

**LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**of the Environment & Leisure Committee**  
**held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014**

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**Present:** Councillor: M Eager - Chairman  
Councillors: R Barnes P Bettington (part)  
A Bradford A Conway  
A Crowe D Durham  
K Francis C Ridler  
J Roberts T Widdows  
P Winter R Yeoman

**In attendance:** Councillor A Warmington (part)  
Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council  
Mrs M Bradman - Deputy Clerk to the Council  
1 member of the press

**E.56-11.14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors C Stallard-Daniels and C Jupp.

**E.57-11.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

**E.58-11.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**E.59-11.14 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October, 2014 copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**E.60-11.14 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

The Chairman, Councillor Eager informed members that despite having attended a Balfour Beatty presentation, it still remained unclear exactly what the extended scheme would cover. Members had previously been advised through a briefing paper issued by Herefordshire Council (refer E.48-10.14) that the new scheme was intended to cover works normally associated with Lengthsman responsibilities, i.e. minor highways works (C and U roads), but could also include filling of category 3 and 4 potholes. However, ward Councillors Harvey and Widdows were exploring options with Balfour Beatty to determine whether the new scheme would cover grass cutting on public realm grass

areas under the ownership of Herefordshire Council, such as the Walled Garden and Queen's Walk Garden.

Following a lively debate, it was proposed

**'That the Town Council be recommended to agree in principle to join the 'Extended Lengthsman Scheme'.**

**A named vote was taken**

<b>For:</b>	<b>5</b>	
	<b>Bettington</b>	<b>Conway</b>
	<b>Crowe</b>	<b>Eager</b>
	<b>Widdows</b>	
<b>Against:</b>	<b>8</b>	
	<b>Barnes</b>	<b>Bradford</b>
	<b>Durham</b>	<b>Francis</b>
	<b>Ridler</b>	<b>Roberts</b>
	<b>Winter</b>	<b>Yeoman</b>

**The motion was LOST**

#### **E.61-11.14 DOG HILL WOOD**

The maintenance contract for Dog Hill Wood is due to expire on 31st March, 2015.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Council be recommended to invite formal tenders for the Dog Hill Wood maintenance contract.**

#### **E.62-11.14 GREEN SPACES - DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES**

The Chairman reported that the Council's current amenity area contractor had provided a quotation for grass cutting in the Walled Garden and Queen's Walk Garden. In view of there being so much uncertainty over the scope of the Lengthsman scheme and whether it would cover cuts on the above areas, Members felt that there was insufficient information to be able to make an informed decision.

Cllr Widdows agreed to take away the following questions and to bring back a response in writing:

- 1) Can funding for the extended Lengthsman scheme be used to pay for grass cutting?
- 2) If the answer to the above question is yes, and the Town Council should decide to take on grass cutting in the Walled Garden and Queen's walk Garden, can the cuts that are currently scheduled for these areas under the BB programme be re-distributed elsewhere in the town?

*Councillor A Warmington joined the meeting at this point*

**E.63-11.14 BUDGET 2015/16**

Members considered the second draft of the budget required by the Environment and Leisure Committee for 2015/16.

**E.64-11.14 WORKING PARTIES**

**1. Ledbury Commemoration**

Councillor Eager presented the report from the meeting held on the 27th October 2014

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

**2. Christmas Lights**

The Chairman presented the report from the meeting held on the 3rd November 2014, copies having been circulated.

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

*Councillor P Bettington left the meeting at this point.*

**E.65-11.14 OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports presented.

**E.66-11.14 CORRESPONDENCE**

Councillor Warmington advised the meeting that he had received a letter from a local resident regarding his concern over a heap of cut shrubbery which had been left in the Walled Garden for over a week and the neglected flower bed near to the Korean War Memorial. The Clerk gave the committee an update on the matter advising that it had been dealt with by the office staff and that the rubbish would be removed by the Balfour Beatty street cleaning team.

**E.67-11.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 15th January, 2015.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm

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