

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th JANUARY, 2016**

Present: Councillor: P Bettington – Vice Chairman
Councillors: D Baker R Barnes
A Crowe
M Eager M Eakin
E Harvey E Fieldhouse
K Francis N Morris
J Roberts N Roberts
R Yeoman

In Attendance: Cllr A Bradford
Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman - Deputy Clerk
Gillian Menzies - Herefordshire Tree Forum
Mick Simpson – West Mercia Police

Cllr Bettington advised members that he would be chairing the meeting due to Cllr Eager being unwell.

E.1-01.16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Manns.

E.2-01.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

E.3-01.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

E.4-01.16 HEREFORDSHIRE TREE FORUM NETWORK (HTFN) PRESENTATION

Gillian Menzies Chairman of the HTFN gave a brief overview of the recently reformed Herefordshire network and its member benefits, followed by an informative talk on Ash Dieback. She urged the council to sign up to the network and to appoint a voluntary Tree Warden. An annual subscription of £25 would cover warden training, support, advice, access to the Tree Council website and a hard back tree handbook.

Recommendation to Full Council: To appoint a voluntary Tree Warden and subscribe to the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network for an initial period of one year, at a cost of £25.00.

E.5-01.16 SMARTWATER/'WE DON'T BUY CRIME'

Mr M Simpson of West Mercia Police gave an update on the 'We Don't Buy Crime' initiative. (Refer E.56-11.15)

Members considered a report, copies having been circulated, prepared by Cllr Harvey together with a project overview provided by the lead officer DCI Harding.

Following discussion, members considered a recommendation proposed by Cllr Harvey within her report:

That: *Budget provision of £37,000 be made to undertake this project in 2016. Either as a one-off cost or as £12,500 per annum spread over the next 3 years.*

The proposal was taken in two parts:

1. That budget provision of £37,000 be made to undertake the Smartwater project in 2016, as a one-off cost.

There was no support for this proposal.

2. That budget provision of £37,000 be made to undertake this project in 2016, as £12,500 per annum spread over the next 3 years.

The motion was lost by 9 votes to 4.

E.6-01.16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2015, copies having been previously circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

E.7-01.16 DEVOLVED SERVICES

Members considered a report from the Devolved Services Task & Finish Group meeting held on 25th November 2015, copies having been circulated.

Referring to Recommendations 1 and 3:

1. *Ledbury Town Council should request authority from Herefordshire County Council to assume responsibility for the Grass maintenance of the following areas;- Town Trail/ Queens Walk; Walled Garden and Martins Way play area.*
3. *£15,000 is added to the budget for the purpose of undertaking limited devolved services, ground maintenance, as stated above, and retaining the services of the lengthsman.*

There was some reluctance to take on sole responsibility for the grass cutting on Herefordshire Council owned amenity areas. Discussion ensued regarding sharing of grass cutting with Balfour Beatty in order to achieve financial efficiencies.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the above recommendations be deferred in order to ascertain whether shared maintenance could be achieved.

Referring to Recommendation 2: Members unanimously supported the retention of the Lengthsman scheme.

Recommendation To Full Council: To retain the services of the Lengthsman for a further 12 months.

In view of the decision to defer consideration of Recommendation 1 above, agenda item 6.2 *To consider costs associated with grass cutting in the following areas; Walled Garden, Queens Walk and Town Trail (adjacent to the recreation ground only) was also deferred.*

E.8-01.16 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Christmas Lights

Members were circulated with the report from the meeting held on 2nd December 2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

E.9-01.16 RECREATION GROUND

Members considered the cost associated with replacement full size goal posts on the recreation ground.

Recommendation to Full Council: That the current three quarter size goal posts should remain in place.

E.10-01.16 UPDATES FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on the following matters: Pytel Sculpture, Closed Churchyard Wall, Cemetery Cottage works.

E.11-01.16 CORRESPONDENCE - for information

Members were circulated with copies of three items of correspondence:

- i) Letter dated 16.12.15 CCTV Revenue Funding 2016-17
- ii) Email dated 12.01.16 Parish Briefings invitation BBLP
- iii) Email dated 13.01.16 Dog Hill Wood Coppicing Funding

E.12-01.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee will be held on 11th February, 2016.

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

Chairman Date