

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on Thursday 29th September 2016
in The Community Hall, Ledbury

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor D Baker, Chairman
 R Barnes A Bradford
 A Crowe M Eager
 M Eakin E Fieldhouse
 K Francis A Harrison
 E Harvey N Morris
 J Roberts N Roberts
 A Warmington R Yeoman

In attendance: Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council
 Mrs J Jupp, Receptionist
 18 Members of the Public, Police and Press.

C.108 - 09.16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor A Manns.

C.109 - 09.16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Yeoman declared a non-pecuniary interest at Item 2 of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes (refer F.72–09.16,2).

Cllr Francis declared a pecuniary interest at Items 1, 3 and 6.1 of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes (refer F.72 – 09.16, 1,3,6.1)

Cllrs Harrison and Harvey declared a non-pecuniary interest at Item 6.3 of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes (refer F.72 – 09.16, 6.3)

Cllr Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes (refer F.78 – 09.16).

Cllr Barnes declared a non-pecuniary interest at Item 12 of the agenda Notice of Motion 3/2016.

C.110 - 09.16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two local residents spoke about wheel chair access in the Town, highlighting drop kerb access into public buildings and uneven pavements. The Mayor advised that the issue should be raised at the next meeting of the Traffic Management Group.

A local resident queried whether the costs for Cllr Harvey's challenge to the Ledbury Town Council Accounts 2015 -16 could be borne by the Cllr if there was found to be no substance in the challenge. The

Clerk said she believed that such costs would not be borne by an individual but by the Town.

The local resident said that it was distressing that further costs, for legal action to protect staff from harassment, would need to be borne by the Town. Steps should be taken to avoid this situation again.

Four local residents spoke with regard to Item 12 of the Agenda Notice of Motion 3/2016 and offered different views about the existence of racism in the town. (C.119-09.16 refers). One read out a statement and urged all Councillors to support the Notice of Motion as a positive message.

C.111 – 09.16 MINUTES

Referring to C.98 - 07.16, it was reported that the Town Council website was indeed secure and that the comments made by Cllr Harvey as to its vulnerability had been incorrect.

The Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21st July 2016 were approved as an accurate record.

C.112 - 09.16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Mayor reported that she had attended the opening of the Artistree Gallery, Ledbury Carnival, the unveiling of the Pytel Sculpture, her Civic Service and the Queen's 90th Birthday Party celebration for approximately 100 local senior citizens.

The Mayor also highlighted her attendance at the 'Dying to Drive' initiative, to raise road safety awareness amongst young people.

The Mayor announced with regret the resignation with immediate effect of Cllr Bettington; the Mayor expressed her best wishes.

The Mayor advised that she had received emails/correspondence from three local residents and Callie Bradley, West Mercia Police.

The Mayor announced that Ledbury's 28th Casualty of WW1 was Mervyn Whittenbury Smith Private 2669 51st Battalion Australian Infantry Forces who died on Friday 3 September 1916 age 31.

The Value for the Month was Responsibility.

C.113 - 09.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr Yeoman presented a report of the Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting held on 8 August 2016 on communications, consultations and policies. He highlighted the recommendation to submit the draft plan for a pre submission check.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.114 - 09.16 COMMITTEE MATTERS - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Cllr R Barnes, Chairman of the Economic Development & Planning Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2016, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes P.68-08.16 to P.75-08.16 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 11
Abstentions 4**

2. Cllr Barnes Chairman of the Economic Development & Planning Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2016, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes P.76-09.16 to P.88-09.16 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 11
Abstentions 4**

C.115 - 09.16 COMMITTEE MATTERS - ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016, copies having been circulated.

Thanks were expressed to the Events Working Party, which had recently held a party for 100 senior citizens to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Thanks were due to all who helped on the day and to local businesses who made very generous donations of food.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes E.60-09.16 to E.70-09.16 be received and noted, and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 13
Abstentions 2**

2. Members considered the cost of £70.00 for sign writing the Council vehicle (refer E.66-09.16,2)

RESOLVED: That the costs for sign writing in the sum of £70.00 be approved.

**VOTING: For 14
Abstention 1**

C.116 - 09.16 COMMITTEE MATTERS - FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

1. Councillor Rob Yeoman, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2016, copies having been circulated.

Cllr Francis left the meeting at this point.

Referring to F.72 - 09.16 Financial Matters - Invoices for payment, The Clerk advised that item 9 £56.66 was already included within item 8 and therefore would not be paid. The overall total approved for invoices to be paid would therefore be £56.66 less than the figure recorded.

Referring to F.79 - 09.16 Herefordshire Council Budget Consultation for 2017/18 - Cllr Warmington gave his ward members report at this point as it was relevant to the topic under discussion. Councillors were to identify relevant questions from the consultation for consideration.

A discussion took place and specific responses were identified and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the responses identified be submitted to Herefordshire Council.

**VOTING: For 11
Abstentions 3**

The Mayor urged members to individually respond to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes F.68-09.16 to F.82-09.16 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 11
Abstentions 3**

Cllr Francis returned to the meeting at this point.

2. Members considered delegating authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes to approve quotations for replacement lights underneath the Market House.

RESOLVED: That authority be granted for delegation within budget.

**VOTING: For 14
Abstentions 1**

C.117 - 09.16 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members discussed the revised Standards Procedure for dealing with code of conduct complaints, issued by Herefordshire Council, which had been to Cabinet and would be adopted on 1 November 2016.

The following proposals were made and voted on separately:

- (i) That where members were both parish and county councillors that any actions against them should apply to both authorities.

**VOTING: For 9
Against 6**

- (ii) For serious complaints, members should be suspended during any investigation.

**VOTING: For 5
Against 7
Abstentions 3**

- (iii) There should be a right of appeal.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.118 - 09.16 OPERATIONAL REVIEW

It was reported that one meeting of the Task and Finish Group had taken place. A further meeting was scheduled for 17th October 2016.

C.119 - 09.16 NOTICE OF MOTION 3/2016

Proposed by Councillor E Harvey

That: **“This council wishes to state unequivocally that Ledbury welcomes people from all walks of life - and will continue to do so.**

We want Ledbury to be known for being a diverse and tolerant community. Unkind speech and acts of prejudice have no place in our parish

This council continues to promote and celebrate difference and we condemn all forms of racism, xenophobia and hate crime.

We encourage respect for one another in all that we say and do, and wish to reassure all people visiting and living in this area that they are welcome and valued members of our community”

A lengthy discussion took place with a wide range of views expressed.

A named vote was taken.

VOTING:

For: 11	
Baker	Eakin
Fieldhouse	Francis
Harrison	Harvey
Morris	Roberts (J)
Roberts (N)	Warmington
Yeoman	

Against: 1
Eager

Abstentions: 3
Barnes **Bradford**
Crowe.

The Motion was carried.

C.120-09.16 HEREFORDSHIRE CONCILLORS' REPORTS

Deferred to the next meeting. Reports can be viewed on the Ledbury Town Council website

C.121- 09.16 LEDBURY PLACES PROJECT

Deferred to the next meeting.

C122 - 09.16 OUTSIDE BODIES

Deferred to the next meeting.

C.123 - 09.16 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Deferred to the next meeting.

C.124 - 09.16 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Full Council meeting is scheduled to take place on 3 November 2016. (Owing to the Community Hall being used by Herefordshire Council as a Polling Station, the venue is likely to be the Market House).

Cllrs M Eakin, J Roberts and N Roberts left the meeting at 9.40pm

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act, a resolution was passed to exclude the public and press during discussion of the following agenda items. The confidential nature being the consideration of employment matters.

C.125- 09.16 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. Members received the Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 15th September 2016, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes S.7-09.16 to E.10-09.16 be received and noted.

**VOTING: For 6
Against 4
Abstentions 2**

2. Members considered a sensitive staffing matter.

RESOLVED: That the Standing Committee be given delegated authority to recruit a Deputy Clerk following the resignation of Mrs Maria Bradman

**VOTING: For 6
Against 4
Abstentions 2**