

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF
THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD ON
THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 2014
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Present: Councillor: M Eager – Chairman

Councillors: R Barnes P Bettington
 A Bradford A Conway
 C Jupp C Ridler
 C Stallard Daniels
 R Yeoman

In attendance: Ms D Baldwin – Deputy Clerk to Council
4 members of the public

E.93 - 02.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Councillors A Crowe, J Roberts, T Widdows and P Winter.

E.94 - 02.14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

E.95 - 02.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident spoke of her concerns over Herefordshire Council's plans to move from annual bedding plants to perennials in the town centre flower beds and the Walled Garden. She felt that the flower displays were an important asset to the town for both tourists and local residents alike. As members of U3A's gardening group, she along with 50 other members were very keen to become involved with the maintenance of the flower beds and the Walled Garden on a regular basis and would contribute plants from their own stock gardens. As, in some cases they are dual members with the Ledbury in Bloom Group they would be willing to work with them under the Ledbury in Bloom umbrella.

E.96 - 02.14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2014, copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

E.97 - 02.14 CLOSED CHURCHYARD

Consideration of the survey on the boundary wall and quotation for works to repair the collapsed section was deferred to the end of the meeting for consideration in private session.

E.98 - 01.14 CEMETERY

Members were circulated with a letter concerning the water logged ground at the cemetery. A family member was present and was invited to speak by the Chairman. She echoed the concerns within the letter and asked Committee Members if they would consider some sort of drainage to help alleviate the problem in the future. Although members were very sympathetic she was assured that the Town Council were doing everything within their power to resolve the situation. She was informed that the Town Council had undertaken all the necessary ground surveys required in order to comply with regulations for use as a burial ground. Planning permission had been granted on the basis of these surveys. The current weather had caused problems around the county for cemeteries, but the Town Council would continue to monitor the situation and look for solutions.

E.99 - 02.14 CHARTER MAKET

Councillor Eager gave an update on the meeting he and the Deputy Clerk had attended with John Gibbon and Wayne Sheehan, Market Services Officers from Herefordshire Council to discuss the extension of the designated market area further up the High Street. The officers had no problems with a proposed extension, but thought Herefordshire Council's parking enforcement team might be more opposed to this. They also warned that barriers would need to be placed along the road edge to dissuade pedestrians from trying to cross the road in between stalls and to encourage them to use the pedestrian crossing.

The Deputy Clerk read out a response to an email sent to David Hepworth, Parking Enforcement Team Leader, asking for his thoughts on extending the market area. He would fully support the extension if the market area was fully used and if a Traffic Regulation Order for the area reflected the times that the market was in operation.

It was also noted that the market traders were again experiencing problems with parked cars in the designated market area.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council request the presence of a Herefordshire Council Parking Enforcement Officer to attend early on Market days.

The next course of action is to arrange a meeting with the Saturday Market traders to discuss their ideas for the enhancement of the market.

E.100-02.14 WWI CENTENARY

Members discussed ways in which the Town Council might commemorate WWI.

Councillor Bradford suggested that the Recreation Ground could be used in some way as it was donated to the people of Ledbury to commemorate the Great War.

After consideration it was :

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to a working party for further consideration. Representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Church should also be invited to attend.

E.101-02.14 CORRESPONDENCE

Members reviewed the information received from Herefordshire Council on the move from annual to perennial planting and considered the three options provided. In view of the offer from U3A to manage the flower beds it was felt that option three presented the best option, but under license to occupy rather than community asset transfer.

Option 3 - Town Councils and local groups can apply to Herefordshire Council Asset team for a Community Asset Transfer of, or Licence to Occupy/Manage, areas of Public Open Space including identified beds. Once transferred or Licenced it is up to the community group to agree and fund the full management of the area to their specifications. There is a specific process for undertaking this which would not be completed in time to undertake planting this Spring – but is a longer term option that could be considered.

Councillor Jupp advised members that there was a Ledbury in Bloom meeting on the 25th February and suggested that U3A should attend.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to agree in principle to approve option three, subject to further discussion with Herefordshire Council on the details and costings for a 'Licence to Occupy'.

E.102-02.14 OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no outside body reports.

E.97 - 02.14 CLOSED CHURCHYARD (continued)

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.
The business being consideration of quotations

Members considered the survey on the boundary wall from the Town Council's Architect and surveyor together with a budget quotation for repairs to the collapsed section.

Refer EX05/14

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to instruct the architects to draw up a detailed work schedule in order to spread the cost over several financial years.

E.103-02.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Items for inclusion on the next agenda:

- Cemetery update
- Christmas Lights

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 13th March 2014.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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