



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Stable Block Meeting Room, Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow on **TUESDAY, 31st JULY 2012 at 7.00 P.M.**

FC/145 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Pound

Councillors: Aitken; Davies; Hunt, McCormack; Newbold; Perks; Phillips; Smithers; Toop; Wilcox

Officers: Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk;
Gina Wilding, Deputy Clerk;

Also in Attendance: Fiona Howe, Committee Officer (Shropshire Council)
Mr J Merry, Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors
Ms B Jones, Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors

FC/146 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Draper.

FC/147 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Aiken	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.
Councillor Hunt	Boxing Club	He had a personal involvement in the Boxing Club.
Councillor Newbold	Lanyon Bowdler	Has a personal involvement with the firm,
Councillor Parry	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.

Councillor Perks	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.
Councillor Phillips	Lanyon Bowdler	Has friends employed there.
Councillor Pound	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.
Councillor Smithers	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors used for matters at the Royal British Legion
Councillor Toop	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.
Councillor Wilcox	Lanyon Bowdler	Solicitors firm had been used for personal matters.

FC/148 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were three members of the public and press in attendance.

Mr Adrian Kibler, Ludlow Advertiser, addressed the meeting, requesting confirmation that the Town Council had adequate insurance cover to protect the Council, and local residents, against incurring costs when grievances were made against them by a member of staff.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the Council's insurance did not provide cover, any costs were likely to be incurred by the Council when considering grievances. It was noted that the matter was raised in February 2012, but no action had been taken.

A further request was made for clarification on whether the costs would fall directly to the tax payer to fund, or be covered by surcharges, as defined within the Localism Act 2011. The Town Clerk advised the meeting that further investigation would be need be undertaken on the position regarding the surcharges through the new Act.

Following confirmation that the Council did not have insurance protection, Mr Taylor-Smith, Mill Street, Ludlow, addressed the meeting raising concern over the possible impact of financial liability facing the Council, following confirmation that the Council did not have insurance protection. He requested clarification whether the Town Council would be liable for costs, or whether the responsibility fall to individual Councillors. Assurance was given that Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors would be providing detailed legal advice to Members, including financial information.

FC/149 UNITARY COUNCILLOR'S SESSION

Unitary Councillor M. Taylor-Smith, Ludlow South, confirmed that Shropshire Council would be agreeable to providing support and advice to the Town Council whilst it was undergoing a period of change.

He informed the meeting that Shropshire Council's Chief Executive had left his position within the Authority, and was now assisting Cheshire East through a transformation process, prior to his retirement. It was noted that the Corporate Director People, would be taking on the statutory role of Head of Paid Service, subject to confirmation at Full Council.

He reported that interviews had recently been held to consider the position of Managing Director within the Council's new company, IP & E. Members were advised that the successful applicant had accepted the position, and a public announcement would be made in due course.

FC/150 BOXING CLUB PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Town Clerk addressed the meeting, confirming that in order to manage the Boxing Club Project, following her departure on 30th September 2012, the Council needed to consider an appropriate appointment to take on the role of Project Manager in order to ensure continuity for the many project volunteers.

Members were advised that the Deputy Town Clerk was responsible for acting up in the Clerk's absence, and recommended that her role be extended to include the position of Project Manager.

RESOLVED (11:0:1)

That the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to take on the role of Boxing Club Project Manager, following the departure of the Town Clerk on 30th September 2012.

FC/151 CEMETERY MATTERS

The Town Clerk advised the Council that due to the sensitive nature of information to be considered, the matter should be considered in closed session.

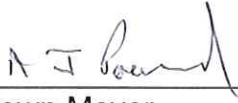
FC/152 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

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

The meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.



Town Mayor

12th September 2012
Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.