



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 10th APRIL 2017** at **7.00PM**

PF/107 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Cobley

Councillors: Clarke, Gill, Ginger, Jones, Perks, Sheward & Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

PF/108 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

PF/109 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Draper, Kemp, Lyle and Parry.

PF/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None Declared

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
None Declared

Declarations of Personal Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
M Clarke	10	Holds membership to the Leisure Centre

PF/111 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There was one member of the public present.

PF/112 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

There were no Unitary Councillors present.

PF/113 MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimously) AC/JS

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 27th February 2017, be approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman.

PF/114 ITEMS TO ACTION

The Chairman thanked staff for their work.

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS

That the Items to Action be noted.

PF/115 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS

That the Payments, Income, Reconciliation, Barclaycard, Paypal and Mayor's Charity reports for January and February 2017, be received.

PF/116 INSURANCE REVIEW

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS

That the outcome of the risk review undertaken by Ecclesiastical Insurance which are currently being actioned by staff, be noted.

PF/117 RECOMMENDED (unanimous) AC/GG

That the insurance valuations recommended by Ecclesiastical Insurance for the Guildhall and the Cemetery Chapel, be approved.

PF/118 RECOMMENDED (unanimous) JS/GP

That the Intruder Alarm Protocol addendum to Lone Worker Policy, be adopted.

PF/119 ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY CONSULTATION

RESOLVED (7:0:1) GG/AC

That the Council respond to the consultation as follows:

- i) Members are dismayed that the release of such an important strategy consultation has been timed for the end of a term of council for both the unitary authority and town and parish councils in Shropshire.
- ii) The language employed in the strategy is vague, there is plenty of urging and hoping, but little evidence of commitment to action. Whilst it is noted that setting consultation questions can be challenging, the reasoning behind some of the questions is difficult to understand.
- iii) The Town Council is aware that Shropshire Council has sold significant assets in Ludlow without reinvesting any of the money in Ludlow, which does not instil confidence in Shropshire Council's willingness to invest in Ludlow, or support the rhetoric of the strategy for Ludlow.
- iv) The strategy mentions the A49 growth corridor, but there is no management structure or consultative body identified to take any meaningful action. Research reveals that the importance of the A49 growth corridor was also identified in similar documents in 2014, but there has not been any progress, and in 2017, there is still no identifiable body under which action would be taken.
- v) Ludlow Town Council would like to work with Shropshire Council to find ways to make the strategy work for Ludlow. Ludlow Town Council has worked hard to achieve stability in this term of the Council, which will extend into the next term of the council. The majority of Councillors will be returning to the Council, there are two contested ward elections and a minimal number of co-options will take place.
- vi) Ludlow Town Council seeks to be a continuing source of strength for Ludlow and would like to invite Gemma Davies, Head of Economic Growth to a meeting on 12th June 2017 at 7.00pm at the Guildhall to have a chance to understand how Shropshire Council's Economic Growth Strategy will work for Ludlow and how Ludlow can contribute to the overall economic development of the county.

PF/120 INDOORS LEISURE FACILITIES STRATEGY

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That a strongly worded statement be sent to Shropshire Council in defence of the existing indoor leisure facilities in Ludlow, clearly stating the large catchment area that is served by South Shropshire leisure centre and the absolute need to maintain the existing level of facilities and access as a minimum.

PF/121 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL STREET TRADING POLICY

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/GG

To note Shropshire Council's Draft Street Trading Policy.

The Chairman Councillor Cobley thanked the Committee and staff for their support over the past two years and this appreciation was returned by those present.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm

Chairman

Date

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