

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on
Thursday 7th November 2013

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

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

Also Present: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs B Stump – Jnr. Clerical Officer
2 Members of the public; 1 Member of the Press

C.79–11.13 APOLOGIES

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

C.80–11.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C.81–11.13 DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

C.82–11.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident voiced her concern about Councillor comments she felt disparaging made in respect of a recent application for a trading license for a snack bar in the High Street. The Mayor reported that Ledbury Town Council, as a consultee, had recommended to object to the application and that subsequently Herefordshire Council had decided against the licence application.

C.83–11.13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

C.84–11.13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Town Mayor, Councillor Terry Widdows gave a verbal report on his mayoral activities since the last meeting and circulated a list of functions attended. During the month under review, he had met pupils from John Masefield High School, explaining the role the Mayor and Town Council plays in decision making in the community. The Mayor also appraised the Council of the Remembrance Parade arrangements for Sunday, 10th November and the Christmas Lights Switch On event on Saturday, 30th November 2013.

C.85–11.13 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

1. Cllr E Harvey, Chairman of the Town Plan Steering Group presented the report by Griff Holliday, Acting Secretary of the Ledbury Town Plan, highlighting the Group's activities since the last meeting, in particular the recent distribution of the Household Questionnaires.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

2. Members received the Minutes of the Town Plan Steering Group meeting held on 22nd October, 2013, a copy 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.86–11.13 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Ward Member Councillor P Bettington gave a verbal report, fearing that funding to the CAB will be cut by Herefordshire Council resulting in the possible loss of Ledbury's service and hoped to be able to receive more information at Herefordshire Council's Finance meeting on 21st November 2013.

Councillor E Harvey presented her written report on activities at county level and drew Members' attention to the possibility of further cuts to services. She advised that Herefordshire Council has commenced an online public consultation on its Budget and Services in 2014 which is an opportunity for the public and Councils to have their say and be recorded as having done so. A Notice of Motion to Full Council on 18th October ensured the County Council's response to the consultation on Fire Service cover in Herefordshire ensures that approval by Full Council is required before it is submitted to the Fire Authority in January. Individual responses to the consultation as well as LTC's response was encouraged. Herefordshire Council has offered one full day's free parking in the run up to Christmas, although possible sponsorship by, perhaps, the supermarkets or Council could be considered.

Councillor P Watts sent his apologies for non attendance at the meeting.

C.87–11.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October, 2013 copies having been circulated.

Referring to E.57-10.13 – Cllrs were requested to inform the Clerk by Friday, 8th November of any questions for Inspector Paul Crumpton, Lead Officer of Ledbury Safer Neighbourhood Team who would be attending the next Environment & Leisure Committee (E & L) meeting.

Referring to E.59-10-13 1. – The Clerk had taken legal advice about the Closed Churchyard wall and was investigating further via Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and the Diocese.

Referring to E.60-10.13 – It was reported that a quote for maintenance to trees on Deer Park had been received and would be discussed at the next meeting of the E&L Committee.

Referring to item E.63-10.13 – Herefordshire CCTV, Cllr Eager advised the Council that the CCTV cameras will be recording for evidence, but not monitored.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council writes to Herefordshire Council asking what measures they are taking to attract funding to maintain the CCTV service.

VOTING: Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.53-10.13 to E.66-10.13, be received and noted and that the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous.

C.88–11.13 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 17th October, 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

Referring to F.52-10.13, Cllr Jupp proposed that the resolution on Herefordshire Council's service cuts be sent back to Committee in light of lack of information received.

RESOLVED: That the resolution be brought before the next Finance & General Purposes meeting.

VOTING: For: 15
Abstentions: 1

RESOLVED: That the Minutes F.45-10.13 to F.55-10.13 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous.

2. Public Toilet Closure

Members were circulated with a letter from M Field, Chairman of Ledbury Rural Parishes Cluster Group. There followed a lengthy discussion about the merits of the Town Council taking on the Church Lane toilets for the interim period until the end of March 2014. The costs, it is believed, would be approximately £4,000. Cllr Jupp suggested the Council give Herefordshire Council the money for them to keep the toilets open until the end of March, allowing more time for the Council to gather information about the asset liability implications and costs of permanently taking responsibility for the toilets.

RESOLVED: That Ledbury Town Council takes on the management of the Church Lane toilets for the interim period, that is, until 31st March 2014.

A named vote was taken

VOTING: For: 8
A Conway A Crowe
D Durham M Eager
L Fieldhouse K Francis
E Harvey C Ridler
Against 7
R Barnes A Bradford
C Jupp J Roberts
T Widdows P Winter
R Yeoman
Abstentions 1
P Bettington

Following the vote, Cllr Jupp suggested that all those Councillors who had voted in favour of assuming responsibility for the management of the Church Lane toilets should form a Working

Party to look into their funding and the management implications. Cllr Jupp also expressed concern about further disbursement of money to maintain services which are presently the responsibility of Herefordshire Council.

RESOLVED: 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.

A named vote was taken.

VOTING:	For	13
	R Barnes	P Bettington
	A Bradford	A Conway
	A Crowe	D Durham
	L Fieldhouse	C Jupp
	C Ridler	J Roberts
	T Widdows	P Winter
	R Yeoman	
	Against	3
	M Eager	K Francis
	E Harvey	

C.89–11.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Councillor C Ridler, Chairman of the Economic Development & Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October, 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes P.48-10 to P.57-10 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING:	For	15
	Abstentions	1

2. Free Parking – Cllr E Harvey

Cllr Harvey had requested of Herefordshire Council three days' free car parking in Ledbury in the run up to Christmas. One free days' parking had been offered, conditional to it being associated with an event. It was felt that the Christmas Lights Switch On of 30th November would be too early for traders to benefit, however, it was suggested that the traders organise an event nearer to Christmas. Cllr Crowe thanked Cllr Harvey for her efforts in securing this day's free parking and would engage with Ledbury's traders. This did not

preclude sponsorship (at £745) being sought from, say, Tesco or Co-op supermarkets, or combined traders.

RESOLVED: That free parking be requested on Saturday, 21st December.

VOTING: Unanimous.

C.90-11.13 COMMITTEE MATTERS

To appoint Cllr D Durham to two committees.

RESOLVED: That Cllr D Durham be appointed to serve on the Environment & Leisure, and Economic Development & Planning Committees.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.91-11.13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members were circulated with a report of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meeting held on 1st October.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

C.92-11.13 LEDBURY COMMUNITY & HERITAGE REGENERATION PROJECT (LCHRP)

Members were advised that representatives of the LCHRP would be attending the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 21st November 2013.

C.93-11.13 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Winter gave a brief report on the latest meeting of the Emma Russell Foundation at John Masefield High School. There had been two applicants for funding, and two were granted. For the third year running the sponsorship has taken a student through to University.

Cllr Francis told Members of a recent conference organised by HALC on parish council insurance. It is understood that HALC are trying to arrange another such meeting and Councillors were encouraged to attend. He advised that he would present a written report on the HALC seminar and AGM to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

Members were advised that the next HALC Eastern Area meeting would be held at 7.30pm on 10th December at the Lady Emily Village Hall at Tarrington where the speakers will be Keith Wildig, about the Ledbury Fire Station consultation; and Keith Lloyd, Operations Manager at Balfour Beatty.

C.94–11.13 CORE STRATEGY CHALLENGE GROUP

The Town Mayor gave a progress report on the activities of the group, advising that timing for the publication of the statutory notice which will trigger a further six-week consultation period before the deposit of the proposed Core Strategy with the Secretary of State for examination, was still not known. A meeting of the group will be called when this information becomes available.

He reminded members that the challenge would be in respect of the consultation process and that the Town Council would need to submit a summary of evidence to that effect. Councillors were asked to feed in any evidence they might hold in order to build up a case log.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Ledbury Town Council representatives be authorised to take the lead on the matter on behalf of the Council and report back with any news.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.95–11.13 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

C.96–11.13 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 8

Cllr Winter asked whether the Mayor could investigate whether there is any legal reason why the Closed Churchyard wall could not be replaced by a post and wire system. The Town mayor replied that he would look into it.

C.97–11.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th December 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.22 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....