



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 23rd JULY 2018** at **7.00PM**

PF/22 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Cobley

Councillors: Clarke, Garner, Ginger, Mahalski, O'Neill, Parry, Perks (7:07) Sheward and Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

PF/23 HEALTH & SAFETY

The Chairman informed Councillors and members of the public of the fire exits, fire assembly point and asked that everyone sign the attendance log.

PF/24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gill.

PF/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
V Parry	-	Ludlow in Bloom

Declarations of Personal Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
G Ginger	11	Business owner
A Cobley	11	Informal connections to Furniture Scheme
G Perks	8	Stain purchased for bench repairs
G Perks	9	Motorsports enthusiast and Pride of Place Volunteer, and occasional worshiper at St John's
V Parry	9	Worshiper at St Laurence's and the Methodist Church

PF/26 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There was one members of the public present. The member of the public made a Freedom of Information Request.

PF/27 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

There were no matters reported to committee by Ludlow's Unitary Councillors.

PF/28 MINUTES

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/GG

That the open and closed minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 11th June 2018, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting

PF/29 ITEMS TO ACTION

The Chairman thanked to staff for the items to action that were completed.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/GG

To note the items to action

PF/30 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/MC

To receive the cash book income and expenditure for May and June 2018; the reconciliation of May and June 2018; Paypal income and expenditure and reconciliations for May and June 2018; and mayor's Charity income and expenditure for May 2018.

PF/31 ADVERTISING POLICY

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/GP

That the Communications Working Group review the Adverting Policy and report recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.

PF/32 CIVIC AWARDS

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/GG

That, subject to insertion of GDPR consent / privacy policy wording, the amended application form and criteria be approved.

**PF/33 BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RELIEF POLICY REVIEW
AND COUNCIL TAX DISCRETIONARY DISCOUNTS**

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GG/GP

To respond to the consultation with the following points:

- i) The proposed policy is a short-sighted and abhorrent attack on the most vulnerable in our society.

- ii) The proposed policy is flawed because the relatively meagre savings that Shropshire Council would make are insignificant compared to the harm that will be caused to local vulnerable people in our communities and to the important community facilities that support the fabric and wellbeing of local communities.

- ii) It is believed that once the discretionary element of the rate relief is removed the property is subject to an open market valuation for its rateable value.

- iv) It is feared that local organisations will not be aware of the potential impact of the policy

- v) Shropshire Council needs to re-evaluate its policy and appreciate that the capital funding required to build and refurbish community facilities is often funded through the hard work of members of the local community. Capital funding is an infrequent requirement, but revenue funding such as business rates is a constant requirement, and if the amount of money required increases then there is a very real risk to the viability of community facilities.

- vi) Members were also concerned that the policy should not detrimentally impact on the provision of community facilities in social housing for the elderly.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.

Chairman

Date

N.B. There are no Closed Session Minutes for this meeting.