



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held at Rockspring Community Centre, Sandford Road, Ludlow on **MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL** at **7.00PM**

### **ATM/01 PRESENT**

Chairman:	Councillor Gill
Councillors:	Clarke; Cobby; Garner; Jones; Lyle; Mahalski; Parry; Perks; Sheward; Ginger; Pote; Smithers.
Officers:	Gina Wilding, Town Clerk; Kate Adams, Deputy Town Clerk Louise Coles, Admin Assistant
Unitary Councillors:	Vivienne Parry
Electors:	25

### **ATM/02 WELCOME BY THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself, the Councillors and Town Clerk, explained the order of business and thanked all who were attending.

The Mayor stated that it had been a pleasure and honour to have served the Council in the capacity of Mayor and that it had been a pleasure working with staff and Councillors.

### **ATM/03 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor O'Neill.

### **ATM/04 PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2018-2019**

The Mayor explained that he was Chair of Full Council and updated residents along the following subject headings.

## **Ongoing Projects Progress Report**

He discussed two ongoing projects: the town walls at St Laurence's churchyard and updating the CCTV camera system in town.

### **TOWN WALLS**

The Morton Partnership have been engaged as the Lead Consultant and Structural Engineer on the Town Walls project and are currently drafting a timetable for the phase two investigative works. The funding is in place.

### **CCTV**

Funding to update the CCTC camera system has been secured from a number of sources including Ludlow Town Council funds, local community organisations and businesses, and a grant for half of the cost from the Police Crime Commissioner. The location and permissions for the Wi-Fi relays in the town centre are being agreed and as soon as the final logistical issue are resolved work will commence.

## **Parking**

### **RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE**

Progressing the Restricted Parking Zone with Shropshire Council Ludlow Town Council has consulted local businesses and residents, and reported results to Shropshire Council back in November 2018. There have been two follow up communications in 2019.

As a temporary measure a Temporary Parking Prohibition Order has been set up on Castle Square between 29<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May for the May Fair and Spring Food Festival.

### **PARKING SURVEY**

Ludlow Town Council has undertaken a parking survey in the form of a questionnaire sent to all town centre shops and businesses, along with their customers, in preparation for the review of the new parking charges by Shropshire Council in June and November. The survey yielded in excess of 60 replies from business and in excess of 300 customer surveys. This information is currently being collected.

## **New Projects Progress Report**

### **CORVE STREET BUS SHELTER**

A bus shelter has been ordered for Corve Street and Shropshire Council has given their approval for the agreed location. An installation date will be released shortly.

### **REFURBISH THE LINNEY RIVERSIDE PARK TOILETS**

J Harper & Sons Ltd have been appointed to undertake the much needed refurbishment of the Linney Riverside Park toilets. They have confirmed all is on track for the project completion deadline of July 2019.

## **REFURBISH EXTERIOR OF SMITHFIELD CAR PARK TOILETS**

Quotes are being sought for the refurbishment of the exterior of the toilets.

## **CHANGE TO GUILDHALL CHAMBER**

A specification of works to improve public access to the Guildhall Chamber and install a hearing loop has been drafted.

## **Local Challenges 2018-19**

The Mayor stated that the future prosperity of Ludlow remains a very real concern of the Town Council.

High Streets are under pressure and the resilience of our town centre is being tested by changes to on street parking.

## **First Point of Contact**

The Guildhall is the home of Ludlow Town Council meetings and staff offices. Between March – July 2018 Treasure & Sons undertook essential repairs to the lead lined roof gullies, two lime plaster ceilings and the fenestration.

## **Websites, Publications & Social Media**

The Mayor gave details of the Town Councils websites and social media accounts.

Councillor Sheward spoke to declare how honoured he has been to act as Deputy Mayor and attend numerous events on behalf of the Mayor.

## **ATM/05 STAFFING & APPEALS COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR JONES**

The Mayor invited Councillor Jones as Chair of the Staffing and Appeals Committee to speak on the work of the Committee.

Councillor Jones supports the Mayor in thanking all the staff for the hard work and dedication.

It was highlighted that Ludlow Town Council takes its responsibilities as an employer seriously and all Professional Human Resources and Health and Safety advice is provided by Ellis Whittam.

She also stated that in 2018/19 the Council has increased the staff training budget from £4,000 to £6,000.

Councillor Jones explained that the Council have twenty full time and part time staff (14 full time equivalent) and described the roles and services provided by the staff.

**ATM/06 COMMUNITY LED PLAN STEERING GROUP – COUNCILLOR GARNER**

The Mayor invited Councillor Garner as Chair of the Community Led Plan Steering Group to speak on the work of the Group.

Councillor Garner shared with the residents that the Community Led Plan is a vision for Ludlow for the next five to ten years.

The steering group have identified nine sections and are working with community to develop priorities for them. Each area is headed by a Councillor and local members of the public are involved in each discussion.

Several very well attended public meetings have been held and will continue.

**ATM/07 SERVICES COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR CLARKE**

The Mayor invited Councillor Clarke as Chair of the Services Committee to speak on the work of the Committee.

**Markets & Street Trading**

Councillor Clarke explained that markets trade every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturdays; and most Thursdays and Sundays throughout the year. During 2018/19 an income of £160,525 was generated by the Market.

Street trading in Ludlow creates a vibrant street scene and is a source of revenue for the council raising £9717.52 during 2018/19. We have pitches in Castle Square, High Street, the Bull Ring and Tower Street.

**Making Ludlow Beautiful**

Councillor Clarke emphasised that Councillor Parry is the driving force behind Ludlow in Bloom. Achieving Gold again in 2018 with such small resources and thanking the Direct Labour Force for working with Ludlow in Bloom keeping the displays clean and tidy.

**Refurbishment of Linney Toilets**

As mentioned by the Mayor a contractor has been appointed to undertake the much needed refurbishment.

**ATM/08 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR GINGER**

The Mayor invited Councillor Ginger as Chair of the Representational Committee to speak on the work of the Committee.

Councillor Ginger explained the role of Representational Committee as a statutory consultee for planning applications including advertising, listed

building work, and tree applications received by the Planning Authority, Shropshire Council. He stated that the Town Council commented from a local perspective.

In 2018/19 the Committee commented on 96 planning applications and 34 tree applications.

He went on to say that the Committee also commented on traffic regulation orders, licensing; and pavement permits.

The Committee also awards small grants of up to £300 to support local organisations. He added that the criteria for the grants is quite rigid and they occasional some grants and denied.

### **Project Support Grants**

Councillor Ginger stated that during 2018/19 Ludlow Town Council awarded £2,445.42 in small grants of up to £300 to the following organisations:

Defib4You	Ludlow College
Ludlow Choral Society	Ludlow Concert Band
Ludlow Croquet Club	Ludlow Fringe
Ludlow Hockey Club	Ludlow Junior Football Club
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ludlow Rainbows	Songs for You
People for Ludlow – The Great Get Together	
Seat Sponsorship – Ludlow Assembly Rooms	
South Shropshire Youth Forum	Teme Weirs Trust

### **Employment & Housing**

Councillor Ginger explained that Ludlow needs the right sort of housing for the right sort of reasons and that Ludlow Town Council wants to work with Shropshire Council to create opportunities which support the future prosperity of Ludlow.

Currently employment prospects are not growing in Ludlow and in the past 11 years no significant new employers have moved in to the town. Ludlow Town Council believes that the town needs to attract more employment opportunities.

Ludlow Town Council have asked Shropshire Council for assurances that Ludlow will be adequately supported within Shropshire's planning and economic growth strategies, policies and initiatives.

## **ATM/09 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – COUNCILLOR COBLEY**

The Mayor invited Councillor Cobley as Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee to speak on the work of the Committee

Councillor Cobley explained that role of the Committee was to review the policies and budget of the Town Council. The Committee looked at the Town Council's income and expenditure. He added that the Committee also received a quarterly exceptions reports.

### **Core Grant Funding**

He explained that the Council invited applications once a year and awarded Core Grant Funding to external organisations.

During 2018/19 Ludlow Town Council awarded £28,630 in support of the following organisations:

Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)	Crucial Crew
Ludlow & Area Youth Partnership	Ludlow Assembly Rooms
Ludlow in Bloom	Ludlow College
Ludlow Concert Band	Ludlow Fringe Festival
Homestart	Ludlow and Teme Weirs Trust

Councillor Cobley reported that the Committee adopted new policies when required and also reviewed and re-adopted policies on a regular basis, taking external advice if necessary, a list of which could be found in the Annual Report.

New policies adopted in 2018/19 were:

- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- Investment Policy
- Reserves Policy

He explained that the Committee also commented on consultations from Shropshire Council.

### **Internal & External Audits**

The Town Council has appointed 'Internal Audit & Compliance Ltd' as its Internal Auditor. Two internal audits are undertaken annually.

In 2017/18 'PKF Littlejohn LLP' was appointed as the Town Council's External Auditor for 5 years. There is an annual external audit.

Councillor Cobley drew residents' attention to the council's financial timetable of End of Year in May, annual audit in June and approval of the Annual Return by Council in June, and external audit in July. The accounts could be inspected by residents in July, and the Annual Return was displayed on the website.

### **Budget & Precept 2019/20**

There has been no increase in Council Tax from Ludlow Town Council in 2019/20.

The Town Council's budget for 2019/20 is:

Expenditure budget:	£871,815.00
Budget income:	£314,778.00
Precept amount:	£557,037.00
Income total:	£871,815.00

## **ATM/10 WRITTEN AND VERBAL QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS**

The Mayor informed the public that questions had been received prior to the meeting.

- Q1. When will the saplings in the uncollapsed section of St Laurence's church yard wall be killed off, the roots of all vegetation removed, the cement flaunching repaired and the wall repointed?**

We have taken expert advice and the walls were sprayed to kill the vegetation by trained members of the Direct Labour Force in March 2019. We will revisit to look at the problem growth.

- Q2. Is the Town Council adequately insured against claims arising from falling masonry and/or another collapse of the St Laurence's church yard wall?**

Yes, our insurers are kept up to date with the situation and we are insured.

- Q3. The Town Council has not yet established the General Power of Competence, under the Localism Act of 2011, which is intended to give local authorities wider powers to deliver more for their communities. We understand that the remaining factor in enabling the Council to achieve such powers is for the Town Clerk to have the relevant qualification. Now that we have a Deputy Town Clerk are you able to set a date for the Town Clerk to become qualified and commit to helping her do so?**

Yes. This always has been and still is the plan.

The General Power of Competence is a power of first resort – and designed to be used in addition to the many powers that the Council has available to it in statute. If held, it permits a Council to do anything a normal citizen could do, but the power does not replace or negate all the other powers.

### **Questions for Ludlow Residents Association**

- Q4. Following the decisions of Edinburgh, Bath, York, Liverpool and others to pursue a tourism tax how far has Ludlow Town Council got in considering this method of generating income and reducing pressure on Ludlow town residents?**

Ludlow Town Council spends tax payer's money in support of promoting tourism for Ludlow. The Calendar of Events is published annually and widely

distributed in the West Midlands, and Wales. We run the market and Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross, support local festivals in a number of different ways, organise and publicise our own local events.

The city Councils that are proposing to do this are second tier principle councils that raise council tax, so it is very unlikely that the power would be available to each individual parish council.

When the Town Clerk visited a local Tourism Expo the same question was raised and the response to the tax was tepid at best – taxing tourists is seen to be a negative thing. It is better to attract them. Shropshire Council has employed a dedicated Tourism Officer from Shropshire and Ludlow Town Council made contact with other local organisations at the Expo with a view to exploring ideas for the future.

**Q5. A question asked back in 2017 was when are the finger posts in the town centre going to be corrected or replaced?**

This issue has been considered by Shropshire Council and the In & Out of Ludlow Forum. It is not currently a Town Council project, however, work is being done to establish costings and find funding for the project. It will come to Council in due course.

**Q6. Another question from 2017. When is the Town Wall going to be repaired?**

The Morton Partnership is engaged in the role of Lead Consultant & Structural Engineer and we are currently drafting a timetable of the works for the phase two investigative works.

Shropshire Association of Local Council has approved Ludlow Town Council's borrowing application and have passed it to the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

**Q7. With the election of more Councillors in the last round of elections has the Council now reached the level of competence required to implement the additional powers this would grant. If not, why not?**

The power of competence is not a comment on the competence of the Town Council.

The General Power of Competence is a power of first resort and designed to be used in addition to the many powers that the council has available to it in statute.

If held, it permits a council to do anything that a normal citizen could do, but the power does not replace or negate all the others powers.



As to why, the simple answer until very recently was volume and pressure of work prevented the time needed to be available. There have been recent positive changes, but also a series of setbacks as described below:

In April 2018/19, the Guildhall roof was refurbished by Treasures & Sons, and town Council staff moved back in to the large admin office. This allowed staff to move back to their own working space throughout the building and created desk space for the Deputy Town Clerk who began her post in May 2018.

Between June and September it was necessary to cover a four month absence of temporary Finance and Committee staff who were covering the work of two officers on maternity leave. They found permanence employment and needed to leave promptly. There was also a long period of sickness of the Cemetery Officer following an accident, all of which was unavoidable and unplanned.

During this period the server failed, and whilst good forward planning meant that we were able to be functional in only a couple of days – this caused extra disruption.

Also during this period, the Town Clerk was working with outside partners to alter Remembrance Sunday 2018, which was time consuming, but ultimately a great success for the council.

The extra work to ensure the period of short staffing was managed, and the Town Clerk's already heaving workload meant that once again CILCA training was pushed back.

However, the council's investment in creating the post of Deputy Clerk has eased the Town Clerk's workload, and although we are now committed to a significant project workload – there is capacity to move forward with CILCA.

**Q8. As it is now universally confirmed that global warming caused by burning fossil fuels is now leading to imminent catastrophic consequences what steps are the council taking to delay the inevitable.**

The council has been approached to consider a notion to declare a climate energy and this will be considered by Council. Further consideration can be given to the matter during this process. In the meantime, two councillors attended a climate conference in April and have reported their visit to their fellow councillors.

Ludlow Town Council has undertaken some steps to lessen its environmental impact:

- The council has already uses digital communication as its primary communication tool, but the council also has to be careful not to disadvantage sectors of the electorate, so paper publications are still available.
- Digital agendas also reduce the council's paper consumption.

- When buying other stationery consideration is given to recycled and recyclable materials.
- Two paper recycling bins are provided as part of the market waste provision.
- The staff create compost, which is put on beds and is available be to other organisations.

**Q9. Large vehicles & buses are still stopping in the town centre and leaving their engines running reducing the air quality considerably. Can simple signs be strategically placed telling (not asking) drivers to switch off their engines?**

This matter will be brought to committee or council as an agenda item for consideration.

**Q10. There is a perception in the town that the Town Council is perpetually bogged down in unnecessary procedural bureaucracy if this is true why?**

An organisation that can legally take money from the tax payer needs to be accountable and regulated in law.

Administration is part of the life of any organisation, and all the local services need to be administered. Councils are required to be transparent in their activities which creates some admin. The majority of the work of the town council is providing local services for the local community:

- Ludlow Market;
- Street Trading permits;
- Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross;
- Ludlow Calendar of Events leaflet;
- Public Toilets;
- Event Permits for Events Square;
- Castle Gardens benches and grounds maintenance;
- Henley Road Cemetery – burial services and grounds maintenance;
- The Linney Recreation Area, Jetty & Toilets;
- Riverside Life Buoys;
- Wheeler Road Skate Park, fenced ball games area, smaller children's play area & Ludlow Boxing Club building;

- Houseman Crescent Play Area;
- St John's Gardens;
- Town Centre benches;
- Bus shelters;
- Guildhall Offices reception and information;
- Websites, Newsletter, press releases and social media;
- Ludlow Mayfair;
- Public Council and Committee Meetings (approx. 40 per year);
- Planning Consultee and other consultations - Local Representations made to Shropshire Council;
- Grant giving – over £30,000 of core funding; £4,000 in small grant of up to £300;
- Town's Christmas Lights & Tree;
- Christmas Lights Switch-On;
- Senior Citizen's Christmas;
- Civic Events – Remembrance Sunday with local partners, Mayor Making and Mayor's Sunday;

In addition to this, there are the following projects:

- Town Walls at St Laurence's churchyard
- Updating the CCTV camera system in town
- Progressing the restricted parking zone with Shropshire Council

And in addition to this, there are the council's priority projects for 2019/20:

- To install a bus shelter on Corve Street.
- Refurbish the Linney Riverside Park toilets
- Refurbish the exterior of Smithfield car park toilets
- Make changes to the Guildhall chamber to better facilitate public access to meetings and install a hearing loop.

**Q11. It is understood that leisure boating is to be reintroduced on the River Teme how advanced are the plans?**

The core and priority projects for 2019 / 20 are listed above. Boating is a second tier project. This is not to say there has been no progress, there has been some initial work scoping the project, and assessing the existing assets.

**Q12. Are there any plans to install electric charging points for vehicles in Ludlow? And if so when? The closest one is believed to be in Church Stretton. For town like Ludlow that prides itself on taking sustainability seriously, it is disappointing that there is not at least one in Ludlow.**

Shropshire Council is planning to introduce two charging points at the new garage Dun Cow Rd, Rocksgreen, and if given permission, two at the Salwey Arms garage. Timescale unknown at present.

**Q13. When are the totally inadequate CCTV cameras going to be replaced and fully operational?**

Funding for the project has been secured from a number of sources including LTC funds, local community orgs and businesses, and a grant for half the cost from the Police Crime Commissioner.

The location of Wi-Fi relays in the town centre may need planning permission and discussions are taking place. As soon as the final logistic issues are resolved, the works will commence.

**Q14. Are the Town Council doing anything about the seemingly ad-hoc parking across the market square and the smaller area outside the College? It is virtually impossible for people with any mobility disability – wheel chair users – etc., to get across these areas on some days with so many vehicles parked on them.**

The Town Council has asked Shropshire Council to take action to create a parking order, the results of the restricted parking zone consultation survey have been reported to them. The original information was sent in November 2018, and there have been two follow up written communications in 2019, plus a discussion with parking officers to try to progress the matter.

The Town Council has successfully applied for temporary order to prohibit parking on Events Square from 29<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> May for the Spring Food Festival and the May Fair.

- Q15. Why do local residents, who pay their council tax and contribute to the local community and businesses, have to endure being inundated with motorcyclists each weekend?**

**During the spring and summer months, they repeatedly ride around our one-way road system in groups. Their loud engines in the narrow lanes and streets are amplified to the point where residents cannot hear their TV, radio, or even have conversations in their own homes. The air pollution levels of motorcycles are up to approximately 16 times greater than cars, as well. What are the council doing to monitor and reduce motorcycles in Ludlow town centre?**

For clarities sake, Council Tax is collected by Shropshire Council. LTC has the power to set a precept, which is a small proportion of the council tax payment - currently £159.11 per annum for a band D council tax payer, and a pro-rata amount for the other bands.

It is fair to say that Ludlow welcomes visitors on all forms of transport. One of the key points to come out of the restricted parking zone consultation was the very strong support of visitors to Ludlow who rode motorcycles. However, if there are noise nuisance issue that is becoming anti-social behaviour then there matter should be referred to Shropshire Council or the local police.

- Q16. We have noticed in the past 4 years that there is an increased number of excessively large buses, coaches and lorries using the one-way road system right through the centre of Ludlow. At the corner of Mill Street and Bell Lane there is a tight corner that they often have difficulty navigating because of their sheer size. Some have to mount the pavement along Bell Lane which has led to cracking and instability of the pavements which were never designed to take the weight of such vehicles. What measures are the council taking to address the issue of overly-large vehicles using the centre of Ludlow unnecessarily?**

The town needs to be able to survive economically and all the many very different considerations of all those who live and work in Ludlow to be taken into account. Coaches bring in tourists, van and lorries supply our shops and businesses. The town centre is a mixed use area – both residential and commercial - and both sets of needs must be balanced.

- Q17. There have been recent studies showing that children are particularly vulnerable to asthma, breathing ailments and other effects from car pollution. Some areas are imposing a 'no parking' restriction within certain distances around primary schools as pick-up and drop-off times have parents parked in cars with engines running, waiting for their children, and massively increasing air pollution levels in the vicinity.**

**Have Ludlow council considered or discussed such measures to help our children? Have they measured air pollution around schools at different times of the day? Have they considered 'walk to school' programmes or other ways of addressing concerns?**

This matter should be referred to Shropshire Council.

**Q18. It appears to us that transport, and in particular the over-reliance on personal vehicle use, is a major contributing factor to pollution and environmental damage in our towns and cities. At a time when local bus services and greener transport options are being cut, forcing people to rely on cars and personal vehicles, the council needs to take responsibility for its role in the situation and start looking at measures to ameliorate the damage that is being done.**

- LTC part funds the local 490 bus service between Leominster and Ludlow – £1, 000.0 per annum.
- The council has made a response to Shropshire Council's recent consultation:

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SHROPSHIRE COUCIL CONSULTATION ON REDUCTION OF LOCAL BUS SERVICE SUBSIDIES - FINANCIAL YEAR 2019\20**

Ludlow Town Council is deeply dismayed by detrimental local impact of Shropshire Council's proposed reductions to its public transport budget of £405,000.

Ludlow Town Council strongly objects to the proposed reduction in the number and frequency of bus services subsidised by Shropshire Council.

Shropshire is a large rural county with only a handful of larger employers, an aging population and a significant tourism economy. Ludlow is located at the southern tip of the county and is already poorly served by buses. Shropshire council acknowledges that the Ludlow - Knighton buses 738 and 740 runs Mon – Sat with a one bus service with an already limited 2 hourly timetable, little scope for amendment. The proposal to reduce journey frequency of the 701 Ludlow Town Service Mon – Sat from 30 minutes to 45 minutes will further erode local travel and communication opportunities.

Shropshire Council does not offer an evidence, assessment, remedial action or concern for the detrimental impact of cutting reducing the frequency of local buses.

Reductions in the frequency of local bus services increases isolation because of the reduced opportunity for social interaction. In an area with an aging population, the reduction in frequency of buses will reduce the ability to make visits to local shops, which is to the detriment of the community and the local economy.

Shropshire Council offers no assessment of local needs, there is only an ill-considered action that solely addresses Shropshire Council's financial need. The reduction of bus services is surely not the only possible course of action.

Shropshire Council could have considered options for attracting inward funding for environmentally sustainable transport. LTC know from a FOI request that SC has missed opportunities to apply for available national funding.

The reduction in the availability of public transport is contrary to national environmental policy and ignores the fact that Shropshire is a rural county. Public transport is a key public service and a reduction will lead to further social isolation and impoverishment of opportunity for residents of our communities.

**Q19            Please can the council do something to stop people feeding the pigeons on the town square as they are now landing on the food stalls of the market and spoiling the produce?**

The pigeons are a pest, and whilst there is no immediate answer to this question – it is something that can be taken to committee for further consideration, and reported to Shropshire Council Environmental Health.

**Q20.            There is an increasing problem of cyclists and scooters riding on the pavements, particularly fast down Corve Street. They do not get out of the way for pedestrians, and many Ludlow residents are elderly. Can anything be done?**

This matter should be reported to the police and Shropshire Council, who are responsible for pavements, street furniture and bollards

**ATM/11**    The Mayor then asked for questions from the floor.

**Q21.            Will the new developments in Ludlow have some affordable housing?**

The level of affordable housing is set by Shropshire Council and the largest development in Ludlow is moving ahead without affordable housing. Shropshire Council have the powers and decision to specify a development contains affordable housing.

The development opposite the Leisure Centre on Bromfield Road has agreed to provide 16% affordable housing.

The resident raised a concern that whilst it may be classed as affordable housing that doesn't mean it is affordable for Ludlow.

Question from resident of St Johns Road

**Q22.            A section of the Town Wall is in my garden and I have been advised its owned by the Town Council. Last year I had to pay for the weeds to be treated and removed. Can you confirm if you are responsible for this section of wall?**

The Town Clerk will investigate and respond to the resident in due course.

**Q23. What changes would you like at Shropshire Council? Is there a good working relationship between the Town Council and Shropshire Council?**

It is a shame that Shropshire Council did not increase their precept in previous years to lessen the financial issues that they are having now. Both of the Council's have very different objectives and Shropshire Council is in a position where they are needing to shed some of their services. Ludlow Town Council is very good at money management and will be required to take on the services, which will mean an increase in our precept.

**Q24. A resident raised concerns that financial information on pg. 31 is not very detailed & that the timing of the town meeting should be after the financial report to show a more detailed expenditure and income.**

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to respond to this query. The Town Clerk stated that it is a statutory regulation for this meeting to take place between March and June annually. All budget information is in the public domain on our website and that is seen to be sufficient. Audited accounts will be publicised in September, but until then we cannot provide unaudited figures.

**Q25. Why didn't Ludlow Town Council increase the precept this year?**

Councillor Ginger offered to respond to this query. He explained that last year we increased the precept greater than inflation to allow for forthcoming annual projects. The precept is not increased for the sake of it and only when there is a purpose which is then reported to Auditors.

**Q26. A Wigley's Field allotment holder is concerned regarding the amount of plastic in the compost which the Town Council generously provide from the Cemetery. Could something be done to improve this?**

This will be monitored and better signage will be explored for the Cemetery users.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

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Town Mayor

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Date