

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on
Thursday 11th December 2014

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor R Barnes, Chairman

P Bettington	A Bradford
A Conway	M Eager
K Francis	R Hadley
E Harvey	C Jupp
C Ridler	J Roberts
C Stallard Daniels	T Widdows
P Winter	R Yeoman

In Attendance: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman – Deputy Clerk to the Council
Griff Holliday – Ledbury Food Group
Emma Putnam – Community Day
1 representative of the Press

The Town Mayor advised those present that the Value for the month of December is 'happiness'.

C.103 - 12.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors A Crowe, D Durham and A Warmington.

C.104 - 12.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

C.105 - 12.14 DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

C.106 - 12.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Griff Holiday, Secretary of Ledbury Food Group, announced that the Food Group were going to be staging the third Big Breakfast. The event will take place on Friday, 30th and Saturday 31st January, 2015 at various food outlets in and around Ledbury.

Emma Putnam representing the Ledbury Community Day Committee announced that the 2015 Ledbury Community Day will take place on Saturday, 6th June. She advised that 65 organisations had signed up to take part and that the aim of the event is to celebrate the wide range of voluntary groups and organisations in Ledbury and to allow them to demonstrate what they do, recruit new members, seek

opinions, encourage participation and to raise money. The Town Council was invited to take an active part in the event.

C.107 - 12.14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2014, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

C.108 - 12.14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Barnes presented a written report on his mayoral activities between 7th November and 10th December, copies having been circulated. He drew attention to a number of events he had attended and advised that he had received a response from Bill Wiggin MP in respect of cuts to the Fire Service in Ledbury.

C.109 - 12.14 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

1. Mr G Holliday, acting secretary of the Town Plan Working Party, presented a report on the group's activities since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

2. Members discussed an outline idea of forming a Youth Council. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council agree in principle to the formation of a Youth Council.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.110 - 12.14 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Bettington presented a written report, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Councillor Harvey gave a verbal report on the following matters: County Council Tax relief; Funding cuts to voluntary organisations - CAB, HVOS, HALC.; Fire Service; Herefordshire Council Well Being initiative; Ledbury Primary school Travel Plan; Herefordshire Council Economic Development Master Plan.

Councillor Widdows gave a verbal report on the following subjects: Green Spaces update (grass cutting plan/tree works); Waste collection; Planning process (Neighbourhood Planning being held up by Core Strategy).

C.111 - 12.14 COMMITTEE MATTERS

RESOLVED: That Councillor A Warmington be appointed to serve on the following committees:

- Economic Development & Planning
- Finance & General Purposes

VOTING:

For	14
Abstentions	1

C.112 - 12.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Councillor J Roberts, Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November, 2014, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes P.52-11.14 to P.65-11.14, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING:

For	14
Abstentions	1

2. Members were informed that an Economic Development & Planning Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15th December, 2014 to consider planning applications which require a response before the next scheduled meeting on 8th January, 2015. (Plans only)

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

3. Members, having been circulated with a revised Section 106 Wish List, were asked to review the document and to consider any additional suggestions put forward. As the document had only been distributed on the evening of the meeting, it was suggested that the item be deferred to the next full Economic Development & Planning meeting for full discussion.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next Economic Development & Planning meeting scheduled to be held on 6th January, 2015.

C.113 - 12.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November, 2014, copies having been circulated.

Referring to E.62-11.14, Councillor Barnes notified members that a meeting had been held with Herefordshire Council representatives, Tony Featherstone, Philippa Lydford, Cllr Patricia Morgan and Councillors Eager and Yeoman, regarding devolved services.

Referring to E.64-11.14, The Chairman of the Christmas Lights Working Party, Councillor Phill Bettington, announced that he would be standing down as Chairman of the working party from January, 2015.

RESOLVED: That the minutes E.56-11.14 to E.67-11.14, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING:

For	13
Against	1
Abstentions	1

C.114 - 12.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

1. Minutes
Councillor P Winter, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th November, 2014, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes F.55-11.14 to F.66-11.14 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted

VOTING: Unanimous

C.115 - 12.14 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2015/16

1. Approval of Committee Budgets

Members received a report from the Budget Working Group meeting held on 1st December, 2014, copies having been circulated and considered the recommendation to approve Committee budgets for 2015/16.

The Clerk advised that a grant application had been received from the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB). Due to the proposed withdrawal of grant funding from Herefordshire Council, the CAB was requesting a grant of £6,166 to continue the Ledbury outreach service. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to make no change to the grant to the CAB until a final decision on funding is made at county level and then if necessary, additional funding could be considered from the participatory budgeting fund.

RESOLVED: That the Committee budgets for 2015/16, as listed below, be approved, with a total net expenditure in the sum of £321,251.

	£
Environment & Leisure	125,346
Finance & General Purposes	191,905
Economic Development & Planning	4,000

VOTING:

For	10
Against	3
Abstentions	2

2. Precept Request for 2015/16

In view of the approved budget and estimated closing balances, it was

RESOLVED: That Ledbury Town Council request a Precept of £297,006 from Herefordshire Council for the year 2015/16.

A named vote was requested.

VOTING:

For	11
P Bettington	A Conway
M Eager	R Hadley
E Harvey	C Jupp
C Ridler	J Roberts
T Widdows	P Winter
R Yeoman	
Against	3
R Barnes	A Bradford
K Francis	
Abstentions	1
C Stallard Daniels	

Councillor Bradford left at this point in the meeting.

C.116 - 12.14 LEDBURY PLACES

Members received an update on the Ledbury Places Project.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

C.117 - 12.14 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hadley informed members that he had prepared a report on the NALC Conference he had attended on 3rd December which would be circulated to members in due course.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

C.118 - 12.14 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk gave details of general correspondence received in the office.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

C.119 - 12.14 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Jupp asked the Mayor to clarify a point referred to earlier in the meeting with regards to the Lengthsman Scheme; He felt that it was a contradiction in terms, that Ledbury Town Council would not be permitted to make supplementary cuts on the same grassed areas being cut by Herefordshire Council, but that it would be permitted to fill in pot holes in roads maintained by Balfour Beatty. In which case, why is it acceptable to fill in pot holes but not cut grass? The Town Mayor advised that he would seek clarification on the matter from the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward.

C.120 - 12.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 5th February 2015.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.01p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....