

ANNUAL TOWN (RESIDENTS) MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th January 2009 at 7.30pm in Oscars, Ludlow
Assembly Rooms, Ludlow

PRESENT: Councillors Newbold (Mayor), Davies (Deputy Mayor), Aitken, Bradley, Callender, Galtress, Glaze, Hunt, Pound, Pope, Smithers, Taylor-Smith and Wilcox

OFFICER PRESENT: Hannah Coleman, Assistant Clerk

PRESS: 1

PUBLIC: 45

1. WELCOME – The Mayor, Councillor Jim Newbold, formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Members to introduce themselves.

He announced that it had been agreed this day that Linda Thomas would not be returning to her post and as from 1st February 2009 would cease to be the Town Clerk of Ludlow.

2. APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Councillors Kidd and Mitchell

3. VOTING – The meeting was advised that if a vote was called, only Electors of the Town might vote.

5. MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2007 were agreed and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET – Councillor Aitken presented the Accounts for 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 and the Budget for 2008/2009 and apologised for the delay of the Annual Town Meeting.

Councillor Taylor-Smith reported on the development of the 2009/10 budget. He stated that the precept for next year had been raised by £30,000, a rise of 7.1%. After identifying the urgent projects and works that needed to be carried out in 2009/10 at a cost of £120,000-140,000, primarily for the Buttercross, Castle Gardens and Henley Road Cemetery, the Council had included £50,000 in the capital budget in order to maintain a safe level of reserves.

8. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL – The Mayor brought attention to the PowerPoint presentation and welcomed the Chairman of Committees, Advisory Committee and Working Groups to report on their work.

a) Services Committee – Councillor Pound reported on Henley Road Cemetery and The Linney

- b) **Representational Committee** – Councillor Wilcox reported on the activities of the Committee
- c) **Policy & Finance Committee** – Councillor Aitken reported on the Buttercross, Castle Gardens and Cemetery Drainage projects. He also gave an update on the Market Enhancement Scheme and addressed the issues and concerns of the May Fair
- d) **Highway & Parking Advisory Committee** – Councillor Galtress reported on the activities of the Advisory Committee
- e) **Christmas Lighting and Website & Communications Working Groups** – Councillor Pope reported on the work of the two Working Groups

9. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- a) **Market Enhancement Scheme** – An update had been received earlier in the meeting
- b) **Henley Road Cemetery** – Councillor Pound explained the rationale behind the increase of the Cemetery fees and provided comparisons from other cemetery fees in the country
- c) **Linney Riverside Park** – Councillor Pound reported on the car park revenue decision and confirmed that all revenue collected would be ring-fenced to enhance the Linney in the future. He also addressed the drainage issues. Councillor Taylor-Smith reported on the suspension of the boating service decision
- d) **May Fair** – Councillor Aitken reported that there was no plan to re-site the Fair and a meeting would be arranged with the Operators shortly to discuss arrangements
- e) **Quality Council** – Councillor Aitken reported that great achievements had been made to meet the criteria such as the regular newsletter, the new website and that the Town Council would ensure the appointment of a qualified Clerk
- f) **Town Twinning** – Councillor Aitken reported that new updated town signs were required and would be considered

10. FURTHER QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC – The following issues and concerns were raised by the public and, as far as possible, answered by the Councillors:

- a) Provision of coach parking in the Square
Vandalism in Ludlow and supply of adequate streetlighting and CCTV
- b) Councillor Glaze was asked to confirm her Mayoral Charity and amount raised
- c) Temporary disabled parking permits to assist those recovering from operations
- d) Policy for erecting new streetlights and replacement programme. A specific request for a new light at the Linney was made
- e) Market and town business plan
- f) Dog fouling in town was getting worse and the Eco Park was especially bad
- g) Lack of grocery shops in town

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Town Mayor

Date