

PF/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None declared

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Parry	11	Ludlow in Bloom
Councillor Perks	11a, b, d, f	

Declarations of Personal Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Sheward	10	Attended a Rural Market Towns Group meeting
Councillor Perks	10	Attended a Rural Market Towns Group meeting
	9	Has requested IT assistance in relation to GDPR.
	7	Have requested Corona Virus item on Council Agenda

PF/111 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were two members of the public present.

PF/112 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor Viv Parry, Ludlow South, stated that Keri Trigg is now the Local Democracy Reporter for Shropshire Council, she will be attending meetings and reporting. Councillor Parry said she will provide contact details to the Town Clerk to be passed on to Councillors.

Councillor Parry said that Shropshire Council were looking for representations from public toilet owners to support the end of the Toilet Tax (Business Rates on public toilets), she encouraged Ludlow Town Council to put forward their views.

She added that there were rumours in the town that the 722 bus route may be ending, she had contacted James Willets at Shropshire Council to clarify this, and he was unaware of any issues or changes to the route but would investigate. Councillor Parry stated how vital this bus route is to Ludlow as it is the main link to the Eco Park.

Councillor Parry asked if the Council had a plan in place regarding Corona Virus and whether the Council would continue to have public meetings if there was an outbreak in the town, she asked that Council consider this issue.

Councillor Smithers said that he understood that the 722 bus route contract did not end until the 30th August and looking to future he had heard of improvements to the route not termination.

PF/113 MINUTES**RESOLVED (8:0:1) AC/CS**

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 20th January 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PF/114 ITEMS TO ACTION**RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/CS**

That the items to action be noted.

PF/115 RURAL MARKET TOWNS GROUP

Councillor Ginger stated that the Group had not presented a convincing case to invest public monies, and could not give a conclusive answer as to how much lobbying could achieve.

Councillor Perks stated that the Commission for rural Communities had had the same brief, and were unable to progress issues, this does not provide a clear rationale to spend and could set a bad precedent. Councillor Cobley added that the Council could still reconsider and join at a later date if they wish.

RESOLVED (8:0:1) DL/AC

That the previous Committee decision made on the 21st October 2019 (PF/70) stands.

“That Ludlow Town Council does not join the Rural/Market Towns Group at this time, but request to be kept up to date on the bodies work to possibly reconsider at a later date.”

Councillor Ginger left the meeting at 7.25pm

PF/116 FINANCE INFORMATION

Councillor Parry queried the rental of a storage unit. The Town Clerk stated that the previous storage space for the Council's Christmas lights was no longer available, therefore an alternative space was required. Security, location and cost were all considered and three quotes were obtained.

RESOLVED (7:0:1) AC/TG

That the Cash Book Payments, Income and Reconciliation; PayPal Payments, Income and Reconciliation; Mayor's Charity Payments, Income and Reconciliation; Petty Cash Payments, Income and Reconciliation and Public Sector Deposit Fund Payments, Income and Reconciliation for January 2020; and Barclaycard Statements for December 2019 and January 2020, be received.

PF/117 POLICY REVIEW**Flexible Working Policy**

Councillor Parry asked if the section on Compassionate Leave, which stated a maximum of 5 days, contradicted the Parental Bereavement Leave Policy. The Town Clerk stated that the Parental Bereavement Leave Policy would supersede the Flexible Working Policy in the event of the loss of a child, giving two weeks leave.

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) AC/CS

That the Flexible Working Policy, as amended, be adopted.

PF/118 Parental Bereavement Leave Policy

Councillor Parry queried paragraph 3.3, the short notice upon which leave can be taken for up to 56 weeks and stated that this could leave the Council very short staffed. Councillor Cobley said that in such circumstances the Council needed to be as accommodating as possible.

Councillor Gill said that this policy represents a legal entitlement for employees and that Council cannot set hurdles against this.

RECOMMENDED (6:0:2) AC/JS

That the Parental Bereavement Leave Policy, be adopted.

PF/119 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD**RESOLVED (7:0:1) AC/CS**

That the revised statutory basis of the Public Works Loan Board, be noted.

PF/120 WEST MERCIA ENERGY**RESOLVED (7:0:1) AC/SO**

That the West Mercia Energy price reduction, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.38pm.

 Chairman

 Date

N.B. No Closed Session Minutes will be issued for this meeting.