett, Butler, Carroll, Charmley, Clarke, Dartnall, Davenport, Dean, Elnor, D Evans, J Evans, Gittins, Halliday, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, Hurst-Knight, Isherwood, M Jones, S Jones, Kerr, Lea, Luff, Lumby, Macey, Marshall, Minnery, Morris, Moseley, Mosley, Motley, Mullock, Nellins, Pardy, Parsons, Picton, Potter, Schofield, Thomas, Towers, Tremellen, Turley, Wild, Williams, Winwood and Wynn

AGAINST:

Councillors Bentick, Davies, R Evans, Green, Hartin, Houghton, Kidd, Parry, Vasmer, Wagner and Wilson

It was **RESOLVED**:

- i. To approve, 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 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix A, totalling 115,485.33 Band D equivalents.
- ii. To note the changes to the Council's localised Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme in 2022/23. The scheme is attached at Appendix B.
- iii. To note the Council Tax Support Scheme amendments detailed in Appendix B have no impact on the taxbase determination.
- iv. To note the exclusion of 8,780.28 Band D equivalents from the taxbase as a result of localised Council Tax Support.
- v. To note 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 note the inclusion of 705.17 Band D equivalents in the Council Tax taxbase as a result of this discount policy.
- vi. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to not award a discount in respect of vacant dwellings undergoing major repair, i.e. former Class A exempt properties.
- vii. To note 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 the resulting exclusion of 160.66 band D equivalents from the taxbase.
- viii. To note continuation of the "six week rule" in respect of vacant dwellings, i.e. former Class C exempt properties.
- ix. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 100% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than two years (but less than five years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 328.10 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- x. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 200% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than five years (but less than ten years) and the resulting inclusion of an additional 175.56 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.

- xi. To note continuation of the discretionary Council Tax discount policy to levy a Council Tax premium of 300% in relation to dwellings which have been unoccupied and substantially unfurnished for more than ten years and the resulting inclusion of an additional 224.67 Band D equivalents in the taxbase.
- xii. To approve a collection rate for the year 2022/23 of 97.9%.

60 Treasury Strategy 2021/22 – Mid Year Review

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Gwilym Butler, and seconded by Councillor Jeff Anderson that the report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED:

That Members accept the position as laid out in the report

61 Report of the Portfolio Holder Finance and Corporate Support

It was proposed by Councillor Gwilym Butler, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, that his report be received and agreed. Councillor Butler presented and amplified his report and responded to questions

62 Provision of Wheeled Bins for Kerbside Recycling of Plastic, Metal and Glass Recycling

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and Green Economy, Councillor Ian Nellins, and seconded by Councillor Steve Charmley that the report of the Head of Transport and Environment, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approve the rollout of bins for recycling described in this report.
2. That Council approve the capital investment estimated to be £2.932 million required to deliver this scheme, as an addition to the current Capital programme.

63 Carbon Reporting

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets And Green Economy, Councillor Ian Nellins, and seconded by Councillor Richard Marshall that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is

attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves the Corporate Carbon Performance Monitoring report 2021 as set out at Appendix 1 for publication

64 Proposed Public Path Extinguishment Order to delete Footpath 19 (PART) in the Parish of St Martins - Delegation to Wrexham County Borough Council to make the Order on our behalf

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Portfolio Holder For Communities, Culture, Leisure And Tourism And Transport, Councillor Cecilia Motley, and seconded by Councillor Steve Davenport that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED:

That Shropshire Council delegates the authority to Wrexham Borough County Council to publish the legal order extinguishing St Martin's Footpath 19 (part) at the same time as Chirk Footpath 35 in Wrexham.

65 Youth Justice Plan

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, Councillor Kirstie Hurst-Knight, and seconded by Councillor Peggy Mullock that the report of the Executive Director of People, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

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

66 Programme Approach to the purchase of Temporary Accommodation

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Councillor Dean Carroll, and seconded by the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Councillor Simon Jones that the report of the Executive Director of Place, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That Council

1. Approve the proposed programme of delivery of temporary housing solutions outlined in this report, which seeks to utilise the commuted Section 106 sums of up to £1.500m.
2. Agree to widen the terms of the report of 16th July 2020 to include expenditure of works to existing assets owned by Shropshire Council.
3. Approve that capital investment of £1.500m of S106 contributions and prudential borrowing of £3.500m in the Housing Revenue Account is used to fund the Housing Revenue Account to deliver up to 60 units of temporary accommodation.
4. Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources, the Assistant Director of Homes and Communities, and Head of Property and Development to approve a final business case and financial appraisals setting out the financial arrangements to support the acquisitions of appropriate properties to the Housing Revenue Account, utilising sums from the approved £1.500m of Section 106 funds.
5. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, the authority to agree and complete appropriate freehold acquisitions.
6. Delegate to the Head of Property and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, the authority to enter into leases / contracts with partners / providers to manage facilities on the Council's behalf, where applicable, if deemed relevant and necessary.

67 **Appointments to Committees**

It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor V Hunt, and seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor B Williams, that the changes to committee memberships be considered and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the following changes in committee memberships be agreed

People Overview Committee

Councillor Roy Aldcroft to replace Councillor Ed Bird as a member of the People Overview Committee.

Place Overview Committee

Councillor Claire Wild to be appointed as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Councillor Nick Bardsley to be appointed as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Councillor Roger Evans to replace Councillor Nat Green as a substitute member of the Place Overview Committee

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Steve Charmley to replace Councillor Simon Jones as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Nick Bardsley to replace Councillor Roy Aldcroft as a member of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Strategic Licencing Committee

Councillor Robert Macey to replace Councillor Simon Jones as a member of the Strategic Licencing Committee

Councillor David Evans to replace Councillor Robert Tindall as a member of the Strategic Licencing Committee

Councillor Mary Davies to replace Councillor Alex Wagner as a member of the Strategic Licencing Committee

Health & Wellbeing Board

Councillor Simon Jones to replace Councillor Dean Carroll as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Southern Planning Committee

Councillor Geoff Elner to be appointed as a substitute member of the Southern Planning Committee

68 **Motions**

The following motions had been received in accordance with Procedure Rule 16

1. From Councillor Kate Halliday and supported by the Labour Group:

Clean, healthy rivers are essential to Shropshire's prosperity and wellbeing. In recent years the water quality has deteriorated for a variety of reasons but the chief contributor is the frequent and intermittent discharges of sewage when it rains. These combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) have contributed to the deterioration of water quality and biodiversity. Fish stocks have reduced by 60% in the last 10 years. Water firms discharged raw sewage into English waters 400,000 times last year, an increase of 27% on the previous year.

The Environment Bill requires sewerage undertakers to ensure progressive reduction of the adverse impact of discharges and introduces additional monitoring and reporting obligations. However, it does not give water companies a timetable to invest and update the sewage system, and there remains no legal duty on water companies not to release sewage into our waterways. It is therefore important that Shropshire Council plays an active role in holding key partners to account.

Motion: This council will:

1. Call on Place Scrutiny and Overview Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to look into the issue and meet the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. Their report should seek to better understand the reporting and reasons for both sewage discharges and farm-related discharges and their impact on the bio-diversity of rivers and the health of those who swim in the river.
2. Urge Severn Trent to increase funding and provide timescales for mitigating the effects of sewerage and other pollutants being discharged into our rivers
3. Investigate how the main rivers in Shropshire may achieve and maintain Blue Flag status
4. Map and analyse the additional impact on sewerage into the rivers from the proposed additional house building in the draft Shropshire Plan to 2038, and consider investing CIL monies into schemes to end the discharge of sewerage and other pollutants into our rivers.

Councillor Julia Evans seconded the motion

By way of amendment The Portfolio Holder for Physical infrastructure Councillor Dean Carroll proposed that recommendation 4 be amended to read: -

Through the planning process, hold the water companies to account to provide adequate sewerage provision for the expanse of housing proposed in the draft Shropshire Plan

Councillor Halliday agreed that the amendment be accepted and asked that Welsh Water be added to the motion as they supplied water to a small part of the county.

On being put to a vote it was **resolved**

This council will:

1. Call on Place Scrutiny and Overview Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to look into the issue and meet the Environment Agency, Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water. Their report should seek to better understand the reporting and reasons for both sewage discharges and farm-related discharges and their impact on the bio-diversity of rivers and the health of those who swim in the river.
2. Urge Severn Trent and Welsh Water to increase funding and provide timescales for mitigating the effects of sewerage and other pollutants being discharged into our rivers

3. Investigate how the main rivers in Shropshire may achieve and maintain Blue Flag status
4. Through the planning process, hold the water companies to account to provide adequate sewerage provision for the expanse of housing proposed in the draft Shropshire Plan

2. From Councillor Nat Green and supported by the Liberal Democrat Group:

It is well known that excessive noise is damaging to both physical and mental health. It also is degrading to the environment and general amenity of an area. In recent years there have been successful trials of acoustic cameras to catch motorists and motorcycle riders with vehicles that emit excessive noise. The threshold set in the trials in London was 80db. Emergency vehicles and otherwise law-abiding HGVs would not suffer fines.

This motion calls on the administration to consider a pilot scheme that, if successful, could be rolled out across towns in Shropshire.

Councillor Viv Parry seconded the motion

By way of amendment The Portfolio Holder for Physical infrastructure Councillor Dean Carroll proposed that the motion be amended to read:

This motion calls on the council to seek funding for a pilot scheme that, if successful, could be rolled out across towns and parishes in Shropshire.

Councillor Green accepted the amendment and on taking a vote it was **resolved**:

That the council seek funding for a pilot scheme that, if successful, could be rolled out across towns and parishes in Shropshire.

3. From Councillor Heather Kidd, supported by the Liberal Democrat Group:

This Council Notes

1. The worsening of ambulance services in Shropshire over recent years despite the best efforts and dedication of ambulance staff.
2. That patients are dying waiting for an ambulance in Shropshire
3. Queues of ambulances at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital because there are no beds available for patients.
4. The Government's failure to release funds to bring the improvements in hospital services that Future Fit promised
5. The poor location of the current Shropshire ambulance hub in Meole near two secondary schools.
6. That the Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) has not attended meetings called to discuss ambulances queuing outside hospitals

This Council Resolves to:

1. Demand that all parties be required to attend regular meetings between the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust hosted by Shropshire Council. The aim would be to draw up an action plan with completion dates so that the number of ambulances queuing outside hospitals is reduced.
2. Work with the West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust to find an alternative site for a hub that gives quicker access to major roads without passing through residential areas.
3. Organise a lobbying campaign of Government with the support of both the ambulance and hospital trusts working in Shropshire with two demands:

a. Funds be released to fund Future Fit

b. Increase the number of ambulances working in Shropshire from the current 12 to a maximum capacity of 16.

Councillor Bernie Bentick seconded the motion

By way of amendment Councillor Dean Carrol proposed the following

This Council Notes

1. The worsening of ambulance services in Shropshire over recent years despite the best efforts and dedication of ambulance staff.
2. That patients are dying waiting for an ambulance in Shropshire
3. Queues of ambulances at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital because there are no beds available for patients.

This Council Resolves to lobby the Government to create an independent Ambulance Service for Shropshire that will prioritise the needs of a large rural community.

Councillor Kidd accepted the amendment subject to the addition of the following:

This Council supports the HWBB to facilitate improvement dialogue between WMAS & SaTH with the objective of drawing up an action plan with completion dates so that the number of ambulances queuing outside hospitals is reduced

On taking a vote it was resolved:

This Council Notes

1. The worsening of ambulance services in Shropshire over recent years despite the best efforts and dedication of ambulance staff.
2. That patients are dying waiting for an ambulance in Shropshire
3. Queues of ambulances at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital because there are no beds available for patients.

This Council Resolves to lobby the Government to create an independent Ambulance Service for Shropshire that will prioritise the needs of a large rural community

This Council supports the HWBB to facilitate improvement dialogue between WMAS & SaTH with the objective of drawing up an action plan with completion dates so that the number of ambulances queueing outside hospitals is reduced

4. From Councillor Julian Dean, supported by the Green Group:

Council notes that since the last Shropshire Economic Strategy was published the UK has left the EU, the world has struggled with the Coronavirus pandemic, the UK government has made a legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 and Shropshire Council has declared a climate emergency with a commitment to achieve net zero by 2030.

We further note that the Corporate Plan 2019-20 to 2021-22 makes no mention of working towards 'net zero', nor of the opportunities for work, healthier living and economic well being involved in a just transition to a fossil fuel free economy. In particular we note that the performance management dashboard related to the Corporate Plan contains only 3 targets, two related to care and one related to recycling rates. Examples of possible areas for performance measures that are missing include levels of local renewable energy generation; proportion of homes built to zero carbon standards; proportion of homes undergoing retrofit; proportion of journeys shifted to sustainable transport modes; proportion of council procurement and contracting going to sustainable and local enterprises; availability of EV charging.

Council believes that Shropshire deserves a robust Corporate Plan and associated Economic and Wellbeing Strategy that puts a just transition to a zero-carbon local economy at its heart, drawing on best practice in community wealth building.

We note that the Place Overview Committee recommended extended member workshops on 'building back better, including input from experts beyond the council' to support the development of the economic strategy.

We call on the cabinet to create meaningful opportunities for engagement involving members, communities, local organisations and businesses to help shape these strategies.

Councillor Mike Isherwood seconded the motion

On taking a vote the motion was defeated

69 Questions from Members

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

Received from Councillor Chris Schofield and answered by Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure in relation to how Cornovii developments were limiting the carbon footprint of their developments. By way of supplementary question Councillor Schofield asked when the first of the houses developed by Cornovii would be handed over. The Portfolio Holder informed him that this would happen next week.

Received from Councillor Rosemary Dartnall and answered by Councillor Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and Green Economy in relation to plans to use the electricity produced at the Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility to produce green hydrogen for a new vehicle fuelling centre. By way of supplementary question Councillor Dartnall expressed concern that the amount of residual waste may be increased to suit power production requirements when we should be reducing the residual waste. The Portfolio Holder informed her that the Council was considering all forms of renewable power sources not just hydrogen or solar.

70 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Mr David Minnery and seconded by Mr Paul Wynn 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.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

71 Exclusion of 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 Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items.

72 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2021 as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

73 Options for delivery of Oswestry Innovation Park and associated infrastructure

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning, Councillor Ed Potter, and seconded by Councillor Joyce Barrow that the exempt report of the Executive Director of

Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the exempt report be approved

74 Alveley Industrial Estate

Members were advised that this item had been withdrawn and would be brought to the next meeting of Council

75 Maesbury Road Oswestry - Solar Power Generation Revised Scheme

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Natural Assets and Green Economy, Councillor Ian Nellins, and seconded by Councillor Steve Charmley that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Resources, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the exempt report be agreed

Signed (Chairman)

Date: