



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Ludlow Conference Centre, Ludlow on **MONDAY 8th AUGUST 2011** at 7.00PM

FC/126 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Aitken, Mayor

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Wilcox, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: Davies; Hunt; Jackson; Mitchell; Newbold; Parry; Pope; Pound

Officers: Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk;
Lucy Morgan, Secretary

FC/127 PRAYERS

The Mayor passed on the Mayor's Chaplain apologies that he was unable to attend this meeting and asked that in his absence Councillor Reverend Canon Wilcox lead the Council in prayers.

FC/128 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glaze and Smithers.

FC/129 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>
A. Pope	A-Boards

Prejudicial Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
A. Pope	A-Boards

FC/130 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were six members of the public and press present.

Mr G. Ginger, 5 Corve Street, stated that he had either worked or lived at the top of Corve Street since the early 1980's and though there had always been a bus stop there he had never known there to be a bus shelter. He and other local business had fought to have a loading bay installed and he was concerned that a bus shelter would obstruct the kerb space needed for offloading. He went on to inform Members that patrons of the Compasses Inn currently caused a tremendous disturbance to residents in the area, as some evenings there could be thirty to forty people smoking outside using the window sills of his shop as an ashtray and the gutters as a urinal. He was concerned that the bus shelter would be used in a similar way and make the situation worse.

Mr Sheridan, Aston Munslow, provided Members with a copy of a letter from Shropshire Council confirming when Street Trading was organised by Shropshire Council no complaints against him had been received. He went on to say that Street Traders benefited the public by providing goods particularly to the low paid and unemployed.

Steve Brown, Shropshire Council, informed the Council that he was attending the meeting to provide Members with further clarification on A-Boards and was happy to answer any questions.

FC/131 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor R. Taylor-Smith, Ludlow North, passed on apologies from Councillor M. Taylor-Smith who was unable to attend the meeting. She thanked Councillor Wilcox and Mrs Aitken, the Mayoress, for attending and supporting the Ludlow in Bloom judging day and would let the Council know once the results were received.

She added that she hoped the Council would fully consider the use of the bandstand suggested by Philip Dunne MP and that Councillor Smithers, Glyn Shaw, Shropshire Council and herself had recently visit Camp Lane to address residents issues, recommendations will be made to the Representational Committee for consideration. She went on to inform Members of forthcoming public meetings and events in the area.

FC/132 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)

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

FC/133 MINUTES

RESOLVED (9:0:1)

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11th July 2011, subject to the spelling correction at minute FC/736, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/134 STREET TRADING

The Town Clerk updated Members on the current Street Trading position. She stated that when Street Trading was taken over from Shropshire Council there had been no policy in place and that a new policy would be considered at the next Street Trading Sub-Committee on the 18th August 2011. She also confirmed that no complaints had been received with regards to Mr Sheridan.

She advised that no complaints had been received with regards to the ice cream seller when he was placed on the correct pitch site. She added that Shropshire Council have issued pavement permits for tables and chairs etc. that encroach onto some of the Street Trading pitches, this has been raised with Shropshire Council and will be further discussed at the Sub-Committee to make recommendations to Council.

FC/135 BUS SHELTER

Members considered the papers provided and noted that both the Local Conservations Area Advisory Committee and the Civic Society both recommended positioning the shelter outside Palmers House (the Old Post Office). The Town Clerk advised that the widest part of the pavement was nearest the Compasses Inn but that this could obstruct the loading bay and that there was evidence in Mill Street and at the Buttercross that shelters could be misused and damaged. She added that the gentleman who had originally requested the shelter had been invited to the meeting but had not attended.

Councillor Jackson stated that a bus shelter was an important amenity for the town and she believed a low impact glass shelter would not detract from the historic building. Councillor Parry asked the Council to reconsider siting the shelter at the bottom of Corve Street. Councillor Mitchell suggested a better site would be outside Co-op.

Councillor Wilcox advised that if the shelter was vandalised and misused it would not be attractive to bus travellers and would therefore not be value for money.

Councillor Hunt explained to the Council that as many people caught the bus at the top of Corve Street as on Mill Street and therefore a shelter was needed. Councillor Pound agreed that due to its position in the centre of town this was one of the most used stops.

Councillors Davies stated that the Town Council needed to take advantage of the funding available for the benefit of the town, he believed a shelter would be more important at the bottom of Corve Street to serve Tesco and Aldi shoppers.

Councillor Pope suggested that enquiries could be made with regards to removing the telephone box in order to minimise the visual impact to the building.

RESOLVED (4:5:1)

That a bus shelter is not required at the top of Corve Street.

This proposal was not carried.

FC/136 RESOLVED (4:3:3)

That the bus shelter at the top of Corve Street be positioned outside Palmers House (the old Post Office).

FC/137 A-BOARDS

The Mayor stated that the A-Board pilot had been a difficult experience and had caused significant issues for Ludlow and the Town Council. He said that Members needed to consider health and safety and the aesthetic nature of A-Boards which was particularly relevant as the centre of Ludlow was in a conservation area.

Councillor Pope stated that though Ludlow town centre was a conservation area the law did not permit the dictation of preferential colour schemes or aesthetics.

Councillor Pope left the meeting at 7.48pm

Councillor Wilcox explained that though he did sympathise with local businesses there was need for a limit on the number of A-Board per premises as the number of A-Boards seems to have doubled this the pilot began.

Councillor Davies pointed out that A-Boards were a health and safety risk especially on the narrowest streets in Ludlow. Councillor Mitchell agreed and stated that the current position of some A-Boards meant that pushchairs and mobility scooters had to go on the road to pass, this was unsafe and relevant restrictions of A-Boards/Street furniture should be imposed on the town narrowest streets.

Councillor Parry stated that Shropshire Council had manipulated the Town Council and harassed local businesses and still do not present a set policy. Councillor Jackson said that it was now well over a year since the pilot began, it had no clear purpose or criteria and no way to measure the outcome.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow Steve Brown from Shropshire Council to speak on the issue of A-Boards and answer Councillors questions

- FC/138** Steve Brown, Shropshire Council advised Members that the Highways authority had no jurisdiction to enforce the policy on private land, but that this could come under planning or conservation regulations. He stated that Shropshire Council had met with local elderly and disabled groups and the policy was therefore focused on health and safety and the de minimis policy would just to enforce health and safety issues.

Councillor Wilcox emphasised that though there had been previous issues it was a good thing that the Town Council could make the policy decision for Ludlow.

RESOLVED (8:0:1)

That:-

- i) an A-Board policy of 1 A-Board per premises of a maximum size in accordance with the relevant Advertising regulations be permitted and mindful of health and safety. In exceptional circumstances the premises may apply for a further A-Board i.e. directional to be approved by the Town Council working jointly with Shropshire Council.
- ii) the Town Clerk and Steve Brown, Shropshire Council, meet to discuss the details of size.

Councillor Pope rejoined the meeting at 8.15pm

FC/139 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

FRIENDS OF SHROPSHIRE HILLS

That an annual subscription of £50 for Ludlow Town Council to become an organisational member of the Friends of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be approved.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That an annual subscription of £50 for Ludlow Town Council to become an organisational member of the Friends of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be approved.

FC/140 RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION POLICY

That subject to the amendment to VAT Claims being retained for 7 years, the Retention and Destruction Policy be adopted.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That subject to the amendment to VAT Claims being retained for 7 years, the Retention and Destruction Policy be adopted.

FC/141 TWINNING ASSOCIATION

That a Twinning Sub-Committee be set up and letters be sent to the Ludlow and Shropshire Twinning Associations.

Councillor Pope informed Members that Twinning Associations sometimes felt isolated from the Town Council and that we needed to work with them. The Mayor advised caution against taking over an onerous responsibilities in this respect.

The Town Clerk suggested the Mayor's of twinned towns could be invited to civic events or the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED (9:0:1)

That a Twinning Sub-Committee be set up and letters be sent by the Town Clerk to the Ludlow and Shropshire Twinning Associations to co-ordinate and make representations to Council on future twinning opportunities.

FC/142 That the Twinning Sub-Committee membership be made up of Councillors Newbold, Parry, Pope, Smithers and Wilcox, and that membership be open to any other Councillor who wish to join the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That the Twinning Sub-Committee membership be made up of Councillors Aitken, Newbold, Parry, Pope, Smithers and Wilcox.

FC/143 FESTIVAL MARKET RENTS

That a rent of £35.00 per stall during large festivals, to be reviewed annually, is approved.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That a rent of £35.00 per stall during large festivals, to be reviewed annually, is approved.

FC/144 That:-

- i) the Food Festival be granted the use of Entertainment Square for the September Food Festival.**
- ii) the Town Clerk make enquiries as to the rental fees charged by the Food Festival for the Entertainment Square pitches and, if possible, charge the Festival 20% of their fees.**

The Town Clerk advised that prior to the hand over of Street Trading the Festival had booked the pitch on the Entertainment Square for the September Festival therefore the Council could not look to change this arrangement until 2012.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That:-

- i) the Food Festival be granted the use of Entertainment Square for the September Food Festival.
- ii) the Town Clerk make enquiries as to the rental fees charged by the Food Festival for the Entertainment Square pitches and, if possible, beginning in 2012 charge the Festival 20% of their fees.

FC/145 That the arrangement to share the Market Square with the Food Festival, 23 stalls for the Town Council and 20 stalls for the Food Festival dependent on the uptake by Ludlow Market trader, continue and be reviewed annually.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That the arrangement to share the Market Square with the Food Festival, 23 stalls for the Town Council and 20 stalls for the Food Festival dependent on the uptake by Ludlow Market trader, continue and be reviewed annually.

FC/146 BUDGET WORKING GROUP

That:-

- i) the membership of the Budget Working Group be made up of Councillors Aitken, Glaze, Leyton-Purrier, McCormack, Newbold, Parry and Pope.**
- ii) a meeting of the Budget Working Group be called in early September 2011.**

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That:-

- i) the membership of the Budget Working Group be made up of Councillors Aitken, Glaze, Leyton-Purrier, McCormack, Newbold, Parry and Pope.
- ii) a meeting of the Budget Working Group be called in early September 2011.

FC/147 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 8.55pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.