

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on
Thursday 2nd October 2014

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor R Barnes, Chairman
A Bradford A Conway
A Crowe D Durham
M Eager K Francis
R Hadley E Harvey
C Jupp J Roberts
C Stallard Daniels T Widdows
P Winter R Yeoman

In Attendance: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman – Deputy Clerk to the Council
4 members of the public; 1 representative of the Press

C.68 - 10.14 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors, P Bettington and C Ridler.

C.69 - 10.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting.

C.70 - 10.14 DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

C.71 - 10.14 PRESENTATION

Gladman Developments - Proposals for residential development of land off Leadon Way, Ledbury.

The Town Mayor reported that Gladman Developments representatives were unable to attend the meeting.

C.72 - 10.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

C.73 - 10.14 MINUTES

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2014, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

C.74 - 10.14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Barnes presented a written report on his mayoral activities between 25th July and 2nd October, copies having been circulated.

C.75 - 10.14 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

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

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

2. Members received a briefing pack containing all of the responses from the Town Plan's household questionnaire, organised to match against each of the Town Council's three Committees and their areas of responsibility. The Town Plan Working Party Chairman, Councillor E Harvey hoped that the data would prove useful in supporting and informing decision making at Committee level and asked that each Committee consider how it might wish to engage with the action planning phase of the Town Plan.

C.76 - 10.14 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Members were circulated with a joint written report from ward Councillors Harvey and Widdows, containing up to date information on the following topics:

- Budget 2015-16
- Street Scene
- Lengthsman Scheme & Devolved Services
- Community action on services – Love Ledbury

A copy of the report is available on the Town Council's website.

Councillor Widdows expressed his disappointment over the breaking news that Ledbury is to lose one of its two retained fire engines as a result of Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service budget cuts. This sentiment was strongly shared amongst Council members.

It was proposed seconded and

unanimously **RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor write a letter of objection to the highest authority.**

C.77 - 10.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Councillor J Roberts, Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September, 2014, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes P.30-09.14 to P.40-09.14, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. Herefordshire Council Consultation

Travellers' sites document – issues and options stage

Members considered a draft response to the above consultation, as prepared by Councillor J Roberts. (refer P.37 - 09.14)

Following a minor amendment to section 7 question 11,

it was **RESOLVED: That the draft response, as amended, be approved for submission to Herefordshire Council.**

VOTING: Unanimous

3. Charter Market Working Party

Members considered a recommendation from the Working Party meeting held on 16th September, to apply for an experimental traffic order to extend the area of the Charter Market for one Tuesday per month.

RESOLVED: That the experimental Traffic Order be applied for.

VOTING: Unanimous

4. Emergency Plan

Members were circulated with a report from the meeting held on 29th July 2014. Councillor Francis expressed his disappointment that the Rest Centre training scheduled for 27th September had been cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Members were advised that a new date would be set in due course.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

C.78 - 10.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September, 2014, copies having been circulated.

i. Referring to E.39-09.14, 2 Lengthsman scheme; The proposal to 'invite Cllr Rone to attend the next Environment & Leisure Committee meeting on 16th October, 2014 to provide further

information on the schemes detailed in his letter' was amended to read...

That, at a later date, and only if necessary, Councillor Rone be invited to attend a meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee to provide further information on the schemes detailed in his letter.

ii. Referring to E.43,2 War Memorial Working Party;

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Mrs Jenny Harrison and Mrs Brenda Hill, thanking them for all their hard work in putting together the WW1 Life in Ledbury Exhibition.

RESOLVED: That the minutes E.34-09.14 to E.49-09.14, as amended, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 14
Abstentions 1**

C.79 - 10.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

1. Minutes

Councillor P Winter, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th September, 2014, copies having been previously circulated.

Referring to F.41-09.14, The closing time of the meeting should be corrected to read 7.51pm.

RESOLVED: That the minutes F.32-09.14 to F.41-09.14, as corrected, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. Approved Premises Licence - Town Council Offices.

Members considered Herefordshire Council's revised charges for Civil wedding ceremonies in the Town Council's ceremony room.

The Clerk advised that the charges under discussion were those payable by the couple directly to Herefordshire Council for the attendance of the Registrar, and did not include the cost of hire of the ceremony room.

The revised charges would see the current discounted rate of £175 (register office rate) rise to be in line with other approved premises venues i.e. £350 for a weekday wedding, £375 a Saturday and £425 for a Sunday or bank holiday. Should the Town Council agree to only offer Saturday weddings then Herefordshire Council could continue to charge the discounted rate of £175, however if the Town Council was to decide to continue offering availability on any day, then the approved premises fees would apply.

Following discussion, it was,

RESOLVED: That Ledbury Town Council continue to allow civil wedding ceremonies to take place in the Town Council Offices on weekdays and weekends.

**VOTING: For 14
Abstention 1**

It was further **RESOLVED: That Herefordshire Council be requested to consider equality of charging across the county so that all venues are charged the same as the Register Office rate.**

**VOTING: For 13
Abstentions 2**

C.80 - 10.14 MASTER'S HOUSE PROJECT

Members considered a request from a member of the public for the Town Council to write to Herefordshire Council concerning the siting of an electricity sub-station between the Master's House and Alms Houses.

There was a consensus of opinion that the installation of the substation was seriously harmful to the setting of the adjacent Master's House, Almshouses and St. Katherine's chapel and hall, all of which are of enormous historic and architectural significance to the history and character of the town.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Herefordshire Council, registering in the strongest terms, Ledbury Town Council's concern over the location and scale of the new electricity substation.

That Western Power be requested to install appropriate screening to improve the visual impact of the substation on the surrounding historic buildings. (copy to Bill Wiggin MP)

VOTING: Unanimous

C.81 - 10.14 LEDBURY PLACES

The Town Mayor gave a brief update on the project confirming that the grant application to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had been submitted and that a decision was expected in January 2015. HLF representatives would be visiting the town later in the month to learn more about the project. Members were advised that Councillors Jupp and Yeoman would be attending a Directors meeting on 9th October 2014.

C.82 - 10.14 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Appointment of Town Council representative to serve on the Ledbury Fairtrade Town Steering Group.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Annette Crowe be appointed as the Town Council's representative.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. Members received the Notes from the Ledbury Fair-trade Town Steering Group meetings held on 28th July and 1st September 2014.

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

C.83 - 10.14 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

Members were advised that an election had been called for to fill the casual vacancy on Ledbury Town Council. The closing date for the receipt of nomination papers is Friday 10th October at 4pm. If contested, the election will take place on Thursday 6th November, 2014.

C.84 - 10.14 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Eager asked the Town Mayor about the Council’s policy for holding meetings in private. The Mayor replied that in the interest of openness and transparency, be believed that meetings should be held in public.

Referring to a letter in the local press, Councillor Widdows asked for clarification about whether the Mayor had been asked to resign. The Mayor replied that he had not been asked to step down and thought that a misunderstanding had arisen due to confusion between the roles of Town Mayor and Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Hadley asked if the Mayor would confirm that he was not asked to resign at a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan working party meeting. He replied that he had been requested to consider his position as Chairman due to his mayoral role and a possible conflict of interests.

C.85 - 10.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 6th November 2014.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35p.m.

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