



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2013** at 7.00PM.

FC/273 PRESENT

- Chairman: Councillor Smithers, Mayor
- Councillors: Copley; Draper; Ginger; Holcombe; Kemp; Lyle; Parry; Perks; Sheward; Toop
- Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk;
Lucy Jones, Finance Secretary
- Also in Attendance: Shaun Ward, Vision Project Coordinator, St Laurence Church

FC/274 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

FC/275 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones, J. Newbold and S. Newbold.

The Town Clerk explained that due to ill health Councillor J. Newbold would be unable to attend any Council meeting until the New Year. He has requested that Council accept his apologies.

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/PT

That Councillor J. Newbold's apologies for absence until the New Year be accepted in order for the six month rule not to apply until the new year.

FC/276 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None declared

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
D. Lyle	Ludlow Arts Festival	Chair of the Friends of Ludlow Festival

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
A. Cobley	Dark Lane Anti-Social Behaviour	Works at Community Centre
G. Ginger	Anti-Social Behaviour	Town Centre Business Owner and Resident
P. Kemp	Anti-Social Behaviour	Town Centre Business Owner
D. Lyle	Ludlow Arts Festival	Chair of the Friends of Ludlow Festival
V. Parry	Anti-Social Behaviour	Chairman of Ludlow in Bloom
	Ludlow Consortium	Volunteer at Ludlow Assembly Rooms
G. Perks	Representational Committee Minutes	
	Dark Lane Anti-Social Behaviour	Members of the Gallows Bank Trust
	Mayors Board	Known past Mayor G Kidd
	Ludlow Consortium	Volunteer at Ludlow Assembly Rooms

FC/277 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were seven members of the public and press present.

Mrs D Jones, Secretary and Trustee of the Friends of Whitcliffe Common and the Teme Weirs Trust, thanked the Council for their support. She stated that in 2013 the Friends of Whitcliffe Common had a budget of £8,000, £500.00 of which was donated by the Town Council.

She went on to say that due to some unexpected canoe path issues on the Casemill Weir this year the Teme Weirs Trust had spend over £10,000 in 2013. She asked Members to consider increasing their grant to the Teme Weirs Trust from £300.00 to £500.00 next year.

Mrs M Gaunt of Mill Street, Ludlow, explained to the Council problems that her elderly mother in law had encountered with the current bus service and the dire implications of the loss of the service.

Mr R Pote, Secretary of the Town Centre Residents Association informed the Council of the issues with anti-social behaviour in Mill Street. He also explained the possible implication of extended public house opening hours over the Christmas period.

Councillor Ginger stated that he had attended a meeting with R&B Travel, the current bus service provider, who had stated that they were losing in the region of £160.00 per day running the Ludlow buses. He emphasised the need for Ludlow Town Council to put pressure on Shropshire Council to ensure the future of the town bus service.

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/GP

That the Town Clerk be authorised to write to the Ludlow MP to inform him of the matters discussed.

FC/278 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)

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

FC/279 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor V Parry, Ludlow South, confirmed that Shropshire Council had been informed verbally by the current bus service provider that the service was not commercially viable and therefore they would be ending the service, but until this was communicated to Shropshire Council in writing nothing could officially be done. She said that provision was already being made to replace the current commercial service with a subsidised service from another provider. She added that the new service may be a different service or route but may not necessarily be a reduced service. She requested resident's comments.

Unitary Councillor Parry stated that though there had been a reprieve on the closure of the Coder Road Recycling Centre until after Christmas it would still be closing and unfortunately any fly tipping that this caused would be the responsibility of the land owner.

FC/280 MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/PD

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 25th October 2013, subject to the addition a Pecuniary Interest of Councillor Perk in relation to the Tribunal, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/281 RESOLVED (unanimous) PT/DL

That the closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 25th October 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/282 AGENDA ORDER

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PD

That the order of the Agenda be amended to consider item 13, the Mayors Board.

FC/283 MAYORS BOARD

Councillor Ginger expressed his concerns as the Town Council, for projects of this cost, required three competitive quotes and therefore it was difficult to judge the value for money of the project costs. Mr S Ward, Project Co-ordinator for St Laurence's Church, stated that the Church of England were bound by strict procurement rules and the church approved contractors through a tendering process which is reviewed every three years.

Councillor Kemp pointed out that the cost this year was due to the accumulation of work and in future years the cost to the Council will be nominal.

Councillor Sheward asked that a record be kept of the names of Councillors and staff of the Borough Council at the time of reorganisation that are currently displayed on the board to ensure that the history does not disappear

RESOLVED (Unanimous) VP/PK

That the Town Council agrees to fund the Mayors Board updating within the agreed budget.

FC/284 RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PK

That:-

- i) with the addition of wording to the effect "Due to Local Government Reorganisation the following Mayors are Mayors of the Town of Ludlow" to acknowledge the change from Mayor of the Borough of Ludlow to Mayor of the Town of Ludlow the proposal be approved.
- ii) Ludlow Town Council makes a provision of £3,000 in the 2014/15 budget for these works.
- iii) the Town Council make provision in the budget each year for the updating of the Mayor's Board.
- iv) a policy be agreed whereby shortly after their election each year the name of the Mayor and the date of the beginning of their term and the end of the previous Mayors term of office be written on the Mayor's Board.
- v) the dedication of the restoration of the Mayors Boards to Mr G Kidd be included on the board.

FC/285 MAYOR'S CIVIC CALENDAR UPDATE

Councillor Parry thanked the Mayor for this update and for all the time he has dedicated to the Council particularly during the Tribunal.

Councillor Kemp suggested publishing the report on the Council website.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/VP

That the Mayor's Civic Calendar update be noted.

FC/286 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (10:0:1) PD/JS

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on the 23rd October 2013, be received.

FC/287 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICES COMMITTEE

Request to Increase the Size of the Flower Beds on Old Street

That:-

- i) the request in the increase in the size of the beds at Old Street is declined;
- ii) the Town Clerk is authorised to write to Shropshire Council requesting that bollard should be used to deter parking on the pavements.

Councillor Parry explained that Shropshire Council had requested Ludlow Town Council consider expanding the flower beds on Old Street in order to discourage parking on and paved area which was damaging the surface.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) VP/GG

That:-

- i) the request in the increase in the size of the beds at Old Street is declined;
- ii) the Town Clerk is authorised to write to Shropshire Council requesting that bollards should be used to deter parking on the pavements.

FC/288 LUDLOW CONSORTIUM

The Town Clerk explained that the Ludlow Consortium project, if successful, would bring £300,000 of funding to the town. The Consortium were looking to raised match funding of 10% of which they were seeking 10% i.e. £3,000 from Ludlow Town Council.

Councillor Ginger informed the Council that there was some disquiet in the town in regards to the Assembly Rooms commercially selling off the franchise to the ground floor of their building. He emphasised the importance to any business of the ground floor walk in area and problem the Assembly Rooms may encounter in loosing control of that space. He advised Councillors to be cautious and providing further funding to such projects.

Councillor Perks stated that the Council was not in a position to agree additional funding on top of the £15,000 the Council already grants to the Assembly Rooms annually.

Councillor Parry stated that in the current financial climate the Council could not justify additional funding to an organisation who already receives a large grant when there are so many other worthy organisations in the town seeking funding from the Council.

RESOLVED (10:0:1) GP/PK

That the Town Council offer to support the Ludlow Consortium in-kind during 2014/15, but that no additional monetary grant is provided.

Councillor Lyle left the meeting at 7.55pm

FC/289 LUDLOW ARTS AND FRINGE FESTIVALS

The Town Clerk advised that two additional dates were required by the Ludlow Arts Festival in order to set up the Big Top on the 2nd and 3rd June 2014.

Councillor Ginger stated that before the Council approved any further grant to the Ludlow Fringe Festival they needed to see the accounts to understand how this the 2013 grant had been spent.

Councillor Parry stated that she had no issue with allowing the Events Square to be used for the set up and taking down of equipment within the Council as it was necessary but she wondered if the Council could not use the square for better purposes on other days during the festival and she asked why the street entertainment could not move around the town.

The Mayor pointed out that the bunting benefitted the whole town and the Ludlow Arts Festival permitted it be left up throughout the summer, enhancing the aesthetics of the town and encouraging tourism.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) NH/GP

That:-

- i) the Ludlow Arts Festival is granted use, free of charge, of the Events Square on the 2nd, 3rd, 23rd, 24th June, 7th and 8th July 2014 for the delivery, set up and taking down of the big top in the Castle grounds.
- ii) Ludlow Town Council erect the bunting, provided by Ludlow Arts Festival, throughout the town centre free of charge.
- iii) the request made by the Ludlow Fringe Festival be deferred until full accounts have been received.

Councillor Lyle rejoined the meeting at 8.12pm

FC/290 ANNUAL GRANTS

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PK

That the letters of thanks be noted.

FC/291 MARKET REGULATIONS

Councillor Perks asked why the Council bear the costs of disposing of the Market Trader refuse.

Councillor Toop asked if £1.00 was still sufficient to cover the costs of the electric used by traders, she added that she had recently noted some trader breaching the regulations by using electric heater. The Town Clerk stated that the electricity charges collected covered the cost of market electric used including the street lighting and she would look into further enforcement of the regulations in respect of heaters.

RESOLVED (10:0:1) JS/GP

That:-

- i) the text struck through in the Market Regulations attached to the report be deleted.
- ii) the text highlighted in blue in the Market Regulation attached to the report be approved.
- iii) the amended Market Regulations be adopted.
- iv) items 12: Electricity and Gas Supply; and 13: Disposal of Refuse be referred to Services Committee for review.

FC/292 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**Dark Lane**

Councillor Draper explained that bins on Dark Lane were regularly being set alight endangering adjacent properties.

Mill Street

Councillor Kemp stated that there is a lack of enforcement by both the Police and Shropshire Council's Licensing Department in response to breaches of the law and licence infractions. Councillor Ginger added that these problems were not isolated to Mill Street and were encountered across the whole town.

Councillor Parry stated that more surveillance and a better Police presence was required especially over the weekend.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/JS

That:-

- i) the Town Council ask Shropshire Council to install metal bins on Dark Lane.
- ii) the Council contact youth focused organisations, such as the Ludlow Alcohol Partnership (LCAP) and Shropshire Youth to ask for assistance;
- iii) the Council raise awareness of the problems of anti-social behaviour in Ludlow and ask residents for feedback.

- iv) the Town Clerk write a letter to the local Police Inspector, and Shropshire Council's Licensing Department expressing the Council's concerns in relation of anti-social behaviour and the lack of enforcement.
- v) the local Police Inspector and Shropshire Council's Licensing Officer be invited to a meeting of Council to address the issues in the town.

FC/293 PRECEPT 2014/15

The Town Clerk advised that the Council needed to increase it reserves which had been reduced over several years of low of 0% precept increases.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/GP

That:-

- i) the information regarding the Local Council Tax Support grant be noted.
- ii) the Budget Working Group consider the best way to safe guard the financial position of the Council and report back.
- iii) the Mayor writes a letter to Council to request a Pecuniary Interest dispensation for all Members in relation to setting the Precept.

FC/294 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) JS/PD

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

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.