

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON
THURSDAY 30th MAY 2013
IN TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Present: Councillor C Jupp - Chairman
Councillors P Bettington A Bradford
M Eager K Francis
E Harvey T Widdows
P Winter R Yeoman

Also present: K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council

F.06 - 05.13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors R Barnes and P Watts.

F.07 - 05.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

F.08 - 05.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

F.09 - 05.13 MINUTES

1. The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4th April, 2013, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9th May, 2013, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

F.10 - 05.13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. Summary of Receipts and Payments

Members were circulated with a Summary of Receipts and Payments from 1st April to 21st May 2013.

RESOLVED: That the summary be approved and adopted.

2. Invoices for payment

Members considered a list of invoices for payment.

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

3. Unspecified Grants

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS – Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED: That due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it is requested that the public and press are excluded during discussion of the following agenda item on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be disclosed.

Refer EX13/13 E.2

Members considered a grant application from Out to Play (OTP)

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to grant £520 to Out to Play Group.

The meeting returned to open session.

4. Funding for the Town Plan.

Councillor Harvey reported that the Town Plan Steering Group's Awards for All bid had been rejected as it had been submitted in parallel with the Town Council's bid for Outdoor Fitness equipment and that therefore it would not be possible to submit another bid until early 2014. In light of this information she requested that the committee consider funding for the combined Town Plan and Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. She also advised that there would be benefits and efficiencies in merging together the Town Plan Steering Group and Neighbourhood Plan Working Party which current run as single projects and that the idea was to be discussed by both working groups.

The Chairman advised that the Town Council budget for both project currently comprised £14,363.

Members generally felt that the earmarked funds should be used for the purpose of the questionnaire and that should further funds be required, then discussion would take place at an appropriate time.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended in principle, to allow a spend of up to £10,000 for the questionnaire, and that further discussion take place when more detailed costings and budget figures are available for the joint project.

F.11 - 05.13 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Review of Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations within Herefordshire Unitary Council Area. 1st October 2013 - 31st January 2015

Members were circulated with a letter from Herefordshire Council relating to the above review inviting comments on existing facilities and suggestions for possible new venues.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to strongly object to the use of any school in the area on that grounds that it is too disruptive to school life and that it poses safeguarding issues. Mobile polling stations should be used in any ward where a Hall is not available.

F.12 - 05.13 DEVOLVED SERVICES

Members were advised that Herefordshire Council is proposing to discuss 'service delivery' with the Town Council and is suggesting a meeting with a sub-group of Councillors to explore opportunities and gauge interest in the project.

The Committee was requested to consider setting up a sub-group of members to attend an initial meeting in June, and that at least two of the members should also be ward members.

Discussion followed on the type of services that the Town Council might be invited to take over, including street cleaning, emptying of bins, public conveniences and maintenance of green spaces.

Cllr M Eager left the meeting at 7.45pm.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to discuss the matter at a special Full Council meeting and that in the meanwhile clarification be sought from Herefordshire Council on the type of services it would wish to devolve.

It was further **RESOLVED:** That the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and ward members attend the initial meeting with Herefordshire Council Officers and report back their findings at the next Full Council meeting.

F.13 - 05.13 REGISTRATION SERVICE

The Clerk advised that as from 31st August 2013, Herefordshire Council will no longer conduct marriage or civil partnership ceremonies in the Town Council Offices.

Members then discussed the idea of taking on the approved premises licence for the remainder of the licence period, to September 2014.

RESOLVED: That further information be obtained and presented to Full Council for further discussion.

F.14 - 05.13 NEWSLETTER

The following matters were suggested for inclusion in the August newsletter page:-

- Welcome from the Town Mayor
- Town and Neighbourhood Plans
- Fitness equipment on Recreation Ground
- Outstanding items from last edition

RESOLVED: That a draft be put together for approval at Full Council.

F.15 - 05.13 LOCALISATION OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

Members were circulated with a response, received via Bill Wiigin MP, from Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in response to the Town Council’s letter expressing its disapproval of the last-minute change in policy regarding the localisation of council tax support. (Refer F.107 – 04.13)

RESOLVED: That the letter be noted.

F.16 - 05.13 OUTSIDE BODIES

Members received a report from Market Towns Forum meeting held on 10th April, 2013, as prepared by Cllr C Ridler, together with the Minutes from the same meeting.

The Clerk was asked to request further information on the scheme developed by Cllr. MacCaul (Leominster) regarding low start mortgages for young people.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

F.17 - 05.13 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The following correspondence was received:-

- Notes from the Ledbury Fairtrade Town Steering Group meeting held on 24th April, 2013.
- News Release – Letter from Alistair Neill, Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council.

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

F.18 - 05.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee will be confirmed at the Annual Council meeting on 25th July 2013.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman Date