



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Ludlow Conference Centre, Ludlow on **MONDAY 18th APRIL 2011 at 7.00PM**

FC/256 PRESENT

Chairman:	Councillor Aitken, Mayor
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Pope, Deputy Mayor
Councillors:	Callender; Davies; Hunt; Jackson; McCormack; Newbold; Parry; Pound; Smithers; Wilcox
Officers:	Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk; Lucy Morgan, Secretary

FC/257 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Glaze and Leyton-Purrier. Councillor Glaze was visiting a sick relative and her apology was received and approved as a valid reason. Councillor Leyton-Purrier's apology was not accepted as a good reason to not attend.

Councillor Pound stated that Members were not accountable in this matter to other Members, only to the electors. He said that the Council can only act within their powers.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Council did have the power to not accept an apology for absence, and a Member would be disqualified from office for not attending a meeting within six months if their apologies were not accepted.

RESOLVED (10:0:2)

That the Town Clerk write to Councillor Leyton-Purrier to express the Council's disappointment at her lack of attendance at Council meetings and participation in debate.

FC/258 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2007 issued under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000 Members declared interests as follows:

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
V. Parry	Member of Ludlow in Bloom
J. Smithers	Member of Ludlow in Bloom

Prejudicial Interests

S. McCormack	Furniture Scheme
J. Newbold	Furniture Scheme

FC259 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There was one member of the press present.

FC/260 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)

The Town Clerk stated that all questions had been answered at the previous meeting.

FC/261 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Taylor-Smith and R. Taylor-Smith.

FC/262 MINUTES**a) 14th March 2011****RESOLVED (9:0:3)**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 14th March 2011, subject to the deletion of "4" in minute FC/237 and the amendment to the numbering in the resolution and the deletion of the duplicate "." in minute FC/240, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/263 b) 28th March 2011**RESOLVED (11:0:1)**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 28th March 2011, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/264 SERVICES COMMITTEE

a) Minutes

RESOLVED (11:0:1)

That the draft minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on 28th March 2011, subject to the replacement of “Coat of Arms” with “Town Badge” in minute S/107, be received.

FC/265 b) Recommendations

Partnership Working - Allotments

That the Council enters into a 25 year Lease with the Earl of Plymouth for additional land, adjacent to Wigley Fields, if it is available.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the land referred to in the recommendation was not available for allotment use.

RESOLVED (10:2:0)

That the Town Clerk continue to seek further allotment land.

FC/266 Partnership Working – Jubilee Allotments

That:-

- i) Links with Grow, Cook and Share be explored;**
- ii) a new Allotment Association to be named ‘Jubilee Allotments’ to coincide with the Queens Jubilee in 2012, when any the new allotment, if successful, will be opened.**

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That this recommendation be deferred until further allotment land is secured.

FC/266 Partnership Working – Cardboard Recycling

That partnership links with the Furniture Scheme be approved to recycle the Council’s Market and other cardboard waste.

Councillors McCormack and Newbold left the meeting at 7.27pm

RESOLVED (8:2:0)

That partnership links with the Furniture Scheme be approved to recycle the Council’s Market and other cardboard waste.

Councillors McCormack and Newbold rejoined the meeting at 7.29pm

FC/267 Partnership Working - Cittaslow

That the question of continuing Membership of the ‘Cittaslow’ organisation for the year 2011-2012 be deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

The Town Clerk outlined to Members a letter received from Cittaslow stating that as of the 31st March 2011 Cittaslow Ludlow CIC would cease all business and proceed to wind up the company. The letter also included the grant funding cheque from the Town Council returned un-cashed. She reminded the Council that provision had been made in the 2011/12 budget for membership of Cittaslow for this financial year.

Members discussed the Town Council’s continuing membership of Cittaslow. Each member expressed their views regarding the benefits to the town and how controversial the issue had become within the town and Council.

RESOLVED (10:0:2)

That Ludlow Town Council does not apply for membership of Cittaslow when the CIC ends and does not assist with residual CIC correspondence.

FC/268 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE

a) Minutes – 8th March 2011

Councillor McCormack queried the resolution at (g) as she did not believe the vote was unanimous. Councillor Parry asked how the issue of vehicle activated signs were progressing. The Town Clerk stated that she would investigate and report back.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on the 8th March 2011, subject to a spelling correction at R/81, be received.

FC/269 b) Minutes – 5th April 2011

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That the draft minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on the 5th April 2011, subject to the replacement of “Whitcliffe Common” with “Teme Weirs Trust” in minute R/91, be received.

FC/270 c) Recommendations – 5th April 2011

Grant Application

That Friends of Whittcliffe Common are awarded £500 Core Funding.

RESOLVED (9:0:3)

That Friends of Whittcliffe Common are awarded £500 Annual Core Funding.

FC/271 ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Recommendation - Emergency Cheques - Cittaslow

That the Town Council does not incur any financial or staff time implications from the winding up of Cittaslow Ludlow CIC, till the matter is considered further by the full Council.

The Mayor stated that the Town Council had never had responsibility for Cittaslow Ludlow CIC and that they needed to find another way to cover ongoing business.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That the Town Clerk write to Cittaslow Ludlow CIC to make it clear that they are not to divert any correspondence to Town Council

FC/272 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Local Joint Committee

The Mayor stated that the minutes of the last Local Joint Committee (“LJC”) had been circulated to all Members. He explained that the LJC had discussed publicly owned building in the area, Unitary Councillor R Taylor-Smith had limited the discussion to the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, the Library and Museum. But inevitably the debate had moved to other public building in the town including the Buttercross and Guildhall. The Mayor stated that he had considered this discussion inappropriate as the Town Council had not yet discussed the future of these buildings and would consult prior to any decisions being made. The Town Clerk added that the Court Service had not yet given notice to vacate and therefore officially it was not available.

Councillor Wilcox stated that there seemed to be many rumours regarding the towns public buildings. Councillor Jackson added that this confusion had been worsened by reports within the local newspapers.

Councillor McCormack suggested that irrespective of who owned the building they were the “town’s buildings” and therefore all parties needed to discuss this

matter together. She stated that Shropshire Council pre-empting Ludlow Town Council's decisions was a disgrace. Councillor Smithers suggested the Council make a press release separating the Council's buildings and interests from those of Shropshire Council.

Councillor Pope added that should such services as the Visitor Information Centre be housed within the Town Council's buildings there would be a financial cost to the Council which would need to be considered.

Councillor Davies stated that the Town Council was being sucked into political issues within Shropshire Council.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the Services resolution to bring report on this matter to the 9th May 2011. She suggested that Members consider calling a special meeting for this matter as such an important issue needed to be fully debated. She added that she was struggling to get the relevant information and needed to engage in positive dialogue with Shropshire Council staff.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

The Town Clerk write an appropriate letter to Shropshire Council expressing the Town Council's concerns.

FC/273 RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That a Special Council meeting be convened by the Town Clerk once the required information has been received in order to provide Members of the Town Council with full details of all Town Council properties and land and an options appraisal for the Guildhall.

FC/274 Youth Organisations

Councillor Jackson read from a prepared statement updating Members on the organisations she had contacted which is attached.

Members suggested that Councillor Jackson encourage the youth organisations to apply to the Town Council for funding or any other help we could offer.

FC/275 Association of Local Councils

Councillor Parry updated Members on the recent Association of Local Council's meeting and stated that she had pointed out at the meeting Shropshire Council's lack of consultation. She went on to advise Members of various events with the town.

FC/276 ACCOUNTS – 4th QUARTER (UNAUDITED)

Members discussed the 4th quarter unaudited accounts.

FC/277 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 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.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

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

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.