



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2013** at 7.00PM.

FC/305 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Pound, Mayor

Councillors: Aitken; Callender; Davies; Draper; Hunt; McCormack; Newbold; Parry; Perks; Phillips; Smithers; Toop; Wilcox

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk;
Lucy Jones, Finance Secretary

Also in Attendance: Samantha Tharme, Shropshire Council Parking Officer

FC/306 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/307 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

FC/308 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 Parry | Queens Diamond Jubilee | Member |
| Councillor Aitken | Queens Diamond Jubilee | Member |
| Councillor Phillips | Ludlow Business Owner | Parking |

FC/309 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were nineteen members of the public and press present.

Mr M Taylor-Smith, 9 Mill Street, Ludlow stated that complaints against him as a Unitary Councillor had been received by Shropshire Council, these were not true as the allegation made against his conduct were when he was specifically speaking as a member of the public not as a Unitary Councillor. This differentiation is record within the Town Council's minutes. He said that all the information he had quoted from had been obtain though the correct channels and were either in the public domain or have been obtained through a Freedom of Information request. He added that redacting minutes does not make matter that occurred in public session, confidential.

Anita Bigsby, The Ludlow Fringe, spoke in support of the Core Budget Grant application she had submitted to the Council. She stated that the festival was to support local talent and young people. With a wide range of events none of which would cost more than £12.00 a ticket. She added that the festival would be open access to all.

Mr R Pote, 12a Mill Street, Ludlow, Secretary of the Mill Street Residents Association, read out the record of Shropshire Council's Cabinet enclosed within the agenda (page 122). He stated that the current proposed scheme did not reflect the original 'Off-Street' solution discussed at the Cabinet.

Mr T Caulcott, 12 Dinham, Ludlow, stated that he did not question the Market Traders vital role within the town and he accepted that they needed to park close to the market square but the solution was not to simply move trader parking from Mill Street to Dinham. He said that the proposed numbers of vehicles would take up half of the spaces in what was a predominantly residential street. Mr Riddle added that the Castle Gardens were a significant attraction to tourists and should not be surrounded by large vehicles which damage the look of the area. He stated that the solution was for vans to be parked off-street, therefore leaving on-street parking available to residents and visitors.

Mr J Riddle, Dinham, stated that the proposal were offensive as parking in the town centre was already a nightmare as vehicle usage increased since the building of the towns car parks. He accepted that some trader parking was required but emphasised the benefits residents and visitors bring to the town that market traders do not.

FC/310 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)

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

FC/311 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor R Taylor-Smith, Ludlow North, stated that the success of Ludlow Market was of great benefit to the town drawing in many visitors in addition to other town attractions. She stated that the proposed Parking Scheme aimed to increase the turn over of on-street parking spaces. She thanked all the people who had submitted comments and also the Town Council for working with Shropshire Council to produce the proposal. She said that she was against parking Market Traders vans in Dinham and suggested making twenty spaces available in Castle Street Car Park in addition to the Linney, Smithfield Car Park, the lower levels of Galdeford Car Park and a small number of on-street parking spaces in front of the Guildhall should provide a good solution. She added that the different coloured parking permits for Market Traders would clearly identify traders and prevent confusion.

Councillor R Taylor-Smith went on to say that the next meeting of the Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee would be held at the Ludlow Mascall Centre on the 28th February 2013 at 7.00pm. She added that further road resurfacing works would be carried out in the Town in February and March.

Unitary Councillor M Taylor-Smith, Ludlow South, agreed that parking numerous and larger vehicles on the Dinham was not appropriate.

Councillor M Taylor-Smith said that he was in agreement with the other Ludlow Unitary Councillors that they could not sign off the Ludlow Place Plan proposed by the Town Council as it included development on the Sheet which was not within the Parish of Ludlow and had not been included in the Ludford Place Plan. He added that he had canvassed the area in question and the proposed development was not welcomed by local residents.

He went on to say that in light of the severe weather warning in place for snow, the gritting of pavements was not a statutory duty of any Council as it would be physically impossible. Gritting was carried out by both Councils and also relied on the good will of residents and businesses alike to keep pavements clear. He added that if anyone knew of empty grit boxes Shropshire Council would refill them as soon as possible.

FC/312 MINUTES**a) 19th November 2012 – Open Session****RESOLVED (11:0:3)**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th November 2012, subject to a spelling amendment at minute FC/285, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/313 b) 19th November 2012 – Closed Session

The Mayor stated that these minutes contained inaccuracies particularly in minute FC/290. Councillor Wilcox asked if this matter should be discussed in closed session. The Town Clerk stated that closed session minutes were public and therefore their approval must be in open session.

The Town Clerk provided Members with a copy of the minute takers notes on this item which accorded with what was written in the minutes.

Councillor Perks asked if the authority to appoint the new Town Clerk had not been delegated to the Task and Finish Working Group. The Town Clerk stated that authority to appoint could only be delegated to a Committee, Sub-Committee or Officer.

The Mayor queried whether certain Members should have been excluded from the decision on the new Town Clerk. The Town Clerk stated that she had taken advice on this matter and there were no grounds upon which to exclude any Member from the recruiting process.

Councillor Phillips proposed that for legal reasons the minutes were inaccurate. The Town Clerk stated that the minutes are a legal record of at the meeting and cannot be affected by subsequent information.

The Mayor stated that there were inaccuracies in other minutes also. Councillor Perks expressed his concerns as to the ambiguity in minute FC/290. Councillor McCormack stated that the minute resolution seemed very clear and accorded with her recollection.

The Mayor stated that he was not willing to sign the minutes as they had been acknowledged as incorrect. Councillor McCormack stated that she did not believe them incorrect and suggested a vote on minute FC/290 separate from the rest of the minutes.

Councillor Smithers pointed out that the minute accorded with the minute takers notes. Councillor Draper added that the minute agreed with his recollection of the meeting and drew Members attention to the fact that the resolution was passed ten for, none against, one abstention.

RESOLVED (4:3:7)

That the closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th November 2012, excluding minute FC/290, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/314 RESOLVED (6:4:4)

That the closed session minute FC/290 of the Council meeting held on the 19th November 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Draper left the meeting at 7.58pm

FC/315 CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

RESOLVED (12:0:1)

That, due to the number of members of public in attendance for this item, the agenda order be amended to discuss item 15 Market Trader Parking as the next meeting item.

FC/316 MARKET TRADER PARKING

Samantha Tharme, Parking Officer, Shropshire Council explained to Members the proposed scheme. She thanked the public for their comments and stated that the scheme would be amended to include further spaces in Castle Street Car Park. She stated that this was a trial scheme and open to review.

Councillor Smithers pointed out that not all traders used high sided vans, he suggested that the Council encourage all vans to park in the car parks keeping them off street. He suggested looking at a rent reduction or subsidised parking to help Market Traders cope with the increased cost.

The Mayor stressed the importance to traders of having their vehicles close by to restock. Councillor Parry stated that she believed the charge of £4.00 to be too much as many traders struggle to make their rent alone during the winter months, she suggested £2.00.

RESOLVED (10:0:3)

That:-

- i) the parking of large market trader vans be restricted to off-street Car Parks.
- ii) the proposed Market Trader Parking Scheme be approved on a six month trial basis.
- iii) the Town Clerk present a report to the next Council meeting on the possible subsidising of the parking charges for Market Traders by the Town Council.

Councillor Wilcox left the meeting at 8.25pm

FC/317 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Wilcox rejoined the meeting at 8.29pm

Recommendation - Draft Budget and Precept 2013/14

That Council resolve to give a dispensation to all Members with a Pecuniary Interest in the Budget and Precept due to being Council Tax rate payers within the Parish, in order to allow them to vote on the Precept and Budget setting resolution.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That a dispensation be given to all Members to set the Budget and Precept within the Parish until the cessation of the current Council on the 7th May 2013.

FC/318 CORE BUDGET GRANT

Councillor McCormack stated that it was great to see a replacement event planned following the loss of Ludlow Festival. She suggested making it a one year grant to be reviewed once the success of the event can be judged. Councillor Perks and Toop both agreed that it was a wonderful proposal.

The Mayor said that though it was a wonderful event the Council should not commit to the funding until the Council's financial situation is better known and the new Council is elected. Councillor McCormack stated that it was impossible to plan such an event without confirmed funding and therefore this decision could not wait until the election in May, particularly when the event is in June.

Councillor Parry agreed that the Council needed to be careful with its finances but that they needed to support this event or risk losing it, which would be a terrible loss to the town.

RESOLVED (11:1:1)

That:-

- i) a grant of £2,000 be awarded to the Ludlow Fringe on a one off basis in 2013/14.
- ii) a review be carried out following the event to consider funding in future years.

FC/319 CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Town Clerk advised that the decision on the budget and precept figure must be considered in open session.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the agenda order be amended to discuss item 18 Policy and Finance Closed Session Recommendations and 21 Budget and Precept 2013/14 in open session.

FC/320 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**Council Vehicles**

That:-

- i) **Budgetary provision be made for the cost of the contract hire of two vans.**
- ii) **the Town Clerk be authorised to contract hire two vans to replace the current Peugeot Experts once they become unviable.**

RESOLVED (12:0:1)

That:-

- i) Budgetary provision be made for the cost of the contract hire of two vans.
- ii) the Town Clerk be authorised to contract hire two vans to replace the current Peugeot Experts once they become unviable.

Following the exclusion of the press and public the meeting continued in Closed Session and is recorded in the Closed Session Minutes (FC/321)

FC/324 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2013/14

Councillor Aitken asked if the Council needed to waive Standing Orders to reconsider the resolution made on the 19th November 2012 at minute FC/291. The Town Clerk stated that the resolution was to aim for a 0% precept increase but that this did not commit the Council.

The Council asked that the Town Clerk continue to negotiate the Service Charge with Shropshire Council but agreed that this sum should be taken from reserves and therefore did not effect the precept.

Following the exclusion of the press and public the meeting continued in Closed Session and is recorded in the Closed Session Minutes (FC/326)

FC/327 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2013/14

The Town Clerk advised that current budget plus the £2,000.00 grant to the Ludlow Fringe and the £691.00 in relation to the Living Wage would represent a precept increase of roughly 1.3%.

Councillor Perks asked if it was possible to absorb the sum above the basic precept. Councillor Aitken stated that the Council could not continue at the 0% and that 1.3% was still below the level of inflation.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That a precept of £292,109, be approved.

FC/328 RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the budget be approved.

FC/329 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. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.