



Committee and Date

Council

20th May 2021

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

10.00 am - 2.51 pm

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257717

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, Andy Boddington, Gwendoline Burgess, Gwilym Butler, Karen Calder, Dean Carroll, Lee Chapman, Ted Clarke, Gerald Dakin, Steve Davenport, Julian Dean, Pauline Dee, David Evans, Roger Evans, Hannah Fraser, Rob Gittins, Nat Green, Kate Halliday, Simon Harris, Nigel Hartin, Nick Hignett, Ruth Houghton, Roger Hughes, Ioan Jones, Simon Jones, Mark Jones, Heather Kidd, Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch, Robert Macey, Jane MacKenzie, Chris Mellings, Paul Milner, David Minnery, Dan Morris, Pamela Moseley, Alan Mosley, Peggy Mullock, Kevin Pardy, Vivienne Parry, Tony Parsons, Alexander Phillips, Lezley Picton, Ed Potter, John Price, Madge Shingleton, Dave Tremellen, Kevin Turley, David Turner, David Vasmer, Claire Wild, Brian Williams, Leslie Winwood, Michael Wood, Tina Woodward and Paul Wynn

173 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors William Parr, Tracey Huffer, Richard Huffer, Cecilia Motley, Malcom Pate and Keith Roberts.

174 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.

175 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2020, as circulated with the agenda papers, be approved and signed as a correct record.

176 Announcements

Chairman's Engagements

The Chairman referred Members to the list of official engagements carried out by herself and the Speaker since the last meeting of the Council on 17th December 2020, which had been circulated by email.

The Chairman paid tribute to Julie Fildes, Committee and Member Development Officer, who had sadly lost her valiant fight against cancer and passed away earlier in the month. The Chairman reported that she had written to Julie's husband Jon and their children, on behalf of the Council, to pass on the Council's sincere condolences.

The 2021 New Year Honours Medal recipients list had been circulated and the Chairman confirmed that she had written, on behalf of the Council, to all medal recipients to congratulate them and acknowledge their achievements.

A thank you event will be arranged for long serving and retiring members, once the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.

177 Public Questions

The Speaker advised that there were six public questions from Clare Cooper, Rob Wilson, Anna Jones, Stephen Mulloy, Colin Sheward and Adrian Brown. Answers to the questions were provided by the respective Portfolio Holders. A copy of the questions and the responses provided are attached to the signed minutes and available from the web page for the meeting

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/committeeservices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=125&MId=4138&Ver=4>

178 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The Leader began by thanking the Independent Remuneration Panel for their detailed considerations and producing the report, however he believed that it was inappropriate for the current council to make a decision and it should be for the new council after the election to make the decision. It was therefore proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Councillor S Charmley, Deputy Leader, that consideration of the report be deferred until the next scheduled meeting and that the current schedule of allowance continue until then.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the report be deferred until the next scheduled meeting and that the current schedule of allowance continue until then.

179 Council Tax Resolution 2021- 22

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery, that the report of the Interim Executive Director of Resources on Council Tax Resolution 2021/22, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was carried by 46 Members voting in favor, 12 against and 7 abstention, as follows:

FOR (44)

Adams, Aldcroft, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burgess, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Dee, D Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hartley, Hignett, R Hughes, Hunt, S Jones, Lea, Lynch, Macey, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Mullock, Nutting, Phillips, Picton, Price, Potter, Shineton, Tremellen, Turley, Turner, Wild, Williams, Les Winwood, Wood, Woodward, Wynn.

AGAINST (0)

ABSTENTION (18)

Boddington, Clarke, Dean, R. Evans, Fraser, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, I Jones, MacKenzie, Mellings, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons, Vasmer.

RESOLVED:

1. That a 3.99% Council Tax rise resulting in a basic amount of council tax for a Band D property of £1,501.22 in the billing authority's area, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (section 44) and the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Financial Provisions and Amendment) Regulations 2008 be approved.
2. That in accordance with the provisions of Section 40 (2) of the 1992 Act, approve the amount of Council Tax calculated for each category of dwelling in the billing authority's area to be as follows:

Property Band	2021/22 Charge £
A	1,000.81
B	1,167.61
C	1,334.42
D	1,501.22
E	1,834.83
F	2,168.43
G	2,502.03
H	3,002.44

3. That a total precept of £170,672,186 be levied.

4. That the formal council tax resolution as set out in Appendix 1 to determine the levels of Council Tax for Shropshire Council for 2021/22 be approved.

180 Financial Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting and seconded by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery that the report of the Interim Executive Director of Resources on the Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

On being put to a recorded vote the proposition was carried by 46 Members voting in favour, 12 against and 7 abstention, as follows

FOR (46)

Adams, Aldcroft, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burgess, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, Dee, D. Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hartley, Hignett, Hughes, Hunt, M Jones, S Jones, Lea, Lynch, Macey, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Mullock, Nutting, Phillips, Picton, Price, Potter, Shineton, Tindall, Tremellen, Turley, Turner, Wild, Williams, Winwood, Wood, Woodward, Wynn.

AGAINST (12)

Boddington, Dean, R Evans, Fraser, Green, Hartin, Houghton, I Jones, Kidd, Mellings, Parry, Vasmer

ABSTENTION (7)

Clarke, Halliday, Mackenzie, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parsons,

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2021/22 budget of £554.318m outlined in the Budget Book at Appendix 2, including the savings proposals outlined in section 4.5 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at Appendix 1, be approved.
2. That the changes required to the 2021/22 budget as a result of the Provisional and Final Local Government Settlement and revised business rates and collection fund estimates be noted.
3. That the revised funding gap for the years 2022/23 to 2025/26 be noted.
4. That the Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on the Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves as set out in Sections 6.1 – 6.3 of the MTFS at Appendix 1, be noted.
5. That the recommended level of general balances to support the 2021/22 revenue budget of between £12.174m and £16.598m be noted, noting that the projected balance is presently below this for 2021/22.

6. That the projected recommended level of general reserves for the following four years at £53m in 2022/23, £40m in 2023/24, £37m in 2024/25 and £35m in 2025/26 be noted.
7. That the continued use of the Policy for Flexibility around the use of Capital Receipts as detailed in section 8.1 of the MTFS be noted.
8. That the Pay and Rewards Policy for all Council staff for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 3 be agreed.
9. That a revenue budget virement of £1.710m between Corporate Budgets and Place as detailed at section 7.1 of this report below be approved.

181 Fees and Charges 2021/22

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery and seconded by the Leader, Councillor Nutting, that the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the breakdown of the total income for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and in particular that the proposed 2021/22 charges for discretionary services represent only £41.023m of the £79.242m of income derived from Fees and Charges be noted.
2. That the charges for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendix 3 to be implemented 1 April 2021, recognising that managers have proposed varying policies for 2021/22 be approved.
3. That as previously agreed, any changes to fees and charges proposed by Shropshire Community Leisure Trust Ltd. in relation to the outsourced leisure facilities will only be referred to cabinet and council for approval if the proposed increases exceed Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding November, be noted.
4. That subject to restrictions or exemptions identified in the Welfare Reform and Work Bill it is recommended to Council that:
 - I. Social Housing rents for 2021/22 are increased by 1.5% from 5th April 2021.
 - II. Affordable rents for 2021/22 are increased by 1.5% from 5th April 2021.
 - III. Shared Ownership rents continue to be set at 2.75% of the outstanding capital value of the home at the time of sale and thereafter increased each April in accordance with the terms specified in the lease agreements.
 - IV. Service charges continue to be set on the basis of actual cost.

182 Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26

It was proposed by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery and seconded by the, Leader, Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Director of Finance, Governance and Assurance on the Capital Strategy 2021/22-2025/26, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations contained therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the adoption of the Capital Strategy 2021/22 - 2025/26 attached as Appendix 1 be agreed.
2. That the prioritised schemes identified at Section 8 and the associated impact on the revenue budget be noted.
3. That the revised Capital Programme as set out in the report and detailed at Section 6 and Appendix B to the Capital Strategy be agreed.

183 Treasury Strategy 2021/22

It was proposed by Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor D Minnery and seconded by the Leader, Councillor P Nutting that the report of the Interim Executive Director of Resources on the Treasury Strategy 2021/2022 a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Treasury Strategy for 2021/22 be approved.
2. That the Prudential Indicators, set out in Appendix 1, be approved in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.
3. That the Investment Strategy, set out in Appendix 2, be approved in accordance with the MHCLG Guidance on Local Government Investments.
4. That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement, set out in Appendix 3 be approved.
5. That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to exercise the borrowing powers contained in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and to manage the Council's debt portfolio in accordance with the Treasury Strategy.
6. That the Section 151 Officer be authorised to use other Foreign Banks which meet Link's creditworthiness policy as required.

184 University Centre Of Shrewsbury Project

It was proposed by the Leader, Councillor Nutting and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Councillor S Charmley that the report of the Executive Director of Place on the University Centre of Shrewsbury Project a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration be approved and instructed to submit an application to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek consent to grant a new property lease for UCS's ongoing occupation of the Guildhall at less than best consideration.

185 Future Civic Accommodation

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader, Councillor S Charmley and seconded by Councillor P Milner that the report of the Executive Director of Place on the Future Civic Accommodation a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and the recommendations contained therein, be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the conclusions and recommendations of the options appraisal work be agreed in principle and responsibility be delegated to the Executive Director of Place to commission the detailed design (in accordance with RIBA Stage 2) costings of the proposed refurbishment plan for the Pride Hill shopping centre to accommodate the new Civic Centre as a base for the council and its partners.
2. That the work undertaken to date on the disposal strategy for the Shirehall site be noted and that a future meeting of Council receive a further report with a recommended disposal option which shall be informed by an independent valuation for the site and other key considerations.

186 Proposed Redevelopment of Former Ironbridge Power Station Site - Onward Delegation of Planning Control from Telford and Wrekin Council

The Speaker confirmed that this item had been withdrawn.

187 Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration

It was proposed by Councillor S Charmley, the Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration that the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes, and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and approved.

188 **Motions**

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

Notice of Motion 1

The following motion was moved by Councillor Gwylim Butler and seconded by Councillor Dan Morris.

Successive governments have allowed a serious funding imbalance to develop between rural authorities and their urban and metropolitan counterparts. Despite Governments' recognition of the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas, this imbalance has been allowed to increase year on year. Rural Services Network - which has a wide membership of rural authorities and has long championed fairer funding settlements for rural areas – has analysed the present government's Provisional funding settlement 2021/22 and calculates that rural residents, when compared with urban:

- Will still be paying over £96 per head more in Council tax
- Receive some 61% (£107) per head less from Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA general grant)
- Get £11 less per head in specific social care costs, despite a higher proportion of elderly rural residents
- Suffer a 16% gap compared with urban of the new social care grants
- Excluding council tax, receive over £112 (42% per head) less in Government Funded Spending Power

As a result, Principal Councils serving rural areas, when compared with urban authorities have to cope with less government grant per head of population; are required to pay more per head of population in Council tax from lower rural incomes; fund more of their essential services through Council Tax (69.29% compared to 55.80%) and yet receive fewer services which are often more expensive to access.

Prior to the Covid pandemic we note that this government was committed to deliver a fairer funding formula for local government and embark on a levelling up agenda, which was primarily aimed at raising funding levels for underfunded regions in the north of the country.

Shropshire residents feel strongly that sparse rural authorities such as ours should also benefit from the levelling up agenda to reduce the current unfair funding disparities between urban and rural authorities and ensure the delivery of equitable funding settlements throughout the country. We seek equality of outcomes and funding for the people and economy of Shropshire; and reduced reliance on Council tax to compensate for inadequate government support.

“This Council therefore instructs the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister/Chancellor/SoS MHCLG seeking a commitment that the levelling up agenda should be widened to include Shropshire and other rural Shire Counties; and that the Government should commit to and deliver a fairer funding settlement for Council services and infrastructure requirements.”

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Motion be supported.

Notice of Motion 2 - Principles for LTP4

The following motion was moved by Councillor Julian Dean and seconded by Councillor David Vasmer

This council recognises the urgent need to address the transport related climate emergency whilst supporting better and more inclusive connectivity for our residents. We further recognise the opportunity that a switch to active travel presents to address public health issues associated with sedentary lifestyles. This requires policies that follow the hierarchy of traffic reduction, modal shift and electrification. Reduced per-person journeys has been a feature in the UK since the beginning of the century, so this hierarchy is in line with changing patterns of behaviour and the well-researched popular desire for enhanced local living. Following this policy hierarchy will support a resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

We further recognise that a new Local Plan will be strengthened in its climate, sustainability, and inclusivity objectives by the adoption of a robust and ambitious Local Transport Plan.

We resolve to use our influence at Midlands Connect to pursue the reduce/shift/electrify hierarchy. As the sub-national body Midlands Connect should produce its own transport decarbonisation strategy, should review all infrastructure plans against this and should apply for all available powers on transport including those over bus franchising.

We further resolve that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan will:

1. Include a commitment that LTN 1/20 is fully adopted when planning active travel routes and infrastructure.
2. Adopt ‘Transport for New Homes’ principles for responding to development proposals. Where proposals do not meet high standards against the Transport for New Homes checklist they should be rejected.
3. Include Public Health as an originator and consultee in its development, recognising the impact that transport planning will have on health and wellbeing.
4. Include a pathway to net zero carbon emissions from transport that is compatible with local, regional and national carbon budgets and our net zero targets, to include interim emissions targets and monitoring processes.

Councillor Nicholas Bardsley proposed the following amendment

Proposed amendment to Motion 2 Principles for LTP4

Insert after "We further resolve that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan will:

A new item 1

1. recognise and welcome the vital part played by the construction of the North West Relief Road in:
 - providing a strategic road link from the A5 to Battlefield entirely bypassing the town centre
 - enhancing the economic development of Shropshire as a whole
 - -relieving Shrewsbury itself and many villages North of the town from the blight of through traffic which currently causes so much congestion, pollution and danger to pedestrians in these communities.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Davenport. In moving the amendment, Councillor Bardsley stated that anything he said was in the context of not knowing the details of the planning application and he had formed no view of the planning application. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that a planning application had not yet been submitted. Councillor Bardsley requested a recorded vote:

Councillor Tremellen left the meeting at this point.

FOR (36)

Adams, Aldcroft, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burgess, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Dakin, Davenport, D. Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hignett, Hunt, I Jones, S Jones, Lea, Lynch, Macey, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Mullock, Nutting, Phillips, Picton, Potter, Tindall, Turner, Wild, Winwood and Wood.

AGAINST (15)

Boddington, Dean, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, Kidd, Mellings, Moseley, Mosley, Pardy, Parry, Parsons and Vasmer.

ABSTENTION (3)

Clarke, Shingleton and Wynn

The amendment became the substantive Motion.

Councillor Roger Evans proposed the following amendment to the Motion

Proposed Amendment to Motion 2 – Principles for LTP4

That the recommendations include a part 5, this to be added at the end of the motion as shown below.

We further resolve that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan will:

1. Include a commitment that LTN 1/20 is fully adopted when planning active travel routes and infrastructure.
2. Adopt 'Transport for New Homes' principles for responding to development proposals. Where proposals do not meet high standards against the Transport for New Homes checklist they should be rejected.
3. Include Public Health as an originator and consultee in its development, recognising the impact that transport planning will have on health and wellbeing
4. Include a pathway to net zero carbon emissions from transport that is compatible with local, regional and national carbon budgets and our net zero targets, to include interim emissions targets and monitoring processes
5. Include a review of the implications that the North West Relief Road will have against
 - a) The growing capital commitments that are now needed to be invested in transport infrastructure, including road safety, throughout the market towns and rural areas of Shropshire.
 - b) The Council's declaration of a climate emergency; its adoption of a Climate Change Strategy; and the international agreement of the need to reduce carbon emissions, a commitment set to be reinforced at COP26 in Glasgow in November.
 - c) The likely reduction in traffic as more people work from home following the pandemic

Councillor Nat Green seconded the amendment.

A recorded vote was requested

FOR (15)

Boddington, Dakin, Dean, R Evans, Green, Halliday, Hartin, Houghton, Kidd, Mellings, Mosley, Parry, Parsons, Shineton, Vasmer.

AGAINST (37)

Adams, Aldcroft, Bardsley, Barrow, Biggins, Bird, Burgess, Butler, Carroll, Chapman, Charmley, Davenport, D Evans, Gittins, Harris, Hartley, Hignett, Hunt, I Jones, M Jones, S Jones, Lynch, Macey, Milner, Minnery, Morris, Mullock, Nutting, Pardy, Phillips, Picton, Potter, Tindall, Turner, Wild, Winwood, Wood.

ABSTENTION (3)

Clarke, Moseley, Wynn.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment proposed by Councillor Evans was lost with the majority voting against it.

Members debated the substantive motion as amended by Councillor Bardsley.

RESOLVED:

This council recognises the urgent need to address the transport related climate emergency whilst supporting better and more inclusive connectivity for our residents. We further recognise the opportunity that a switch to active travel presents to address public health issues associated with sedentary lifestyles. This requires policies that follow the hierarchy of traffic reduction, modal shift and electrification.

Reduced per-person journeys has been a feature in the UK since the beginning of the century, so this hierarchy is in line with changing patterns of behaviour and the well-researched popular desire for enhanced local living. Following this policy hierarchy will support a resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

We further recognise that a new Local Plan will be strengthened in its climate, sustainability, and inclusivity objectives by the adoption of a robust and ambitious Local Transport Plan.

We resolve to use our influence at Midlands Connect to pursue the reduce/shift/electrify hierarchy. As the sub-national body Midlands Connect should produce its own transport decarbonisation strategy, should review all infrastructure plans against this and should apply for all available powers on transport including those over bus franchising.

We further resolve that the forthcoming Local Transport Plan will:

1. Recognise and welcome the vital part played by the construction of the North West Relief Road in:
 - providing a strategic road link from the A5 to Battlefield entirely bypassing the town centre
 - enhancing the economic development of Shropshire as a whole
 - -relieving Shrewsbury itself and many villages North of the town from the blight of through traffic which currently causes so much congestion, pollution and danger to pedestrians in these communities.
2. Include a commitment that LTN 1/20 is fully adopted when planning active travel routes and infrastructure
3. Adopt 'Transport for New Homes' principles for responding to development proposals. Where proposals do not meet high standards against the Transport for New Homes checklist they should be rejected.
4. Include Public Health as an originator and consultee in its development, recognising the impact that transport planning will have on health and wellbeing.
5. Include a pathway to net zero carbon emissions from transport that is compatible with local, regional and national carbon budgets and our net zero targets, to include interim emissions targets and monitoring processes.

Notice of Motion 3.

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Julian Dean and seconded by Councillor Kate Halliday.

Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late.

The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

Council notes that

- (i) This council has declared a climate emergency;
- (ii) Many local authorities have established Citizens' Assemblies that are playing an important role in assisting them in their plans to achieve net zero by 2030 or before; and that
- (iii) There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the "Climate and Ecology Bill")—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
 - a. requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;
 - b. ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;
 - c. includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
 - d. protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
 - e. restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO₂ and their resistance to climate heating;
 - f. sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (i) Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- (ii) Inform the local media of this decision;
- (iii) Write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill; and
- (iv) Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

Councillor Dean Carroll submitted the following amendment to the Motion:

Proposed amendment to Motion 3. Support for CEE Bill

That the recommendation be amended as follows: -

To remove everything after “This Council resolves too” and replace with “Refer this matter to a Task & Finish Group to look at the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill in detail and to make recommendations on Shropshire Council’s response to the Bill”

Councillor Paul Milner seconded the amendment. Upon being put to the vote, the proposed amendment was agreed.

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves too refer this matter to a Task & Finish Group to look at the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill in detail and to make recommendations on Shropshire Council’s response to the Bill

The meeting was adjourned at 2.11 p.m. and reconvened at 2.22 p.m.

Motion No. 4.

The following motion was moved by Councillor David Vasmer and seconded by Councillor Andy Boddington.

Putting Pedestrians First

This Council notes:

1. Pedestrians includes all those who walk – including parents with prams and pushchairs – and those who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs or scooters.
2. The special needs of people who are partially sighted or blind.
3. Increased numbers of people are walking due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. 16% of Shropshire households do not have a car and 42% of Shropshire households have one car. Therefore, a large number of people are reliant on alternative forms of transport.
5. In 2018, 27% of all trips were made by walking, covering 3% of all distance travelled.
6. The Department of Transport has just concluded a consultation into changes to the Highway Code which propose a hierarchy of users, putting pedestrians first.
7. In September 2020 Shropshire Council unanimously resolved to support the Prime Minister’s Gear Change policy: “A bold vision for cycling and walking”.
8. The Government’s Gear Change policy says:
 - a. “Increasing walking and cycling can help tackle some of the most challenging issues we face as a society – improving air quality, combatting climate change, improving health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and tackling congestion on our roads.”
 - b. “well-planned improvements in the walking environment” can increase footfall by up to 40%
 - c. “We want to see a future where half of all journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked. 58% of car journeys in 2018 were under 5 miles.”
 - d. From now “cycling and walking measures are no longer seen as an afterthought but have moved to the very heart of considerations for all transport policy and planning, at all levels of leadership.”
 - e. A new commissioning body and inspectorate, Active Travel England, led by a new national cycling and walking commissioner which will be established in the next few months.

- f. Active Travel England will also begin to inspect, and publish annual reports on, highway authorities. They will be graded on their active travel performance and dangerous failings in their highways for cyclists and pedestrians will be identified.
- g. "It is our intention that the commissioner and inspectorate will, in this regard, perform a similar role to Ofsted in raising standards and challenging failure."
- 9. The Department for Transport (DfT) is drawing up legislation to enact Part 6 of the 2004 Traffic Management Act.
- 9. Part 6 will allow local authorities outside London to enforce common road offences for the first time in England. This will mean that Shropshire Council is able to enforce School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods using cameras without the need for physical barriers in the road.

This Council further notes:

- 11. A large number of pavements across Shropshire are damaged, too narrow, or inadequate in some other way.
- 12. In rural areas pavements are often missing on routes to community facilities such as GP surgeries, schools, and shops.
- 13. Pavements are often blocked by temporary road signs for roadworks.
- 14. The level of pavements is often disrupted for access to driveways and other inlets.
- 15. Pavement users in wheelchairs, and those with prams and pushchairs, cannot always find dropped kerbs to cross roads.
- 16. Pavements are often damaged and uneven as result of being uplifted by tree roots.
- 17. Pavements are not swept regularly which in autumn means they can become very slippery with rotting leaves.
- 18. In winter pavements are not cleared of snow and the contrast with major roads, which are always cleared of snow, could not be more stark. At such times, many pedestrians are forced to walk in the road.
- 19. All of the above make it difficult for pedestrians, particularly those with mobility issues or those using prams and pushchairs and can act as a disincentive to leave home and thereby increase social isolation.
- 20. Walking is an important, but often ignored, part of our transport system.
- 21. Shropshire needs to be proactive rather than reactive to the establishment of Active Travel England.
- 22. Shropshire only received 14% of the funds it bid for in Phase 2 of the Active Travel Fund (75% of the indicative funding allocation).

This Council resolves to:

- 23. Widen the Commonplace consultation launched by the Big Town Plan to cover the whole of Shropshire with the aim of allowing residents to identify where pavements and the walking environment is inadequate. This would enable the council to develop a list of locations that require attention.
- 24. Ensure that all new housing developments in Shropshire are easily and safely accessible and navigable by foot.
- 25. Instruct the Director of Place to investigate and report back to Scrutiny how to
 - a. Ensure that all temporary roadwork signs are installed at a high level, making use of lampposts or other Council infrastructure, so that messages are clear to

drivers but do not restrict the pavement or the roadway. Where this is not possible, signs should be placed on the road and never on the pavement.

- b. Ensure that a constant pavement height is maintained where driveways are installed across the pavement.
- c. Increase the number of pedestrian crossings and reduce pedestrian waiting times at crossings to a minimum.

- 26. Ensure that Shropshire is ready to use the new powers enabled by Section 6 of the 2004 Traffic Management Act to improve the walking environment.
- 27. Appoint an officer in Highways to have specific responsibility for walking.
- 28. Establish a Task and Finish Group to review pavement maintenance.
- 29. Ensure that Shropshire is fully prepared for the establishment of Active Travel England and associated funding streams.
- 30. Ensure that pedestrians are placed at the top of the hierarchy of users in LTP4

RESOLVED:

That the Motion on Notice be supported.

Notice of Motion 5 – Provision of Skips after Flooding.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Nat Green and seconded by Councillor Nigel Hartin.

Council notes

- 1. The transfer of the provision of emergency skips from Street Scene to Highways.
- 2. Highways during the recent floods provided just one skip to Coton Manor flats and refused to supply any extra ones that were needed. This contrasts with the swift and plentiful supply of skips that were supplied by Street Scene after the flooding last year.
- 3. The provision of skips is not a luxury; it is essential for the maintenance of public health and to assist the psychological well-being of those who have been flooded, as it enables them to make the first step in rebuilding their lives.

Council resolves

- 1. To reverse this recent change in policy and that in future when flooding does occur, no matter where it is, the previous practise of providing as many skips as needed will continue to be provided by whichever department has from time to time the responsibility for skip provision.
- 2. All skips that are provided to assist residents suffering from flood problems will be supplied at no cost to the local residents.

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be supported

189 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 Tom Biggins and answered by Councillor Steve Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Assets, Economic Growth and Regeneration, in relation to launching a Buy Shropshire campaign and helping to promote Shropshire for Tourism.

Received from Councillor Ruth Houghton and answered by Councillor Robert Macey, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning, in relation to empty homes in Shropshire. By way of a supplementary question, where empty homes are and particularly in relation to where people are bidding on Home Point and where there is a need. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning responded by confirming that he would take the supplementary question back to Officers to prepare a response.

Received from Councillor Andy Boddington and answered by Councillor Peter Nutting, The Leader of Shropshire Council, in relation to the 'support for you from your council during lockdown' letter that had been sent to every household within Shropshire.

Received from Councillor David Vasmer and answered by Councillor Steve Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, in relation to the North West Relief Road. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Vasmer made reference to page 320 of the agenda, the Capital Programme report and questioned that the figures referred to for the North West Relief Road spending did not tally with the figures given in the Portfolio Holders response to the his question. The Portfolio Holder responded by confirming that he would check the figures and respond by email after the meeting and include all Members in his response.

Received from Councillor David Vasmer and answered by Councillor Steve Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, in relation to the performance of Highways contractor Kier. By way of a supplementary question, Councillor Vasmer asked why, when the Portfolio Holders response made it clear that Keir were not performing as they should be has Members not been informed. The Portfolio Holder responded by confirming that he would take the supplementary question back to officers and circulate the response with all Members, adding that some of the key performance indicators were still going through the legal processes.

Received from Councillor Kate Halliday and answered by Councillor Steve Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport, in relation to flood prevention plans in Shropshire.

The Speaker reported that an additional, seventh question had been allowed as it had been received in time, but omitted due to officer error.

Received from Councillor David Turner and answered by Councillor Peter Nutting, the Leader of Shropshire Council, in relation to a request for the leader to facilitate an update from the University Centre Shrewsbury. Councillor David Turner did not have a supplementary question but added that he welcomed the comprehensive and positive response from the Leader.

190 Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

It was proposed by Councillor Chris Mellings and seconded by Councillor Nigel Hartin 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.

191 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

192 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

193 Oswestry Innovation Park Disposal Options

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Steve Charmley and seconded by Councillor Mark Jones, that the exempt report of the Director of Place and Enterprise and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the three recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

194 Shrewsbury West Sustainable Development Extension Disposal Options

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Steve Charmley and seconded by the Leader Councillor P Nutting, that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Place and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the three recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

195 Strategic Acquisition Shrewsbury Central

It was proposed by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Steve Charmley and seconded by the Leader Councillor P Nutting, that the exempt report of the Executive Director of Place and the recommendations therein be received and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the two recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: