



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held at The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025** at 7.00 PM.

### **FC/345    PRESENT**

Chairman:                      Councillor B. Waite

Councillors:                Childs; Garner; Gill (7.20pm); Ginger; Harris; Miller; Parry; Tapley; Thompson and S. Waite.

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

### **ABSENT**

Councillors:                Hall; Jones.

### **FC/346    HEALTH & SAFETY**

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

### **FC/347    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/348    APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Jones (work).

### **FC/349    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of Interest

None

Personal Interests

None

**FC/350    PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were four members of the public in attendance.

A resident of Ludford requested that the Town Council utilise amplification equipment in the chamber during council meetings.

**FC/351    LUDLOW POLICE UPDATE**

Inspector Damien Kelly was present to provide an update to the council. Between January and March 2025, 278 incidents were recorded in Ludlow. Of these, 116 were crimes, and 34 were classified as antisocial behaviour (ASB). Compared to other Safer Neighbourhood Areas in Shropshire, Ludlow ranked 14th in January and 7th in both February and March, where first indicates the highest ASB levels.

Common incident types included nuisance calls, suspicious activity, highway disruption, and concerns for safety. No particular trends are causing concern at present. The current policing priorities remain drugs, shoplifting, and antisocial driving, with no changes expected until after the election.

A notable incident involving racist graffiti occurred during the period. CCTV footage showed schoolchildren taking paint from an unsecured art room and using it in a rural area. The act is not believed to have been targeted. A school visit has taken place, and steps are being taken to secure materials.

In Whitbread Road, incidents of ASB including door knocking and stone throwing were reported. Several individuals were identified through CCTV and issued ASB warning letters, which has since reduced the activity.

Ongoing concerns in Beech Gardens and Whitefriars involve individuals known to police. A female was arrested in March and given bail conditions not to return. Another arrest in Kershaw Close led to an officer being assaulted, though no serious injury was sustained. At Pear Tree Court, housing partners are supporting enforcement efforts relating to an individual of concern.

Operations targeting antisocial driving and speeding continue in key areas such as the Eco Park, Overton Road, and Sheet Road. These efforts have resulted in enforcement action including tickets, warnings, and vehicle defect notices. Public suggestions received via social media have helped identify new areas of concern.

Drug-related intelligence has increased significantly through community engagement. A targeted operation is scheduled to begin on 8th April, while specific details cannot be shared, results are expected to follow. Residents and

partners are encouraged to continue reporting concerns. All intelligence is recorded and assessed under the National Intelligence Model.

The policing team thanked the council and community for their continued cooperation and support.

Questions and responses:

Q. I've seen lots of press coverage recently around the national operation targeting some Turkish barbers and vape shops potentially linked to organised crime. Was that a one-off operation or is it something that is continuing?

A. I think it will continue, given how big the intelligence picture is with that. In fact, the press coverage will likely encourage more calls in to police which will further assist with intelligence gathering.

Q. I just wanted to make you aware of an individual who frequently rides an electric scrambler along the pavement outside the primary school on Sandpits Road. He does not wear a helmet and he rides it very fast, I am concerned that if he either fell off or hit someone, it would be serious.

A. Thank you, please report it to us each time you see this, and encourage other people to do so, then we can act at the time.

Q. Please can we continue the two-hour drop-in sessions during the SYA Youth Club at the Youth Centre on a monthly basis, we can ensure it goes on social media and make sure the residents know about it.

A. Yes, that seems a good idea.

#### **FC/352    LUDLOW'S UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Councillor Parry (Ludlow South) reported that Shropshire Council was no longer in possession of their two street cleaning vehicles and there were no plans to replace them.

#### **FC/353    MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED DT/BW (unanimous)**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **FC/354    ITEMS TO ACTION**

##### **RESOLVED BW/GG (unanimous)**

That the Items to Action be noted.

7.20pm Councillor Gill joined the meeting.

**FC/355    SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED BW/GG (unanimous)**

To suspend Standing Orders to permit consideration of a proposal.

**FC/356    RESOLVED BW/SW (unanimous)**

To hold a named vote regarding this proposal.

**FC/357    TOWN WALLS**

The Mayor reminded members of the current position of the Town Council that was agreed at the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025:

That Ludlow Town Council agrees to take a full and active part in joining the partnership on a no liability basis with the stated aim of pursuing external grant funding for repairing and reinforcing the collapsed section of Ludlow Town Wall, bounding the Garden of Rest adjacent to St. Laurence Church Ludlow.

**FC/358    RESOLVED BW/TG (10:1:0)**

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

To approve the assertion that Ludlow Town Council was not responsible for the collapse of the Town Wall adjacent to St Laurence's churchyard. With due consideration to legal advice, Ludlow Town Council accepts no historical, current, or future liability for either the repair, upkeep or maintenance of the churchyard wall.

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**FC/359    RESOLVED BW/SW (unanimous)**

To reinstate Standing Orders.

**FC/360    LOCAL POLICING COMMUNITY CHARTER**

**RESOLVED BW/VP (unanimous)**

To agree the priorities for April – September 2025 as:

1. Drugs
2. Antisocial behaviour including driving
3. Commercial Theft

**FC/361     RESOLVED BW/EM (unanimous)**

To inform the Ludlow Safer Neighbourhood Team that LTC posts monthly on social media to ensure that residents have access to information on how to report crime, which include:

Emergency: 999

Non-emergency: 101

Anonymously: Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111

Online: [www.westmercia.police.uk/report](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/report)

**FC/362     COMMUNITY BANKING HUB**

**RESOLVED BW/SH (unanimous)**

To apply for an assessment by the Community Cash Advisory Panel via Link to obtain new shared cash services.

**FC/363     SPRING STATEMENT IMPACT ON HIGH STREET BUSINESSES AND TOWNS**

**RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To note the update on the impact of the government's Spring Statement on the High Street, and to approach Shropshire Council for the re-instatement of the Ludlow Future Partnership.

**FC/364     DEVOLUTION UPDATE**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (10:0:1)**

To note the devolution information and Marches Forward Partnership information from Shropshire Council.

To note that Ludlow Town Council has to date taken on devolved services including Street Trading in 2011, Public Conveniences in 2011, and Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross, in partnership with Shropshire Council Museum Services, in 2016.

**FC/365     MODEL STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED BW/EM (unanimous)**

To note the update to Standing Orders as approved by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

**FC/366    FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**RESOLVED BW/AT (unanimous)**

To adopt the changes in line with the Procurement Act 2023 as advised by NALC.

**FC/367    PROJECT UPDATE**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To note the project updates.

**FC/368    PROJECT SUPPORT GRANTS**

**RESOLVED AT/DC (5:3:3)**

To approve awarding a £300 grant to Ludlow French Twinning Association.

**FC/369    RESOLVED SW/GG (unanimous)**

To amend the criteria for Project Support Grants so that successful recipients of Core Grant Awards are limited to receipt of two project support grants in the same year.

**FC/370    LUDLOW CONCERT BAND**

**RESOLVED GG/VP (unanimous)**

To approve Ludlow Concert Band performances in Castle Gardens on all the requested dates.

**FC/371    CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To approve that the Staffing Committee undertake further research into the organisational procedures identified in the report.

**FC/372    CIVIC AWARDS**

**RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)**

To approve a new award in recognition of supporting biodiversity, energy reduction and environmental sustainability.

**FC/373    CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

**RESOLVED VP/EG (unanimous)**

To note the minutes of the Climate Action Task and Finish Group.

**FC/374    RESOLVED BW/DT (unanimous)**

To approve updates to the Council's Climate Action plan (in green) and the new actions (in pink).

**FC/375    INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

**RESOLVED EG/TG (unanimous)**

To approve in principle the request from Ludlow Quakers for a service at Ludlow Peace Memorial in September, subject to the recommendations of the Ludlow Royal British Legion.

**FC/376    TOWN CRIER**

**RESOLVED GG/SW (unanimous)**

To approve the Town Crier's attendance at Local to Ludlow Producers Market 25th anniversary 'party' in July, and Ludlow Rotary Club duck race on 26th May 2025.

**FC/377    RECOGNISING AND RESPONDING TO EARLY WARNING SIGNS IN PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES**

**RESOLVED BW/GG (unanimous)**

To note the report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

**FC/378    COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RESOLVED BW/SH (10:0:1)**

To approve the recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 that the Neonatal Care Leave Policy amendment to the Staff handbook and new Contract of Employment, be adopted.

**FC/379    COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED BW/GG (10:0:1)**

To receive the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**FC/380    RESOLVED GG/DT (10:0:1)**

To receive the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**FC/381    RESOLVED EG/BW (10:0:1)**

To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The meeting closed at 8:00PM.

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Town Mayor

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Date

Closed session minutes will NOT be issued for this meeting.