

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of Shropshire Association of Local Councils, held at 2pm in the President's Suite, Shrewsbury Town Football Club on 3rd July 2023

Present:

R Abbiss (VP)	Cllr S Pledger	D Dorrell, County Secretary
K Baker MBE (President)	Cllr S Reynolds	G Power, Deputy CS/RFO
Cllr M Bennett (Sub)	Cllr T Tarran	
Cllr P Goulbourne	Cllr R Wickson (Chair)	
Cllr C Green	Cllr A Wilson (Vice Chair)	
Cllr D Mills	C Higgins (SLCC)	

1.	<p>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves.</p>
2.	<p>APOLOGIES Cllrs: David Beechey, Claire Crackett, MBE, DL, Roger Evans, Duncan Fletcher, Greg Hickman, Kelly Middleton, Cecilia Motley, and Colin Stevenson. Also Chris Mellings VP.</p>
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were none.</p>
4.	<p>MINUTES Proposed by Cllr Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr Bennett.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2023 be approved.</p> <p>Cllr Green reported that he had asked E West for total amounts of CIL funding broken down following the last meeting, even submitting an FOI and this had still not been received.</p>
5.	<p>AREA COMMITTEES</p> <p>Bridgnorth & Shifnal: Draft minutes of the meeting on 19 June had been circulated. Accompanying the minutes was a report that included a resolution seeking SALC to request Shropshire Council to review its guidance on managing road closures and improve its signage reducing the length and duration of road closures. The Chair agreed he would take this to the next meeting of the Joint Working Group, also issues raised during the discussion regarding place plans. He would also raise the issues at the next meeting of the Shropshire Economic Board which Shropshire Council had invited him to join.</p> <p>Oswestry: Draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 June had been circulated when Place Plans and Legacy Funding had been discussed. SC's Road Safety Policy was no longer available for raising community concerns and the Chair agreed this would be raised at the</p>

	<p>next meeting of the JWG to seek reinstatement of the policy.</p> <p>Shrewsbury & Atcham: The meeting due to take place on 15 June had been cancelled.</p> <p>North Shropshire: Cllr Goulbourne reported on the meeting held on 17 April when Helen Morgan MP had attended. The draft minutes had been circulated and the next meeting would be held on 17 July.</p> <p>South Shropshire: Minutes of the meetings held on 17 April and 27 June had been circulated: Cllr Mills reported that a briefing on the current divisional boundary review by Cllr Cecilia Motley had been given. Other matters discussed were Place Plans and CIL.</p> <p>Wrekin: Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June had been circulated together with those of the Telford & Wrekin Rural Forum on 8 June. The Chair reported the meetings of the Rural Forum were well attended by both councillors and officers and covered a good many issues.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the reports.</p>
6	<p>UNITARY COUNCILS' REPORTS</p> <p>a) Telford & Wrekin Council: The Chair reported that Cllr Kelly Middleton had replaced Cllr Paul Watling as Portfolio Holder for Healthy, Safer, Stronger Communities and Partnerships. She had not been able to attend but had confirmed her attendance at the next meeting in September. A video of Cllr Middleton was available on TWC's website in which she outlined her 5 priorities since taking on the role.</p> <p><i>(A report from Cllr Middleton had been submitted and was not seen in time to circulate with agenda papers. This was sent out to the Executive following the meeting.)</i></p> <p>b) Shropshire Council: Report from Cllr Motley had been circulated. Questions were raised under Regulatory Services – Local Plan Review that relating to questions raised by the Inspector. A question was asked about the length of the latest WSP contract.</p> <p><i>(Note questions relating to the Local Plan have been passed on to Cllr Motley and the Leader. The question relating to the WSP Contract has been forwarded to Shropshire Council who state that "... five years from the start date of April 3rd 2023 plus a potential four years through potential extensions.")</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the reports and pursue questions raised.</p>
7.	<p>PRESIDENT'S REPORT</p> <p>The Present reported on the role of the President as civic figurehead of the Association. The role had been limited during the last two years due to Covid restrictions, but the President had been able to attend some events and had presented awards with hopes this year to return to more normality. She thanked her Vice Presidents for their support and thanked the Executive and Officers for their contribution to the Association which she described as a leading county association.</p>
8.	<p>CHAIR'S REPORT</p> <p>The Chair's report had been circulated. He congratulated Cllr Kelly Middleton on her Cabinet appointment with Telford & Wrekin BC and informed Members that a video was available on TWC's website where her 5 priorities were stated. Highlighting in the report his appointment to the Shropshire Economic Partnership Board, the Chair called for a representative to take his place on the UKSPF Panel as there would be a conflict of interest for him to sit on both. Cllr Bennett expressed his interest, no others coming forward, and this would be reported to the Panel.</p>

	<p>Additional to the report was an account from the Chair of a meeting 'Project Gigabit' which he had attended.</p>
9.	<p>COUNTY SECRETARY'S REPORT Report had been circulated. There were no questions on the report.</p>
10.	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) Scribe Financial Reports and Bank Statement noting reconciliation to 5 June 23 had been circulated.</p> <p>b) Audit of accounts 22-23: The audited accounts and auditor's report had been circulated and it was noted there were no recommendations from the Auditor. Cllr Green commented that it would be helpful to see any surplus recorded on the accounts.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>a) To note the reports, bank reconciliation and financial position as at 5 June 23. b) To receive the audited accounts for 2023.</p> <p><i>The Chair thanked the Deputy County Secretary and RFO for the hard work she had put in which was seconded by Cllr Green and the County Secretary.)</i></p>
11.	<p>PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE RENEWAL The Deputy County Secretary and RFO informed Members that, with the approval of the Chair and Vice Chairs, this policy had been renewed at a premium of £249 which had been increased by £10 since last year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the decision to renew the policy be endorsed.</p>
12.	<p>TRAINING & ADVISORY SERVICE RENEWAL The Deputy County Secretary and RFO informed Members that, with the approval of the Chair and Vice Chairs this contract with Parkinson Partnership had been renewed at a cost of £440. In addition to the finance related training which had been popular, the advisory service has been excellent.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the decision to renew the contract be endorsed.</p>
13.	<p>JOINT WORKING GROUP The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June had been circulated. The County Secretary reported in relation to minute 6 that she had circulated a briefing paper to all town and parish councils, urging them to view the consultation proposals and respond before the deadline. Cllr Bennett reported, as Chair of the Oswestry Area Committee that he was proposing to invite Mike Adams, Severn Valley Water Management Scheme to the September meeting to share his presentation for which the Area Committee would send out an open invitation to other parish councils.</p>
14.	<p>EMERGENCY PLANNING THEMES WORKING GROUP The Chair reported that due to staff changes within Communities Prepared, the programme had been set back and a revised programme was awaited, and the events were now likely to take place in October/November.</p>
15.	<p>REPORTS FROM OTHERS</p> <p>a) NALC: The Chair reported that the next meeting of the Assembly was on 11 July, following which he would submit his report.</p>

	<p>b) SLCC: Report had been circulated. There were no questions.</p> <p>c) Any other reports from Members:</p> <p>a) Community Benefits – Solar Farms The Chair reported that since the last meeting, the Guidance document had been circulated for any final comments from parish councils. Members discussed shared energy schemes and written legal agreements. The Chair reported that due to the May elections and subsequent change of officer responsibilities, he had not as yet approached Telford & Wrekin Council for similar guidance.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the guidance document Community benefit from solar farms in Shropshire be approved for circulation.</p>
16.	<p>COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARISHES</p> <p>The Committee noted that an email had been received from Broseley TC’s Town Clerk stating that a former Mayor had expressed dissatisfaction over the boundary review/consultation, Shropshire which he wished to be passed on to SALC. His comments stated that detailed proposal for changes in Broseley, with justification were submitted and that the TC only heard anecdotally that this was rejected with no-one having had the courtesy to respond formally. He stated further that this was the first opportunity the TC had to see the draft proposals therefore there would be a lack of response. It was requested that this be fed back to the Boundary Commission.</p> <p>The County Secretary reported that she had responded to the email stating that SALC had put out as much information as she had been requested by the LGBC who were leading this review and consultation. When the comments had been conveyed to Cllr Motley, she had stated her confusion as she was aware that a lot of work and thought had gone into the proposals for Broseley by the Leaders’ Working Group. Information on the draft proposals had been made readily available on the LGBC website and urged the TC to respond direct to the LGBC before the deadline.</p>
17.	<p>DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>a) Sept 11th b) November - Date to be confirmed c) AGM Date to be confirmed</p> <p>It was suggested that the next meeting be a face to face meeting, preferably at a venue in Telford. High Ercall Village Hall and The Wakes, Oakengates were suggested, to be confirmed. The President, in her role as Wrekin Area Committee Secretary reported that she was arranging for a Parish and Town Council Conference with Telford & Wrekin which would take place on 4 October, an all day event at Oakengates Theatre, when Parish and Town Councils in Shropshire would also be invited. Topics would be Policing, Climate Change, Green Space and Health & Wellbeing.</p>
18.	<p>STAFFING</p> <p>The County Secretary reported that she believed it was time to plan ahead, and in particular to consider and review the role of lead officer for the Association when she stood aside. She suggested that the Personnel Sub-Committee in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee be given delegated powers to work with the County Secretary to consider options to cover the role, taking any steps that may be necessary.</p> <p>It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chairs were ex officio members of both sub-committees. There were however two vacancies on the Finance Sub-Committee with Roy Williams no longer being a Councillor (he was now a Vice President) and Councillor Beechey who had not</p>

	<p>been elected to the Executive. Cllrs Reynolds and Mills came forward to fill these roles.</p> <p>The County Secretary stated that previously, the President had been involved ex-officio which was also agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That delegated powers be given as stated above and that Cllrs Reynolds and Mills be appointed to the Finance Sub-Committee to fill the current vacancies.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 15.45.</p>

Signed: (Chairman)

Dated:

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