

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of Ledbury Town Council
held on Thursday 7 December 2017
in The Community Hall, Lawnside Road Ledbury

Present: Councillors: E Fieldhouse (Chairman)
R Barnes A Bradford
A Crowe M Eager
M Eakin K Francis
A Harrison E Harvey
J Hopkins N Morris
N Shields J Simpson
A Warmington

In attendance: Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council
Mrs J Jupp – Administrative Assistant
15 Members of the public.

C.161 -12.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Baker, A Manns and J Roberts.

C.162 - 12.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harvey declared a pecuniary interest at Item 14, Employment Matters, regarding the Judicial Review. (C.174 –12.17 refers)

C.163 - 12.17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public enquired about progress in relation to mediation as a means to overcome problems in the council. The Chairman explained that the Council was acting according to legal advice and that mediation would take place at an appropriate time.

A member of the public asked about the proposed expansion of housing in the town, as he was unaware of the Town Council's views regarding the County Council plans and what the Town Council was trying to achieve on the Town's behalf. The Chairman explained that within the Ledbury Neighbourhood Plan Document there was a tight settlement boundary around housing to try to prevent more development. The Plan was at Regulation 14.

A member of the public thanked Town Councillors, staff, traders, groups and individuals for their efforts in making the Christmas Lights Switch On such a successful occasion.

C.164 - 12.17 MINUTES

1. Members considered the accuracy of the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2 November 2017.

Referring to C.139-11.17, Committee Membership Cllr Harrison stated that the Minutes were inaccurate as they did not record his reasons for asking to be put forward to committees.

The Chairman said that the review was linked to the Judicial Review and it would have taken place in Closed Session on 2 November 2017 as the Judicial Review was on the agenda. The item regarding Committee Membership only related to Councillor Hopkins.

Councillor Harvey proposed the following amendments to the Minutes C139-11.17:

1. *“Councillor Harrison requested that he be put forward for reinstatement to all 3 committees of the Council, following the completion of his banning and the sanctions initiated on 11 May 2017 at the Full Council Meeting C.69-05.17. The Meeting was suspended.”*
2. *The meeting was suspended.*

A named vote was requested:

VOTING:

For (7)

A Bradford	A Harrison
E Harvey	J Hopkins
N Morris	N Shields
A Warmington	

Against (5)

R Barnes	A Crowe
M Eager	E Fieldhouse
J Simpson	

Abstentions (2)

M Eakins	K Francis
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The motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes C.130-11.17 to C139-11.17, as amended, be signed as a correct record.

VOTING:

For	8
Against	5
Abstention	1.

2. The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th November 2017 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
3. The Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting which had taken place on 4 December 2017 were not yet available.

C.165 – 12.17 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman listed the events that she had attended during the last month and highlighted the forthcoming Ledbury Town Carol Service which would take place on 17 December 2017.

The Chairman noted that former Town Councillor Andrew Pickup had passed away recently, he had had input into local youth work.

A minute's silence was observed.

C.166-12.17 COMMITTEE MATTERS - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

1. Councillor Crowe, Chairman of the Economic Development & Planning Committee presented the Minutes held on 9th November 2017, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes P.132-11.17 to P143-11.17, be approved and adopted.

VOTING:

For	10
Against	1
Abstention	3

2. Herefordshire Council's Travellers Site Development Plan Document Pre-Submission Draft.

RESOLVED: That the Economic Development & Planning Committee be given delegated authority to respond to the Herefordshire Council's Traveller's Site Development Plan Document Pre-Submission Draft.

VOTING:

For	10
Against	1
Abstention	3

C.167-12.17 COMMITTEE MATTERS - ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

Councillor A Bradford Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee presented the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2017.

Councillor Bradford highlighted a substantial increase in the budget for 2018/19 for the employment of a Grounds Assistant.

Councillor Bradford highlighted the need for the replacement shelter on the Recreation Ground Centenary Field.

Councillor Harvey asked why there was no provision in next year's budget and why there was no reduction in Grounds Maintenance. Councillor Bradford explained that there was still a year's contract in place for the existing contractor and the Groundsman, employed by the Town Council was working excessive hours.

Councillor Harvey sought clarification regarding E.91-11.17 Tree Works, why Councillor Eager was objecting to the involvement of Herefordshire Council. Councillor Eager responded that the trees were on Ledbury Town Council land and therefore the Town Council should be the decision maker. Councillor Harvey noted that Tree Preservation Orders were the responsibility of Herefordshire Council both on public and private land.

Referring to E93-11.17, The Clerk advised that lights on the Recreation Ground Centenary Field were not working, quotes had been received in the sum of £733.83 from Balfour Beatty Living Places for replacement.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.86-11.17 to E97-11.17, be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 7
Against 1
Abstention 6**

C.168-12.17 COMMITTEE MATTERS - FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

Councillor Barnes, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee presented the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2017.

Referring to F.108-11.17 Councillor Shields queried the financial authority for payment of invoices for legal advice. Councillor Barnes referred to the decision at the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on 28 July 2017 that "Ledbury Town Council engage legal counsel to contest the Judicial Challenge funded from budget and/or reserves if required".

Councillor Harvey sought clarification regarding the delegated responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve such large sums. The Chairman referred back to the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting of 28 July 2017 C.101-7-17.

The Chairman reminded Councillor Harvey that she should not be speaking on the matter as she had declared a pecuniary interest with regard to the Judicial Review.

Councillor Harvey suggested that consideration was given to employing someone to advise local groups regarding making grant applications rather than granting them funds. Councillor Crowe noted that part of the study that had looked into the re-organisation of the Council had proposed that the Deputy Clerk's role would include identifying sources of funding. Councillor Barnes reminded members that Herefordshire Council employed staff to carry out this function.

Councillor Harvey spoke with regard to the 2018 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review. Should the Council be adding to rather than just reiterating their original comments in this regard new homes would add to election numbers. Councillor Barnes reminded members that the Government wanted an answer now and predictions regarding the future were difficult.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes F.104-11.17 to F.122-11.17, be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 9
Against 1
Abstention 4**

C.169 - 12.17 COMMITTEE MATTERS STANDING COMMITTEE

1. The Minutes of the meeting which had taken place on 22 November 2017 were not yet available from HALC.
2. The Chairman presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2017.

Councillor Harvey queried the process referred to at 4.2. The Chairman said that the matter could only be discussed in Private Session.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 1 December 2017 be approved and adopted.

VOTING:

For	7
Against	3
Abstention	4

C.170 - 12.17 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Harvey presented her ward member report, copies of which had been circulated electronically. In response to comments regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group had met the previous night and addressed matters including the settlement boundary

Councillor Harvey said that she and Councillor Warmington had met with planning officers regarding the Leadon Way development. The key issues were that it was a mix of market houses as opposed to social housing.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Harvey for her report.

C.171 – 12.17 OUTSIDE BODIES REPORT

The report of the Herefordshire Market Towns Forum, which took place on 29 November 2018 was circulated. Councillors Barnes, Eager and Simpson had attended.

C.172 - 12.17 GENERAL CORRESPONDANCE

The Clerk said that as correspondence had come into the Office it had been circulated to the various committees.

Councillor Morris asked about an email from Chris Johnson of the Ledbury & District Civic Society, sent on 1 November 2017 which had not been circulated.

The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to Mr Johnson, advising that she could not read the email out on behalf of the Civic Society and suggesting that he request another member to do so.

Councillor Warmington said that he would forward correspondence from Mr E Hogan.

C.173 –12.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of Full Council would take place on 1 February 2018.

*PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960
In order to consider confidential legal advice and staffing matters a resolution was passed to exclude members of the public.*

C.174 –12.17 EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Judicial Review

Councillor Harvey, members of the public, the Clerk and the Administrative Assistant left the meeting at this point.

The Mayor gave an update on Judicial Review proceedings

CHAIRMAN

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