

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
of the Environment & Leisure Committee
held on Thursday 16th October, 2014

Present: Councillor: M Eager - Chairman
Councillors: R Barnes P Bettington
A Bradford A Conway
C Jupp J Roberts
C Stallard-Daniels T Widdows
R Yeoman

In attendance: Councillor: E Harvey
Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman - Deputy Clerk to the Council
1 member of the public
1 member of the press

E.44-10.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors A Crowe, K Francis C Ridler and P Winter.

E.45-10.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

E.46-09.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Doran asked the Herefordshire Council Ledbury Ward Councillors if they could obtain a grass cutting schedule from Balfour Beatty in order for the town to be better prepared for 2015.

E.47-10.14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September, 2014 copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

E.48-10.14 LENGTHMAN'S SCHEME

Members received a briefing paper (guidance notes) from Herefordshire Council outlining a new lengthsman scheme for 2015/16. Following a balanced and lively debate, it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to agree in principle to apply for the core funding element of the basic Lengthsman scheme and that the enhanced scheme be further investigated.

E.49-10.14 GREEN SPACES - Community-led Planning

Members considered a paper prepared by Councillors Harvey and Widdows, which had previously been presented to the Greenspaces Liaison Group on 6th October, 2014 regarding maintenance and possible adoption of green spaces, parks, public areas and floral displays in Ledbury. Members considered the propositions contained within the report and a lengthy debate ensued, including discussion about the standard of existing maintenance being delivered by Balfour Beatty and how this might be better achieved if the Town Council were to take on additional maintenance responsibilities.

Given the current economic climate, there was concern about taking on additional responsibilities and the effect a rise in the precept would have on tax payers of the town.

It was generally agreed that further information was required to enable the Town Council to look at all the options and understand the cost implications of taking on additional responsibilities.

RESOLVED: That Ledbury Town Council be recommended to approve the recommendation contained in the discussion paper, as follows:

That in addition to the ward councillors' existing action to review the BBLP grass cutting database, a meeting of green spaces stakeholders is arranged to discuss the detail of the requirement from the town's perspective for the coming year.

In addition, that Herefordshire Council be approached to investigate whether an income generating asset could be given to the Town Council to help meet costs.

E.50-10.14 TOWN PLAN

Members were asked to consider how the Environment & Leisure Committee might wish to engage with the current action planning phase of the Town Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Town Plan working party present draft proposals relevant to the Committee as they emerge through the action planning process.

E.51-10.14 BUDGET 2015/16

Members considered the first draft of the budget required by the Environment and Leisure Committee for 2015/16. Each budget line was examined and highlighted for change or for further consideration at the next meeting. New budget lines were added for the Lengthsman Scheme and Green Spaces - Maintenance.

E.52-10.14 WORKING PARTIES

1. Recreation Ground

Councillor Eager presented the report from the meeting held on the 30th September 2014 (copies having been circulated) highlighting the plans to improve the area.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and that the Town Council be recommended to approve the recommendations contained therein.

2. Christmas Lights

The Chairman presented the report from the meeting held on the 14th July 2014, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

E.53-10.14 OUTSIDE BODIES

1. PACT

Members received the report of the meeting held on 6th October, 2014.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

2. Greenspaces Liaison Group

Councillor Eager presented the report of the meeting held on 6th October, 2014, copies having been circulated and expressed his disappointment in the low attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

E.54-10.14 CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

E.55-10.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 20th November, 2014

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24pm

Chairman Date