



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023** at 7.00 PM.

FC/60 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Ginger

Councillors: Childs; Garner; Gill; O'Neill; Pote; Tapley; Thompson, B Waite, S Waite.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant
Esther Gittoes, Communications & Marketing Officer

FC/61 HEALTH & SAFETY

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Full Council meeting, and requested that in the event of a fire alarm, everyone was to leave in an orderly fashion by the main exit at the front of the building. The assembly point is outside on the pavement away opposite the Guildhall.

FC/62 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.

The Council understands that some members of the public may not wish to be recorded and asked that they make this known at this point in the meeting.

FC/63 CIVIC AWARD

The Mayor presented Juliet Diamond with a civic award and thanked her for her community work as a Guerrilla Gardener at Castle Gardens, Ludlow.

FC/64 PRESENTATION FROM THE POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

The Mayor invited the Police Crime Commissioner to speak to Council.

The Police Crime Commissioner thanked the Town Council for the opportunity. He outlined the Police Crime Commissioner's role, which is governance for West Mercia with the focus on victims and crime prevention.

He advised that links with Town Councils who were close to the electorate were vital, as they were a source of information and ensured that feedback shaped the delivery of services.

The Police Crime Commissioner explained that the budget of £200 million and 2,000 officers in 2016 had risen to £274 million and 2,500 officers in 2023. He stated the demand had changed along with the crime types. The target was for more crime fighting teams and visible policing which was a resource for local Commanders to tap into.

Ludlow, he advised was low crime area. Crime and consultation showed that confidence in policing was mid-range. 82% surveyed confirmed they were confident in policing, 58% said it was an excellent/good service and there was 59% satisfaction in the area.

Burglary was down, although small theft was up. He stressed that the ebb and flow of information from the public helped the Police to direct resources. He highlighted that joint working was being carried out with Shropshire Council to invest in road safety on the A49 to address high harm routes and vans augmented with speed cameras were being used on the border into Herefordshire, which was a problem area.

Turning to crime he highlighted that it had been recognised that offenders being brought to justice through the court system could be improved upon. More funds had been allocated to address this.

The Police Crime Commissioner finished by stating that as Shropshire was spread out it was more of a challenge but he was keen to see visible community policing with the effect of bringing more people to justice. Councillors asked questions about shop lifting, local policing in the street, drugs, antisocial driving, response times, and offender conviction rates.

The Mayor thanked the Police Crime Commissioner for his presentation.

FC/65 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jones, Lyle and Parry.

FC/66 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
None		

Personal Interests

None

FC/67 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were six members of the public present.

Founder of Fitness Free – the Founder of Fitness Free explained that in 2019 she had started a fitness free programme in Northampton, although had moved to Ludlow. The classes, she explained, were to support those beginning a fitness regime or support individuals to maintain their routines. She outlined that in Northampton she had worked with the Town Council and used the Council Chamber for free offering the classes. However, she had been advised by a member of staff that Ludlow Town Council had no suitable facilities. Finally, she said, that Fitness Free was non-profit and was her way of giving back to the community.

FC/68 **LUDLOW POLICE**

The Mayor invited Inspector Ingrid Tozer to address the Council and provide an update on the work of Ludlow Safer Neighbourhood team.

Inspector Tozer explained that she had recently taken on the Safer Neighbourhood for Ludlow, Shifnal and Broseley.

Picking up on comments made to the Police Crime Commissioner, Inspector Tozer highlighted that, following reports of speeding on the industrial estate during the evening, resources placed had been successful. Two e-scooters had been seized in May. It was clear that problems were ongoing, and subject to receiving intelligence / sights, she could bid for resources such as the motorcycle team. Drivers had also been advised regarding speeding with tickets being issued on roads surrounding Ludlow.

Regarding drugs and county lines, she reported that incidents in Ludlow were low, so when they occurred it stood out. Much of it was intelligence led and again she asked Councillors and the public to report any suspicious activities. She confirmed there had been some success with warrants and an offender had been arrested, who had pleaded guilty for possession of weapons and given a

suspended prison sentence, and had been given bail regarding drug possession, which had been sent for testing.

Regarding shop lifting, she stated that a male had been arrested three times and this was linked to drugs. He had been to court and given an 8-week prison sentence, suspended with a drugs and alcohol support order and been ordered to pay compensation.

Inspector Tozer highlighted that there was active community engagement in schools covering relevant issues, knife crime in particular and also online safety. Councillors asked questions about shop lifting, the high turnover of senior police officers in the area, cross border policing, multi-agency working in Ludlow, and e-scooters.

FC/69 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

No unitary Councillors were present.

FC/70 MINUTES – ANNUAL TOWN RESIDENTS MEETING – 24TH APRIL 2023

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DT

That the minutes of the Annual Town Residents Meeting held on the 24th April 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/71 MINUTES – 10TH MAY 2023

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/TG

That the minutes of Council held on the Wednesday 10th May 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/72 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow formal agreement of the process for items to action.

FC/73 CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS TO ACTION

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/GG

That the Items to Action would be considered quarterly, and in intervening periods, were to be noted.

FC/74 **RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/TG**

That Standing Orders be re-instated.

FC/75 **ITEMS TO ACTION – 10th MAY 2023**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/DT**

That the Items to action be approved.

FC/76 **INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 2022/23**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/TG**

That the Internal Auditors Report 2022/23 would be on the next council meeting.

FC/77 **ANNUAL RETURN GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/TG**

That the Annual Return Governance Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

FC/78 **ANNUAL RETURN STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/TG**

That the Annual Return Accounting Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

FC/79 **PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/TG**

That Monday 26th June to Friday 4th August 2023 be approved as the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights.

FC/80 **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/BW**

That as required by the Localism Act 2011, s.8 and set out in a statutory instrument known as the parish councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, Ludlow Town Council is entitled to exercise

the General Power of Competence because, at the time of making this resolution, it meets the criteria that the Town Clerk is CiLCA qualified and the number of councillors elected at the last ordinary election, or at a subsequent by-election, are equal or exceed two thirds of its total number of councillors.

FC/81 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

That both central government and LGA documents would be circulated to Councillors and a discussion of the t options presented by the GPC would be an item on the next agenda.

FC/82 PROJECTS UPDATE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/TG

That the Project & Action Plan be approved.

FC/83 LUDLOW FAIRTRADE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/EG

To note that Ludlow has been a Fairtrade Town since 2003 and is run by Ludlow Fairtrade Town Steering Group.

FC/84 LUDLOW FAIRTRADE TOWN STATUS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/SO

To support the renewal of Ludlow Fairtrade Town status.

FC/85 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONSULTATION

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

- i) To bring funded proposals to Council in July.
- ii) To accept offers of assistance, and work with local businesses.
- iii) To provide immediate opportunities for the local community and businesses to financially support Ludlow's lights.
- iv) To use the valuable feedback from the consultation to inform the improvements.

FC/86 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RP

To note the draft recommendations of the electoral review of Shropshire.

FC/87 PLACE PLAN

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/TG

That the Place Plan Officer be invited to the next Full Council meeting, and the council responses the Ludlow Walking and Cycling routes consultation are sent to the Place Plan Officer.

FC/88 TRANSFER OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL FEE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

To regularise the Town Council's fees to include a fee of £25 for the transfer of Exclusive Rights of Burial.

FC/89 HISTORICAL SEALS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

- i) To arrange with Shropshire Council Museum Service that the seals become part of their collection and permanent exhibits at the Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross.
- ii) That images of the seals and any information discovered by the Museum Service is available for use on the Town Council's website.

FC/90 PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT CRITERIA

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RP

That the Project Support Grant Criteria be noted.

FC/91 PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION - FITNESS FREE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DT

That the Project Support Grant for Fitness Free be declined as it does not meet the criteria.

FC/92 PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION - FRIENDS OF ST LEONARDS

RESOLVED (9:1:0) GG/TG

That the amount of £250 is awarded to Friends of St Leonards.

FC/93 PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION - LUDLOW FRINGE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

That the Project Support Grant for Ludlow Fringe be declined because the council cannot award funds retrospectively.

FC/94 PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION - STORYMINE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/EG

That the Project Support Grant for Storymine is declined because there is no explanation of how the funds will be spent.

FC/95 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RP

That Standing Orders be suspended in order for Council to reconsider Committee Membership.

FC/96 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/GG

That Councillor Pote become a member of the Policy and Finance Committee for 2023-24.

FC/97 CHAIR OF POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor O'Neil nominated himself and was seconded by Councillor Gill.

Councillor S Waite nominated himself and was seconded by Councillor Pote.

A paper ballot was taken.

Councillor S Waite – 5 votes

Councillor O'Neill – 3 votes

RESOLVED (5:3:2) SW/RP

That Councillor S Waite is elected the Chair of Policy & Finance Committee for 2023 / 2024.

FC/98 CLIMATE ACTION SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RP

That Councillors Garner, O'Neill, and Pote become members of the Climate Action Sub-Committee.

FC/99 RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/GG

That the Standing Orders be reinstated.

FC/100 RECRUITMENT

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/BW

To ratify the appointment of EG as full-time Communications & Marketing Officer on SCP 13 – 17.

FC/101 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE 2ND MAY AND 6TH JUNE 2023

RESOLVED (9:0:1) GG/RP

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on the 2nd May and 6th June 2023 be received.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Town Mayor

Date

NB. Closed session minutes will NOT be issued.