

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD, BURNTWOOD ON
WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2021 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans [in the Chair]

Councillors Banevicius, Birch, Bishop, Brown, D Ennis, L Ennis, Flanagan, Gittings, Greensill, Ho, Loughbrough Rudd, Norman, R Place, Tapper, Taylor, Westwood, Willis-Croft and Woodward

In attendance

G Hunt, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk

County Councillor Cox

County Councillor Wilcox

District Councillor Pullen

Two members of the public

CRIMESTOPPERS PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Mr Baker to the meeting.

Members received a presentation from Mr David Baker, a former servicing police officer, fundraiser for Cancer Research and other organisations and now is a Volunteer Community Ambassador Coordinator for Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime by phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year - 100% anonymously.

Crimestoppers rely heavily on generating income from their supporters, trusts and foundations and the public through donations and funding. Together they share a central goal of making communities and workplaces safe and secure.

After receiving a call [0800 555 111] or a completed anonymous online form, Crimestoppers create a report that brings together all the information given to them, making sure it does not contain any information that could identify the person. The report is sent to the relevant authority with the legal responsibility to investigate crimes, make arrests and charge people in order to bring them to justice. This could be the local police force or an agency such as the UK Border Agency or HM Revenue & Customs.

Councillor Woodward thanked Mr Baker and stated that Crimestoppers was an important weapon in the fight against crime. Members asked questions around how the information is vetted and on how people can make donations.

PUBLIC FORUM

No questions were raised by members of the public.

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Bullock and M Place.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Woodward declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 - Approval of Payments from 22 June to 15 July 2021 as she is a recipient [she purchased a chair which was surplus to requirements and the chair was broken].

40. MINUTES

The Chair reminded Members that they were being asked to comment solely on the accuracy of the Minutes.

Councillor Woodward referred to Minute No. 25 - Members Questions and explained that this was not an agenda item at the meeting held on 24 June 2021 however, Members Questions would now be a standard item on all Town Council Agendas.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 June 2021 [Minute Nos. 20-37] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

41. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair read out the following statement:

"I am delighted that at last, after many years, the Neighbourhood Plan for Burntwood has finally been approved by Lichfield District Council after the Referendum on 06 May 2021. This will increase the CIL contribution paid to Burntwood Town Council from 15% to 25%.

With the lifting of restrictions next Monday 19 July and the fact that cases in Staffordshire are high and rising I hope we all think carefully how we conduct ourselves to keep others and ourselves safe and free from infections."

42. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS FROM 22 JUNE TO 15 JULY 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the payments from 22 June to 15 July 2021 in the sum of £10,983.25 be approved.

43. BURNTWOOD CEMETERY

Councillor Woodward explained that Option [i] would fulfil the Town Council obligations under the EU time directive and would provide two part time jobs within the Burntwood community. Councillor Birch stated that he agreed with Councillor Woodward and perhaps look at the gate

keepers undertaking additional lengthsman duties. Councillor R Place supported Option [i] as it appeared to be the most cost effective. Councillor Taylor asked if there was scope to use volunteers or one permanent employee and a small team of volunteers as this would be half the cost. Councillor Woodward referred to the problems around the opening of the Church Street car park particularly during Covid-19 however she was very grateful to volunteers who undertook tasks around the Town. Another option would be to leave the gates open however since the parks gates have been left open this has resulted in an increase in anti-social behaviour and she did not want this to happen at the cemetery.

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor Birch, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the Town Council agrees to the virement of £1,000 from Cost Code 204 4241 to Cost Code 401 4019 and authorise the Town Clerk to recruit two cemetery gate keepers.

44. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2021-22

It was proposed by Councillor Woodward, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the appointment of Toplis Associates as internal auditor for the current financial year be approved and commence the process for a new appointment as soon as possible.

45. STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Norman asked if the Standing Orders, relating to the rules of debate, could be produced in a small booklet format for Members as this would be useful.

Councillor R Place referred to No. 9 - Questions and in particular [d] A person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer and felt that this was strange.

Councillor Taylor asked if the word Chairman could be changed to Chair, and the word Vice-Chairman be changed to Vice-Chair as this would be more inclusive.

Councillor Woodward explained that “declining to answer” was in most Local Authorities Standing Orders [i.e., Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council] however it would not be wise to do so. Councillor R Place referred to the use of correct pronouns however he would still be using the term Chairman as he saw it as a position and not as an individual.

Councillor Woodward accepted Councillor Taylor’s suggestion regarding Chair etc, which was agreed unanimously.

It was proposed by Councillor Norman, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the reviewed Standing Orders be adopted.

46. UPDATE OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was proposed by Councillor Norman, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a unanimous show of hands it was

RESOLVED That the revised Financial Regulations be approved.

47. PROPOSED NAME OF NEW ROAD

Councillor Birch suggested the name Sweeney Close. He explained that Noel Sweeney had done some much not only for Chasetown but for Burntwood and the wider area. His family are still based locally, and his companies are based off High Street, Chasetown [Chasetown Civil Engineering, Cameron Homes and Keon Homes].

Councillor R Place stated that in principle he had no objection to Sweeney Close, however he felt that it was only appropriate that comments should be obtained from Sweeney Todd Barker Shop which was located opposite.

Councillor Woodward confirmed that it was Lichfield District Council's decision and that two other suggestions had been received today by the District Council.

The Town Clerk confirmed that an email had been received today from the Information Manager from Lichfield District Council and stated that the original street name proposed by the developer passes the tests in their published guidance. The suggestion was Linckeele Close, and an alternative suggestion was Darby Close.

Councillor R Place suggested the name Noel Sweeney Close.

It was proposed by Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor D Ennis, and following a show of hands [18 for and 1 abstention] it was

RESOLVED That Sweeney Close be submitted to Lichfield District Council as the suggested road name for the development to the rear of 161-167 High Street, Chasetown.

48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies [Admissions of Meeting] Act 1960 [Section 2] [and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972], the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

49. PERSONAL INJURY CLAIM

RESOLVED That the report be received and noted.

[The Meeting closed at 6.58 pm]

Signed

Date