

**LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of**  
**Ledbury Town Council**  
**held on**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 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	C Stallard Daniels
P Winter	R Yeoman

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

**C.62 - 10.13 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors L Fieldhouse, J Roberts and M Roberts.

**C.63 - 10.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**C.64 - 10.13 DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

**C.65 - 10.13 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A local resident and member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party commended the proposal to engage consultants to help with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Ledbury. He outlined the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan, stressing how it was of critical importance and a great opportunity for Ledbury to shape its own future.

**C.66 - 10.13 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 and reconvened on the 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chairman.

**C.67 - 10.13 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Terry Widdows presented a written report on his mayoral activities since the last meeting, copies having been circulated to members.

He reported that following the presentation by PLK Properties at the last meeting (refer C.40 – 08.13) the Town Council had sought advice from its solicitor who had advised that in his opinion, the Council does have the power to sell the Recreation Ground provided certain procedures are followed. The Town Mayor stressed that this was from a legal standpoint only and that it would be up to Council members to decide whether it was in the interest of the town to engage in discussion with developers.

The Town Mayor advised that the new Commanding Officer of HMS Ledbury, Lt Cdr Simon Pressdee had given notice of plans for two events he was hoping to take forward, i) to host affiliates whilst docked in Swansea over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November and ii) to exercise the Freedom of the Town in February 2014; dates to be finalised.

The Town Mayor advised that he would write to the Ledbury in Bloom team to congratulate them on their outstanding achievement in gaining another Gold Award for 2013.

**C.68 - 10.13 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN**

1. Mr G Holliday, acting secretary of the Town Plan Steering Group presented a report on the Group's activities since the last meeting.

He advised that following approval, delivery of the household questionnaire would commence from 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

**RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.**

2. Members received the Minutes of the Town Plan Steering Group meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.**

3. Ledbury Town Plan – Household Questionnaire  
Councillor E Harvey, Chairman of the Town Plan Steering Group, presented the household questionnaire for approval. She thanked Councillors for feeding in their comments. Councillor Jupp voiced his concern about the relevancy of some of the questions included.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Plan Household Questionnaire be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: For 14  
Abstentions 1**

**C.69 - 10.13 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Ward member Councillor P Watts circulated a written report focusing on the Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service and possible cuts to front line services including the loss of one of Ledbury's two appliances. He advised that a public consultation would run for 12 weeks starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013.

Councillor E Harvey presented her written report on activities at county level. (Copy to be lodged with the Minutes and posted on the Town Council website) Cllr Harvey drew members' attention to Herefordshire Council's plans for further cuts to services, including the closure of one of the town's two public toilet blocks and reduced opening hours for the Library and Information Centre. She also gave an update on devolved services, The Master's House, Core Strategy, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and unauthorised Traveller encampments.

Councillor P Bettington circulated a written report focusing on the issue of fracking, Malvern Hills AONB data surveys and children's safeguarding.

**C.70 - 10.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE**

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013, copies having been circulated.

Referring to the date: should be corrected to read 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Referring to E.45 Charter Market, 2; the date should be corrected to read ...with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.40-09.13 to E.52-09.13 as corrected, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

2. Members considered a request from Wildplay to hold autumn play sessions on the following dates:-

Recreation Ground

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 3.30-5.30pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1.30-3.30pm
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 11am-3pm

Dog Hill Wood

- 29<sup>th</sup> October 1.30-3.30pm

**RESOLVED: That permission be granted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

It was further **RESOLVED: That the Clerk be given authority to approve any future requests for play sessions on Town Council property.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

## **C.71 - 10.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES**

### **1. Minutes**

Councillor C Jupp, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes F.32-10.13 to F.44-10.13 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

### **2. ICT Working Party**

Members considered the Report from the ICT Working Party meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, copies having been circulated.

**RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

### **3. Newsletter**

Members considered the draft newsletter for inclusion in the November edition of the Ledbury Focus. The following additional items were agreed for inclusion:-

Budget for 2014/15 - Councillor Jupp

Introduction of new Councillor – Derek Durham

**RESOLVED: That the draft Newsletter and additional items be approved for inclusion in the November edition of the Ledbury Focus magazine.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

4. Ceremony Room - Town Council Offices.

The Clerk gave an update on the Town Council's application to take on the approved premises licence for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

**RESOLVED:** That the hire charge for the Ceremony Room be confirmed at £225 per booking, and, that this be reviewed after a six month period.

**VOTING:** For 14  
Abstentions 1

**C.72 - 10.13 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING**

1. Councillor C Ridler, Chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting presented the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes P.30-08.13 to P.37-08.13, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted

**VOTING:** For 14  
Abstentions 1

2. Councillor C Ridler, Chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting presented the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013, copies having been previously circulated.

Referring to P.46, Members were circulated with a report prepared by Councillor Ridler in relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia - Draft Community Engagement Strategy Consultation.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council write in support of the Police Crime and Commissioner's plans for Community Engagement.

**VOTING:** For 14  
Abstentions 1

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes P.38-09.13 to P.47-09.13, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted

**VOTING:** Unanimous

### **C.73 - 10.13 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

1. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, Councillor R Barnes gave a brief summary of progress to date on the plan. He advised that the Working Party had reached a point where it was felt that expert help and advice was needed in order to bring the plan to fruition.

Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council go out to tender to take the Neighbourhood plan forward to completion, including associated costs.

**A named vote was called for. All Members present voted in favour of the proposal.**

**VOTING:** Unanimous

It was further **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk, in consultation with the Town Mayor and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party be given delegated authority to approve any spending within budget limits.

**VOTING:** Unanimous

2. Members were circulated with the Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meetings held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.
3. Members were circulated with the Report from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2013.

**RESOLVED:** That these be noted.

### **C.74 - 10.13 CORE STRATEGY 2011-31**

Hereford City, Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury and Leominster Town Councils have agreed to participate in a challenge to the Core Strategy.

The Town Council is invited to appoint preferably two, maximum three, representatives to serve on the Steering Group.

**RESOLVED: That Councillors T Widdows, C Ridler and A Conway be appointed to serve on the Steering Group.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

**C.75 - 10.13 LEDBURY COMMUNITY ASSET REGENERATION (formerly MAT)**

The Clerk read out an update on the project, provided by the Project Manager, Suzanne Wenczek and issued an invitation for all Councillors to have a guided tour of the Barrett Browning Institute on the following dates and times.

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11am.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.15pm.

**RESOLVED: That this be noted.**

**C.76 - 10.13 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were circulated with a report from the PACT meeting held on 2nd September 2013, as prepared by Councillor C Ridler.

**RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.**

**C.77 - 10.13 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**C.78 - 10.13 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO.8.**

Cllr A Crowe asked the Mayor if he would look into setting up a Youth Council for the town. He replied that he would contact the Head Teacher at John Masefield High School to see if there would be any interest.

Councillor E Harvey asked if the Mayor was concerned that it's possible to have the High Street closed for an event without it being made known to the Town Council. He replied that he did think the Town Council should be notified as a matter of courtesy, but that he did not think that the Town Council should be involved in any organisational matters.

The Town Mayor congratulated Councillor Derek Durham on his recent election to Ledbury Town Council.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.54pm.

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