

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of
Ledbury Town Council
held on
Thursday 5th February 2015

Present: Councillors: The Town Mayor, Councillor R Barnes, Chairman

P Bettington	A Bradford
A Crowe	M Eager
K Francis	R Hadley
E Harvey	C Jupp
C Ridler	C Stallard Daniels
A Warmington	T Widdows
P Winter	R Yeoman

In attendance: Mrs K Mitchell – Clerk to the Council
Mrs M Bradman – Deputy Clerk to the Council
3 representatives of West Mercia Police
7 Members of the public
1 representative of the press

The Town Mayor advised those present that the Value for the month of February is 'Love'.

C.121 - 01.15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for Councillors A Conway and D Durham

C.122 - 01.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C.123 - 01.15 DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

C.124 - 01.15 WEST MERCIA POLICE

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Barrie Sheldon, gave a strategic overview of policing in the region, advising that a comprehensive spending review was ongoing, with savings of over £30m already having been made whilst still protecting front line policing; a further estimated £33m savings will need to be made by 2020. He highlighted a range of activities taking place and advised that the main focus would be on reducing harm to protect the vulnerable and early intervention to prevent crime and reduce re-offending. Inspector Bob Barnett outlined the changes taking place in the area and the resultant effect on the service provided to Ledbury.

C.125 - 01.15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak.

C.126 - 01.15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2014, copies having been circulated, were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

C.127 - 01.15 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Barnes presented a written report on his mayoral activities between 12th December 2014 and 5th January 2015, copies having been circulated.

The Clerk advised that a briefing session in respect of the May 2015 elections would be held on Monday 16 February 2015 at 6:00pm in the Shirehall, Hereford and that anyone thinking of standing as a candidate for a Town/Parish Council would be welcome to attend.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Planning Applications P141651/O - Land to rear of the Full Pitcher, and P142517/F - Land to the south of Ross Road, Ledbury would be considered at the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee meeting on 11th February at 2pm, and that the Town Council could be represented at the meeting if it so wished. As no volunteers were forthcoming, the Mayor requested that if any Councillor found they could attend the meeting to speak on behalf of the Town Council, they should contact the Clerk in order to be registered on the list of speakers.

C.128 - 01.15 LEDBURY TOWN PLAN

Mr G Holliday, acting secretary of the Town Plan Working Party, presented a report on the group's activities since the last meeting. (Copies circulated to members) Referring to the Young Persons Group's 'Safe places to meet' theme, Cllr Harvey offered to work with members of the Town Council to try to secure available funding from Herefordshire Council prior to the end of the financial year. The Town Mayor agreed to call a meeting of interested members in order to discuss the matter in more detail.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

C.129 - 01.15 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Bettington's written report relating to activities at county level was circulated to members.

Councillors Harvey and Widdows presented their joint written report, copies of which had been circulated to members.

Councillor Yeoman, having a disclosable pecuniary interest as Chairman of Ledbury Cricket Club, left the chamber during Councillor

Widdows' report on Planning Applications P141651/O - Land to rear of the Full Pitcher, and P142517/F - Land to the south of Ross Road, Ledbury.

Copies of the above reports are available on the Town Council website.

C.130 - 01.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Councillor A Crowe, Vice Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December, 2014, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes P.66-12.14 to P.72-12.14, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING:	For	14
	Abstentions	1

2. Councillor A Crowe, Vice Chairman of the Economic Development and Planning Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January, 2015, copies having been circulated.

Referring to P.80-01.15, the recommendation was amended to read that Councillor E Harvey represent the Town Council at the Core Strategy Hearing.

RESOLVED: That the minutes P.73-01.15 to P.85-01.15, be received and noted and that any recommendations, as amended, contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING:	For	13
	Against	2

Councillor P Bettington left the meeting at this point.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party presented the report from the meeting held on 2nd February, 2015, copies having being circulated.

RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

4. Works to Trees covered by TPO

Site: Adjacent to Cedar Court, Upper Hall, Ledbury.
 Description: Proposed works to 19 Irish Yew Trees
 Application No: P150028/J

RESOLVED: That the application be supported.

VOTING: Unanimous

C.131 - 01.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

1. Councillor M Eager, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January, 2015, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes E.68-01.15 to E.78-01.15, be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

**VOTING: For 12
 Abstentions 2**

2. New Lengthsman Scheme

Councillor Eager gave a verbal report on the Balfour Beatty Lengthsman Scheme briefing session held on 3rd February 2015.

He advised that in order to receive grant funding for the scheme it would be necessary to formulate an Annual Management Plan identifying works for the year ahead. The Plan would need to be submitted to Balfour Beatty by the end of the financial year.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the basic and extended schemes. Councillor Harvey advised that at the Full Council meeting on 6th February 2015, members would be considering a proposal to amend Herefordshire Council's 2015/16 revenue budget, by ring-fencing up to £75,000 to provide match funding for parishes undertaking grass cutting under the extended Lengthsman scheme.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a working party, consisting of Councillors Barnes, Bradford, Eager, Francis Widdows and Yeoman, be set up to formulate a draft management plan, in liaison with the Locality Steward.

C.132 - 01.15 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 22nd January, 2015, copies having been previously circulated.

Referring to F.82–01.15 Town Council Offices, discussion in respect of choice of carpeting and associated costs was deferred to the end of the meeting for consideration in private session.

RESOLVED: That the minutes F.67-01.15 to F.84-01.15 be received and noted and that any recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted

**VOTING: For 7
Against 6
Abstentions 1**

2. Democratic Participation Working Party

Members considered the report from the meeting held on 3rd December, copies having been circulated.

Referring to item 2.iii, The Mayor advised that Election Information Evening events were available to book through the Herefordshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

The Clerk was requested to contact HALC to book an information evening in Ledbury.

Referring to item v. Recording of Council meetings; the final sentence of the recommendation was amended to read:

The Democratic Participation Working Party proceed with setting up a trial of microphones to aid the recording of meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the recommendations as amended, contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

3. Members considered the report from the meeting held on 21st January 2015, copies having been circulated.

Referring to item 4. Councillor Hadley offered to take the lead on the skills audit, supported by Councillors Francis and Widdows.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the recommendations contained therein be approved and adopted.

VOTING: Unanimous

4. Financial Regulations

Discussion on the Town Council's Financial Regulations was referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

C.133 - 01.15 LEDBURY PLACES PROJECT

Councillor Yeoman advised that a press announcement would be issued on Wednesday 11th February, 2015 in respect of the outcome of the grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

C.134 - 01.15 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Francis presented a report from the HALC Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st January, 2015, copies having been circulated.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

C.135 - 01.15 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

C.136 - 01.15 QUESTIONS TO THE TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Hadley asked the Mayor for his view on whether the ban on fox hunting with dogs should be overturned. The Mayor replied that his opinion on the matter was not relevant.

Councillor Widdows asked the Mayor if he shared his concern that the Town Council would not be represented at the Herefordshire Council Planning meeting where two major planning applications affecting the town were to be considered. He replied that he did share his concern.

Councillor Francis asked whether the Town Mayor or the Council had received an invitation to the opening ceremony of the newly renovated Master's House and if the Town Council had not been offered a guided tour, could one be arranged. The Mayor replied that he had not yet received an official invitation and that due to delays in getting the works completed in time for the opening, all tours had been cancelled.

C.137 - 01.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on 12th March 2015.

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 quotations.

Councillor Hadley left the meeting at this point.

C.138 - 01.15 DOG HILL WOOD MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members considered the recommendation from the assessment panel in respect of tenders received for the management and maintenance of Dog Hill Wood. Refer EX02/15

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the contract be awarded to D McCutcheon for a three year fixed price contract, commencing 1st April, 2015.

VOTING:

For	7
Against	6
Abstentions	1

C.132 - 01.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS – FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES (Continued)

Ceremony Room redecoration

Members considered options for carpeting in the Ceremony Room.

RESOLVED: That the quotation from Crystal Carpets to supply and fit a Brintons Axminster carpet, be accepted in the sum of £1,200 plus VAT.

VOTING:

For	9
Against	1
Abstentions	2

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.22p.m.

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