

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON
THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, 2013
IN THE MARKET HOUSE

Present: Councillor C Jupp - Chairman
Councillors R Barnes P Bettington
A Bradford M Eager
E Harvey M Roberts
T Widdows

Also present: K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council
Cllrs Patrick Whitehead and Martin Fields, Chairman and
Deputy Chairman of the Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster
Group

F.32 - 09.13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors K Francis,
P Winter and R Yeoman.

F.33 – 09.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

F.34 - 09.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

F.35 - 09.13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee
meeting held on 25th July, 2013, were confirmed as a correct
record and signed by the Chairman.

F.36- 09.13 LEDBURY RURAL PARISHES CLUSTER GROUP

Members received a presentation from Patrick Whitehead,
Chairman of the Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group on the
activities of the Group. He advised that the stimulus for setting
up the group had come from increasing pressure to take on
extra responsibilities under the localism agenda. Working
together on common issues helps to increase their effectiveness
when tackling issues such a speeding through the villages,
housing (as part of the core strategy) and more recently
concerns over fracking.

A list of parishes in the locality was circulated to members.

The Chairman thanked them both for attending and explaining about the work of the group.

F.37 - 09.13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Summary of Receipts and Payments

Members were circulated with a Summary of Receipts and Payments from 18th July to 31st August 2013.

RESOLVED: That the summary be approved and adopted.

2. Quarterly Summary of Receipts and Payments related to Budget.

Members were circulated with a quarterly summary of Receipts and Payments related to budget.

RESOLVED: That the summary be noted.

3. Invoices for payment

Members considered a list of invoices for payment.

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

4. Unspecified Grants. **Refer EX20/13**

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960
Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

Two applications had been received, which Members considered in detail before making the following recommendations:-

i. Community Brass Band

Grant requested to support the Ledbury Community Brass Band (*Stat. Power Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – Provision of entertainments and support of the arts*)

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to grant the sum of £700 to the Community Brass Band.

ii. Ledbury Amateur Boxing Club

The Clerk was requested to ask for further information.

The meeting returned to OPEN session.

5. Precept 2014/15

Herefordshire Council has advised that the deadline for submission of the Town Council's precept requirement for 2013/14 is 31st January 2014.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

6. Budget 2014/15

Members were advised that the first draft of the budget required by the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2014/15 will be considered at the next meeting.

7. Internal Audit

The Town Council's internal auditor Jonathan Andrew has advised that having reached retirement age, he has now sold his practice to Greendawn Accounting Limited.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to appoint Greendawn Accounting Limited as its internal auditor.

F.38 - 09.13 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members considered membership to the following organisations:-

1. Rural Parishes Cluster Group

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to join the Rural Parishes Cluster Group for an annual membership fee of £100.

2. National Association of Memorial Masons

Members were advised that corporate membership would entitle the Town Council to a £125 discount on the non-member price of £300 for the Safety Inspection & Assessment of Memorials training course for the Grounds Officer)

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to become a corporate member of the National Association of Memorial Masons for an annual sum of £205 plus VAT.

F.39 - 09.13 DEVOLVED SERVICES

It was reported that the decision had been made at Herefordshire Council cabinet level to go ahead with the Community Toilet Scheme. One of Ledbury's two public toilets

blocks of will be closed, though it was not known which one it would be, or when closure would take effect. Members were advised that that Herefordshire Council would be stepping up discussions with the Town Council regarding likely devolved services and whether it might wish to take on the toilet block which would be closing.

F.40- 09.13 TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

The Clerk gave a brief update on the status of the Approved Premises Licence for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies in the Town Council Offices.

F.41 - 09.13 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

The Chairman gave a verbal report from the Accommodation Working Party meeting held on the previous evening. He advised that the Council would need to investigate the feasibility of moving offices to the Barrett Browning Institute (BBI) and that assistance might be available through the Community Asset Regeneration Project (CARP). A visit to the BBI will be arranged for Town Councillors to have a look around the building. Dates to be advised.

F.42 - 09.13 OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports presented.

F.43 - 09.13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

1. Members were circulated with a response from the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding the Town Council's request for an investigation into complaint handling by Herefordshire Council Standards Panel.

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

2. The Clerk advised that Deputy Lieutenant, Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks CB, DSC, had made contact to ascertain whether the Town Council would be looking to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. A committee has been set up by the Lieutenancy office to co-ordinate activities within the county during 2014-18. The Town Mayor advised that he would be attending a meeting of the First World War Centenary Committee (FWWCC) on Tuesday 24th September, and would relay the Town Council's general support. A letter had also been received from Bill Wiggin MP encouraging the Council to take part.

F.44 - 09.13 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 on 17th October, 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman Date