

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **SERVICES COMMITTEE** meeting held on **WEDNESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7PM** in the Guildhall, Mill Street.

S23/098 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor B. Waite

Councillors: Garner, Gill, Ginger, Jones, Parry, Tapley, S Waite.

Officers: Kate Adams, Deputy Town Clerk
Julie Cox, Finance Assistant
Tony Caton, Market Officer

ABSENT

Councillors: Lyle, O' Neill.

S23/099 WELCOME AND ESSENTIAL HOUSEKEEPING INFORMATION

Chairman Councillor B Waite welcomed everyone to the Services Committee meeting at the Guildhall and explained housekeeping information.

S23/100 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Chairman notified those present that under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014, recording and broadcasting is permitted during public session of Council Meetings.

S23/101 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor Lyle. Councillor O'Neill also sent apologies to Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

S23/102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Parry – Ludlow In Bloom

Personal Interests

None declared.

S23/103 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were three members of the public present.

Danni Flowers spoke to ask that the Town Council consider three things when making their decision:

Firstly, why have the current specialist food and craft markets not been running to full capacity, when there is a clear demand from traders who fit this specialism? Losing the Council over £2000 in revenue over a seven-month period. Instead, it is half populated with small business who buy in produce outside of this specialism, which sadly misleads the public and potential traders who book onto this market in good faith and don't come back due to this issue. I do not wish to sound disrespectful or undermine any dedicated traders of Ludlow Market, just simply highlighting the need for vetting applications. The feedback received from potential traders is they wish to see another opportunity created for the artisans, run by an artisan.

Secondly, if the compromise of one of each Thursday market a month could be considered, to support the existing loyal traders and welcome new traders, the revenue could be as follows: If the Council hosted nine full capacity, Thursday markets annually starting in April, this would bring in over £7000. Alongside the artisan market hosting 9 Thursday markets annually, hiring both Market Square and occasional use of Events Square would bring in over £4500 in revenue. Bringing with it its own independent marketing and advertising campaign, with access to external funding and grants.

Lastly, I would like to clarify the intention of this proposal is to enhance Ludlow Market and boost footfall and revenue to town. It is a not-for-profit initiative and developed to support the creative industry in the area. Surely any effort to increase footfall and bring new tourist trade into the town centre, should be a welcomed change, especially at a time when independent businesses are struggling, and shops are closing.

S23/104 LUDLOW UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Councillor Parry, Ludlow South, was present but did not have any relevant updates.

S23/105 MINUTES

RESOLVED GG/RJ (7:1:0)

That the minutes of Services Committee meeting should be altered to include the Town Clerks responses and brought back to the next meeting for approval.

S23/106 ITEMS TO ACTION

RESOLVED TG/EG (unanimous)

That the Items to action from Services Committee 25th October 2023 be approved.

S23/107 ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS

RESOLVED BW/GG (unanimous)

The report is accepted, and work should be prioritised and scheduled, then works costed and bought back to Services Committee in future.

S23/108 PLAY AREA INSPECTION APP

RESOLVED GG/EG (unanimous)

That the trial of the free Play area inspection app by DLF staff be approved.

S23/109 LUDLOW MUSEUM AT THE BUTTERCROSS

RESOLVED RJ/VP (unanimous)

That a temporary exhibition in the Museum relating to the Ludlow Trouser Factory be approved.

S23/110 RESOLVED GG/BW (unanimous)

That the visitor numbers and dates for Christmas 2023 closure be noted.

S23/111 VEGAN MARKET PROPSAL

RESOLVED BW/SW (7:0:1)

That the decision be deferred until the location and use of Street Trading pitches is clarified with Shropshire Council, by the Town Clerk.

S23/112 LUDLOW MARKET – WHOLE MARKET LET

RESOLVED GG/EG (7:0:1)

To offer a whole market let on Tuesdays in April – November (excluding August) to the Artisan market organisers.

S23/113 MARKET AWARDS

RESOLVED BW/EG (unanimous)

That the report for Market Awards is approved.

S23/114 LUDLOW IN BLOOM

RESOLVED BW/RJ (unanimous)

That the marking sheet, comments, and suggestions for improvement from the Judges be noted.

S23/115 FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024 - 2025

RECOMMEND BW/TG (unanimous)

to recommend approval of the 2024 / 25 fees for service users to Full Council and that the market electricity charge to traders. this should be reviewed quarterly to reflect changes in the electricity supply market.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm

Chairman

Date