



MINUTES

Minutes of the **COUNCIL** held at Ludlow Methodist Church, Broad Street, Ludlow, on **MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 2021** at **7.00 PM**.

FC/146 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor Pote

Councillors: Adams; Durnall; Gill (from 7.45pm); Ginger; O'Neill (from 7.08pm); Parry; Perks (from 7.16pm); Tapley (from 7.27pm); Waite.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant

FC/147 **HEALTH AND 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. In the unlikely event that this route is blocked, to leave through the rear fire exit, and through the side entrance. For the public upstairs, fire exits could be found at the front and at the back. The assembly point is outside on the pavement away from the front of the building.

FC/148 **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/149 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Boddington, Garner, Lyle, Thompson.

It was also noted that Councillors O'Neill, Perks and Tapley would be arriving late to the meeting due to online training.

FC/150 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTDisclosable Pecuniary Interests

None disclosed.

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Parry	10b	Chair of Ludlow in Bloom

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Perks	10	Regularly attends Shrewsbury Hospital Former Defib Committee Member and supporter
Cllr O'Neill	11	Receives a pension from BT and is a shareholder

FC/150 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were no members of the public present.

FC/151 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Cllr V Parry, Ludlow South – stated that Councillor Lesley Picton, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications was touring the county. She would be visiting the ladies Conservatives, as well as a planned meeting at the Museum later on in the month.

She also highlighted that she had taken a lot of enquiries from older residents in relation to the sharp rises in gas and electricity prices, who had difficulty with the internet or no access at all. She added that a request had been made to the Liberal Democrats to produce a leaflet and asked if the Town Council could also assist.

The Town Clerk confirmed that telephone details of Age Concern and other organisations could be added to the Town Council's website and the information provided to switchboard.

FC/152 MINUTES – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/BW**

That the minutes of Full Council on Monday 27th September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

FC/153 CLOSED MINUTES – 26TH APRIL 2021**RESOLVED (4:0:2) RP/GG**

That the closed minutes of Full Council on Monday 26th April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

7.08pm Councillor O'Neill joined the meeting.

FC/154 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED (5:0:7) RP/VP

That the delegated decisions of Full Council on Monday 12th July 2021 and 2nd August 2021 be ratified.

FC/155 ITEMS TO ACTION

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/GG

That the items to action be noted.

FC/156 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/GG

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow Council to discuss Representatives on Outside Bodies and Vice-Chairs of Committees.

FC/157 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/GG

That:-

- i) the item is deferred to the next Council meeting, when a greater number of Councillors are present; and
- ii) the existing Representatives on Outside Bodies continue to attend invited meetings.

FC/158 VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED (5:0:2) RP/JD

That this item be deferred to the next Council meeting.

FC/159 RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/PA

That Standing Orders be re-instated.

7.16pm Councillor Perks joined the meeting.

FC/160 RESPONSE FROM WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Mayor invited the Communications Director of West Midlands Ambulance Service to speak on this issue.

Following a question from a Member the Communications Director replied that no reason had been given from the Primary Care Trust as to the reduction in funding. He outlined that the demand for the ambulance service had increased extraordinarily by 50% in July but these figures had fluctuated throughout August and September. It was anticipated that during the winter months this would increase further.

He explained that figures were also affected by the hospital handover times. Targets were set for a 15 minute handover period time but the average in October so far at Shrewsbury Hospital was two hours. This he said was not usual but was currently reflected in both urban and rural settings but highlighted that Shrewsbury Hospital was struggling. Being fair to hospitals he said, 20% of additional patients were being treated in A&E, with Covid restrictions still in place, while attempting to catch up on elective work.

The Communications Director drew Members attention to the fact that the Ambulance service was recruiting but this took time.

Another Member declared that whilst he understood the capacity issues this did not explain the rationale around closing the CAS (community ambulance station) at Craven Arms.

The Communications Director responded by saying that the through no fault of the crews that operate at Craven Arms and also Oswestry, the Trust lost up to three hours of ambulance time at each site in every 24-hour period.

He explained simply that if a crew started at a hub, such as Shrewsbury, they did so with a cleaned, fully fueled, loaded ambulance that should last the full 12 hour shift. With the CAS site ambulances, the crew started with an ambulance that had been used for around half a shift. In the current operating model, the crew returned to the hub to swap over to a new vehicle every shift (twice a day). Additional time was also spent travelling back to the CAS point for meal breaks and at the end of their shift; all time that meant the crew were not available to respond to patients.

This could be compounded, if the ambulance was delayed, for example, at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) at the end of the shift and the crew were an hour late getting back to the CAS point, then the on-coming crew had no vehicle to respond in. Therefore effectively another hour of ambulance time was lost, due to the situation.

7.27pm Councillor Tapley joined the meeting.

The loss of time had been equated to 5-6K cases not being seen and as the service was so desperately short of resources, he stated the service needed to be as effective as possible.

A Member asked as a Councillor how she should respond to public questions to the loss of CAS, as Shrewsbury was a 45 minute journey on a good day and long-term overnight works would regularly enforce the A49 to close. She added in her opinion, that being in the south of the county yet again the south was being excluded from services. She felt that if anyone had a stroke or heart attack this would effectively seal the outcome.

The Director of Communications advised that the decision was being based on the level of service and that when someone called 999, the nearest ambulance would attend. This could mean that an ambulance from the Black Country may be the nearest as services had been overlapping to cover the area. He added that ambulances crew had the option to take patients to either Hereford or Worcester if the A49 was closed.

Referring to heart attacks he stated that it was proven that if CRP wasn't carried out within the initial seven minutes then survival decreased to 10%. He spoke passionately that everyone in the room had a part to play in this, whatever their age and that a heart defibrillator every 200 meters had also shown an increase in survival.

In relation to strokes he referred to the FAST test, (face, arms, speech and time) and informed Council that this was a category 2 call and should be mentioned when calling 999. He explained a stroke indicated a blockage in the blood vessels and there was a four hour window to receive blood thinners.

7.45pm Councillor Gill joined the meeting.

Another Member asked why there had been no public consultation, something which had also been echoed to by local MP, stating in his opinion, that this was reinforcing this as a convenient cost cutting management exercise.

The Director of Communications responded by saying that the review had been of the ten ambulance hub sites did not fall under the chain of the H&S Act and there was no requirement for a public consultation. However, he had been happy to come to Full Council to explain the reasons for the changes.

The Mayor thanked the Director of Communications.

FC/161 REQUEST FROM BT OPENREACH

RESOLVED (9:0:1) GG/GP

To approve permission for BT Openreach to apply for Listed Building Consent to install an additional distribution point for fibre optic broadband on the Guildhall.

FC/162 DELEGATED AUTHORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Representational Committee

RESOLVED (9:0:1) RP/GG

To ratify the Delegated Authority Recommendations from the Representational Committee 26th May, 23rd June, 21st July and 21st August and 15th September 2021.

FC/163 SERVICES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (9:0:1) RP/GP

To ratify the Delegated Authority Recommendations from the Services Committee 7th June, 14th July and 8th September 2021.

FC/165 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/PA

To ratify the Delegated Authority Recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee 14th June and 26th July 2021.

FC/166 STAFFING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (7:0:3) GP/BW

To ratify the Delegated Authority Recommendations from the Staffing Committee 22nd July and 31st August 2021.

FC/167 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/PA

That invited representatives from Ludlow Town Council attend the Ludford Parish meeting as observers with the authority to ask questions and report the views of Ludford Parish Council to the next Full Council meeting.

FC/168 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/TG

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.

The meeting closed at 8:14 pm.

Town Mayor

Date

NB Closed session minutes WILL be issued.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Closed Session minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 2021** at **7:00PM**

FC/169 **PLAQUE**

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/RP

That the late Sergeant at Arms family is invited to the November Full Council meeting, to receive the service plaque posthumously, or if they prefer an alternative date for the Mayor to present the plaque.

FC/170 **STAFFING MATTER**

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/TG

That at the end of the period of acting up as Supervisor on SCP 12, MH is permanently moved to SCP 7, with additional duties to cover for the absence of the supervisor and responsibility for management of DLF equipment and storage.

FC/171 **RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/GP**

That SCP 8 would be the top of the scale to be achieved, subject to appraisal, in the next financial year.

FC/172 **LEGAL ADVICE**

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG

That:-

- i) The Town Council's solicitors are instructed pursue rights by prescription, and to draft letters to JP and CR accordingly.
- ii) The Town Council's solicitors are instructed to write to two former Magistrates in pursuance of rights by prescription.
- iii) Enquiries to the county archives continue.

The meeting closed at 8.14pm

Town Mayor

Date