

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held at Bishop Mascall Centre, Ludlow, on Monday 17th March 2008 at 7.00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Pound (Chairman), Newbold (Vice-Chairman), Bradley, Callender, Glaze, Kidd, Perks and Smithers

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Aitken, Davies, Galtress, Pope and Wilcox

OFFICERS PRESENT: Linda Thomas, Town Clerk and Hannah Coleman, Assistant Clerk

S15/08 PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Minute No.	Councillor's Name	Personal	Prejudicial	Reason
S19/08 c)	G. Kidd	✓		Director on the Food Festival and stands on the Chamber of Trade
S19/08 c) S18/08 a)	G. Perks	✓		Director on Skillbuilders CIC Involved with the original bench survey
S23/08		✓		Land tenant on Plymouth Estates
S18/08 c)	J. Smithers	✓		Chairman

S16/08 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION – there were 22 members of the public present.

Roger Furness, Board Member of Ludlow 21, was on the Events Committee for the Green Festival. He thanked the Town Council for their great support of the Green Fair and explained how many local people use the event for meeting people, discussion and advice. It was mainly a promotional event and non-profit making and he requested that the Committee should review the rent increases.

Peter Norman, Treasurer, Food & Farming Group, requested that the Committee please reconsider its decision to increase the fees to the extent they have. The second market per month would double the rent, but an increase to £370 would be an acceptable one. The market would have to be cancelled if there was no change in the recent decision.

Peter Cook, Chamber of Trade and Food Festival, announced that a meeting was to take place at the Bull Hotel at 5.30pm on Tuesday 18th March and that Councillors Pound, Newbold and Glaze were invited to attend. The markets boost the economic health of Ludlow and the Town Council benefits from the rents. He raised the issue of Councillor Pound's inappropriate and discriminatory comments in the Shropshire Star and called for his resignation.

Graham Haywood, Mary Elizabeth Road, reported that he had found the comments in the paper offensive and required a definition for 'Ludlovian'.



Alan Latchford, resident, required an explanation of an amenity area that had been mentioned. Councillor Pound clarified that the area referred to was Wheeler Road.

Rosanna Taylor-Smith, SSDC Councillor, apologised for the incorrect date in the Ludlow in Bloom minutes and thanked Councillors Davies and Pope for their efforts towards the weekend litter picks. She also requested that the rents needed reconsidering and emphasized that fairness was required.

S17/08 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Services Committee held on 7th February and 18th February 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

S18/08 AMENITY AREAS

(a) **Amenity Area & Property Report** – The report of the Community Services Officer and Site Analysis sheet were **NOTED**, and the following points were raised:

- Linney Park – It was requested to clarify what species of hedging whip would be used
- Castle Gardens – It was **AGREED** that expert advice should be sought regarding the walls. Shropshire County Council would be approached again for an update on works carried out previously
- Garden of Rest – It was **AGREED** to re-explore negotiations with the PCC of St Laurence regarding the pathway and lighting. It was also agreed to liaise with the Town Council Tree Officer regarding the potential damage of the wall from the hornbeams and with the Police regarding crime in the area
- Fishmore View – It was **AGREED** to investigate the Town Council's liabilities in the area
- Henley Orchards – A member raised concerns that neighbouring residents have planted conifers on Town Council land. It was **AGREED** to investigate
- Street Furniture – It was **AGREED** to refer to past bench and bus surveys
- Cemetery Chapel – It was **AGREED** to write a schedule of works and obtain quotes
- Boathouse Toilets – It was **AGREED** to write a schedule of works and obtain quotes
- Recycling – It was **AGREED** to investigate the feasibility of composting and seek the advice of SSDC

It was **AGREED** to place Somerfield Toilets as an item on the next agenda to receive any report available and to discuss, as appropriate.

(b) **Wheeler Road Development** – There was nothing to report.

(c) **Ludlow in Bloom** – Jim Smithers reported that the Heart of England was looking for a new sponsor for the prestigious awards presentation. Ludlow may possibly host in 2009. The report of the meeting of 13th February 2008 was **NOTED**.

(d) **Bus Shelters** – It was **AGREED** that the Town Council would support the investigation and contribute 25% funding towards a bus shelter both on Sandpits Avenue and the Wheeler/Whitbread Road junction.



S19/08 LUDLOW MARKET

- a) **Market Enhancement** – Councillor Aitken gave a brief report on the Public Consultation that took place at the Harley Centre on Saturday 15th March.
- b) **Performance Report** – There was no report available due to staff holiday.
- c) **Increase of Fees** – It was proposed that a decision on the increase of fees was deferred to Full Council after a report providing details on the rationale behind the decision, clarity on appropriate increases with an across the board inflation.

It was requested that the vote be recorded: Councillor Kidd proposed and Councillor Smithers seconded with Councillors Callender, Kidd and Smithers voting for, Councillors Bradley, Glaze, Newbold and Pound voting against and Councillor Perks abstaining. The proposal was not carried.

It was **RESOLVED** that the market organisers affected by the fee increases be requested to provide their latest set of audited accounts.

Councillors Callender, Kidd and Smithers requested, in writing, that the above two resolutions be reviewed at Council, under the Standing Orders that allow any three councillors to require that any decisions which they perceive to be controversial, be referred to the Council for a decision.

It was further **RESOLVED** that a report would be prepared to provide members with detailed information on the recent history of fees charged by the Town Council and clarification on the rationale of the proposed increases in preparation for the decision at full Council.

- d) **Cardboard Recycling** – There was no update.
- e) **Market Sub-Committee** – The reports of the adjourned meeting of 7th March and the meeting of 12th March were **NOTED** but would be approved at the next meeting.

S20/08 CEMETERY – It was **AGREED** to arrange a date with the members of the Cemetery Working Group soon.

S21/08 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – The Town Clerk provided an update. Inspections have been carried out and there is extensive work required. A report would be presented to the next Working Group.

S22/08 BUTTERCROSS CONSERVATION PLAN – The report was **NOTED** and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The Priority A list is carried out
- The Council go out to tender to appoint a contractor
- The DLF carry out the repairs to glazing in the Buttercross
- Further investigation be carried out to find the cause of the water leak on the roof
- Funds come out of the Capital Budget



- Policy & Finance approve the above recommendations

It was further **RESOLVED** to cost into the schedule of works the repainting of the Buttercross Market and to seek the advice of the Conservation Officer accordingly.

S23/08 CANOEING ON THE RIVER TEME – The report was **NOTED** and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- The agreement be formally approved
- Arrangements for the grant funding of £10,000 be completed before 31st March 2008, and that the funds are put in reserves for associated works or replacements

It was **AGREED** to approach the Environment Agency for their advice on dredging the river.

S24/08 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- a) Friends of Whitcliffe Common** – Nothing to report.
- b) Town Walls Trust** – Councillor Kidd reported that SSDC were taking action for the damage caused by the recent earthquake.
- c) Pride of Place** – Councillor Davies reported that 24 sacks of litter had been collected from Station car park and around the town generally at the weekend. He thanked all those involved in the collection.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman

Date