

## **LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

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**Present:** Councillor C Jupp - Chairman  
Councillors R Barnes P Bettington  
A Bradford M Eager  
K Francis E Harvey  
R Yeoman

**In attendance:** Councillor D Durham

**Also present:** K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council

#### **F.56 - 11.13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillor M Roberts, T Widdows and P Winter.

#### **F.57 - 11.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared at this point of the meeting.

#### **F.58 - 11.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **F.59 - 11.13 PRESENTATIONS**

1. Suzanne Wenczek and Alex Clive from the Ledbury Community & Heritage Regeneration Project Steering Group attended the meeting along with lead architect Niall Phillips from Purcell Architects. They gave a full update on recent activities and advised that the project had been renamed 'Ledbury Places'.

Members were advised that the group would like to offer the Town Council up to five days consultancy with David Trevis-Smith, who is working as an advisor to the Steering Group. Part of this additional business planning support will be used to help him understand and include the Town Council's requirements in the Ledbury Places Feasibility Study report.

Members were advised that a public consultation is underway and that exhibition boards are currently on display at the Library. Bound copies of the consultation document are available in the office.

Further details are available on the website:  
<http://www.ledburycivicsociety.org/ledburyplaces-background.html>

Councillor Barnes was asked to prepare a briefing note for Councillors based on his attendance at Steering Group meetings.

2. Mrs Claire Keetch, Chief Executive of Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureau had attended the meeting to address members in support of the organisation's application for funding from the 2014/15 budget. She gave an update on the service and drew members' attention to Herefordshire Council's budget consultation, advising of the proposal to withdraw grant funding from the CAB and the devastating effect it would have on service provision. She urged the Town Council to respond to the consultation asking that Herefordshire Council maintain its grant to the CAB.

Following a question and answer session, Mrs Keetch was thanked for attending and advised that the Town Council would feed in to the consultation process.

3. Consideration of any action required following the above presentations: The offer of consultancy time from the Ledbury Places Project will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

## **F.60 - 11.13 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **F.61 - 11.13 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. Summary of Receipts and Payments

Members were circulated with a Summary of Receipts and Payments from 11<sup>th</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**RESOLVED: That the summary be approved and adopted.**

2. Invoices for payment

Members considered a list of invoices for payment.

**RESOLVED: That the invoices, as presented be approved for payment.**

3. Budget 2014/15

Members considered the second draft of the budget required by the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2014/15. Each budget line was examined and changes made where appropriate. The Chairman advised that further consideration of all three committee budgets would take place at a special Full Council meeting to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.

## **F.62 - 11.13 TAKE ON OF HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL SERVICES**

Members were advised that a working group meeting would be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the possible take on of the public toilets in Church Street.

## **F.63 - 11.13 CONSULTATIONS**

To consider the following consultations:-

### 1. Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

Members considered a draft response to the Community Risk Management Plan Consultation 2013, as prepared by Councillor Jupp who was commended for his submission.

**RESOLVED: That any suggested amendments be forwarded to Councillor Jupp for incorporation into a final document for approval at the Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.**

### 2. Herefordshire Council Budget Consultation

‘Delivering our priorities with reducing resources’

The proposed budget for 2014/15 and plan for Herefordshire Council 2014/15 to 2016/17.

Councillor Harvey offered to prepare a draft response relating to the key issues for circulation to Members and consideration at the Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

## **F.64 - 11.13 TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

Councillor R Barnes asked members to consider the acquisition of a secure display cabinet for the HMS Ledbury ‘Ledbury Challenge Cup’. Whilst in principle it was agreed to be a good idea, Members felt that it should be put on hold pending the outcome of the Ledbury Places feasibility study.

## **F.65 - 11.13 OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following Reports were received and noted.

- Market Towns Forum meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 as prepared by Councillor C Ridler.
- HALC Conference and AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2013, & East Area Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, as prepared by Councillor K Francis.

**F.66 - 11.13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

The following correspondence was received and noted:-

- Thank you letters from Age UK Hereford & Localities and John Masefield High School for their 2013/14 annual grants.
- HALC Information Corner – November issue

**F.67 - 11.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

The next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.51pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....