



July Extraordinary Meeting 2025 Minutes

July Extraordinary Meeting 2025 of Whitland Town Council held in the Town Hall and via the medium of Zoom, on Thursday 3rd July, at 7.00pm.

Please note that Audio or Video recording of Full Council meetings is not permitted.

All Whitland Town Council meetings are regulated by its Standing Orders.

Present in person: Cllrs L Shipton (Chair), J Davies-Scourfield (Vice Chair), S McDowell, E Morgans, A Cornick, A Smith, L Smith, R Davies, R Jones and A Seely.

Also present in person - The Clerk

Present via the live link – Cllr M McDowell

Present in Person: Two members of the public.

Agenda

2025/07 EM 51 - To accept any apologies for absence:

None, all Cllrs. were present.

2025/07 EM 52 - To acknowledge any declarations of interest, as per the Code of Conduct

Cllr. Morgans said it wasn't possible to know if there were any conflicts of interest due to the lack of information provided on the agenda. Cllr. Shipton asked if we all knew what Confidentiality meant, and that Complaints Procedure and Email Correspondance were self-explanatory. It was agreed therefore that should there be any conflicts they would be raised as the meeting progressed and we understood fully what the issues were to be discussed.

2025/07 EM 53 - Confidentiality

Cllr. Shipton explained to full council an issue pertaining from one of the sub committees, the Personnel Committee, that information from that meeting was being shared with the Clerk when it shouldn't have been. The information that was shared was the date of a meeting where there were confidential and sensitive council issues which were to be discussed regarding the Clerk and the Clerk turned up at the meeting when she should not have been there. The Clerk was asked who had told her about the date of the meeting and she said she could not remember. The rest of that committee were asked who had shared the information and nobody put themselves forward. Councillors were reminded of the sensitivity of issues discussed and the need for confidentiality to be maintained.

L Shipton

2025/07 EM 54 – Complaints Procedure

During our June 2025 meeting full council had been made aware of some emails that had been received from members of our community regarding the behaviour of two serving councillors. Council decided we needed to see our current working Complaints Procedure, this was not available to us at this meeting. Cllr. Cornick suggested we wait until we have sight of that document as we would not be able to resolve this issue without knowing the councils agreed way of this being dealt with. It was agreed at this time to move on and to look at and update this procedure as soon as we were able.

2025/07 EM 55 – Email Correspondance

Cllr. Shipton raised a matter from our June 2025 meeting again relating to the sharing of information with council of the two complaints by members of our community. Cllr. Jones was very animated and said his research showed this information should not have been shared with full council but copies of this correspondence should have been sent to him. Cllr. Shipton backed this by saying the council have no right to investigate any issue. The Clerk responded by saying she had sought advice from One Voice Wales and was following that by letting council know what had been said and what needed to be done and that there had been no investigation.

Cllr. Shipton shared concerns that Cllr. M McDowell was getting somebody else to write emails on his behalf. It was suggested that somebody who used language similar to that in the most recent emails may have been writing or providing the information for those emails. Cllr. Shipton had had the emails analysed by a computer expert who claimed that recently the font, font size and language had all changed with Cllr. M McDowell's emails and that they thought it very unlikely that he was writing these himself. Cllr. S McDowell told council that Cllr. M McDowell had been using an AI app Chat GPT. This was discussed in detail, however, no resolution was reached.

Cllr. A Smith asked if the laptop and mobile phone used by the Clerk were the property of Whitland Town Council and once it was confirmed that they are both the property of the Town Council, the Clerk offered to surrender her laptop and mobile telephone to Cllr. Shipton to be inspected. The Clerk was asked for passwords to gain access to both the phone and laptop.

Cllr. Shipton informed council as the meeting was closing that if there was nothing untoward found on the laptop or phone that he would apologise and resign from the council.

The meeting closed.

L Shipton