



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2025** at **7.00 PM**.

FC/206 PRESENT

Chair: Councillor Lyle

Councillors: Addis; Childs; Cowell; Ginger; Hepworth; Maxwell-Muller; Owen; Parry; Scott-Bell; Tapley; Taylor; Waite

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Helen Jones, Senior Administration Assistant

FC/207 ABSENT

Councillors Gill and Harris were absent.

FC/208 HEALTH & SAFETY

The Mayor, Councillor Lyle, welcomed everyone to the Full Council meeting and made some health and safety announcements.

FC/209 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Mayor notified those present that under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014, recording and broadcasting is permitted during public session of Council Meetings. The act of recording and broadcasting must not interfere with the meeting.

FC/210 MEETING PROTOCOL

The Mayor reminded Members of the vital importance of mutual respect, professionalism, and full adherence to the Council's Code of Conduct, Standing Orders, and Meeting Protocol.

Councillors and officers have distinct yet complementary roles and work collaboratively in the best interests of the community. Councillors are responsible for setting policy and representing the public, while officers provide impartial advice and are tasked with implementing Council decisions.

During meetings, Members must conduct themselves with decorum, follow the established rules of debate, and respect the authority of the Chair. Disruptive

behaviour, undue pressure on officers, or prioritising personal interests above Council objectives undermines good governance and is contrary to the standards of conduct expected in Council proceedings.

Maintaining integrity, accountability, and a respectful environment is essential to ensuring effective and transparent decision-making.

FC/211 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Gill (family holiday) and Councillor Harris (unwell).

FC/212 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

Personal Interests

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Owen	9	Knows the Chair of Ludlow Town Walls Trust. Is not and never have been, or been invited to be, a member, friend or trustee of either the Ludlow Town Walls Trust or St Laurence's PCC.
Cowell	9	Is a member of the choir at St Laurence's Church. Not a member of St Laurence's PCC.
Parry	9	Knows the Chair of Ludlow Town Walls Trust.
Hepworth	9	Knows the Chair of Ludlow Town Walls Trust. Is not a member of the Town Walls Trust or St Laurence's PCC.
Lyle	9	Knows the Chair of Ludlow Town Walls Trust.
Maxwell-Muller	9	Knows the Chair of Ludlow Town Walls Trust.

FC/213 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were five members of the public in attendance and four addressed the council.

A resident of Ludlow questioned the council on what the plan was for the collapsed section of wall, when there would be any communication with the public and asked for transparency around this issue.

A resident of Ludlow commented that she believed there was a large proportion of residents in the town that can ill afford an increase in council tax and urged the council to remember that.

A resident of Ludlow queried why a number of councillors had not declared a relationship with the church and suggested existing predisposition and bias on matters relating to the walls. The resident claimed that some of the councillors have failed to make proper declarations and as such puts the council at risk of disrepute and any votes made legally unsafe.

A resident of Ludlow spoke on the historical status of the churchyard referring to orders published in the Gazette and claimed that the walls remain the liability of the PCC.

FC/214 LUDLOW'S UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Councillor Parry (Ludlow South) confirmed that she has been to the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group for town and parish councils and found the meeting informative. Initially, it was discussed that up to 138 town and parish councils may receive funding for certain initiatives, but each council must determine what they are able and willing to do. Since then, the process has evolved, and the group is now inviting input from various local organisations to understand their perspectives on improving the town and surrounding parishes. Rather than dictating what should be done, the approach is now focused on collaboration and listening to local needs. Councillor Parry also confirmed that she has complained to Shropshire Council about the resurfacing works done to Ludford Bridge as unacceptable.

FC/215 Councillor Waite (Ludlow East) provided updates on two key local matters. First, regarding the youth hub, they have attended a meeting to help get it reopened. Another meeting is scheduled for early November and it is hoped that by then, repairs to the building will be well underway.

Second, there have been two meetings with Connexus Housing about proposed changes in the Sandpits area. Plans include potentially demolishing some buildings and replacing them with larger homes to better accommodate bigger families. A full consultation with all Sandpits residents will take place. Connexus has assured that priority for any new housing will first go to current Sandpits residents, followed by other local residents.

FC/216 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED DL/KC (11:2:0)

That that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, and the meeting continue in closed session.

The meeting closed at 8:43PM.

Town Mayor

Date

Closed session minutes will be issued for this meeting.