



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025** at **7.00 PM**.

### **FC/266    PRESENT**

Chairman:                      Councillor B. Waite

Councillors:                Childs; Garner; Gill; Ginger; Hall; Harris; Parry; Tapley; Thompson and S. Waite.

Officers:                     Gina Wilding, Town Clerk  
Kate Adams, Deputy Town Clerk  
Helen Jones, Senior Admin Assistant

### **ABSENT**

Councillors:                De Gersigny, Jones and Miller.

### **FC/267    HEALTH & SAFETY**

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

### **FC/268    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/269    APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors De Gersigny (family commitment) and Jones (family ill health).

### **FC/270    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
None

Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Parry - Ludlow in Bloom

Personal Interests

Councillor Thompson – Item 17 – Walkers Are Welcome

**FC/271     PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were six members of the public in attendance.

The Chair of Station Drive Patient Group and Chair of Shropshire Defend Our NHS read a speech which expressed concerns over the threats to critical departments and services at Ludlow Community Hospital, as well as the apparent decline of certain parts of the building in general.

A town councillor spoke after declaring they were speaking as a resident of Ludlow.

**FC/272     LUDLOW POLICE UPDATE**

West Mercia Police Constable Fern Johnson and PCSO Sue Cooke from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) addressed the Council. PC Johnson introduced herself as having taken up her post in September 2024. She highlighted an increase in reports to the police concerning drugs, anti-social behaviour and rural theft, which continue to be the primary focus for the team. Since October, 18 operations have been carried out to address these issues with encouraging results. The SNT is also organising events and open surgeries at supermarkets and other public venues to foster local engagement and enhance their visibility. The next event will take place at the library on 28th January.

Councillor Garner stated it was very encouraging to hear about the targeted operations and of the positive results. Councillor Gill also commented on the general positive feeling within the town around what the police are doing.

**FC/273     LUDLOW'S UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Councillor Parry (Ludlow South) confirmed that Shropshire Council has not yet moved out of the Shirehall building into the Guildhall, the move is still expected but no date is confirmed.

**FC/274     MINUTES**

Councillor Childs proposed an amendment to the closed session minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**RESOLVED DC/TG (5:4:2)**

That the following wording “That there is a conflict of interest between Mr Childs leading the Ludlow Residents Group and being a Town Councillor, and this has put the Town Council and Clerk in a difficult position” be removed.

**FC/275    RESOLVED BW/TG (10:1:0)**

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**FC/276    RESOLVED BW/TG (unanimous)**

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**FC/277    ITEMS TO ACTION**

**RESOLVED BW/SW (unanimous)**

That the Items to Action of the Council meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be noted.

**FC/278    TRANSPORT FOR WALES**

Apologies were received from Nichole Sarra, Stakeholder Manager for the Borders, Transport for Wales (TfW).

**FC/279    LUDLOW HOSPITAL**

**RESOLVED BW/RH (unanimous)**

The Council agreed to let Jennifer Gill, co-Chair of the League of Friends, read a report.

**FC/280**    The Co-Chair of the League of Friends explained that the League has been meeting and corresponding with the Integrated Care Board for three years regarding the enhancement of clinical services at the hospital and to champion a new building on the Eco Park at Ludlow. She states that despite this, services at the hospital have reduced and equipment is underused. The League believes that the building itself is not fit for purpose with only one ward now operational as an overspill for the larger acute hospitals. The League wants to see an expansion

within Primary Care including upgrades and extensions to the Minor Injuries unit, and a state-of-the-art facility developed on the Eco Park, to effectively bring Shropshire's community hospitals into the Twenty First Century.

- FC/281** The Council received a presentation from David Sandbach, former chief executive of the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, explaining his vision for the future of Ludlow's community healthcare.

Questions and responses:

Q. What is your connection to, or interest in, Ludlow or the Ludlow Community Hospital?

A. None, apart from the fact that I understand what you need and am prepared to stand up and help you fight for it.

- FC/282** The Council also received a presentation from Bernard Bentick, Shropshire Council Shadow Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care and Public Health. Bernard provided a clinical perspective on the services that in his opinion Ludlow needs. He believes that prevention and treatment within the community is far more beneficial to patients and is indeed more cost effective, especially given the enormous pressure on A&E departments nowadays. Bernard explained the risks with 'corridor care' and admission times, reiterating the acute need to reduce the problems within urgent care, and to increase the resources within community care. He will continue to press the Integrated Care Board and Shropshire Council what their plans are to address these issues.

- FC/283** **BUDGET 2025/26**

**RESOLVED BW/TG (9:2:0)**

**(For – BW / EG / TG / GG / RH / SH / AT / DT / SW  
Against – DC/VP  
Abstain – 0)**

To approve the £1,265,827.00 budget for 2025/26.

- FC/284** **RESOLVED BW/TG**

**(For – BW / EG / TG / GG / RH / SH / AT / DT / SW  
Against – DC/VP  
Abstain – 0)**

To approve the £946,000.00 precept for 2025/26.

**FC/285    REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To approve the dates for Representational Committee up until June 2025 as listed below:

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
11<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
8<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
17<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**FC/286    THE CLIMATE AND NATURE BILL**

**RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To note the Climate and Nature Bill and its progress.

**FC/287    RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To write to Ludlow's MP to ask for his support of the Bill.

**FC/288    MENTOR SUPPORT FOR LUDLOW MUSUM AT THE BUTTERCROSS**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To approve a letter to Shropshire Council in support of retention of their current Museum Services employees.

**FC/289    LUDLOW YOUTH CLUB**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To note the autumn report.

**FC/290    RESOLVED BW/SW (unanimous)**

To approve three-year financial support for Ludlow Youth Club totalling £18,000 from 2025/26 budget.

**FC/291    RESOLVED GG/EG (unanimous)**

To create a Ludlow Youth Club cost centre and put the £18,000.00 into a new earmarked reserve for expenditure over the three-year period.

**FC/292    WALKERS ARE WELCOME****RESOLVED DT/SH (unanimous)**

To approve Council support for the Walkers Are Welcome initiative in Ludlow.

**FC/293    FESTIVAL FEES FOR EVENTS SQUARE****RESOLVED BW/GG (unanimous)**

To approve the introduction of the three-tier charging structure for festivals and events on Events Square.

**FC/294    RESOLVED TG/GG (unanimous)**

To approve the fees chargeable for each tier as stated in the table below.

<b>Tier 1 Fee</b>	<b>Tier 2 Fee</b>	<b>Tier 3 Fee</b>
Free of charge use. One off £60 fee for removing and storing the benches, if applicable.	A fixed fee of £100 per day. One off £60 charge for removal of benches, if applicable.	A fixed fee of £150 per day. One off charge of £60 for removal of benches, if applicable.

To add the three tiers of festival fees to the Council's fees table for annual review.

**FC/295    LUDLOW BATHING WATER STATUS****RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To approve the installation of temporary water quality sampling equipment at The Linney Riverside Park.

**FC/296    DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER****RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To note the audit consultation.

**FC/297     STANDARDS CONSULTATION****RESOLVED BW/SW (unanimous)**

To approve all proposals being consulted upon, including:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals.

**FC/298     WHEELER ROAD RECREATION AREA****RESOLVED TG/SH (unanimous)**

To support in principle, the request from Ludlow Rugby Club to use Wheeler Road Recreation Area as a temporary training ground, subject to approval from a successor of the original grantee.

**FC/299     LORD LIEUTENANT'S GARDEN PARTY****RESOLVED SW/DT (unanimous)**

To nominate Councillor Garner to attend the party in recognition of her leadership, commitment, and hard work as a town councillor in Ludlow, and most recently and independent of the council, setting up Ludlow and Area Community Partnership Charity.

**FC/300     COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS****RESOLVED SW/GG (10:0:1)**

To approve the recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024:

That:-

- the amended Reserves Policy be adopted.
- **Annual Review of Reserves:**  
To continue to monitor income trends, asset conditions, and expenditure to adjust reserves as necessary.

- **Income Diversification:**  
To reduce reliance on precept by exploring grants, and sponsorships.
- **Proactive Asset Management:**  
To conduct regular inspections of listed buildings, play areas, and other high-risk assets to prevent unexpected costs.
- **Cost Monitoring:**  
To continuously monitor operating expenses to ensure reserves remain adequate and proportionate to risks through Policy and Finance Committee.
- **Reserve Levels**  
To approve a General Reserve of £300,000 or equivalent to 3 months of operating expenditure, providing a balance between flexibility and prudent risk management.
- **Earmarked Reserves:**  
To approve total earmarked reserves of £600,000 - £800,000.
- **Breakdown:**

Listed buildings maintenance:	£200,000
Play areas and public toilets:	£75,000.
Market infrastructure:	£50,000.
Staffing contingencies:	£50,000.
Legal and regulatory compliance:	£30,000.
Other projects / devolution costs:	£350,000

To approve building total reserves of £900,000 to £1.1 million to ensure the council can handle both short-term operational risks and long-term capital obligations.

- That the amended Financial Regulation be adopted.
- That the Pension Policy be readopted.

**FC/301    RESOLVED SW/GG (unanimous)**

To approve the recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

- That the MPS (NW) Ltd debt, in the sum of £4,249.15, be written off.
- That the Health and Safety Policy, as amended, be adopted.

**FC/302    RESOLVED BW/TG (unanimous)**

To approve the recommendations from Services Committee on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

- That an annual plaque award scheme is devised to run alongside the Civic Awards. The details of the criteria, including that the plaque would be installed on a bench owned by Ludlow Town Council, are to be approved by Full Council, and that the first recipient of a plaque should be Ludlow Hospital League of Friends.



**FC/303    RESOLVED GG/SW (unanimous)**

To approve the recommendations from Representational Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024:

- That a Place Plan project is created to lower the kerb outside Station Drive Surgery is an urgent H&S requirement to reduce the risk of a fatality due to slips and falls into the carriageway.
- That the unallocated CIL of £1,665.00 is committed to this project.

**FC/304    COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED BW/TG (unanimous)**

To receive the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

**FC/305    RESOLVED BW/EG (10:0:1)**

To receive the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**FC/306    RESOLVED GG/SW (unanimous)**

To receive the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**FC/307    EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

**RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

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, the public be excluded, and the meeting continue in closed session.

**FC/308    MEETING EXTENSION**

**RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To approve a meeting extension of 30 minutes.

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Town Mayor

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Date

Closed session minutes will be issued for this meeting.