

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on
Thursday 12th December 2013

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor T Widdows, Chairman

R Barnes	P Bettington
A Bradford	A Conway
A Crowe	D Durham
M Eager	K Francis
E Harvey	C Jupp
C Ridler	P Winter
R Yeoman	

In Attendance: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs R Blandford – Clerical Officer
4 Members of the public; 1 Member of the Press

C.98–12.13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors J Roberts, M Roberts and C Stallard Daniels.

C.99–12.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C.100–12.13 DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

C.101–12.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Griff Holliday reported on the activities of the Ledbury Food Group, advising that following the success of the Big Breakfast in 2013, the event would be held again on Friday 31st January and Saturday 1st February, 2014.

Emma Putnam advised the meeting that the second Ledbury Community Day would be held on Saturday 7th June 2014. She urged the Town Council to play an active part in the day in celebration of the wide range of voluntary groups and organisations in the town.

The Town Mayor thanked them for attending and spoke of his delight in seeing both events making a return in 2014.

C.102–12.13 MINUTES

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2013, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record with the following correction, and signed by the Chairman.

Referring to C.88–11.13, 2 Public Toilet Closure.
Resolution No.2 - The word 'process' should be removed.

Correction: That Ledbury Town Council will not impose a precept increase of more than 2% without recourse to the people of Ledbury through a referendum process.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2013, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**VOTING: For 13
Against 1**

C.103–12.13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Mayor, Councillor Terry Widdows circulated a written report relating to his mayoral activities since the last meeting and brought the following items of correspondence to members' attention:-

- 1) Miss L Fieldhouse had resigned from her position as Ledbury Town Councillor with immediate effect due to her relocation to another part of the country. The Town Mayor advised that Herefordshire Council had been informed of the casual vacancy and that he had written to Miss Fieldhouse to thank her for her service and to wish her well for the future.
- 2) A letter received from Councillor C Jupp in response to an email he had received from a fellow Councillor regarding his perceived behaviour at a recent Full Council meeting. The Town Mayor advised that copies would be made available to all Councillors.
- 3) The Town Mayor invited Councillor Jupp to apprise members of an item of correspondence received from Ledbury's twin town in Sweden. Councillor Jupp relayed thanks from the Mayor of Strömstad, the Council and Municipality, for the Town Council's gift of a Ledbury Town Flag which he and other members of the Twinning Association had presented to the Commune during their visit in November. Cllr Jupp advised that a live webcast from Strömstad would be broadcast on 19th December 2013.

In accordance with Standing Orders, The Town Mayor advised that he would give his report on the staffing situation during closed session at the end of the meeting.

C.104–12.13 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

1. Mr Griff Holliday, Acting Secretary of the Ledbury Town Plan Steering Group, presented his report on the group's activities since the last meeting, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

2. Members received the Minutes of the Town Plan Steering Group meeting held on 26th November 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received and noted and that any recommendations contained there be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.105–12.13 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor P Bettington gave a verbal report on matters at county level and read out a response to questions received from the Town Mayor relating to possible future development in Lawnside Road.

Councillor E Harvey presented her written report, copies having been circulated. She drew members' attention to the topics covered in her report, including Herefordshire Council's budget consultation and service cuts and her response to the Town Mayor's questions regarding Lawnside Road. Cllr Harvey's report will be posted on the Town Council's website.

Members offered their congratulations to Councillor Harvey on her recent appointment to the Congress of the Council of Europe.

Councillor Harvey left the meeting at this point.

Members had been circulated with a written report from Councillor P Watts relating to planning matters and the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's (HWFRS) response to the draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). Members expressed concern over the large disparity in funding received by the HWFRS, compared to the national average. The Town Mayor agreed to write to Bill Wiggin MP asking why the funding figure is so low.

C.106–12.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November, 2013 copies having been circulated.

Referring to E.75 – 11.13 Members of the Christmas Lights Working Party and members of staff were thanked for all their efforts in helping to make the Switch-on event a success.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.67-11.13 to E.80-11.13, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous.

C.107–12.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

1. Councillor C Jupp, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November, 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes F.56-11.13 to F.67-11.13 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous.

2. Members were circulated with a letter from Herefordshire Council explaining its approach to the distribution of grant funding to mitigate the effect of the local council tax support scheme on parish precepts in 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

3. Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation. (Refer F.63 - 11.13, 1)

Members considered the revised draft response incorporating additional comments received from Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the letter be approved and adopted as the Town Council formal response to the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation.

VOTING: Unanimous.

4. 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. (Refer F.63 - 11.13, 2)

RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor and Councillor E Harvey be authorised to respond on behalf of the Town Council.

VOTING: Unanimous.

C.108–12.13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. Members received the Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be received and noted.

2. Members received the Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meeting held on Tuesday 3rd December 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be received and noted.

3. Engagement of Consultants

The above item was deferred to the end of the meeting for consideration in private session.

C.109–12.13 LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL 2014

Members considered a request from Ledbury Poetry Festival and Ledbury Food Group to support their plan to hold a food market on St.Katherine's car park on Sunday 13th July 2014. The event would be linked with the Poetry Festival Town Party.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council support the event.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.110–12.13 LEDBURY PLACES PROJECT (formerly Ledbury Community and Heritage Regeneration Project)

1. Members received a briefing note from Councillors Barnes summarising the recent key activities of the project team. Councillor Barnes invited members to submit any questions that they wished him to ask at the next project meeting either directly to him, or via the office.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

2. Members were requested to formally endorse the offer of up to five days consultancy time from the Ledbury Places Project to provide business planning support for the Town Council. Members were advised that the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Clerk had had an initial meeting with the consultant to identify the scope of the work involved and had provided financial information relating to properties occupied by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council formally endorse the offer of consultancy time from the Ledbury Places Project.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.111–12.13 HMS LEDBURY – FREEDOM PARADE

1. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That a Working Party be set up to make arrangements for the visit by the Ship's Company between 21st and 23rd February 2014.

VOTING: Unanimous

RESOLVED: That the following members serve on the Working Party:-

R Barnes	P Bettington
A Bradford	A Conway
D Durham	C Jupp
T Widdows	

VOTING: Unanimous

C.112–12.13 OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Appointment of representative to serve on the Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: That Councillor K Francis be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group and that Councillor M Eager be authorised to deputise should Councillor Francis be unavailable.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. PACT

Councillor A Crowe presented the report from the meeting held on 2nd December 2013, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That report be noted.

3. Rural Parishes Cluster Group

Councillor R Barnes gave a verbal report from the meeting held on 11th December, 2013.

RESOLVED: That report be noted.

C.113–12.13 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

C.114–12.13 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 8

Councillor Jupp asked if the Town Mayor would consider writing to The Queen asking that should our MP not accept a pay increase then could the money be given to the Town Council instead. The Town Mayor replied that he would do so.

Councillor Conway asked the Town Mayor if he would permit the opportunity of formally thanking Councillor Barnes for his hard work in creating the HMS Ledbury display in the Market House. He willingly agreed and echoed thanks to Councillor Barnes.

Councillor Barnes informed the Town Mayor that he had been contacted by a Ledbury resident who had been travelling on the same ferry as pupils from John Masefield High School returning from a school trip to France and had been very impressed with their excellent behaviour and politeness. He asked the Town Mayor if he would pass on these compliments to the Head teacher. The Mayor replied that he would be happy to do so.

C.115–12.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 6th February 2014.

An extraordinary Full Council meeting to approve the Budget and Precept for 2014/15 will be held on 30th January 2014.

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 staffing matters and consideration of quotations

C.103–12.13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued)

4. The Chairman reported on a staffing matter.

C.108–12.13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (continued)

3. Engagement of Consultants

Councillor Barnes presented the interview panel’s evaluation paper, copies having been circulated.

Following due consideration, it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council engage Foxley Tagg, subject to contract, to take the Neighbourhood Plan forward to completion.

VOTING: Unanimous

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.19p.m.

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