

**LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING, ECONOMY & TOURISM  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 MARCH 2024**

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Bradford, Furlonger, Hughes, l'Anson, McAll and Morris (Chair).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Angela Price – Town Clerk  
Sophie Jarvis – Minute Taker  
3 Representatives of the Strömstad Twinning Association  
Jonathon Browning

**P190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harvey and Howells.

**P191. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**P192. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair asked Members to agree to item 9 – Presentation from Stromstad Twinning Association, and item 15 – How to protect aspects of the environment during a period of expansion and development in Ledbury to be brought forward for discussion.

**RESOLVED:**

**That items 9 and 15 of the agenda be brought forward to be discussed, to allow members of the public present to leave the meeting should they wish to do so.**

**P193. PRESENTATION FROM STRÖMSTAD TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Representatives of the Strömstad Twinning Association provided members with a presentation giving updates on the links between the two towns and what they are doing to keep those links strong.

The Twinning Association has been in place since April 2000 and focuses mostly on its links with the younger people in Strömstad and Ledbury. Ledbury Swifts FC have been very involved, and it was noted that they had taken annual trips to Strömstad with the Twinning Association. Mrs Jupp informed members that there will be a trip to Strömstad for their 'Midsommarfest 2024' on Thursday, 20 June and that there are still 7 places available. Mrs Jupp also informed members that

there is a new link being made with the Tourist Information Centres in both towns.

Councillor Bradford queried how the links were between the Twinning Association and John Masefield High School & Sixth Form Centre. Members of the Twinning Association informed Councillors that more positive links are being made, but it has been difficult to keep in contact in the past. Councillors suggested ongoing communications be taken to the Tourism Task & Finish Group and that the Community Development Officer also be a part of helping to strengthen these links.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the presentation from the Stromstad Twinning Association was received and noted.**
2. **That future updates and communications from the Stromstad Twinning Association go to the Tourism Task & Finish Group.**

Members of the Stromstad Twinning Association left the meeting at 7:15pm.

**P194. 'HOW TO PROTECT ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT DURING A PERIOD OF EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT IN LEDBURY' (REQUEST FROM MEMBER OF PUBLIC)**

Mr Browning spoke to members about the Bloor Development at the Viaduct site and their planning application to create a cycle route behind Golding Way. Mr Browning informed members that he is a resident in Golding Way, and he feels that there needs to be an impact assessment carried out on the ecological impact of an asphalt track and harsh street lighting. Mr Browning explained he had been in contact with Andy Bing from Herefordshire Council and claims there needs to be some community engagement as other residents of Golding Way share the same thoughts as himself.

Councillor Hughes thanked Mr Browning and proposed that item 11.2, Planning Consultation 240295 be brought forward to this discussion due to it being relevant to this planning application.

- i. **Planning Application No. 240295** - Proposed variation of condition 4 of planning permission 222107 (Approval of reserved matters relating to layout, scale, external appearance and landscaping (pursuant to outline planning permission appeal ref: APP/W1850/W20/3244410 and LPA ref. 171532) for 223 dwellings with associated drainage, highway infrastructure (internal roads, footways, footpath/cycleway and spine road) and play area (Phase 1) – to amend wording to allow occupation of 50 dwellings before completion of Riverside Park and play area –



**Land North of the Viaduct, Adjoining Orchard Business Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire.**

Members noted that the residents of the viaduct development would need a safe access route into Ledbury Town Centre, and that this route should be more environmentally friendly, as Mr Browning demonstrated.

Councillor Hughes proposed that a public meeting be set up with Councillors from Ledbury Town Council, Bloor Developments and Planning Officer Andy Bing to allow representatives from Golding Way to have more community engagement in the decision of the proposed pathway from the Viaduct site into Ledbury Town Centre. All members were in favour of this.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a public meeting be set up with Councillors from Ledbury Town Council, Bloor Developments and Planning Officer Andy Bing to allow representatives from Golding Way to have more community engagement in the decision of the proposed pathway from the Viaduct site into Ledbury Town Centre.**

Mr Browning left the meeting at 7:33pm.

**P195. NOLAN PRINCIPLES**

**RESOLVED:**

The Nolan Principles were received and noted.

**P196. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING, ECONOMY & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2024**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee meeting held on 8 February 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.**

**P197. TO REVIEW THE ACTION SHEET**

The following points were discussed on the Action Sheet.

**P169 – That the Clerk obtain quotes for the replacement road sign for Biddulph Way to be considered at the next Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee meeting.**



The Clerk informed members that she is still waiting for a response from Herefordshire Council, however it is hoped that these quotes will be presented at the Full Council meeting, scheduled on 28 March 2024.

**P185.1 – That Ledbury Town Council support the notification of Traffic Regulation order scheme on various roads in Ledbury but suggest that consideration be given to two additional areas, Little Marcle Road and Orchard Lane.**

Councillor Hughes expressed his concern in the gaps along these yellow lines and traffic calming measures along these areas. He stated that parking on a bend is not allowed, and that the decision by Herefordshire Council not to introduce a TRO in these areas appears to be a matter of policy, which conflicts with the Highway Code.

It was pointed out that this is hugely dangerous for cyclists, and it states in the Highway Code that parking on a bend is not allowed. Councillor Bradford agreed and suggested that a meeting be set up with a Hereford Officer and Ian Connely about this. Members agreed and suggested that the Traffic Management Working Party also be invited to attend this meeting.

That Ledbury Town Council support the notification of Traffic Regulation order scheme on various roads in Ledbury but suggest that consideration be given to two additional areas, exit from Churchill Meadow into Little Marcle Road and Orchard Lane'

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the Action Sheet was received and noted.**
2. **That the Clerk obtain quotes for the replacement road sign for Biddulph Way for the Full Council meeting scheduled on 28 March 2024.**
3. **That a meeting be set with Herefordshire Council officer, Ian Connely, members of the Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee and members of the Traffic Management Working Party to discuss the yellow lines on Little Marcle Road and Orchard Lane.**

**P198. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF INTRODUCTION OF A VAPE SHOP IN LEDBURY**

Members were provided with details of correspondence received from two members of the public in respect of a shop in Ledbury selling Vapes.

Members were concerned at the content of the complaints received, which seemed to imply that Ledbury Town Council had been responsible

for granting permission for this premises to sell the vapes and expressed similar concerns to that raised by the residents.

Councillor l'Anson informed Members that Ward Councillor Simmons had approached Trading Standards regarding this shop.

Members felt that it would be appropriate for some communication to take place with the residents, and it was proposed that the Chair and Clerk meet with them to discuss the issues raised in their letters.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the residents be invited to meet with the Chair and Clerk to discuss the issues raised in their letters of complaint.**

**P199. VACANT POSSESSION OF 137/139 THE HOMEND, LEDBURY (PROPERTY)**

Members agreed to advise Mr Kwon, of the local estate agents, regarding the property known as 137/139, The Homend, Ledbury, that Ledbury Town Council cannot advise owners of what to do with their property.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Clerk advise Mr Kwon of the local estate agents in respect of his property known as 137/139 The Homend, Ledbury.**

**P200. a. NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOURISM TASK & FINISH GROUP HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

**b. DRAFT TOURISM STRATEGY**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the notes of a meeting of the Tourism Task & Finish Group held on 28 February were received and noted.**
- 2. That Councillor Hughes will meet with the Chair of the Tourism Task & Finish Group to clarify the anticipated outcome for the group.**

**P201. PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

- i. Planning Application No. 240290 - Proposed construction of manege – Siddington Farm, Orlham Lane, Leddington, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2LN.**

**RESOLVED:**



**No objections.**

- ii. **Planning Application No. 240365** – Conifers & Birch to cut back to wall line – **Police Station, Worcester Road, Ledbury, HR8 1PL**

**RESOLVED:**  
**No objections.**

- iii. **Planning Application No. 240458** – Proposed single storey rear extension with replacement and extension of existing side element – **24 Long Acres, Ledbury Herefordshire, HR8 2AU.**

**RESOLVED:**  
**No objections.**

**P202. TABLED APPLICATIONS**

- i. **Planning Application No. 240543** – Proposed single storey rear extension and interior alterations - **18 Homend Crescent, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1AJ.**

**RESOLVED:**  
**No objections.**

- ii. **Planning Application No. 240558** – Addition of internal insulation to first floor external walls - **Bishopsgate Cottage, 15 Cottage, 15 Bridge Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2AJ.**

**RESOLVED:**  
**No objections.**

**P203. PLANNING DECISIONS**

Members expressed their frustration that there were no decisions made by Herefordshire Council on any of the planning decisions since the previous meeting of the Committee. Councillor Hughes requested that planning applications 230103 & 231872 be queried with Herefordshire Planning Officers as to why no decisions have been made about these yet, when they were submitted a year ago. All members were in favour of this. It was noted that any planning decisions, which are coming up to being one year on the website, with no decision, should be chased by Ledbury Town Council as to why it is outstanding. This practice should be adopted as a standard process going forward.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the Planning Decisions were received and noted.**

*NM*

2. That the Clerk contact Herefordshire Council Planning Department to query why planning applications 230103 & 231872 are still outstanding.
3. That the Clerk makes it a regular part of her routine that she chases up any outstanding decisions in relation to planning applications that have been waiting for 12 months or more for a decision.

**P204. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

The Clerk advised that due to some confusion Councillor Howells had not been able to provide further comments to be sent to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of this appeal. However, it was noted that the Clerk had provided some comments shared by other councillors in relation to this matter and advised that Councillor Howells would be willing to represent Ledbury Town Council at the upcoming appeal hearing.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the notes of a meeting of the Major Planning Applications be received and noted.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Councillor Howells be nominated to represent Ledbury Town Council at the upcoming appeal hearing in respect of the McCarthy Stone planning application.**

**P205. CONSULTATION ON LICENSING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY SEV FEB 2024 (DRAFT) (CONSULTATION)**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the consultation on licensing of Sex Establishments – Statement of Licensing Policy SEV FEB 2024 be received and noted.**

**P206. SECTION 106**

**RESOLVED:**

**There were no updates on Section 106.**

**P207. LAUNCH OF HEREFORDSHIRE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION – MONDAY, 25 MARCH 2024**

Councillor Hughes proposed that this item be put on the agenda of the next Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee to allow members to research the launch of the Herefordshire Draft Local Plan Consultation in more depth to create an appropriate response.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Launch of the Herefordshire Draft Local Plan Consultation be included on the agenda for the next Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee meeting scheduled for 11 April 2024.**

**P208. UPDATE ON HEREFORDSHIRE FLOOD GROUPS MEETING**

Members received and noted the contents of the update on Herefordshire Flood Groups meeting and asked that if any future updates come in from them that these be sent to the Environment and Leisure Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the update on the Herefordshire Flood Groups Meeting be received and noted.**
- 2. That any future communications received from the Herefordshire Flood Groups meeting be submitted to the Environment and Leisure Committee.**

**P209. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**To note that the next meeting of the Planning, Economy & Tourism Committee is scheduled for 11 April 2024.**

The meeting ended at 8:17pm.

Signed ..... Dated 16.05.2024  
(Chair)