



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Ludlow Conference Centre, Ludlow on **MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2012 at 7.00PM**

### **FC/391 PRESENT**

Chairman:	Councillor Aitken, Mayor
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Wilcox, Deputy Mayor
Councillors:	Callender; Davies; Hunt; McCormack; Newbold; Perks; Pound; Smithers
Officers:	Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk; Gina Wilding, Communications and Cemetery Officer Lucy Morgan, Secretary
Also in Attendance:	Unitary Councillor R Taylor-Smith Unitary Councillor M Taylor-Smith Alan Stewart, Pride of Place Dave Roberts, Shropshire Council Louise Davidson, Shropshire Council

### **FC/392 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Leyton-Purrier.

The Town Clerk stated that Councillor McCormack had given her apologies as she was on holiday in Australia until the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, she asked that Council accept this apology.

#### **RESOLVED (Unanimous)**

That Councillor McCormack's apologies until the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be accepted.

### **FC/393 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>
G. Perks	Heritage Lottery Fund Bid Pride of Place
P. Hunt	Shropshire Housing Group
V. Parry	Ludlow in Bloom Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Prejudicial Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
G. Perks	Code of Conduct Complaint

**FC/394 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were 2 members of the public present.

Karen McLellan, 4 Stanton Drive, Ludlow explained to Members that her son Robert was buried in the babies memorial area of Henley Road Cemetery in 2006. She referred to the pictures included in the agenda and pointed out to the Council how her sons grave was now difficult to access due to the close nature of the graves, the hedge and particularly the ornamentation on other plots. She said that she did not have an issue with how parents chose to ornament the graves to remember their loved ones, her issue was with how she would be able to access her son's grave particularly once further burials had taken place in the surrounding plots. She emphasised that this was an emotive issue for both herself and other parents.

Karen McLellan asked Members to consider removing part of the hedge to allow access from that side.

The Mayor informed Members that a statement on this matter had been received from the Reverend Ann Barge and he asked Members if they were happy for this statement to be read out by Councillor Wilcox. Members agreed and Councillor Wilcox read from the statement attached.

**FC/395 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Unitary Councillor R. Taylor-Smith, Ludlow North, thanked the Council for inviting her to the opening of the Linney Riverside Park, she said that it had been a lovely event and she hoped that the fun day had gone well.

Councillor R Taylor-Smith informed the Council that the Old Street resurfacing works would start on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 and local residents and businesses would be informed beforehand. She stated that the works to the Castle Street car park supporting town wall would begin around the 14<sup>th</sup> May and continue until October. She went on to say that Shropshire Council were organising a

meeting on SamDev on the 26<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Ludlow Assembly Rooms and also a business clinic on the 12<sup>th</sup> April.

She informed Members that the Local Joint Committee had awarded the Town Council £550.00 towards the Linney opening events. She said that having been involved in Pride of Place it was good to see the group going from strength to strength. She summed up by saying how pleased she was to see Ludlow Town Council, Shropshire Council and the Police all working together on the CCTV system.

Councillor M Taylor-Smith, Ludlow South informed the Council that the Hospital planning permission had been passed last week. This had followed a slight delay due to clarification of the provision of free parking, on a token system, in the hospital car park and a new payment system for the park and ride. The amendments also provided for the extension of yellow lines onto the Eco Park approach roads to ensure they are kept clear, a new community bus service from the town centre to the hospital and changing the pedestrian crossing to a zebra crossing by the service station.

**FC/396 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)**

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

**FC/397 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED (9:0:1)**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**FC/398 CCTV PRESENTATION FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

Dave Roberts from Shropshire Council made a presentation to Members. He stated that Ludlow CCTV system was an asset to the town. Shropshire Council were currently undertaking an audit of county systems with regards to ownership, maintenance and systems. He gave examples of the work they were doing in Whitchurch, whose system has now been moved to Shrewsbury, and Oswestry and the problems they had encountered with current systems, data protection etc.

Mr Roberts explained the possibilities of expanding the system by linking in with the shop and pub watch schemes. He stated that the current £16,000 quote for moving the Ludlow monitoring system to Shrewsbury may be cheaper now and he would require. He added that the current public lack of confidence in CCTV system needed to be addressed.

Louise Davidson, Shropshire Council said that the Shrewsbury monitoring station was run by SIA trained staff who were under strict data control and who proactively monitored five hundred incidents a month in Shrewsbury.

The Mayor stated that Ludlow system was currently sub-optimal; he asked if Ludlow was involved in the review would there be any costs or future obligations involved. Dave Roberts stated that there would be no obligation, he extended an invitation to visit the Shrewsbury CCTV station to all Members.

The Mayor thanked Dave Roberts and Louise Davidson for their presentation.

**RESOLVED (6:2:2)**

That the Ludlow CCTV system be included in the Shropshire Council CCTV review for Members to consider the outcome when available.

**FC/399 PRIDE OF PLACE PRESENTATION**

A presentation was made to Councillors by Alan Stewart and Councillor Perks, which included the groups origins, their expansion into new areas of the town and the events they hold. The presentation is attached.

Alan Stewart thanked the Council for their annual grant which allowed them to purchase several important items in order to continue and expand the groups work. The Mayor thanked Alan Stewart and Councillor Perks for the presentation and their hard work.

**FC/400 ORDER OF MEETING**

The Mayor proposed changing the order of business to consider the Cemetery matters relating to the babies memorial next.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That the agenda order of business be altered to consider item 14 next.

**FC/401 CEMETERY MATTERS – BABIES MEMORIAL**

The Mayor stated that as the plots were quite small the Council needed to ensure that how parents chose to remember their loved ones did not prevent others from accessing their plots.

The Town Clerk informed Councillors that prior to the opening of the babies' memorial area neo-natal children were buried under the cemetery hedges without official records. From the cash receipt books the Council held, which only covered a short period there are at least 50 such burials and we have the names of the person who paid the three shillings fee only. The Council therefore

needed to show great respect and be very careful not to disturb the roots of the hedges in the cemetery when removing them and the holly tree which was preventing the grass and other plants beneath from growing.

Members discussed removing all or part of the hedge to allow the inaccessible graves to be accessed.

Councillor Hunt suggested changing the layout the unfilled plots so that space for a path was allowed every two rows, to ensure access is not restricted in the future. Councillor Pound stated that the area had been a free for all in the past and needed to be managed in the same way as the adult area. The Mayor agreed that the area needed more care and attention, but that was an issue for Service Committee.

The Town Clerk pointed out that every plot was next to the other with no spaces in each area. She suggested meeting with parents to collect their views on how the area should be maintained.

#### **FC/402 STANDING ORDERS**

##### **RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That Standing Orders be waived to allow Mr and Mrs McLellan to speak during this item.

**FC/403** Mrs McLellan stated that she would attend any meeting the Council called, but she warned that this was a very emotive issue and that grave items were personal to each family. Mr McLellan said that contact on a one to one basis to reassure families that no "ultimatum" to remove item would be issued first may a better way forward.

The Town Clerk recommended removing the hedge row to allow access and to consider in the future some kind of memorial to those neo-natal children buried within the cemetery.

##### **RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That:-

- i) the Town Clerk contact the parents of children buried within the babies memorial area in order to get their views and suggestions on how improve the area, the alignment of plots and regulations as to what is permitted on and around graves and to report back to Council in 3 months time with their ideas.
- ii) in the meantime the hedge/tree area be cleared to the grassed path in the Babies' area to allow Mr and Mrs McLellan to access their son's grave and for others to gain access.
- iii) the headstone for Robert Callum McLellan be permitted once access is possible prior to a protocol being agreed.

**FC/404 MARKET MATTERS**

The Town Clerk circulated the response received from the Market Traders Federation on the recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee.

Councillor Parry explained to the Council that several members of the Market Traders Federation had recently resigned and they therefore need more time to consider the recommendations in order to be able to comment in full.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That the Market Matters recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee be deferred to give the Market Traders Federation time to comment in full.

**FC/405 PROJECTS UPDATE****a) Boxing Club**

The Town Clerk said that there would be volunteer work available shortly, including painting and if any Member was interested in lending their services to let her know.

**FC/406 b) The Linney Riverside Park**

The Town Clerk stated that the Linney Riverside Park was now open and there is a commemorative plaque that had been unveiled by the Mayor and Philip Dunne MP. She added that she would circulate photos if Members wished.

The Mayor informed the Council that the fun day had been a great success with over 200 children attending; he added that it had been good to see so many Members present. The only small problem that had presented itself was the need for more rubbish bins which would be installed shortly.

**FC/407 c) Heritage Lottery Bid**

The Town Clerk informed Members that planning permission for the Buttercross element of the bid had now been received, the approved version would save £35,000 following the following the removal of the glass doors from the bid. She stated that the English Heritage grant for the repairs to the Buttercross ceilings also depended on the outcome of the Heritage Lottery Bid.

The Town Clerk stated that the overall bid amount applied for could be lower than the original sum due to Shropshire Council having to carry out emergency works to the Castle Square Car Park section of the wall.

**FC/408 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Wilcox explained that after Easter a Shropshire Council officer was no longer available to attend the Representational Committee meetings on Tuesday. Committee Members had therefore agreed to recommend to Council to change the Committee day to a Wednesday.

He went on to say that Committee Members found officer support essential in order to make well informed sensible decisions.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That Representational Committee meetings be moved to Wednesday nights.

**FC/409 DOG WARDEN POWERS**

The Town Clerk explained to Members that Dog Warden powers were currently held by Shropshire Council. She stated that the Town Council could ask for its staff to be trained to issue dog fouling tickets, though she advised that only one member of staff was interested in doing this.

Councillor Callender asked if this training would include the collection of stray dogs, the Town Clerk said that the training would only cover dog fouling.

Councillor Pound stated that local residents paid their Council Tax for Shropshire Council to provide this service, therefore without refunding the rate payer they needed to complete their obligation.

Councillor Perks said that Pride of Place supported Shropshire Council's work but did not replace them. He added that dog fouling had always been a problem around the town, but he was unsure if these powers would be the best use of staff time. He suggested that the Town Council needed to work with Shropshire Council to improve this anti-social issue.

Councillor Smithers stated that he agreed with Councillor Pound that the current Wardens were not being proactive in the prevention and enforcement of dog fouling.

Councillor Hunt left the meeting at 8.24pm

Councillor Parry stated that the Direct Labour Force work very hard to complete their current workload, Shropshire Council are responsible for providing a dog warden and executing those powers. The Mayor added that the Town Council could set up a dialogue with Shropshire Council to offer advice on how their service could be improved.

Councillor Hunt rejoined the meeting at 8.28pm

Councillor Callender stated that there was a danger that accepting these powers could escalate the issue of responsibilities being passed to the Town Council.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That Ludlow Town Council staff are not trained to use Shropshire Council's dog warden powers, but continue dialogue with Shropshire Council to improve the service.

**FC/410 SHROPSHIRE TOURISM**

**RESOLVED (unanimous)**

That the response from the Chamber of Trade and Commerce be noted and the website offer from Shropshire Tourism not be pursued.

Councillor Pound left the meeting at 8.29pm

**FC/411 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 9.00pm.

  
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Town Mayor

  
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Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.