

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow, on **MONDAY 4th APRIL 2016** at **7.00PM**.

S/138 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor R Jones

Councillors: Clarke (Vice-Chair), Cobley, Ginger, M Jones, Lyle, J Newbold, S Newbold and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Sean Turgoose, DLF & Market Supervisor
Tony Caton, Market Officer
Sarah Hughes, Finance Assistant

Also
in attendance: Mr S Treasure (Treasures and Sons)
Ms T A Sibbons (War Memorial Trust)

S/139 **HEALTH & SAFETY**

The Chair informed Councillors of the fire exits, fire assembly point and asked that everyone sign the attendance log.

S/140 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Draper and Councillor Kemp.

S/141 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None

Conflicts of Interest

Councillor	Item	Reason
Councillor Ginger	8 and 11	Shop owner

Personal Interests

Councillor	Item	Reason
Councillor Cobley	13	Councillor Perks is a trustee of the organisation employing Cllr Cobley

S/142 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were four members of the public present.

Mrs Parry, Temeside, Ludlow asked that minute S/123 of the last Services Meeting be amended from 'various Herefordshire Parish Councils' to 'a Herefordshire Parish Council'.

Regarding Item 11, Casual Market Traders, Mrs Parry asked the committee to bear in mind radius of 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ miles stated in the policy would affect many markets in the local area who would struggle with the suggested £75.00 fee becoming payable.

Councillor J Newbold responded that in the past, organisations have been allowed to hold markets unless the Town Council receives any complaints about such events.

Mr Perks, Honey Meadow, Ludlow asked that minute S/123 of the last Services Meeting be altered regarding the unveiling of paving slabs at the War Memorial, from the 12th July to 14th July. He also mentioned that he had previously requested for an update on the tree being planted at Castle Gardens.

Concerning Item 9, Transport, Mr Perks stated he felt that the In and Out of Ludlow Forum meeting on 31st March had been positive.

Mr Perks informed members that the report in Item 13b, Refurbishment of Benches, had been put together to demonstrate the work that he had done to town benches, and identified the opportunity to refurbish the Jubilee bench in time for the Queen's 90th birthday.

Finally, Mr Perks shared with the committee that the new noticeboard at the Linney was being well used, and thanked the Direct Labour Force and Services Committee for their support with this project.

S/143 **LUDLOW UNITARY COUNCILLORS QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION**

Councillor Parry, Ludlow South stated that she had attended the In and Out of Ludlow meeting on 31st March, where a request was made that parishes pledged funds towards the 490 Bus service. She has also met with the owner of a caravan site on the bus route who expressed his deep concern with the withdrawal of this service.

Councillor Parry added that in the next 2 years all the services subsidised by Shropshire Council, including the 2 town bus services currently in operation, will be withdrawn unless they found other funding. Shropshire Council would also be withdrawing funding for maintenance of trees along various rights of way in Ludlow.

Regarding the England in Bloom award ceremony on 20th September, Councillor Parry stated that she had received confirmation from Mark Wiltshire that a company have offered to provide catering for the event, and that she was awaiting confirmation as to whether the cost of the town tours can also be covered.

Concerning the request being made in item 12a, Councillor Parry confirmed that Ludlow in Bloom wish to take over the planting, maintenance and watering of the town hanging baskets.

Councillor Parry added that she had spoken John Farley of the Civic Society, who has requested an update regarding the refurbishment of the interpretation board from outside the closed festival office.

Finally, Councillor Parry stated that she had been informed that the 490 Bus Service will only be running until September.

Councillor Ginger added that in light of Councillor Parry's information regarding the withdrawal of the 701 and 722 town buses, the Town Councils plans to consider alternatives such as the Ludlow Traveller and other services were even more important.

S/144 **MINUTES – 22nd FEBRUARY 2016**

RESOLVED (Unanimous)
RJ/GG

That, subject to the amendments requested to S/123, the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 22nd February 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

S/145 **CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – 23rd NOVEMBER 2015**

RESOLVED (Unanimous)
RJ/AC

That the closed session minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 23rd November 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

S/146 **ITEMS TO ACTION**

The Chair thanked the staff for completing the items of action.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
JS/GG

That the Items to Action be noted.

S/147 **MARKET RIGHTS**

It was established that the Royal Charters pre-dated all existing markets.

Councillor Lyle stated that the Festival of small gardens is planning a plant sale this year to raise funds and the proposed fee would make this unachievable.

Councillor Clarke added that the proposed fees were low.

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)
MC/RJ

That the Market Rights Policy and Fees be further considered by Policy and Finance Committee

S/148 **TRANSPORT**

Councillor Ginger commented that over the next few years Shropshire Council would be reducing the current £100m budget for over 150 services across the county by 75% to £25m. In the light of the likely withdrawal of all local town services, the focus on local solutions and services was even more important than ever.

490 BUS SERVICE

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)
PD/RJ

i) To write to the parishes of Ludford, Ashford Carbonell; Ashford Bowdler; Richards Castle; Orleton and Leominster for their feedback on the 490 service and local alternative options

ii) To support local services

iii) To research local alternative options including the Ludlow Traveller; the school /college bus; and other existing services.

S/149 **LUDLOW TOWN SERVICE**

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)
JS/GG

To contact Shropshire Council to restate Ludlow Town Council's point of view that the town and Park & Ride bus services are very important to Ludlow, and current timetabling of the town buses is inefficient because one follows after the other in, and this inefficiency needs to be reviewed and improved.

S/150 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ZERO BUDGETS 2017/18

**RECOMMENDED (unanimous)
GG/RJ**

- i) Further to the current engagement regarding Ludlow Library and Customer Point Services, to engage with Shropshire Council to establish detailed information to enable assessment of the impact and strategic planning in the face of the funding cuts in April 2017;
- ii) To issue press releases to raise awareness of Shropshire Council's financial plan to cut funding to services in April 2017 and invite comments from the local community.

S/151 TRADING STANDARDS

**RESOLVED (Unanimous)
GG/RJ**

That in the absence of the opportunity to sign up to the Real Deal Charter, Ludlow market will continue to work with market traders and trading standards to ensure that the quality of goods offered at Ludlow market remains high and no counterfeit goods are traded.

S/152 MARKET CASUAL TRADING

Councillor Smithers stated that he had researched the fees at other markets, and the recommendation seems an appropriate premium given his findings.

Members noted that the market does seem to have vacant stalls on most days, which can be filled by casual traders at short notice, providing a flexibility to fill the market and additional charges may be counterproductive for the market.

The Chair informed members that the request for a premium had arisen from market traders and not from the Services Committee themselves.

**RECOMMENDED (Unanimous)
GG/RJ**

That the market fees remain the same for regular and casual traders.

LUDLOW IN BLOOM (LIB)

S/153 a) Hanging Baskets

Councillor Ginger stated he felt that the hanging baskets were an asset to the town centre.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/RJ

i) Subject to receipt of adequate method statements and risk assessments from Ludlow In Bloom, their request to plant up and water the Town Council's hanging baskets on the Ludlow market and Events Square, be approved.

ii) The baskets would be hung by the Town Council's workforce and seven days notice was required from Ludlow in Bloom.

S/154 b) Minutes 19th February 2016 and 4th March 2016

RESOLVED (unanimous)
JS/RJ

That the Ludlow In Bloom minutes of the meeting held 19th February and 4th March 2016 be noted.

S/155 MEMORIAL BENCHES

a) Peace Memorial Benches

Stephen Treasure, from Treasure and Sons of Ludlow, clarified that he had offered to donate a large wooden bench for the Memorial Square, and he had suggested that it replace 2 of the existing benches for aesthetical placement.

The Chair informed Mr Treasure that Full Council had resolved to replace only one bench closest to the car park entrance to retain the seating capacity of the space and enable civic events to continue to take place.

The Chair suggested that Mr Treasure be shown photographs of Remembrance Sunday for information.

S/156 b) Bench Refurbishment

Councillor Perks was thanked for his report and the good work carried out on the J Lello bench. Direct Labour Force staff were also thanked for undertaking the ongoing care and refurbishment of benches in the Town Centre.

RESOLVED

GG/DL

- i) To receive the report
- ii) To approve the proposed works for the two benches in Castle Gardens and Corve Street
- iii) To approve the outline process for continued repairs

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Chairman

Date

N.B. No Closed Session Minutes will be issued.