

**LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of**

**Ledbury Town Council**

**held on**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

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**Present:** Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor T Widdows, Chairman

R Barnes	A Bradford
A Conway	A Crowe
D Durham	M Eager
K Francis	R W Hadley
C Jupp	C Ridler
J Roberts	C Stallard Daniels
P Winter	R Yeoman

**In Attendance:** Mrs R Blandford - Clerical Officer  
Mrs B Stump - Clerical Officer  
6 Members of the public

**C.142-03.14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors P Bettington, E Harvey and M Roberts.

**C.143-03.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Personal Interests were declared:

Councillors	K W Francis - C.153 Member of the Civic Society
	A Conway - C.153 Trustee Civic Society
	J Roberts - C.153 Trustee Barrett Browning Institute

**C.144-03.14 DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

**C.145-03.14 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A local resident queried whether certain Councillors should have declared an interest at the recent Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held to consider matters relating to the Ledbury Places Project. The Town Mayor explained that the onus was on individual Councillors to identify their own interests at meetings. The resident also asked if the project should be put to the people of Ledbury, via a Parish Meeting and Parish Poll, for them to have their say as the owners of these Public Buildings, especially with the proposal for disabled access to the Market House.

The Town Mayor responded that the Town Council would look at all the options when the feasibility study was completed and consult with residents, when the project became a reality.

**C.146–03.14 MINUTES**

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2014, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**C.147–03.14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Terry Widdows, gave a verbal report on his mayoral activities since the last meeting. He thanked the ladies who had provided the marvellous catering during the weekend of the visit by the crew of HMS Ledbury. This was endorsed by Councillor Keith Francis who said how much the sailors had enjoyed their home cooked meal. Councillor Francis also wished to express thanks to Councillors, staff and members of the public for all the hard work which had made the weekend such a success.

The Mayor also welcomed newly elected Councillor Rich Hadley to the Council and thanked him and the other candidates for standing for election. The Mayor informed Members that following recent interviews, a new Deputy Clerk had been appointed.

**C.148–03.14 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN**

1. Mr Griff Holliday, Acting Secretary of the Ledbury Town Plan Steering Group, presented his report on the group's activities since the last meeting, copies having been previously circulated.

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

2. Members received the Minutes of the Town Plan Steering Group meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014, copies having been previously circulated.

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

**VOTING: Unanimous**

**C.149–03.14 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Councillor P Bettington, in his absence, had issued a written report, copies of which had been circulated. Councillor Eager referred to Councillor Bettington's request, at a previous meeting, that a letter be written to Balfour Beatty thanking them for clearing the drain on Worcester Road to alleviate the flooding in that area. Councillor Eager remarked that perhaps this had been a little hasty as with more recent rain, the flooding was as bad as ever.

Councillor E Harvey, also in her absence, had sent a written report: Councillors wished to congratulate her on her information gathering. Referring to Public Toilets; members commented that other Market Towns in Herefordshire had been offered the management and income from their car parks to offset costs of taking on devolved services, but that this had not been an option for Ledbury.

Councillor Bradford commended the Council for keeping its precept increase at below 2%. Councillor Winter thanked both the Clerk and the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for guiding the Council through a very difficult budget.

### **C.150–03.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE**

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014, copies having been circulated.
  - i. Referring to E.93 - 02.14 Apologies, Councillor Francis' name should be added.
  - ii. Referring to E.100.02.13 - WWI Centenary, A meeting has been arranged for 18th March 2014.
  - iii. Referring to E.101.02.14 Correspondence, Herefordshire Council's Parks Manager has confirmed that a Licence to occupy/manage areas was the best way forward; details to follow. Ledbury in Bloom is also arranging a meeting to identify which flower beds should be taken on.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.93-02.14 to E.103-02.14, as amended, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

### **C.151–03.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES**

1. Councillor C Jupp, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014, copies having been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes F.78-02.14 to F.90-02.14 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

## 2. Draft Newsletter

Members considered a copy of the proposed newsletter content, copies having been circulated. The Mayor brought to Members' attention that photographs of the HMS Ledbury Freedom Parade and an introduction to new Councillor, Rich Hadley, were yet to be added.

**RESOLVED: That the newsletter as presented, with the inclusion of additional items, as detailed above, be approved and published in the April edition of the Ledbury Focus.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

**C.152-03.14 COMMITTEE MATTERS****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. Councillor C Ridler, Chairman of the Economic Development & Planning Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th February 2014, copies having been previously circulated.

## i. Referring to P.82 -02.14, 2 Car Parking

Members were unhappy with Herefordshire Council's decision to implement evening charges until 10.00pm. It was suggested that Ledbury Town Council write to Herefordshire Council expressing its dissatisfaction in the strongest possible terms. It was felt that this measure penalised those town centre residents who use the car park for overnight parking and would only serve to drive them to use on-street parking. The Town Mayor disassociated the Town Council from inappropriate comments made during this discussion.

**RESOLVED: That a strongly worded letter be written to Herefordshire Council objecting to parking charges being extended until 10.00 pm.**

**VOTING: Unanimous**

## ii. Referring to P.82 - 2.14 &amp; P.83-02.14Traffic Management

As Councillors had only received the information at the meeting, they felt they would need extra time to read and consider before reaching a decision on the matters before them.

Members were requested to email the Chairman or Clerk with any thoughts within the next seven days; these would then be sent back to the next Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting, when final recommendations could be made and sent to Herefordshire Council.

**RESOLVED:** That P.82-2.14 & P.83-2.14 Traffic Management be referred back to the next Economic Development & Planning Committee meeting and that the Committee be given delegated authority to respond.

**VOTING:** For 14  
Against 1

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes P.76- 02.14 to P.85-02.14, as amended, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING:** For 13  
Against 1  
Abstentions 1

#### **C.153–03.14 LEDBURY PLACES PROJECT**

Councillors Barnes and Conway gave an update on the Ledbury Places Project. The Steering Group is about to be dissolved and a new charity company formed for which Ledbury Town Council is invited to select two representative members. A suggestion was made that the Clerk should be one of these to keep continuity. Councillors agreed that legal advice be sought when the Articles of Association are produced, and that the Town Council be involved with the writing of the Constitution. This should be done by those with experience of the formation of Companies and that the Council should not commit until it had seen the legal documentation. The new company, once formed, would be profit making and this would be ploughed back into the buildings concerned.

Questions were asked about why there were no members of the public involved in the proposed new company and why there were only two representatives of Ledbury Town Council proposed, when the Council owned the majority of the buildings. Once the Company is formed then new members could be invited to join: it was requested that clarification be sought as to whether there should be three Town Council representatives on the new company and what the rationale was behind the decision to allocate two representatives to the Town Council.

Councillor Francis requested that the 'Ledbury Places Project' be a regular item on future Full Council Agendas and that a written report by a representative be given at each meeting. As much information as possible should be made available to Councillors at the next Full Council meeting to help them make an informed decision.

**RESOLVED: That the Ledbury Places Project becomes a regular item on future Full Council agendas with written reports by its representatives.**

**VOTING: For 11  
Abstentions 4**

#### **C.154-03.14 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

##### Public Conveniences

Herefordshire Council has invited the Town Council to comment on whether it has a preference for which of the public toilet blocks, i.e. Church Lane or Bye Street, should remain open after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

For reasons of tourism and convenience for market traders and the general public, it was thought that Church Lane toilets were the favoured toilets to remain open. It was also felt that Bye Street toilets could more successfully be "mothballed" until such time as funding becomes available and they might be reopened. Councillor Francis felt strongly that both toilets should remain open.

**RESOLVED: That Ledbury Town Council express its preference for the public conveniences in Church Lane to be kept open.**

**VOTING: For 8  
Against 4  
Abstentions 3**

#### **C.155-03.14 COMMITTEE MATTERS**

Appointment of Councillor R Hadley to serve on the Town Council's Committees

**RESOLVED: That Councillor R Hadley be appointed to serve on the Economic Development & Planning Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee.**

**VOTING : For 14  
Abstentions 1**

**C.156–03.14 OUTSIDE BODIES**

## 1. Ledbury Twinning Association

Councillor Jupp reported that the Mayor of Strömstad would be visiting Ledbury on 4th April 2014.

**C.157–03.14 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

A copy of Clerks and Councils Direct is available to read in the office.

**C.158–03.14 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 8**

1. Councillor Eager asked the Town Mayor if he had any answer to his question from the last meeting as to why other Council's can hold private meetings but not Ledbury. The Mayor replied that he had not received an answer from the Council involved and was also seeking legal advice and would update the Council when this was received.
2. Councillor Crowe asked if there had been any progress with the setting up of a Ledbury Youth Council. The Mayor replied that he had been in touch with the School and that he would follow up to move things along.

**C.159–03.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

At the request of the Mayor, members considered moving the next scheduled Full Council meeting from 10th to 17th April.

**RESOLVED: That the next Full Council meeting be rescheduled to take place on 17th April 2014.**

**VOTING: For 12  
Against 2  
Abstentions 1**

With the resulting change of date, Councillor Eager gave his apologies for the next Full Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

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