

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on Thursday 3rd December 2015
in The Market House, Ledbury

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor A Crowe, Chairman

D Baker	R Barnes
P Bettington	M Eager
M Eakin	E Fieldhouse
K Francis (part)	A Harrison
E Harvey	M Mackness
N Morris	J Roberts
N Roberts	A Warmington
R Yeoman.	

In attendance: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman – Deputy Clerk to the Council
Six members of the public

C.91 - 12.15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr A Manns; Cllr Francis had informed the office that he may be late.

C.92 - 12.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C.93 - 12.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident read a prepared statement in respect of P.79-11.15 (Economic Development & Planning Committee 5.11.2015) relating to a Stopping Up Order on land adjoining 15 Bridge Street, Ledbury.

C.94 - 12.15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October, 2015, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record with an amendment to change the venue from the Market House to the Methodist Hall, and were signed by the Chairman.

C.95 - 12.15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. The Town Mayor reported on her mayoral activities since the last meeting. She announced the sudden death of former Ledbury Town Councillor Derek Durham and informed the meeting that Cllr Francis would say a few words in remembrance of Mr Durham when he joined the meeting.

C.96 - 12.15 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

Mr G Holliday, acting secretary of the Town Plan Working Party, presented a report, copies having been circulated, on the group's activities since the last meeting. Members were informed that an inaugural meeting of the Ledbury Youth Council to establish the group would be held on 9th December, 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

C.97 - 12.15 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Ledbury ward Councillors Harvey and Warmington presented their reports on activities at county level. (Copies available on the Town Council's website).

C.98 - 12.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Councillor E Harvey, Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 5th November, 2015, copies having been circulated.

Referring to P.76-11.15, Appeal Hearing,

it was **RESOLVED: That Councillors Harvey, Warmington and Crowe liaise to decide who will attend the hearing depending on their availability.**

**VOTING: For 14
Abstentions 1**

Referring to P.79-11.15, 1 following receipt of additional information members reconsidered the following recommendation:

That the Town Council does not support the 'Stopping-up' Order due to it being a loss of green space/public amenity.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation be rejected and, that the Council offer no objection to the progression of the 'Stopping-up' Order.

**VOTING: For 11
Abstentions 4**

RESOLVED: That the minutes P.70-11.15 to P.83-11.15, as amended, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted as amended.

VOTING: For 14
Abstentions 1

C.99 - 12.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2015, copies having been circulated.

Cllr Francis joined the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED: That the minutes E.53-11.15 to E.67-11.15, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: For 13
Abstentions 3

C.100 - 12.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

Councillor A Harrison, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th November, 2015, copies having been previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes F.56-11.15 to F.69-11.15, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: For 14
Abstentions 2

Councillor Francis paid tribute to ex-Councillor Derek Durham and spoke of his contribution to the Town Council and local community. Members observed a minute silence.

C.101 - 12.15 INSURANCE

Members considered a comparison between three insurance companies for the council's general insurance cover.

RESOLVED: That the quotation from Zurich Insurance Company is approved for a one year period, commencing 18th December 2015, in the sum of £6,179.93.

VOTING: For 12
Against 3
Abstentions 1

C.102 - 12.15 NOTICE OF MOTION 3/2015

Proposed by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Warmington.

“The task of running a parish council is getting tougher. Responsibilities are increasing and pressure on staff and councillors to do more is evident. We have a responsibility to our staff and to the community we serve to ensure we are giving ourselves realistic workloads and, in delivering on these, that we are working well with one another and with others to do a good job.

We are not alone in facing these challenges– other councils across the country and within the county are asking themselves similar questions. It’s nearly 10 years since this council last undertook a review of our operation – the time is right to look again.

This notice of motion proposes:

- i. That this council agrees to invest in a professional review of all aspects of our operation to be undertaken in 2016 and implemented in 2017.*
- ii. That in preparation for this initiative, councillors and staff will work with professional advisors and with local stakeholders to produce a strategic vision for the town council. This document shall then inform the requirement for the more detailed review.*
- iii. That this review will consider workloads and working practices locally, best practice elsewhere and will make recommendations to ensure the council’s operation is robust to future demands for the coming 10 years.*
- iv. That appropriate provision be made in the 2016-17 budget for this review.”*

Following a lengthy debate, the Notice of Motion was amended to remove items ii and iii on the understanding that these be scoped out and re-presented to the Town Council at a future meeting.

A named vote was taken on the Motion, as amended:

- i. That this council agrees to invest in a professional review of all aspects of our operation to be undertaken in 2016 and implemented in 2017.**
- iv. That appropriate provision be made in the 2016-17 budget for this review.**

VOTING:**For (11)**

R Barnes	A Crowe
M Eager	E Fieldhouse
K Francis	A Harrison
E Harvey	M Mackness
N Morris	A Warmington
R Yeoman	

Against (1)

P Bettington

Abstentions (4)

D Baker

M Eakin

J Roberts

N Roberts

The Motion was carried.

It was RESOLVED: That an extraordinary Full Council meeting be held in January 2016 to debate re-structuring of the Council.

VOTING:

For	8
Against	7
Abstentions	1

C.103 - 12.15 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT.

1. To consider the recommendations of the working group set up to review the following documents:
 - i. Standing Orders
 - ii. Financial Regulations
 - iii. Code of Conduct
2. To consider delegation of authority to Town Council Committees (subject to Full Council agreeing draft Terms of Reference put forward by each Committee).

In view of the lateness of the hour it was agreed that the above agenda items be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

C.104 - 12.15 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members were presented with a report outlining how the plan will move forward following the dissolution of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party at the Full Council meeting held on 29th October, 2015.

RESOLVED: That the report be approved and adopted.

VOTING:

For	11
Against	4
Abstentions	1

C.105 - 12.15 LEDBURY PLACES PROJECT

There was no report available.

C.106 - 12.15 OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Appointment of representatives to serve on the following outside bodies:

- Market Town Forum (Cllr Mackness standing down)
- Ledbury Children’s Centre Advisory Board

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Eager be appointed to serve on the Market Towns Forum.

**VOTING: For 12
Abstentions 4**

That Councillor D Baker be appointed to serve on the Ledbury Children's Centre Advisory Board.

VOTING: Unanimous

2. Councillor Francis gave a brief report from a meeting of the HALC Executive Committee held on 18th November, 2015, copies having been circulated.

C.107 - 12.15 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Members were circulated with a list of general correspondence received in the office.

C.108 - 12.15 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR

There were no questions.

C.109 - 12.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 28th January, 2016.

The meeting was closed at 9.58pm.

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