



Committee and Date

Council

17th December 2020

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020

Virtual Meeting

10.00 am - 2.10 pm

Responsible Officer: Julie Fildes

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Present

Councillors Ann Hartley and Peter Nutting (Leader)

Councillors Vince Hunt (Speaker), Steve Charmley (Deputy Leader), Peter Adams, Roy Aldcroft, Nicholas Bardsley, Joyce Barrow, Thomas Biggins, Ed Bird, Gwendoline Burgess, Gwilym Butler, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Steve Davenport, Julian Dean, David Evans, Roger Evans, Hannah Fraser, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Tracey Huffer, Ioan Jones, Simon Jones, Mark Jones, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie, Chris Mellings, Paul Milner, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Cecilia Motley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, William Parr, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Malcolm Pate, Alexander Phillips, Lezley Picton, Ed Potter, John Price, Madge Shingleton, Robert Tindall, Dave Tremellen, Kevin Turley, David Turner, David Vasmer, Claire Wild, Brian Williams, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood, Tina Woodward and Paul Wynn

134 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Boddington, Pauline Dee, Richard Huffer and Keith Roberts.

135 **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.

Councillor Ruth Houghton asked that it be noted that in relation to item 11, she was a Trustee of a Supported Living Care Provider.

136 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2020**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2020, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

137 **Announcements** (Pages 98 - 99)

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 16th July 2020, which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

138 **Public Questions**

Public Questions

The Speaker advised that five public questions had been received from Mr Rob Wilson, Dr Graham Tate, Ms Claire Kirby, Ms Joanne Blackman and Dr Jamie Russell. All questions were read aloud on the questioners' behalf by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and received answers from the respective Portfolio Holders.

It was noted that a copy of the questions and answers would be included with the formal record of the meeting.

Petition

The Speaker advised that a petition bearing more than 1,000 signatures to retain the statue of Clive in Shrewsbury town centre had been received from Ms Emma Dolphin requesting a debate. Ms Dolphin did not provide a written submission.

The Portfolio Holder outlined the actions taken since this item was debated at the meeting of Council on 16th July 2020.

RESOLVED: That no action be taken.

139 **Appointment of the Chief Executive**

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration, Councillor S Charmley that the report of the Director of Workforce and Transformation, Appointment of the Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: That it be confirmed that Andy Begley be permanently appointed to the Chief Executive position with effect from 1st October 2020.

140 **Annual Treasury Report 2019/20**

It was proposed by Councillor D Minnery, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support, and seconded by Councillor B Williams that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance, Annual Treasury Report 2019/20, 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 attached report be agreed.

141 **Annual Assurance Report of Audit Committee to Council**

It was proposed by Councillor P Adams, Chair of the Audit Committee, and seconded by Councillor B Williams that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance, Annual Assurance Report of Audit Committee to Council, 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 Annual Assurance report for 2019/20 be noted and agreed.

142 **Review of the Constitution to Permit the Audit Committee to Approve the Final Accounts Pack Including the Annual Statement of Accounts**

It was proposed by Councillor D Minnery, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Support, and seconded by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance, Review of the Constitution to Permit the Audit Committee to Approve the Final Accounts Pack Including the Annual Statement of Accounts, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Audit Committee be given responsibility for approving the Final Accounts Pack including the Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 2019/20 onwards and the detailed changes to the Constitution proposed in Appendix A of the attached report be adopted.

143 **20mph Speed Restrictions Outside Schools**

It was proposed by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, and seconded by Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Director of Place, 20mph Speed Restrictions Outside Schools, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Davenport proposed that an addition recommendation be added to the recommendations set out in the report, that the scheme be completed by May 2025.

Councillor T Parsons proposed the following amendment, which was duly Seconded by Councillor P Mosley.

Council welcomes this Report to consider how the principle of a 20mph speed limit outside all schools in Shropshire can be implemented and agrees with recommendations (a) to (d) inclusive and recommendation (f).

However, the proposed timescale for the implementation of agreed proposals and the method of financing them is not appropriate in the circumstances. Once School Governing Bodies, Senior Leaders and local members have agreed on what schools require a programme of implementation concluding in 2028/2029 is not sufficient. During that period children would remain at risk.

Council is committed to agreed measures being implemented by the end of 2022/2023 and that Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) finance should be used to pay for this project. Based on the estimate to pay for the Greenacres Farm Supported Living Scheme in Agenda Item 11 section 4.4, then the annual cost to fund the Schools programme would range between £0.103M and £0.166M per annum.

Council agrees that this is a small price to pay for the speedy implementation of these necessary safety measures

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by the majority voting against it.

Councillor D Vasmer proposed the following amendment, which was duly Seconded by Councillor R Evans.

Council requests Cabinet to allocate capital monies to implement the following initial programme:

Time-limited road closures at drop-off and pick-up times (otherwise known as “School Streets”) not only improve road safety, but also enable active travel, improve air quality and social distancing. Therefore, they can be implemented using emergency COVID-19 traffic regulation orders.

- a) 20mph zones outside schools where “School Streets” measures are not possible will also encourage active travel, improve air quality and, with the addition of other measures, improve social distancing.
- b) Immediately identify three primary schools suitable for School Streets and three for 20mph zones utilising the knowledge of local members and in consultation with local councils and other representative organisations such as Parent Teacher Associations
- c) These initial locations should represent different types of location including rural and urban.
- d) Within 7 days issue ETROs for these locations. Allowing work to commence 7 days later.
- e) Install School Streets at the three agreed locations at the end of the 7-day notice period. The “installation” can be as simple as appropriate signage and a demountable barrier which is installed and removed by the school caretaker at the appropriate times.
- f) Erect 20mph signs at the three agreed locations at the end of the 7-day notice period and commission relevant build-outs, pavement widening and cycle provision as a top priority.
- g) Monitor these locations for a month from when they become operational and then identify as many locations as possible for “School Streets” measures or 20mph zones outside schools for implementation after asking for comments by local members and local organisations.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by the majority voting against it.

Members debated the substantive recommendation.

RESOLVED:

That it be approved:

- i) That a consultation process that engages with School Governing Bodies and Senior Leaders, local Member's and communities be implemented to ensure the appropriateness of specific interventions for each school are identified as required.**
- ii) That the Council commits to preliminary investment in traffic data collection and design advice to ensure appropriate options with defined benefits be selected for any future programme of work.**
- iii) That parking behaviour and existing traffic regulations near schools be reviewed and, where appropriate, new enforceable parking measures be introduced to complement any introduction of 20mph speed restrictions outside schools, as part of programmed work.**
- iv) Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Highways and Transport and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, to undertake the necessary investigations and develop a programme of design and works to implement appropriate improvements outside schools where considered necessary.**
- v) That it be noted that resources be diverted from other streams of work typically funded through the Integrated Transport programme to support this initiative, except for where there are legal and statutory requirements placed on the authority (for example, accident data investigations under the Road Traffic Act 1988). Where possible, additional funding options, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) be investigated.**
- vi) That the programme of review, design and delivery be reported to the Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee as appropriate.**
- v) That the scheme be completed by May 2025.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12.00noon and reconvened at 12.10pm.

144 Greenacres Farm Supported Living Scheme

It was proposed by Councillor D Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services and Climate Control, and seconded by Councillor N Bardsley that the report of the Director of Adult Services, Greenacres Farm Supported Living Scheme, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- i) That a financial investment of up to £3.125m in accordance with the Outline Business Case (Appendix 1) to build eight supported living accommodation apartments, a communal shared area, internal courtyard and outdoor space on the Greenacres Farm site be approved.
- ii) That the use of Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) investment to finance the development of the Greenacres Farm Supported Living project be approved.
- iii) That the submission of a suitable application for planning permission to build 8 Supported Living apartments be approved.
- iv) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Adult Services to take appropriate steps to implement the decisions set out above in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services and Climate Change.

145 **Portfolio Holder Report for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services**

It was proposed by Councillor G Butler, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

Councillor Butler presented and amplified his report and responded to questions, concerns and comments.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and approved.

146 **Annual Report 2019/20 Communities Overview Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Motley that the annual report of the Annual Report of the Communities Overview Committee, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes be received and agreed.

Councillor Motley presented the report and outlined the work undertaken by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That that Annual Report of the Communities Scrutiny Committee be noted and approved.

147 **Motions**

1. The following motion was proposed by Councillor Kate Halliday and duly seconded by Councillor David Vasmer

Cycle Infrastructure Design

This Council notes that:

- 1) The Prime Minister has called for "A Golden Age of Cycling".

- 2) The Prime Minister has set out a vision for a travel revolution in England's streets, towns and communities, stating that: "When I was Mayor of London, one of the things I was proudest of was building some of the world's best cycle lanes".
- 3) The Government has announced £2billion of funding for walking and cycling.
- 4) The announcement was accompanied by a document from the Department for Transport, entitled 'Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking'.
- 5) Gear Change states: "Inadequate cycling infrastructure discourages cycling and wastes public money" and "In order to see the increases in cycling we want, the quality of cycling infrastructure installed on our roads must dramatically improve."
- 6) Alongside this document, the Department for Transport (DfT) published new cycling design guidance (LTN 1/20 Cycle infrastructure design) which sets out the much higher standards they will now require if schemes are to receive funding.
- 7) The standards will be enforced by a new inspectorate, Active Travel England, and DfT will expect Local Authorities and developers to utilise the guidance in the design of their schemes regardless of whether they are seeking Government funding.

This Council resolves to:

- a) Support the Prime Minister's "Gear Change" announcement.
- b) Ensure that all cycling infrastructure built in Shropshire conforms to the standards laid out in LTN 1/20.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Julian Dean and duly seconded by Councillor David Vasmer.

To add to the motion:

In order to pursue the intentions of 'Gear Change' and the latest guidance from government on cycling and walking (LTN 1/20) council agrees to:

- 1) Develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, including targets for increased cycling and reduced short car journeys for our towns and settlements, as recommended in LTN 1/20, to be brought to council prior to the May 2021 elections.
- 2) Engage with local cycling groups to understand where people cycle and to design infrastructure collaboratively.
- 3) Develop pilot schemes for low-traffic neighbourhoods and streets in consultation with local members, providing high quality supporting evidence and presentations to the public to support such schemes; with a view to having schemes to present to the public in the early Spring 2021.

On being put to the vote the amendment was lost by the majority of Members voting against.

Members debated the substantive motion.

RESOLVED: that the motion be supported.

2. The following motion was proposed by Councillor Roger Evans and duly seconded by Heather Kidd.

Protecting the public's say in the planning process

This Council notes:

1. The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.
 - That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
 - That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
3. Makes alterations to how and where affordable homes can and will be built.

Council notes with concern that:

That the proposed Infrastructure Levy will no longer provide ring fenced money for affordable housing or perhaps even infrastructure.

This Council Further Notes:

1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes". RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing
2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.

This Council Believes:

1. That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team allow for local democratic control over future development and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
2. That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
3. That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

1. Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals as outlined in this motion.
2. Write to and lobby all our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to all elected members.
3. Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public, Parish & Town Councils and local residents.

RESOLVED: that the motion be not supported.

3. The following motion was proposed by Councillor Ruth Houghton and duly seconded by Councillor Heather Kidd.

Motion on working from home September 2020

Our working arrangements changed abruptly in the spring of 2020. With lockdown and social distancing, employees and employers around world and here in Shropshire have learnt new ways of working and made more effective use of established ways of working from home. Notwithstanding the government urging that people should flock back to their offices, it expected that working from home will become an established part of employment practice and the daily lives of employees, including those employed here at Shropshire Council.

This council requests officers to bring to the December full council meeting, a report on its new strategies and support services for council staff working from their homes.

This might include but not be limited to:

- 1) Results of a survey of experiences of employees and councillors, covering both homeworking and office working (perhaps split by “I normally work from home”, “I normally work from the office”, “I work roughly half and half in the office and at home”).
- 2) A description of support measures for both homeworkers and those unable to work from home.
- 3) The council’s plans for office and home working in the short-term and its ideas for the longer term.
- 4) The impact of home working on the council’s ambition to become carbon neutral

RESOLVED: that the motion be not supported.

4. The following motion was proposed by Councillor Nigel Hartin and duly seconded by Councillor Ruth Houghton.

Motion to express support for those working hard through the Covid-19 epidemic

This council gives its thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly to help our county during the Covid-19 epidemic. This council applauds the exceptional efforts that council staff, health and care workers, Town and Parish Councils, the voluntary community sector, broadcasters and people in all professions have made to support and strengthen our communities. This council in particular recognises the immense contributions and sacrifices that families, friends and local communities’ volunteers have made during one of the most challenging years of our lifetimes.

Councillor G Butler proposed the following amendment which was duly seconded by Councillor D Turner.

This council gives thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly to help our county during the Covid 19 epidemic. This council applauds the exceptional efforts that council staff, health and care workers, Town and Parish councils and the Voluntary and Community

Sector have made to support and strengthen our communities. This council in particular recognises the immense contributions and sacrifices the people of Shropshire have made during one of the most challenging years of our lifetime.

On being put to the vote the amendment was supported by the majority of Councillors.

Following discussion by Members the following motion was proposed:

This Council gives thanks to everyone who has worked tirelessly to help our county during the Covid 19 epidemic. This council applauds the exceptional efforts that council staff, health and care workers, Town and Parish councils and the Voluntary and Community Sector and local community groups have made to support and strengthen our communities. This council in particular recognises the immense contributions and sacrifices the people of Shropshire have made during one of the most challenging years of our lifetime.

RESOLVED: that the motion as amended be supported.

5. The Motion from Councillor A Boddington was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

148 Questions from Members

The Speaker 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 David Vasmer and answered by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport in relation to the work of the Highways Consultant. By way of supplementary question, Councillor Vasmer asked what value the Highways' Consultant brought to the Council in light of what he was paid and whether the process of appointing consultants could be reviewed. Councillor S Davenport advised that he would provide a written response.

Received from Councillor David Vasmer and answered by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport in relation to pedestrian safety. Councillor Vasmer did not ask a supplementary question.

Received from Councillor Heather Kidd and answered by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport in relation to school transport. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Kidd asked if it could be taken into account that police do not register all accidents when providing statistics for reports and requested that junctions could be re-white lined where the road markings were missing. Councillor Davenport replied that the white lining should be registered with the online Highways Members' Portal.

Received from Councillor Roger Evans and answered by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport in relation to the management of the Highways contract. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Evans asked whether the information given to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the completion of

Highways work was correct. The Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport responded that the work was still to be signed off by the new Assistant Director for Highways.

Received from Councillor Pam Moseley and answered by Councillor S Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport in relation to cycling. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Mosely asked when the existing cycling network would be brought up to an acceptable standard. The Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport responded that funding for the maintenance of cycle paths was dependent on the funding received from Central Government and once funding was received the work would be undertaken.

Received from Councillor Ruth Houghton and answered by Councillor S Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration in relation to support for businesses. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Houghton referring to the identification of employment land ready for investment across the county referred to in the response to her question, asked when the Portfolio Holder would provide a full plan for this with actions across the county with timescales. The Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration stated that a written response would be provided.

Received from Councillor Ruth Houghton and answered by Councillor L Picton, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications in relation to the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy. By way of supplementary question Councillor Houghton asked would the Council monitor the effectiveness of the media campaign mentioned in the response. The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communications responded that this would be monitored by the customer service centre and through feedback received through the MyShropshire portal. She added that feedback via members would be welcomed to assist with targeting specific campaigns to areas where they would be most effective.

149 **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.

150 **Exempt Minutes of 16th July 2020**

Members noted that there were no exempt minutes to consider.

151 **Alverley Industrial Estate [EXEMPT]**

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader, Councillor S Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration, and seconded by Councillor P Nutting, that the report of the Director of Place, Alveley Industrial Estate, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED: that the exempt recommendation be approved as detailed in the exempt report.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: