

LUDLOW TOWN COUNCIL A G E N D A

To: All Members of the Council, Unitary Councillors, Press Contact: Gina Wilding
Ludlow Town Council, The Guildhall,
Mill Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AZ
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Despatch date: 22nd July 2015

COUNCIL

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Ludlow Town Council to be held at The Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow, on Monday 27th July 2015 at 7.00pm

Gina Wilding Town Clerk

Key Agenda Items:

- Councillor Co-options
- Committee Membership
- Update on the Buttercross
- Garden of Rest

The public may speak at this meeting

Public Open Session (15 minutes) – Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern.



1. Health and Safety – Councillors and members of the public are to note that the fire exits can be found to the rear of the building outside the Council Chamber and via the front door. The fire assembly point is on the pavement opposite the Guildhall. For fire safety purposes all Councillors should sign the attendance book and members of the public should sign the attendance sheet.

2. Apologies

3. Declarations of Interests

Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

- a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
- b) Declaration of conflicts of Interest
- c) Declarations of personal interest
- **4. Public Open Session (15 minutes)** Members of the public are invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern.
- **5. Ludlow's Unitary Councillors Question and Answer Session** Ludlow's Unitary Councillors are invited to address any questions to the Committee.
- Minutes To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the COUNCIL MEETING held on MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2015 and 1st JULY 2015.

'The minutes must be signed and loose leaf pages initialled at the meeting which they record or at the next meeting, by the person presiding thereat' LGA 1972, Sch 12, para4 (1)

Members are reminded:

All proposed amendments or queries relating to the minutes should be reported to the Town Clerk by 10.00 am on the day of the meeting, if required, responses will be given as soon as practicable, but not necessarily at the meeting.

All Committee minutes must be received without discussion or debate.

7. **Items to Action** – To note the items to action sheet from the previous Council Meeting held on 22nd JUNE 2015 and 1st JULY 2015.

	ITEM	Attachment	Page No
8.	CO-OPTIONS To co-opt to fill two vacancies. a) Co-option Policy b) Co-option Meeting Procedure c) Co-option letter to candidate. d) Completed Application forms.	8a 8b 8c 8d	33 37 39 41
9.	COUNCIL CALENDAR To approve the removal the Council meeting on the 26 th April 2016 because it is surplus to requirements.	9	61



10 . a)	MEMBERSHIP To adopt new members to committees, sub-committees and working groups;	10a	63
b)	To note the Representatives on Outside Bodies	10b	65
11. a)	POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE To receive the open and closed session draft minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on the 13 th July 2015.	11a	67
b)	To consider the open and closed recommendations from the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on the 13 th July 2015.	11b	73
12.	SERVICES COMMITTEE To receive the draft open minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 6 th July 2015.	12	75
13.	REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE To receive the minutes of the Representational Committee meetings held on the 15 th June and 1 st July 2015.	13	81
14. a)	CIVIC EVENTS WORKING GROUP To receive the minutes of the Civic Events Working Group on the 18th June 2015.	14a	91
b)	To consider the recommendations from the Civic Events Working Group on 18 th June 2015.	14b	95
15.	FUTURE FUNDING OUTLOOK FOR COUNCILS To consider the report in terms of a long term budgetary strategy.	15	97
16.	YOUTH PROVISION To note the information from Shropshire Council.	16	113
17.	BUTTERCROSS To receive an update on the Buttercross.	17	121
18.	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 The Chairman will move 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.	No papers	
19.	TOWN WALLS To consider legal advice.	19	131



Membership

Councillors Draper (Town Mayor); Kemp (Deputy Mayor); Cobley; Gill; Ginger; Jones; Lyle; J. Newbold; S. Newbold; Parry; Perks; Smithers; Sheward

The next Council meeting will be held on the 28th September 2015



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2015** at **7.00PM**.

FC/54 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

Councillors: Cobley; Gill; Ginger; Jones; Kemp; J Newbold; Parry;

Perks (from 7.30 pm); Sheward and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk;

Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant

FC/55 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/56 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lyle and S Newbold.

FC/57 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

None declared

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	Reason
A. Cobley	20	Works with members of the Asian Community.
V.Parry	14	Chair of Ludlow in Bloom
	19	LTC Representative on SALC
		Member of the Twinning Group
G. Perks	19	Member of Narberth Twinning Working Group
C. Sheward	14	Wrote an open letter about re-thinking governance.

FC/58 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

 $\underline{\mathsf{Mrs}\ \mathsf{J}\ \mathsf{Brand} - \mathsf{College}\ \mathsf{Street}} - \mathsf{Mrs}\ \mathsf{Brand}\ \mathsf{thanked}\ \mathsf{the}\ \mathsf{Town}\ \mathsf{Council}\ \mathsf{for}\ \mathsf{the}\ \mathsf{Civic}\ \mathsf{Award}\ \mathsf{presented}\ \mathsf{to}\ \mathsf{her}\ \mathsf{at}\ \mathsf{Mayor}\ \mathsf{Making}\ \mathsf{on}\ \mathsf{the}\ \mathsf{27}^\mathsf{th}\ \mathsf{May}.\ \mathsf{She}\ \mathsf{explained}$

that she came to Ludlow from London just after WW2, which had been a total contrast and she felt she had found paradise. She made it her ambition to live and work within the community which had been achieved and the 'cherry on the cake' had been to receive the Civic Award.

FC/59 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

<u>Unitary Councillor A Boddington, Ludlow North</u> - Councillor Boddington highlighted that the Town Council agenda carried 90 pages of the 300 page SamDev document. He stressed that the amendments made to MM14 and MM18 had totally weakened the original document and the implications and potential impact upon Ludlow could be dramatic. He stated in his opinion the document now diluted the restriction on the number of houses that could be constructed under National Rules. It therefore opened up possibilities for dwellings to be built beyond the bypass and across the bridge to Ludford. In addition allocated sites could be granted planning permission whether they are sustainable or not and the rule providing evidence of community support had been removed. This he felt would open the floodgates for any future planning applications.

<u>Unitary Councillor V Parry, Ludlow South</u> — Councillor Parry reported she had attended a meeting at Shropshire Council regarding library. Shropshire Council had announced that savings of £520k needed to be made and to achieve this more background technology would be installed, however, staff losses could not be ruled out.

FC/60 MINUTES - 13th MAY 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/TG

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 13th May 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/61 ITEMS TO ACTION – 13th MAY 2015

The Mayor thanked the staff for producing the Items to Action list.

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/PK

That the Items to Action from the meetings held on the 13th May 2015 be noted.

FC/62 POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Minutes - 8th June 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/RJ

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of the 8th June 2015 be received.

FC/63 b) Recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee 8th June 2015

PF/11 POLICIES

a) Landline and Mobile Phone Policy

b) Equal Opportunities Policy

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/CS

To adopt the Landline and Mobile Phone Policy and to adopt the Equal Opportunities Policy.

PF/16 MARKET ELECTRIC

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) RJ/JS

That :-

- i) The Market Electricity Budget is increased to £2,700.00
- ii) A report on electricity usage trends over the past 3 years is brought back to committee
- iii) The Town Council consults with market traders to review the market electricity payments structure.
- iv) In due course, the Council's findings be reported to the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS

That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 8th June 2015 be adopted:-

i) POLICIES

a) Landline and Mobile Phone Policy

b) Equal Opportunities Policy

To adopt the Landline and Mobile Phone Policy and to adopt the Equal Opportunities Policy.

MARKET ELECTRIC

That :-

- The Market Electricity Budget is increased to £2,700.00;
- ii) A report on electricity usage trends over the past 3 years is brought back to Committee;
- iii) The Town Council consults with market traders to review the market electricity payments structure;
- iv) In due course, the Council's findings be reported to the Ombudsman.

FC/64 SERVICES COMMITTEE – MINUTES 1st JUNE 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/TG

That the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 1st June 2015, be received.

FC/65 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE – MINUTES 6th MAY 2015 & 3rd JUNE 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meetings held on the 6th May and 3rd June 2015, be received.

FC/66 ANNUAL RETURN 2014-15

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/CS

That the Annual Return 2015-15 be approved.

FC/67 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/AC

That the Internal Auditors Report be adopted.

FC/68 POLICY ON HANDLING COMPLAINTS

Following a question from Councillor Parry the Mayor confirmed that if the Town Clerk had a complaint this could be taken directly to the Mayor or the Chair of the Staffing & Appeals Committee.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) RJ/TG

That the Policy on Handling Complaints be adopted.

FC/69 NALC - DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/RJ

That the letter from NALC regarding direction of travel be noted.

FC/70 RE-THINKING GOVERNANCE – RESPONSE FROM SALC

RESOLVED (9:0:1) PD/RJ

That the response is noted and the Town Council awaits further information.

FC/71 VJ DAY 15TH AUGUST 2015

The Town Clerk outlined that VJ Day fell on a Saturday, the Venerable Colin Williams had offered to conduct a short service at the town war memorial in the porch of St Laurence's Church.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/AC

That the Town Clerk liaises with St Laurence's Church to arrange a short service at the town war memorial in the porch of St Laurence's Church on the 15th August to commemorate VJ day.

FC/72 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REGISTRARS CONSULTATION

Members discussed the options given in the consultation.

Councillor Ginger pointed out that the statistics proved the Ludlow office was one of the most efficient and cost effective and urged the Town Council to propose increased hours at the Ludlow office. Councillor Ginger therefore felt that none of the consultation options were acceptable. He also added from recent personal experience he felt that the 'broom cupboard' registrar office facilities currently offered by Shropshire Council were disgraceful. Members were informed that overall improvements to customer confidentiality and facilities at Ludlow library were being considered by SC.

Councillor Parry agreed with Councillor Ginger and voiced her concern that the worst case scenario to register a death, birth or marriage would be a 60 mile round trip, which was unacceptable.

Councillor Sheward highlighted that if other Registrars offices were closed then the workload would increase in those left and may necessitate increasing both the hours and staff time in Ludlow. 7.30 pm Councillor Perks entered the room.

RESOLVED (7:4:0) GG/PK

That, the Town Clerk responds to the Registrars Consultation:

- A very cost effective & efficient registrar service is provided in Ludlow;
- ii) An increase in opening and staff hours at Ludlow registrar office is requested;
- iii) The current office provision is disgraceful and more fitting and dignified office accommodation is provided at Ludlow Library.

FC/73 SAMDEV PLAN MAIN MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

Councillor Ginger requested clarification on what Councillor Boddington had said in the Unitary Councillor session earlier. As he had understood it the majority of planning decisions would made by Officers and not committee.

Councillor Boddington replied that unfortunately not all controversial decisions were called in by Committee, although it was acceptable to Shropshire Council that 95% of decisions were made by officers, and this would continue to be the case.

Councillor Ginger voiced his concern stating that all planning matters would be discussed at Shrewsbury 30 miles away and officers with no local community knowledge would make decisions for Ludlow, which he felt in his opinion would be disastrous; and there was a real danger of Ludlow losing its uniqueness. Councillor Perks agreed with Councillor Ginger adding that it looked as if it was a 'done deal'.

Councillor Parry informed Members that Unitary Councillors had been asked if they would prefer to have one Planning Committee based in Shrewsbury or retain the status quo of three area planning committees. She stated she had voted for the status quo, and it was very important to retain the Sothern Area Planning Committee, which considered applications from Ludlow.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG

That:-

i) The modifications to MM14 and MM18 created a substantially weaker document that diluted the restrictions on the number of houses that could be constructed under National Rules because allocated sites could be granted planning permission whether they are sustainable or not and the rule providing evidence of community support had been removed. These

- modifications would open up possibilities for dwellings to be built beyond the bypass and across the bridge to Ludford.
- ii) The Town Clerk be authorised to write to Shropshire Council to state that Ludlow Town Council rejects any move to a single centralised Planning Committee and the three existing Area Planning Committees should be retained;
- iii) The SAMDev Plan Main Modifications be noted;

FC/74 CO-OPTIONS UPDATE

The Town Clerk updated Members on the current position regarding co-options.

Councillor Ginger asked whether there was a legal obligation for the Town Council to co-opt considering that nominations had been advertised and no-one had come forward. He suggested that the Town Council was functioning well with 13 Councillors and asked if there was a need for 15.

The Town Clerk replied by saying that unless it was less than six months to an election the Town Council was required to actively seek to fill the vacancies.

Councillor Perks pointed out that one of the vacancies was in his ward and given that it was a large ward he would welcome an active Councillor to share the workload.

RESOLVED (10:0:1) RJ/JS

That the Co-option Policy, Co-option letter, application form and supporting information be noted; and a small amendment be made to the poster to make its purpose more evident.

FC/75 TWINNING SIGNAGE

Councillor Perks declared that he was pleased to see the Twinning signs on the agenda, but said he was disappointed that it had taken six years to come to fruition.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/RJ

That, the locations for the Twinning signage be approved.

FC/76 MUSLIM BURIALS

Following a question from Councillor Perks the Town Clerk explained that the process and expectations for Muslim burials were different to those of the travelling community.

Councillor Newbold urged Members to be mindful that the Cemetery should be open to all religions.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/JS

That Services Committee receives a report on:-

- i) the specific requirements for Muslim burials;
- ii) how Muslim burials could be achieved at Henley Road Cemetery;
- iii) Ludlow Town Council's policy at Henley Road Cemetery is amended to ensure requests from all faiths & religions are considered so that the provision for burials reflects the diversity within the local community.

FC/77 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) PD/JS

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

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Town Mayor	Date	

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.



CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Close Session minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2015** at **7.00PM**

FC/78 NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE ON THE 22ND APRIL AND UPDATE

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/RJ

That:-

- i) The appointment of DLF Assistant Grounds Person/Market Assistant (AT) be ratified;
- ii) The report is noted.

FC/79 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STAFFING & APPEALS COMMITTEE 13TH MARCH 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/JS

That the Training Agreement be approved.

FC/80 RESPONSE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/TG

That the response from the Monitoring Officer be noted.

FC/81 CEMETERY MATTERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/RJ

That:

- i) Teleshore are suspended from further work at Henley Road Cemetery;
- ii) The single depth burials are paid at the rate of the Council's approved fee schedule:
- iii) That the survey of Plot I be brought back to Services Committee;
- iv) That Mark, Mandy & Son Burial Services be approved for work at Henley Road Cemetery and appointed under contract;

The meeting closed at 8.30pm		
Town Mayor	Date	



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **WEDNESDAY 1**ST **JULY 2015** at **6.30PM**.

FC/82 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

Councillors: Cobley: Ginger: Kemp, Deputy Mayor: Lyle: J. Newbold: S.

Newbold; Parry; Sheward and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Stephanie Williams, Admin Assistant

Also in attendance: Mr Nicholas Hancox, Director of Nicholas Hancox

Solicitors Ltd.

FC/83 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/84 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gill, Jones and Perks

FC/85 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

Member Item Reason

V. Parry 7 SC Unitary Councillor; Trustee of St Laurence's

Conservation Committee

Personal Interests

None declared.

FC/86	PUBLIC OPEN SESSION ((15 minutes)	

There were no members of the public present

FC/87 <u>UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION</u>

Cllr Parry had no updates for members

FC/88 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) PD/JS

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

The meeting closed at 7.32pm	
Town Mayor	Date

NB Closed session minutes will be issued.



CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Closed Session minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 1**st **JULY 2015** at **6:30PM**

FC/89	LEGAL ADVICE - GARDEN OF REST	
	RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/AC	
	To note the advice received and reconsic July 2015.	ler the matter at Full Council on 27 th
The meet	ing closed at 7.32pm	
Town Ma	yor	Date

Minute	Resolution	Action	Status	Date
No.				
FC/100	Twinning Signage	Place order	Complete	22/07/15
23.6.14				
	That the quote from Shropshire Council for the manufacture, removal of the			
	existing signs and erection of three new twinning signs be accepted.			
28/7/14				
FC/117	IT PROVISION	Create IT	pending	
28.7.14		Equipment		
	That:-	Replacement		
	i) the Town Clerk is authorised to research and update a long-term IT	Strategy		
	equipment replacement strategy for the Town Council;			
	ii) the Town Council continues to use the current supplier for ad hoc	Seek quotes and	complete	08/10/14
	computer solutions;	replacement 2 PCs		
	iii) the Town Clerk is authorised to obtain quotations to replace the two			
	oldest desktop PCs; iv) subject to acceptable quotations, the two oldest desktop PCs are	PCs replaced	complete	
	replaced in the 2014-15 financial year;	r Cs replaced	Complete	15/11/14
	Teplaced III the 2014-13 illiandial year,			13/11/14
FC/133	CCTV FUNDING	Seek quotations	Done.	
23.7.14		- Cook quotationo	Bono.	
	That:-	Call a meeting of	Pending	
	i) the successful funding application is noted.	the CCTV Working		
	ii) the Town Clerk secures quotations for service and maintenance of CCTV	Group. Date to be		
	cameras and infrastructure.	arranged in June.		
	iii) a meeting of the CCTV Working Group be called for discuss the current	Membership of	Complete	02/02/15
	contract and the future of the scheme.	Working Group to	-	
		be decided. FC		
		2.2.15.		

Council - 22nd June 2015 & 1st July 2015 Items to Action

29/9/14								
FC/171	POLICY AND	FINANCE	COMMITTEE	CLOSED	SESSION			
29.9.14	RECOMMENDAT	<u>IONS</u>						
	That:- the proposed Elec	tronic Payment s	System be approve	ed.		Start electronic payments	Pending	

01/12/14				
FC/216	8c) To consider an application for Core Funding – Ludlow Fringe Festival			
01.12.14				
	RESOLVED (unanimous)			
	CS/GG			
	That:-	Letter sent to	Complete	30/01/15
	i) Ludlow Fringe Festival are granted £2,000 per annum for a period of 3 years in 2015, 2016 and 2017.	Fringe Festival.	Complete	30/01/13
	ii) A Service Level Agreement is drafted to clarify the terms and conditions of	SLA to be drafted.	Complete	22/07/15
	funding.	OLIT (10 DO GIGITOG)	Complete	22/01/10
FC/227	CIVIC REGALIA			
01.12.14				
	RESOLVED (unanimous)			
	PD/GG			
	That :-			
	i) The update be noted	Revised procedure		
	ii) The Town Clerk draft a revised procedure	drafted.	Complete	02/02/15
	iii) Members are further updated with insurance costs at a further meeting.	Insurance costs to	Pending	
		come to further		
		meeting.		
02/02/15				
FC/244	b) Recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee 19 th			
02.02.15	January 2015			
	PF/102 Ludlow Under Pressure			
	11/102 <u>Ludiow Olider Flessure</u>			
[

	RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/PD			
	That:- The Town Council adopts and endorses the Ludlow Under Pressure report; The Town Council issue a press release to publicise their support of the Ludlow Under Pressure Report.	Report to go into Policy Folder. Press Release to be issued.	Complete Complete	
PF/103	National Salary Award			
	RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/PD			
	That the National Salary Award be adopted.	Adopted.	Complete	02/02/15
PF/104	Local Council Award Scheme			
	RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/JS			
	To apply for the Local Council Foundation Award.	Application to be made.	Pending	
PF/105	Policy Review			
	RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/GG	Dalla adadad D. (0 1 - (-	40/00/45
	That the Disciplinary & Grievance Policy be adopted	Policy adopted. Put into digital file.	Complete	18/02/15
PF/110	Precept & Budget			
	RECOMMENDED (7:0:1) GG/PD			
	 i) To note the budget reductions and efficiency savings achieved in the budget setting and increased grant income for 2015/16 ii) Ludlow Town Council retain the community action plan 	Refer to FC/257		
	ii) Ludlow Town Council retain the community action plan			

	NH/JS That aparthe meeti	2015/16 and improve services and facilities in the local community iii) Ludlow Town Council increase the precept from 2014/15 level by 9.9% to compensate for the loss of the CTSG iv) Ludlow Town Council spend £37,000.00 from reserves to fulfill the budgeted grants and community infrastructure improvements v) A press release is issued to explain that if the Council is faced with a budget deficit of £34,594.00 as a result of the actions of the Principle Council, Ludlow Town Council will continue to support local services and community infrastructure improvements and honour current commitments to local organisations ED (unanimous) rt from recommendation PF/110, which is being considered later in ng, the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on anuary 2015, be approved.			
FC/246 02.02.15	b)	Recommendations from Services Committee 12th January 2015			
	S/88	Commemorative Cross			
		RECOMMENDATION (4:0:1) JS/TG That the new location, as indicated on page 58 of the Services Agenda be approved.	Letter to the resident. Letter sent.	Complete	16/02/15
	S/93	Market Trading Over Christmas And New Year			
		<u>RECOMMENDED</u> (5:1:0) PD/JS	Market Officer informed.	Complete	09/02/15

i) That the current practice of no Specialist Markets between Christmas and New Year is continued; Amendment To Resolution RECOMMENDED (unanimous) PD/TG ii) No trading takes place on the first market trading day after Christmas, unless this is a Saturday. iii) Traders are notified in advance and there are no rent arrears for the cancelled market. If the calendar permits, there is one day of trading after Christmas and before New Year. RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/JS	Traders to be informed. Letter drafted.	Complete	02/02/15	
That the recommendations from Services Committee on 12 th January 2015 be approved.				

Council - 22nd June 2015 & 1st July 2015 Items to Action

FC/292	CIVIC REGALIA			
	DESOLVED (unanimous)			
	RESOLVED (unanimous)			
	That three quotations are sought.	3 quotations to be sought.	Pending	
13/05/15				
FC/14	b) Recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee 20 th April 2015			
	RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/JS			
	That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 20 th April 2015 be adopted:-			
	POLICIES			
	<u>a) Flag Protocol</u> That the Flag Protocol be readopted with the addition of a press release being sent out to inform residents of the protocol.	Policy amended. Press release drafted.	Complete Complete	02/06/15
	b) Training Policy To adopt the Training Policy.	Press release issued.	Complete	22/7/15
	c) Dignity at Work Policy To adopt the Dignity at Work Policy			
	<u>LEGISLATION</u>	Consultation	Complete	22/7/15

a) Consultation on extended Ombudsman's remit	answers sent to	
The following responses:-	Ombudsman.	
Q1. Should the Local Government Ombudsman's jurisdiction be extended to larger Parish and Town Councils? YES		
Q2. Should a larger Parish or Town Council be defined by having a population the same as or greater than 35,000 people, or should the threshold be set at a different limit? Councillors agreed the limit should be 35,000 or greater.		
Q3. Should a larger Parish or Town Council be defined by having an annual precept of £1m or more? YES — Councils of this size should have sufficient staff and resources to enable them to successfully comply with the Ombudsman process.		
Q4. Should a larger Parish or Town Council be defined by both population and budget? YES		
Q5. Once subject to the Local Government Ombudsman's jurisdiction, should the parish or town council remain so for a fixed period of time? YES – there should be an option to review		
SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY IN SHROPSHIRE		
To:- i) Note the information provided by the Shropshire Schools Forum and	Add information	

	Shropshire Council ii) Provide information on our website	onto LTC website. Letter to Shropshire	Pending Pending	
	iii) Request further information specific to Ludlow iv) Refer the matter to the Town Plan Working Group	Council. Diary for the Town	Pending	
		Plan Working	ronang	
	i) <u>CEMETERY ELECTRIC</u>	Group.		
	That:-			
	i) The one year Scottish & Southern quotation be accepted	Quotation not valid.	Complete	07/06/15
		Contract not entered into.	Complete	22/7/15
	ii) That the budget be amended to £170.00	Further quotations required.		
22/06	715	required.		
FC/6	b) Recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee 8 th June 2015			
	2015			
	RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS			
	That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 8 th June 2015 be adopted:-			
	POLICIES			
	a) Landline and Mobile Phone Policy	Policies adopted	Complete	23/6/15
	b) Equal Opportunities Policy	and copied to digital file and	Complete	23/6/15
	To adopt the Landline and Mobile Phone Policy and to adopt the Equal Opportunities Policy.	paper copy.		

	MARKET ELECTRIC That :-			
	i) The Market Electricity Budget is increased to £2,700.00;	Budget increased.	Complete	22/7/15
	ii) A report on electricity usage trends over the past 3 years is brought back to Committee;	Report to be drafted for P&F	Pending	
	iii) The Town Council consults with market traders to review the market electricity payments structure;	Cttee. Consultation.	Pending	
	iv)In due course, the Council's findings be reported to the Ombudsman.	Findings reported to Ombudsman	Pending	
FC/66	ANNUAL RETURN 2014-15			
	RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/CS			
	That the Annual Return 2015-15 be approved.	Annual Return to be displayed. On website.	Complete	30/06/15
FC/68	POLICY ON HANDLING COMPLAINTS			
	RESOLVED (Unanimous) RJ/TG			
	That the Policy on Handling Complaints be adopted.	Policy to be updated and added to digital file and paper copy.	Complete	07/07/15

FC/71	VJ DAY 15 TH AUGUST 2015			
	RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/AC That the Town Clerk liaises with St Laurence's Church to arrange a short service at the town war memorial in the porch of St Laurence's Church on the 15 th August to commemorate VJ day.	Town Clerk to liaise with St Laurence's Church.	Complete	21/7/15
FC/72	SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REGISTRARS CONSULTATION			
	RESOLVED (7:4:0) GG/PK That, the Town Clerk responds to the Registrars Consultation: i) A very cost effective & efficient registrar service is provided in Ludlow; ii) An increase in opening and staff hours at Ludlow registrar office is requested; iii) The current office provision is disgraceful and more fitting and dignified office accommodation is provided at Ludlow Library.	Letter in response to consultation drafted.	Complete	22/7/15
FC/73	i) The modifications to MM14 and MM18 created a substantially weaker document that diluted the restrictions on the number of houses that could be constructed under National Rules because allocated sites could be granted planning permission whether they are sustainable or not and the rule providing evidence of community support had been removed. These modifications would open up possibilities for dwellings to be built beyond the bypass and across the bridge to Ludford.	Consultation to be responded to.	Complete	22/7/15

	 ii) The Town Clerk be authorised to write to Shropshire Council to state that Ludlow Town Council rejects any move to a single centralised Planning Committee and the three existing Area Planning Committees should be retained; iii) The SAMDev Plan Main Modifications be noted; 			
FC/74	CO-OPTIONS UPDATE			
	RESOLVED (10:0:1) RJ/JS			
	That the Co-option Policy, Co-option letter, application form and supporting information be noted; and a small amendment be made to the poster to make its purpose more evident.	Poster to be amended.	Complete	08/07/15
FC/75	TWINNING SIGNAGE			
	RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/RJ			
	That, the locations for the Twinning signage be approved.	Letter to Shropshire Council to confirm locations.	Complete	22/7/15
FC/76	MUSLIM BURIALS			
	RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/JS			
	That Services Committee receives a report on:-			
	 i) the specific requirements for Muslim burials; ii) how Muslim burials could be achieved at Henley Road Cemetery; iii) Ludlow Town Council's policy at Henley Road Cemetery is amended to 	Report to go to Services	Pending	08/07/15

	ensure requests from all faiths & religions are considered so that the provision for burials reflects the diversity within the local community.	Committee 7 th Sept.		
FC/81	CEMETERY MATTERS			
	RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/RJ			
	 That:- i) Teleshore are suspended from further work at Henley Road Cemetery; ii) The single depth burials are paid at the rate of the Council's approved fee schedule; iii) That the survey of Plot I be brought back to Services Committee; iv) That Mark, Mandy & Son Burial Services be approved for work at Henley Road Cemetery and appointed under contract; 	Teleshore are written to and invoices paid. Survey of Plot I to come to Services Cttee.	Pending Pending	
		The new grave diggers are appointed under contract.	Pending	



Member Co-option Policy

Adopted Full Council 30th May 2013



Co-option Process

- 1.1 The process for member co-option must be open and transparent.
- 1.2 The vacancy will be advertised publically on notice boards and on the website within the parish.
- 1.3 The advertisement to co-opt shall:
 - (i) Explain the need for co-opting
 - (ii) Method by which people can express an interest
 - (iii) A deadline for applications
 - (iv) Further info available on the website to include application form and co-option procedure and further information about the roles and responsibilities of the council.
- 1.4 The eligibility criteria is the same as for election. Eligibility of the applicants will be confirmed by the Clerk.
- 1.5 All eligible applicants shall be invited to attend the next full meeting following the application deadline and notified of the date of the meeting and the cooption process by letter. If there is more than one vacancy, candidates will be asked to nominate a Ward in which to be co-opted, prior to the co-option meeting.
- 1.6 All members will receive copies of the candidate applications along with the summons to attend the next full council meeting following the application deadline.
- 1.7 An agenda item is set aside for applications to make a brief verbal presentation to members outlining their relevant skills and experience. Each applicant will be allocated a maximum of three minutes.
- 1.8 The Chair will then request those councillors present to nominate any of the applicants. Applicants will require a proposer and a seconder to progress to the voting stage.
- 1.9 The Town Council will appoint the co-opted members by voting. The voting procedure is as follows:
 - A successful candidate must have received an absolute majority vote those present and voting.
 - It follows that if there are more than two candidates for one vacancy and if not one of them at the first count receives a majority over the

- aggregate votes given to the rest, steps must be taken to strike off the candidate with the least number of votes and the remainder must then be put to the vote again.
- This process must, if necessary, be repeated until an absolute majority is obtained.
- If there is more than one vacancy and the number of candidates equals
 the number of vacancies all the vacancies may be filled by a single
 composite resolution, but if the number of candidates exceeds the
 number of vacancies each vacancy must be filled by a separate vote or
 series of votes.
- The Council is not obliged to fill all vacancies, but must take steps to advertise for further co-options or hold an election to fill vacancies.
- 1.10 The co-opted members will be asked to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and a Declaration of Acceptance of the Town Council Constitution. They may then take their seat at Council and will be appointed to a committee and as a representative to local organisations.
- 1.11 Co-opted members will receive an induction pack and as soon as practicable following co-option will be invited to attend an Induction and Training session with the Town Clerk.



Co-option Meeting Procedure

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The process for co-option must be open and transparent.
- 1.2 All eligible applicants shall be invited to attend the next full meeting following the application deadline and notified of the date of the meeting and the cooption process by letter. Candidates will be asked to nominate which wards in which they wish to be co-opted.
- 1.3 All members will receive copies of the candidate applications in the agenda of the next full council meeting following the application deadline.

2 PRE BALLOT

- 2.1 Applications to make a brief verbal presentation to members outlining their relevant skills and experience. Each applicant will be allocated approx two minutes.
- 2.2 Applicants will confirm the ward(s) would like to stand in. Applicants may stand in all wards, or just one ward.
- 2.3 There will be six separate secret ballots, one for each vacancy.

3 SECRET BALLOT

The ballot process is likely to take over an hour to complete and everyone's co-operation is very much appreciated.

3.1 Gallows Bank

All applicants nominated for Gallows Bank Ward will enter round one of the voting. The applicant with the least votes will be omitted from round two and this process will continue until there is a ballot between two applicants and one receives a clear majority. (The Mayor has a casting vote if there is a tie)

3.2 Hayton

All applicants nominated for Hayton Ward will enter round one of the voting. The applicant with the least votes will be omitted from round two and this process will continue until there is a ballot between two applicants and one receives a clear majority. (The Mayor has a casting vote if there is a tie)

4 POST BALLOT

4.1 The co-opted members will be asked to take a seat at the council table and complete their details and sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Once the acceptance is counter signed by Town Clerk they are officially councillors

- and will be asked to join one or more of the Council's committees and consider becoming the Council's representative on local organisations.
- 4.2 Co-opted members will receive an induction pack and, as soon as practicable following co-option, will be invited to attend an Induction and training session with the Town Clerk.



Gina Wilding
Town Clerk
The Guildhall
Mill Street
Ludlow
Shropshire SY8 1AZ
T: 01584 871970
E: admin@ludlow.gov.uk
www.ludlow.gov.uk

Ref: GW/NRB/ELE/01

22nd July 2015

Mr Mark Clarke 129 Old Street Ludlow Shropshire

SY8 1NU

Dear Mr Clarke

Re: Co-option to Ludlow Town Council

Thank you for returning an application to stand for Ludlow Town Council through the cooption process. Members have requested that all applicants are reminded that Ludlow Town Council is a non-party political organisation. You are invited to attend a Full Council meeting on 27th July 2015 at 7 pm at the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow, SY8 1AZ, where the co-option of Councillors will be an item on the Agenda. I am enclosing an agenda for your information and to highlight the meeting process for you.

Each applicant will be invited to make a two minute presentation to provide the following information. Councillors will not ask you any further questions about what you say on the evening.

The questions are as follows:

- Please tell the Council about yourself, your interests, skills and reason for wanting to become a Town Councillor.
- What local organisations and groups do you belong do and how do you already play a part in the community life of the town?
- What can you bring to the Town Council and what are your interests in relation to the work of the Town Council?

There are two vacancies to fill: Gallows Bank Ward Hayton Ward

You may stand for either or both vacancies.



Gina Wilding
Town Clerk
The Guildhall
Mill Street
Ludlow
Shropshire SY8 1AZ
T: 01584 871970
E: admin@ludlow.gov.uk
www.ludlow.gov.uk

Following the presentations from candidates the Council will vote on each vacancy separately. The voting will be counted using the majority voting system.

I would just like to remind you of the following:

Under Standing Orders (the rules to which the Town Council work) the following rules apply to the co-option of a Councillor.

21. Canvassing of and Recommendations by Councillors

a Canvassing Councillors or the members of a Committee or Sub-Committee, directly or indirectly, for appointment to or by the Council shall disqualify the candidate from such an appointment. The Proper Officer shall disclose the requirements of this Standing Order to every candidate.

12. Voting on appointments

Where more than 2 persons have been nominated for a position to be filled by the Council and none of those persons has received an absolute majority of votes in their favour, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken. This process shall continue until a majority of votes is given in favour of one person. Any tie may be settled by the Chairman's casting vote.

I have enclosed a copy of the Good Councillor Guide for information. I have also enclosed a copy of the Committee/Sub-Committee and Working Groups list. This is only relevant to the successful applicants, but it would be helpful if you could consider any preference you may have. There are vacancies on all Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups. The relative authority of each is explained in the Good Councillor Guide in the first instance. Members may simply wish to join one Committee and/or Working Groups for which they have a strong interest. A copy of the Committee Terms of Reference are also enclosed.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Monday but in the meantime should you have any queries pleased do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Gina Wilding Town Clerk

Enc

Council / Committee Calendar

2015

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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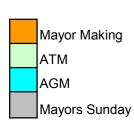
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Bank Holiday



Remembrance Sunday
Horse Parade

Christmas Lights Switch On

Mayfair

Mayfair Service

Seniors Party

Policy & Finance

Services

Representational

Council

Staffing & Appeals

Sub-Committee/Working Groups

Cancelled or Postponed meeting

Committee Membership 2015/16 - Adopted Full Council 27th July 2015

	Services	Rep	P&F	Staffing & Appeals	Otropat	Market	Twinning	Xmas Lights WG	Comms	Civic Events WG	Town Plan WG	Standing Orders and Policy Review WG	Butter- cross WG	Legal Matters Protocol WG	Neighbour hood Plan WG
Clarke															
Cobley			С												
Draper		٧													
Gill															
Ginger		С													
Jones M															
Jones R	С			V											
Kemp															
Lyle															
J. Newbold			V												
S. Newbold															
Parry	V														
Perks															
Sheward															
Smithers				С											

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

Organisation	Number of Reps	Contact	Councillor as officer, director, trustee etc	LTC Representative Councillors 2014/2015	LTC Representative Councillors 2015/2016
Organisations in which the Town C	ouncil is a stak	eholder or needs to	be able to respond		
SALC larger Councils meeting		Martin Bennett		Mayor/ Parry	Parry
SALC			Executive member	Mayor/ Parry	Parry
Ludlow Joint Committee	1	R Thomas (SC)		Mayor	Mayor
Ludlow Conservation Area Advisory	2	Dyanne Humphries		Gill/ Ginger	Ginger/Sheward
Parish Paths Partnership		Chris Badley		Cobley	Cobley
Flood Forum				Parry	Parry
Assembly Rooms	1	Chris Underhill		Mold/ Parry	Gill/Lyle/Parry
Ludlow Hospital		Sarah Wardle		Mayor	Jones
Ludlow Tourism Group	Any	Tim King (SC),	Carole Clayton	Parry	Smithers/Parry
Town Walls Trust		Richard Cundall	Trustee	Gill	Gill
Ludlow in Bloom				Parry	Parry
Access Group				Parry	Parry
Organisations on which there is a r	member of the	Town Council Jennifer Watkins	Governor	Ceased July 13	N/A
Ludlow Mascall Centre	1 (4 year term)	Director	Trustee	Parry	Parry
Cons. Trust for St Laurence	,	Bill Lloyd-Kitchen	Trustee	Kemp/ Parry	Parry
St Laurence vision project		Team Rector		Draper/ Kemp	Lyle
Teme Weirs Trust		Alan Poulton		Gill/ Lyle	Lyle
Friends of Whitcliffe Common		John Barnard		Gill/ Lyle	Cobley
Gallows Bank Trust		Robin Bennett		Holcombe/ Lyle	Lyle/Cobley
Pride of Place		Alan Stewart		Draper	Parry
Agenda 21 Food & Farm Group		Tish Dockerty		Smithers	Smithers
Chamber of Trade & Commerce	1	Tish Dockerty		Smithers	Smithers

Ludlow Business Guild		Roger Curry		Gill	Smithers
Job Charlton Trust Almshouses		Eric Williams		Holcombe	Smithers
Elizabeth Massey Almshouses		Eric Williams	Member	Holcombe	Smithers
Hosyer-Foxe Almshouses		Eric Williams	Member	Holcombe	Smithers
South Shropshire Youth Partnership				Smithers	Smithers
Women's Refuge				Parry	Parry
Ludlow Area Planning Liaison Group	1 (+ nominated stand in)				_
Youth Forum				Smithers	Smithers
Ludlow Area Youth Partnership				Draper	Smithers (already treasurer)
North Herefordshire & Leominster Tourism Group				Smithers	Smithers



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on MONDAY 13th JULY 2015 at 7.00PM

PF/17 PRESENT

Councillor Cobley Chairman:

Councillors: Ginger, Kemp, Lyle, Parry; Sheward; Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Sarah Hughes, Finance Assistant

Also Attending Councillor Perks (ex-officio)

PF/18 **HEALTH & SAFETY**

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

PF/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Draper and Jones.

PF/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u> Item Reason

Financial Information A. Cobley Works at Rockspring Centre &

involved with organisations using

the centre

Declarations of Personal Interest

None.

PF/21 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were no members of the public or press present.

PF/22 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Councillor Parry expressed thanks to all who supported Ludlow in Bloom during the judge's visit on Wednesday 8th July.

PF/23 MINUTES

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PK

That the open and closed session minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 8th June 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to amending the proposer of minute PF/15 to AC.

PF/24 ITEMS TO ACTION

Members thanked staff for completing the items to action.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/GG

That:-

- i) Items to Action be noted
- ii) Pending items are listed under the date of the meeting

PF/25 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Councillor Ginger asked why the council receives VAT repayments. The Town Clerk explained that Town Councils are eligible to reclaim VAT.

Councillor Parry asked if there was specific budget for staff training, which the Town Clerk clarified that there was, and that training needs are assessed during appraisals.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/GG

That Payments and Income Reports, Barclaycard Statement and Bank Reconciliation for May 2015 be received.

PF/26 POLICIES

a) Twinning Policy

The Town Clerk confirmed that no changes have been made to the policy since its inception in 2012.

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/VP

That:-

i) The Twinning Working Group be convened to review the policy and consider raising the amount available to each Twinning Association by 100% from £100 to £200.

PF/27 PAY PAL

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/CS

That as recommended by the internal auditor:

- To set up a Cash Book account for PayPal which should be subject to review and reconciliation as with other Cash Book accounts;
- ii) To amend Financial Regulations to include reference to the operation of the PayPal account and specifically:

The balance of the Pay pal account should not exceed £3,000.00.

Purchases from the Pay Pal account are prohibited.

Refunds to Market Traders are authorised by the Town Clerk or the Market Officer and are permitted within the remit of the Market Regulations.

Admin Procedures and Authorisations for Pay Pal:

The Town Clerk, Finance Officer and Finance Assistant are authorised to move funds from the PayPal account to Ludlow Town Council bank account online to manage the balance within the limit set.

The Market Admin Assistant has restricted authorisation to access the Pay Pal account to confirm payments and bookings.

PF/28 NON DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)

Councillor Ginger stated that the Market Non Domestic Rate budget should accurately reflect costs when the budget is set for 2016/17.

Councillor Perks entered the meeting at 7.35pm

RECOMMENDED (6:0:1) JS/VP

- i) That the budget for Market NDR is increased by the full amount of the deficit £534
- ii) The increase to the budget is reported to Services Committee and the committee notes that the market rents were not increased in 2015/16 and therefore the increased cost were absorbed by the Town Council.

PF/29 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) AC/JS

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

The meeting closed at 7.45pm		
Chairman	Date	
N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued		



CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Closed Session minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 13th JULY 2015** at **7.00PM**

PF/30	GUILDHALL ELECTRIC	
	RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/VP	
	i) To accept the two year fixed contra	ect with E.ON.
The mee	eting closed at 7.45pm	
Chairma	 n	Date



Recommendations from Policy & Finance Committee 13th July 2015 to Full Council 27th July 2015

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 13th JULY 2015** at **7.00PM**

PF/27 PAY PAL

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous)

That as recommended by the internal auditor:

- i) To set up a Cash Book account for PayPal which should be subject to review and reconciliation as with other Cash Book accounts:
- ii) To amend Financial Regulations to include reference to the operation of the PayPal account and specifically:

The balance of the Pay pal account should not exceed £3,000.00.

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PF/28 NON DOMESTIC RATES (NDR)

RECOMMENDED (6:0:1) JS/VP

- i) That the budget for Market NDR is increased by the full amount of the deficit £534
- ii) The increase to the budget is reported to Services Committee and the committee notes that the market rents were not increased in 2015/16 and therefore the increased cost were absorbed by the Town Council.



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow, on **MONDAY 6th JULY 2015** at **7.00PM**.

S/19 PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Jones

Councillors: Cobley, Draper, Ginger, Gill, Kemp, Lyle, J Newbold, S

Newbold, Parry and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Sean Turgoose, DLF/Market Supervisor Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant

Also attending: Councillor Perks (ex-officio from 7.30pm)

S/20 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

S/21 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

S/22 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of Interest None	<u>Item</u>	Reason
Personal Interests Cllr Parry	<u>Item</u> 11 8	Reason Chair of Ludlow in Bloom Daughter used to play hockey at the Football Stadium
Cllr Perks (ex- officio)	13	Member of the Memorial Fund Committee.

S/23 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mrs T Sibbons – Old Street – War Memorial Fund – Mrs Sibbons informed the Committee that a request had been submitted to the Town Council for consideration for a memorial bench to be installed at the War Memorial. There would be no cost to the Town Council as the bench had already been donated and Treasures had offered to install it.

The Chair confirmed that the request would be discussed later on in the meeting.

S/24 LUDLOW UNITARY COUNCILLORS QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Parry declined the invitation to speak.

S/25 OPEN SESSION MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/TG

That the open session minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 1st June 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

S/26 <u>ITEMS TO ACTION</u>

Councillor Ginger thanked the staff for the production of the Items to Action and enquired when the CCTV cameras would be installed at the Cemetery.

The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be completed as soon as possible.

The DLF Supervisor confirmed that a replacement metal bin from Veolia was not an option but a replacement bin was being sought.

Councillor Parry thanked the DLF for their assistance with the tubs for the Ludlow in Bloom competition. She thanked the Town Council for all the help that had been given and added that she had received thanks from residents on Old Street, as the whole of Ludlow looked beautiful.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Items to Action be noted.

S/27 SHROPSHIRE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

The Chair invited Mr Chris Child from Energize Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin to speak to the Committee on the Strategic Investment Plan.

Mr Child explained that the Shropshire Playing Pitch Strategic Investment Plan had been commissioned by Shropshire Council and drawn up originally by a company called Belap.

The work was based on six market town place plans and identified the priority and key facilities in each area.

The SBS Stadium had been identified as a priority in Ludlow and the Cricket ground and Rugbny Club as key facilities.

The Stadium was identified as a facility where investment would most likely significantly increase participants.

The role of Energize was to help the owners and other interested parties to find potential funding when required.

Councillor Ginger thanked Mr Child and stated that there was no commitment to provide funding or any work as par of the strategy. Mr Child confirmed that Energize had a remit to facilitate enquiries for funding but there was no funding commitment within the Strategy.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That the Town Clerk is authorised to write to Shropshire Council and Energize Telford, Shropshire & Wrekin to state that Ludlow Football Stadium is an existing facility and in common with all existing infrastructure it requires ongoing investment and maintenance to remain useable. The lack of commitment to provide actual funding does not address the real need of an existing facility.

S/28 LOCAL BUS CONSULTATION

The Committee discussed the response from Shropshire Council regarding the local bus consultation. Councillor Ginger commented that in his opinion the response was not what had been asked as it was the staggering of the bus timetables to be prior to the re-tendering process and be part of the contract.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Town Clerk write to the Contracts Officer North, Passenger Transport Commissioning Group at Shropshire Council and thank him for his response but request that the staggered timetables are a contractural obligation for the successful bidder.

S/29 PROPOSED BOOTCAMP AT THE LINNEY RIVERSIDE PARK

Members discussed the matter in the light of the lack of opportunity to see a Bootcamp session in action and the obstacles that prevented the applicant attending a Committee meeting and decided that it would not be possible to accept the proposal.

The Chair informed the Committee that she had been monitoring the Linney Riverside Park since the last Services meeting and that in her opinion usage of the area had been high.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the proposal for Bootcamps at the Linney is declined.

S/30 DOG ORDERS AND DOG WARDENS IN SOUTH SHROPSHIRE

The Chair drew members attention to the response from Shropshire Council in relation to Dog Orders and the lack of Dog Warden for South Shropshire.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/VP

That:-

- The Town Clerk is authorised to write to Shropshire Council to ask why Shropshire Council does not have an employee to enforce the law with regard to dog fouling;
- ii) The Town Clerk is authorised to write to Cllr Vince Hunt, Chair of the Environment Services and Scrutiny Committee at Shropshire Council to ask why the issue had not been on an Agenda and to ask that it is discussed at a future meeting.

S/31 UPDATE FROM CHAIR ON THE LINNEY RIVERSIDE PARK

The Chair explained that she had been monitoring the Linney Riverside Park for dog fouling and incidents over the past six weeks, and stated that the current dog bin was not being used and in her opinion if more bins were installed they would still not be used. She added that she felt that more signage was needed as dog owners were letting their dogs go into the children's play area.

7.30pm Councillor Perks entered the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/GG

That:-

- i) The Town Clerk contact Shropshire Council to ask that they to provide dog fouling signage to deter dog fouling in the play area and notifying the penalty for committing the offence, as previously indicated in communication with the Committee:
- ii) Once costs have been established the local vets and Pets at Home are approached to sponsor dog bags and dispensers to be installed at the Linney Riverside Park.

S/32 LUDLOW IN BLOOM MINUTES 29TH JUNE 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/PK

That the minutes from the Ludlow in Bloom be noted

S/33 AGREED WORKS LUDLOW IN BLOOM

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/GG

That the agreed works be noted.

S/34 ROSPA PLAY AREA REPORTS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That

- i) the Rospa Play Area Reports be noted;
- ii) in subsequent years the Town Clerk need only report the completion of high priority repairs and maintenance.

S/35 WAR MEMORIAL FUND – PROPOSED BENCH

The Committee discussed the proposed bench and acknowledged the proposal, however they agreed that there was insufficient space for another bench by the War Memorial. It was suggested that an original bench could be removed and the proposed bench could be put in its place.

The Committee agreed that there was space in Castle Gardens and the bench removed from the War Memorial could be placed in this space.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That:-

- i) a bench is removed from the War Memorial and the proposed bench from the War Memorial Fund installed, subject to liaison with Shropshire Council;
- ii) the Town Clerk seeks clarification and authorisation from Historic England for the surplus bench to be installed in the space at Castle Gardens.

S/36 PLANTING OF REPLACEMENT TREE AT CASTLE GARDENS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That the Town Clerk is authorised to:-

- i) clarify the type of tree with English Heritage
- ii) seek clarification of the permitted depth for planting with reference to the previous existence of a moat.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm	
Chairman	Date
N.D. Olasad Ossaina Minutes will not b	- !al

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will not be issued.



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE** held at the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **WEDNESDAY 10th JUNE 2015** at **7.00pm**.

R/23 PRESENT

Vice Chairman: Councillor Draper

Councillors: Gill, Jones and Sheward

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Stephanie Williams Admin Assistant

Also Attending: Unitary Councillors Andy Boddington (Ludlow North)

Councillor Tracey Huffer (Ludlow East) Councillor Richard

Huffer (Clee) Councillor Viv Parry (Ludlow South)

R/24 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

R/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Ginger, Kemp, Lyle and Smithers

R/26 <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of interest

None

Personal Interest:

None

R/27 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There was one member of the public present.

15/01472/FUL Henley Hall Solar Farm

Mr Middleton is a resident of Lower Ledwyche Ludlow.

Mr Middleton focused on two main objections to the proposed Solar Farm

1. The impact on tourism in the area

This site can be seen from many areas of outstanding natural beauty, Clee Hill, The Shropshire Way and St. Laurences Church. Visitors using the park and ride will be greeted with the site of the solar farm which will blot the views of the beautiful surrounding landscape.

2. The impact on recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors

The area is widely used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders because of its close proximity to Ludlow and its outstanding natural beauty. Mr Middleton referred to the many comments objecting to the Solar Farm that have been submitted to Shropshire Council.

Mr Middleton concluded saying that there is no economic or community benefit from the Solar Farm which is proposed by a non British company there will be no local employment benefits and no benefit to the local economy. He asked Ludlow Town Council to object to this application.

R/28 LUDLOW'S UNITARY COUNCILLORS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Boddington (Ludlow North) stated that any large application is likely to present problems and raised the following points:

- At the Local Joint Committee meeting on Thursday 4th June at Knowbury Village Hall it was discovered that Shropshire council had not taken into account the amount of ponds that would be affected in the area and the protected species that may be harmed or deterred from using the habitat in the area particularly the 'Crested Newt'
- The grading of the soil in the area, the neighbouring fields are good agricultural land and soil which brings into question why this particular site is graded lower?
- The application should be considered with reference to Shropshire Council Core Strategies CS5, CS6 & CS17.
- The visual impact on the landscape is extremely important in terms of tourism and recreation.
- The comments from 'Historic England' refer to the National Policy and Planning Framework 2012, which has considerable weight in planning terms.

Councillor Richard Huffer (Clee Ward) reiterated concerns regarding the application and advised the committee that a further application had been made on an adjacent field for screening for another solar farm.

Councillor Parry (Ludlow South) also raised concerns regarding the application and supported comments that had been made by Mr Middleton and Councillors Boddington and Huffer. Councillor Parry added that that she had visited the site along with officers from Shropshire Council. She stated that although the panel

were non reflective the frames are made of a light reflective material and the einpact of 22,00 would be significant; there will also be pollution caused by lorries which will be in operation seven days a week, the grading of the soil as mentioned by Councillor Boddington and that there are more suitable sites that would have a less detrimental visual impact on the landscape.

R/29 15/01472/FUL Henley Hall Solar Farm

Councillor Draper thanked the Unitary Councillors and Mr Middleton for their comments on the Henley Hall Solar Farm. Councillor Draper was of the opinion that the land would be of greater benefit to the community for recreational purposes and to the maintain the thriving wildlife in the area as damage to hedgerows, trees and ponds would take many years to re establish themselves.

Councillor Draper referred to the inherent inefficiencies of large scale remote solar farms with a quote from Tim Dobson CEO of Switch 2 Renewable, "around two thirds of the energy created by the site at Red Lodge is lost when it's transported and that means it's not producing enough electricity to be useful to the National Grid".

Councillor Draper also referred to the statements from the National Policy and Planning Framework 2012, specifically *Para 115 & Para 128*:

Councillor Sheward raised his concerns about tonight's meeting and the committees ability and expertise to comment and object to this application. He also agreed with the comments made on the visual impact and the effects on recreation and tourism.

RESOLVED (3:0:1) RS/TG

To object to 15/01472/FUL Henley Hall Solar Farm for the following reasons:

Ludlow Town Council representations reflect serious concerns expressed by the residents and business owners of Ludlow.

Members object to the proposal because the location of the site is unsuitable and will have a detrimental effect on the countryside & wildlife, recreation, and the heritage assets that, as stated in Shropshire Local Development Framework Adopted Core Strategy, make Ludlow is a 'nationally important heritage asset' and 'Ludlow will provide a focus for development, whilst respecting its historic character.' 'The historic town centre is set largely on a ridge above the River Teme, with fine streets of historic buildings running down this central spine. Ludlow is an important tourist destination and has achieved international renown as a centre for quality local food and drink and Michelin starred restaurants.'

The proposed solar farm will have a significant detrimental impact in with regard to:

CS5 Countryside and Green Belt, which states:

• New development will be strictly controlled in accordance with national planning policies protecting the countryside and Green Belt.

Subject to the further controls over development that apply to the Green Belt, development proposals on appropriate sites which maintain and enhance countryside vitality and character will be permitted where they improve the sustainability of rural communities by bringing local economic and community benefits.

 Agricultural/horticultural/forestry/mineral related development, although proposals for large scale new development will be required to demonstrate that there are no unacceptable adverse environmental impacts;

The proposed site will be visible from Whitcliffe Common, St Laurence's Church, The Shropshire Way (public footpath 0539/8/1), Squirrel Lane, Rocks Green, which will be detrimental for residents and tourism in Ludlow. The area surrounding Henley Hall is an important easy access route into the countryside for local residents and visitors to Ludlow and a large scale solar farm will detrimentally change the character of this area.

The rural location and the readily indentified industry specific problems of significant loss of power through transportation through the national grid infrastructure undermine sustainability arguments and there are no identifiable local community benefits because the work and revenue will benefit only Kronos.

CS6 Sustainable Design and Development Principles

Specifically in relation to this application, the proposal does not meet requirements to:

- Protect, restore, conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment and is appropriate in scale, density, pattern and design taking into account the local context and character, and those features which contribute to local character, having regard to national and local design guidance, landscape character assessments and ecological strategies where appropriate:
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities, including safeguarding residential and local amenity and the achievement of local standards for the provision and quality of open space, sport and recreational facilities.
- Makes the most effective use of land and safeguards natural resources including high quality agricultural land, geology, minerals, air, soil and water;

CS 17 Environmental Networks

Specifically in relation to this application, the proposal does not meet requirements to:

- Protects and enhances the diversity, high quality and local character of Shropshire's natural, built and historic environment, and not adversely affect the visual, ecological, geological, heritage or recreational values and functions of these assets, their immediate surroundings or their connecting corridors;
- Contributes to local distinctiveness, having regard to the quality of Shropshire's environment, including landscape, biodiversity and heritage assets

• Does not have a significant adverse impact on Shropshire's environmental assets and does not create barriers or sever links between dependant sites;

With reference to the National Policy and Planning Framework 2012, the following paragraphs are particularly pertinent to the site and application and the town council supports the concerns raised by Historic England in their letter dated 4 June 2015 recommending that the application is refused or differed until such a time as the requirements of para 128 of the NPPF have been met.

For reference National Policy and Planning Framework 2012: Para 115: Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.

Para 128: In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Meeting closed at 7:30pm	
Chairman	Date
NB. No Closed Session mir	nutes will be issued



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the CIVIC EVENTS WORKING GROUP held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2015 at 7.00PM

CE/01 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Smithers

Councillors: Draper, Gill and Sheward

In Attendance: Hilda Roberts (RBL), Cath Walker, Jeffery Wicox St

Laurences Church, Venerable Colin Williams.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Stephanie Williams Admin Assistant

CE/02 <u>ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</u>

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/PD

That Councillor Smithers be elected Chairman of the Civic Events Working Group for 2015/16. Cllr Smithers thanked the committee members for their support over the past eleven years.

CE/03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received fro Cllr Lyle, Mr David Davies Parade Marshall, Mr Patrick Merrick Chairman of the RBL Mens Section, Mrs A Reeves Ludlow Town Band.

CE/04 MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimous)

PD/HR

That the Minutes of the Civic Events Working Group meeting held on the 22nd January 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CE/05 MAYOR'S SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2015

The Town Clerk updated members on arrangements for Mayors Sunday:

- The road closures have been approved by Shropshire Council.
- There are currently 14 Army Cadets attending the Parade.

- Refreshments in the church following the service will be provided by LTC and set up by the office staff whilst the parade is being dismissed in Broad Street.
- LTC office staff will liaise with the Parish Office with regards to setting out tables in the church
- Town Clerk will feed back information to the Parade Marshall and the Town Band.
- The draft Order of Service is still to be finalised with Colin Williams and printed by LTC and delivered to the church on Friday 26th June.
- The Church Wardens will assist with seating the public and LTC office staff will seat the invited guests.

CE/06 HORSE PARADE SUNDAY 26th JULY 2015

The Town Clerk updated members on the outline plans for the Horse Parade:

- The route has been agreed with Ludlow Hunt which will start from Mc Cartneys Auction Yard along Overton Road, over Ludford Bridge. Lower Broad Street, Broad Street, High Street, Market Street and form on Events Square and part of the Market Square if necessary.
- Road closures have been approved by Shropshire Council which will be managed by the DLF.
- Cllr Lyle has assisted with recruiting volunteer stewards which will be positioned along the route to control spectators.
- The parade will be escorted along Overton road by a lead car and a rear vehicle which will be in contact with the DLF and office staff via mobiles/walkie talkies.
- The parade will be escorted by The Shropshire Yeomanry followed by the Mayor and trap and the Ludlow Hunt who will be dressed in tweeds.
- The positioning of the dias and Town Band will be confirmed following a site visit. The area for LTC Councillors will also be decided.
- The amount of Barriers will be assessed and order by the DLF.
- Canon Jeffery Wilcox will be officiating in the absence of Ven. Colin Williams for the service. Readings of poetry will be read by the Mayor and Niall Walsh chairman of Ludlow hunt and to invite the cadets to take part in some short readings.
- There will be no formal reception following the event, the Mayor will return to Mc Cartneys with the Hunt and thank them personally for making the event possible.
- The Town Clerk will write to Mc Cartneys requesting their permission for a vendor to provide refreshments before and after the event.
- St. Johns Ambulance Service has been approached to provide a first aid point during the event. This is to be confirmed.

- Letters will be sent to businesses affected in the close vicinity to the event.
- A Letter will be sent to Poyners requesting their assistance in organising a window display competition commemorating WWI.
- The event has been advertised in the Calendar of Events 2015 as have other Civic Events and will also be promoted on Facebook and Twitter. A press release will be sent and radio and TV will be invited to attend the event.

Councillor Smithers informed the Town Clerk that the event can be advertised on 'Shropshire Remembers' website free of charge.

Councillor Sheward has passed the date and event on to Churches Together around Ludlow for the newsletter but will inform them that Canon Jeffery Wilcox will be leading the service.

Councillor Parry enquired whether there would be an area reserved for wheelchair users. The Town Clerk responded that if Cllr Parry could liaise with the Access Group on who would be attending as it may be possible to reserve an area. Otherwise it will be first come first serve.

The Town Clerk will update members with further arrangements and details.

CE/07 VICTORY IN JAPAN DAY

Saturday 15th August 2015 (UK) Wednesday 2nd September 2015 (USA)

The Ven. Colin Williams felt that the residents of Ludlow should have an opportunity to commemorate VJ Day should be commemorated as we are here to serve the people of the town. As the towns War Memorial is situated in the South Porch it would be fitting to hold a service at St. Laurences. He also added that there were no weddings booked that day so the church was available. He would liaise with the Town Clerk on commemorating VJ Day 2015.

The RBL asked when the Commemorative War Memorial Cross at Henley Road Cemetery, provided by Mr Thompson would be in situ. The Town Clerk confirmed work was progressing well.

Councillor Draper agreed that a service at St. Laurences would be fitting to the event and possibly hold a service at Henley Road Cemetery to mark VJ Day USA on 2nd September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION (unanimous) CW/PD

That a short service is held at the War Memorial in St. Laurences Church on Saturday 15th August in commemoration of VJ Day 2015.

CE/08 ARMED FORCES DAY Saturday 25th June 2016

Members discussed ideas for Armed Forces Day and agreed that it would be fitting to mark the day.

<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> (unanimous) JS/PD

- i) Armed Forces Day is supported in The Mayors Sunday Service
- ii) That Events Square be made available for the RBL for Armed Forces Day which is the last Saturday in June annually.

The next Civic Events Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September 2015



Recommendations from Civic Events Working Group 18th June 2015 to Full Council 27th July 2015

Minutes of a meeting of the CIVIC EVENTS WORKING GROUP held at the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2015 at 7.00pm.

CE/07 VICTORY IN JAPAN DAY

Saturday 15th August 2015 (UK) Wednesday 2nd September 2015 (USA)

RECOMMENDATION (unanimous) CW/PD

That a service is held at St. Laurences Church on Saturday 15th August in commemoration of VJ Day 2015.

CE/08 ARMED FORCES DAY

Saturday 25th June 2016

RECOMMENDATION (unanimous) JS/PD

- i) Armed Forces Day is supported in The Mayors Sunday Service;
- ii) That Events Square be made available for the RBL for Armed Forces Day.



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE** held at the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **WEDNESDAY 1**ST **JULY 2015** at **7.30pm.**

R/23 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Ginger

Councillors: Draper, Kemp, Sheward and Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk

Stephanie Williams Admin Assistant

R/24 HEALTH & SAFETY

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

R/25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Gill, Lyle and Jones.

R/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of interest

None

Personal Interest:

None

R/27 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

Mr Robin Pote Chair of Ludlow Residents Association thanked members for their support for the licensing conditions for the Blue Boar which is now open and trading without incident.

R/28 LUDLOW'S UNITARY COUNCILLORS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

None present

R/29 MINUTES

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) GG/PD

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meetings held on the 3rd of June, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTES

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) PD/CS

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meetings held on the 10th of June, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

R/30 ITEMS TO ACTION

The Chairman thanked staff for completing all items of action.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

PD/ GG

That the items to action be noted.

R/31 LCAAC ADENDA

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/CS

That the agenda for the meeting held on 30th May, 30th June and the partial draft minutes of 2nd June 2015 be noted.

R/32 NOTICES OF PLANNING DECISIONS FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/CS

That the decisions be noted

12/04328/OUT	PENDING
13/02286/FUL	PENDING
13/02903/OUT	PENDING
14/00563/FUL	PENDING
14/02846/OUT	PENDING
14/03091/OUT	PENDING
14/03102/FUL	PENDING
14/04608/OUT	PENDING
14/04637/FUL	PENDING
14/04678/VAR	PENDING
14/04853/FUL	PENDING
14/05536/LBC	PENDING

14/05293/FUL **PENDING** 14/00563/FUL **PENDING** 14/05053/FUL **PENDING** 14/05491/FUL **PENDING** 14/04854/ADV **PENDING** 14/05434/FUL **PENDING PENDING** 15/01249/LBC **PENDING** 15/01144/SCR **PENDING** 15/00674/FUL **PENDING** 15/01006/FUL **PENDING** 15/01511/TCA 15/01259/FUL **PENDING PENDING** 15/01251/FUL 15/01829/LBC **PENDING** 15/00459/FUL REGISTERED 15/01794/LBC REGISTERED 15/01819/FUL REGISTERED 15/01959/LBC REGISTERED REGISTERED 15/01958/FUL 14/05734/FUL **PENDING PENDING** 15/01472/FUL

R/33 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL DESCISIONS GRANTED

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/GG

To note the decisions

Members requested that the Town Clerk contact the Conservation Officer for 15/01798/LBC 20 Broad Street Ludlow and make enquiries regarding the new sky light window on the front elevation of the building.

R/34 15/02215/FUL HSBC 10 Bullring Ludlow

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/GG

No objection

R/35 15/02356/AMP Linney Bank Linney Ludlow

Members agreed that the revised design was more sympathetic to the building which supports the comments made by the LCAAC.

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/JS

No objection.

R/36 15/02445/DIS 116-119 Lower Galeford Ludlow

Members agreed that the proposed changes to materials for the shop frontage were more suitable to the design and area and supported comments from the LCAAC.

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/GG

No objection:

Providing the shop doors are constructed in timber.

R/37 GRANTS, PLANNING, TRANSPORT & PARKING

Road Closure, Corve Street and Lower Corve Street Ludlow

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/JS

Cllr Ginger informed members that the plan stated that the road closure was in Lower Corve Street only.

R/38 <u>Waiting Restrictions Broad Street</u>

Members had previously objected to the disabled parking bay proposed because the location created serious Health and Safety concerns. Passengers would have to alight into the road and travel a significant distance in the road to access the pavement.

Cllr Ginger described the amended plan for the disabled bay which would prevent loss of valuable parking spaces and enable safer access to the pavement.

Cllr Draper raised concerns over the visibility for vehicles exiting Bell Lane.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/JS

Members agreed to support the amended plan and request that Glyn Shaw progress drawings which would be considered at a future meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:47pm	
Chairman	Date

NB: No Closed Session minutes will be issued





Future funding outlook for councils 2019/20

Interim 2015 update

June 2015 www.local.gov.uk

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Executive summary

The purpose of this paper is to set out the impact in the local government sector in England of future funding cuts and unavoidable growth pressures on the resources it will have available for services between now and the end of this decade.

Councils are continuing to balance their budgets and fulfil their statutory obligations as well as delivering a range of services to promote growth and community cohesion. Each year they close the funding gap in the face of funding cuts and expenditure pressures.

This is an interim update of our 2014 analysis. It sets out the financial challenge faced by councils that the government needs to consider when making decisions in the July Budget and the autumn Spending Review. This analysis will be updated and finalised following the Spending Review announcements.

Based on applying the projections for departmental spending implied by the March 2015 edition of the OBR's economic and fiscal outlook¹, the funding gap will grow to £10.3 billion by 2018/19, before an increase in funding in 2019/20 reduces the gap to £9.5 billion.

To maintain the same level of service councils provided in 2014/15, a funding gap of £6 billion opens up by 2016/17 alone.

The current Government has not yet made its intentions for departmental spending clear which means that the assumptions of the OBR are subject to change too. For example, based on the same trajectory of cuts that was experienced during the previous Parliament, the funding gap for councils would grow to £10.8 billion by 2019/20.

Assuming authorities can continue making efficiencies at between 1 per cent and 2 per cent per year, the model predicts an increase in expenditure in cash terms of 1.6 per cent per year to maintain the existing level of service.

With social care and waste spending absorbing a rising proportion of the resources available to councils, funding for other council services drops by 35 per cent in cash terms by the end of the decade, from £26.6 billion in 2010/11 to £17.2 billion in 2019/20. To put this in context, this £9.3 billion drop is greater than the £7.7 billion total expenditure (in 2014/15) on central services, 'other' services and capital financing combined. The challenge cannot be solved by back-office efficiencies alone.

http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/economic-fiscal-outlookmarch-2015/

The Better Care Fund does not fully fund the adult social care funding gap for the period.

Authorities will have different strategies in relation to the use of reserves, but using up reserves more quickly increases risks to services and does not reduce the gap to be closed. Under our assumptions, authorities use £3.0 billion of their reserves in the five years to 2019/20.

A sustainable future for local services in the face of funding cuts and spending pressures is dependent upon changes in the way we think about funding local services, and how we manage the system. The Local Government Association will set out the ways in which the system can be changed to make local services sustainable in its forthcoming publication 'A shared commitment'.

As stated above, this is an interim update of our 2014 analysis. Should the in year cuts of 3 per cent that HM Treasury is reportedly asking departments to make affect the local government baseline in either 2015/16 or 2016/17, this would add about £600 million to the funding gap in that year and the total gap in 2019/20 would rise to £10.1 billion. We will be in a better position to understand this and the overall trajectory of public spending following the Budget on 8 July and the autumn Spending Review, after which we will produce a final document.

Introduction

Each year since 2012 the LGA published reports on its future funding model for councils. The aim of these papers has always been to present a credible analysis of the challenges facing local councils over the course of the decade. They highlighted the large and growing funding gap for English local government caused by spending pressures and funding reductions.

This current fourth iteration of the model is a further refinement on previous modelling and again shows a growing funding gap, although with each year that passes local government continues to close the gap and deliver a balanced budget as per its legal duty to do so.

The Government is set to make significant public spending decisions in the July Budget and the autumn Spending Review. Due to the resulting uncertainty, the interim update assumes that reductions will be in line with the public spending forecasts of the independent Office of Budget Responsibility, contained within the March 2015 edition of the Economic and Fiscal Outlook report.

The use of OBR projections means that, for the first time, our headline funding gap will not continue to grow ad infinitum, but from 2019/20 will slowly start to close. Our analysis is built from:

- projections of total annual net revenue spending in ten principal service blocks within council budgets over the period to 2019/20
- projections of council tax, business rates, grant and other income streams over the period to 2019/20.

We have projected likely expenditure pressures in all service areas, while recognising that councils are actively taking steps to mitigate cost pressures by reforming the way they deliver services. LGA research suggests that this has been achieved to date partly through innovative methods of service delivery, but partly by a reduction in the level of services councils can offer².

Expenditure is split into ten service blocks as follows (in approximate order of size):

- · social care
- education (excluding schools funding via the Dedicated Schools Grant)
- · environment including waste
- · highways, roads and transport
- housing (not including housing revenue account (HRA) or housing benefit)
- public health³
- culture, recreation and sport
- planning and development
- regulatory
- other services.

² Under Pressure, LGA 2014

³ Public health expenditure starts in 2013/14 although this is assumed to be funded in full by ringfenced Public Health Grant.

Since 2012, the future funding outlook modelling has interpreted the impact of funding cuts on local authority budgets. The model now contains four years of outturn expenditure data, one year of budgeted expenditure data, and five years of LGA projections. This report separates expenditure into two distinct periods – what has happened to date, and what might happen in the remaining years.

Grant figures in six of the 10 years covered by the model are from published data and only the last four are derived from our projections.

We have modelled all future sources of council funding to the end of this decade. We have used councils' estimates of their local rates collection in the first two years of the rates retention system, and projected forward from this data. We see that as a whole, England is performing slightly better under rates retention than the 'baseline' funding level, and as we would expect, there are disparities in the impact of rates retention on individual authorities.

There are inevitably areas that cannot be predicted by the model; in particular the additional pressures created by welfare reform, by local government pension revaluations, and the unknown costs to uppertier authorities of implementing the proposals in the Care Act.

There is also the introduction of the single state pension in 2016, which will increase employers' national insurance contributions for councils with no compensating new burdens payment. Different local areas will have their own local pressures and priorities, such as policies on the introduction of the Living Wage for council staff. Because the impacts of these high-risk areas are inherently uncertain, and very dependent on local circumstances, they have been excluded from the model.

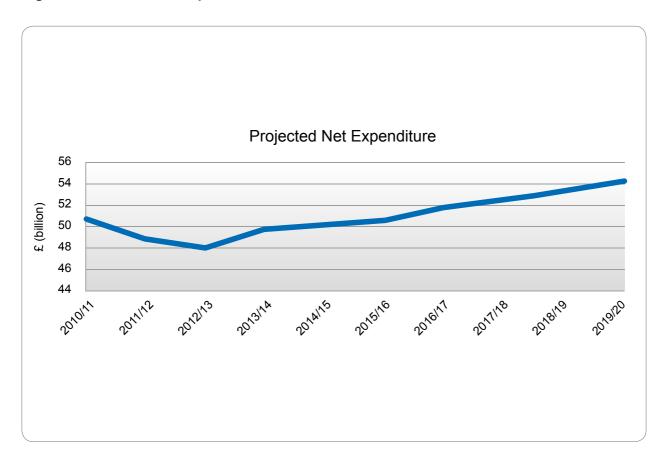
We believe this model presents the most comprehensive picture available of the likely path of funding cuts and spending pressures across the sector.

The path of council spending

Future expenditure trends have been modelled by identifying factors that influence costs, known as 'cost drivers'. It also builds in efficiency assumptions. The assumption for most services is that councils start by achieving 1.5 per cent annual efficiency savings which tapers to 1 per cent by the end of the period.

The model assumes that the same level of service will continue to be provided in each spending area; it takes 2014/15 budget data and applies cost drivers and efficiencies to these figures for each future year, but makes no attempt to model any future savings achieved through reductions in service.

Figure 1: Total council expenditure to 2019/20



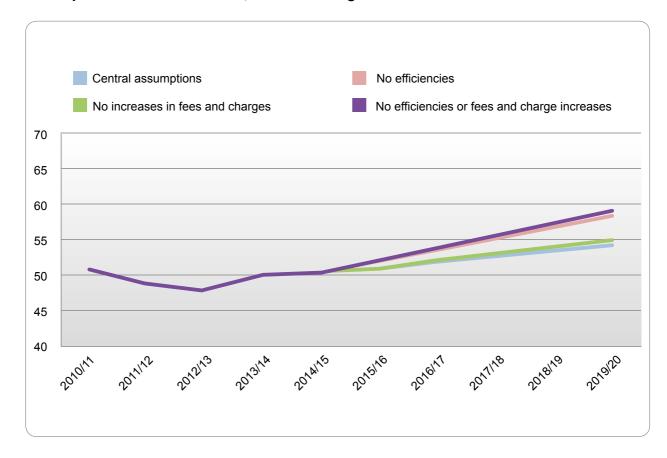
The projected path of future expenditure is shown in figure 1. This shows that, at current service levels, total expenditure will rise from £50.3 billion in 2014/15 to £54.3 billion in 2019/20, the annual rate of increase stabilising at 1.6 per cent per annum in cash terms by 2019/20.

We have again modelled no real increase in local government salaries, although this becomes a less and less realistic assumption: councils will find it harder to fill vacancies by offering wage rates lower than those in private sector employers for similar jobs. In order to attract staff councils might be forced to regrade posts upwards, putting further pressure on expenditure.

We can see the effect that different assumptions have on the overall level of expenditure in Figure 2. If we assumed no increase in fees and charges for example this would increase expenditure in 2019/20 by £0.6 billion.

Assuming no efficiency savings would increase expenditure by £3.9 billion. Altogether, assumptions on sales, fees and charges and efficiencies have reduced overall forecast expenditure in 2019/20 by £4.5 billion, or 9 per cent. This makes it clear that the scenario shown in the model is not an overly pessimistic one, and any variance that emerges as a result of 'real world' factors is likely to widen the gap rather than help close it.

Figure 2: Total council service expenditure 2010/11 to 2019/20 with different assumptions about efficiencies, fees and charges



The path of council funding

Core funding was reduced by 40 per cent over the course of the previous Parliament, and further reductions are anticipated over the course of the current Parliament.

Our model projects the likely path of all council funding, based on a number of assumptions:

Council tax: We have used actual council tax rates until 2015/16. Average increases have been below 1 per cent for each of the last four years but have risen each year. We have assumed that councils will increase their council tax by 1.0 per cent in 2016/17 and 2017/18, and 1.5 per cent for each of the following two years. It is not clear whether the one per cent freeze grant will continue. We have assumed a modest growth in the tax base.

Business Rates: We have used councils' individual estimates of their retained business rates in 2015/16. We have assumed future business rates will grow by retail price index (RPI) plus a local area growth estimate.

Grant funding: The position to 2015/16 is based on final grant allocations. From 2016/17 we have applied a change in Local Government Departmental Expenditure Limit based on the March 2015 analysis of the Office of Budget Responsibility. This equates to reductions from 2016/17 to 2018/19 of 12.1 per cent, 11.6 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively, and an increase of 7.1 per cent in 2019/20.

Better Care Fund: Shared funding with the NHS for Adult Social Care is assumed to fund social care spending by £615 million each year from 2015/16. This is based on an analysis of locally agreed 2015/16 Better Care Fund plans.

Public health: We have used public health funding allocations for 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16, and for subsequent years have assumed that the overall level of funding rises to cover costs. This funding is ring-fenced and thus its impact on the overall funding gap is neutral. We have used the half-year Public Health 0-5 allocations for 2015/16, and doubled these allocations for 2016/17, the first full year in which councils have this responsibility. For subsequent years we have again assumed this service is cost-neutral.

Investment income: We assume that yield will rise with inflation. Most analysts predict that interest rates will increase but the effect of this on councils' finances is immaterial.

Transfers to and from reserves: The model assumes that each authority will draw up to 5 per cent of its total reserves each year to plug any funding gap, with the reserve level never going below 5 per cent of total annual expenditure. If the funding level in an authority is above projected expenditure then all surplus will be added to reserves for that year. In practice individual authorities will have different strategies based on local analysis of risk and their local financial strategy.

Figure 3: Total council funding 2010/11 to 2019/20

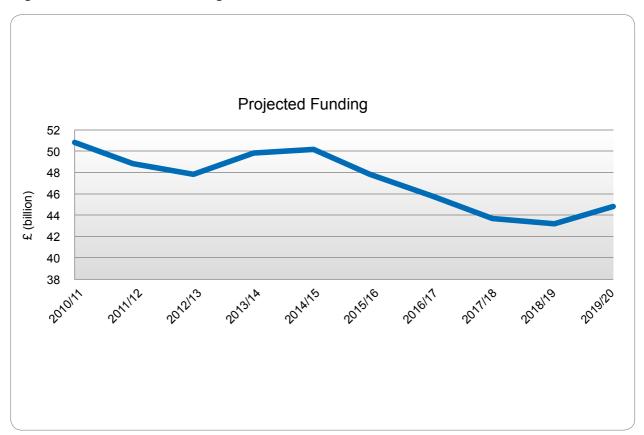


Figure 3 shows that total council funding falls by £7.6 billion between 2010/11 and 2018/19, and then rises by £1.6 billion in 2019/20. However, this total includes the introduction of ring-fenced funding for transferred public health responsibilities in 2013/14 and beyond, and when this is excluded the overall fall in funding amounts to £11.6 billion by 2018/19 or £10.0 billion by 2019/20.

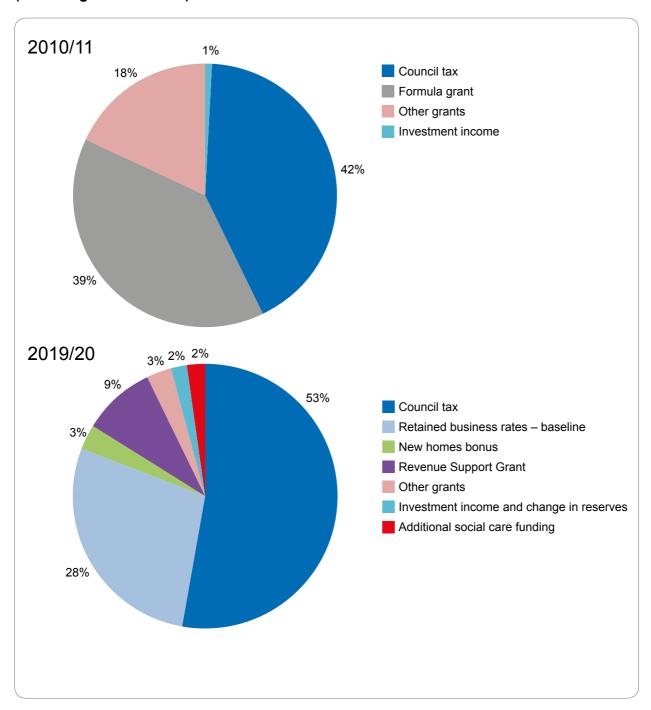
Over the period, funding falls by 12 per cent in cash terms, or 29 per cent in real terms⁴. When we account for the introduction of public health funding income falls by 20 per cent in cash terms and 37 per cent in real terms.⁵

The changes in the way local government is funded can clearly be seen by comparing sources of funding in 2010/11 and 2019/20. Council Tax provides over half of all funding by the end of the decade, with the proportion of income coming from centralised grants falling over the decade as illustrated in Figure 4.

⁴ Real terms is calculated using the GDP deflator series available here: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_gdp_fig. htm

⁵ These percentage reduction figures are lower than the percentage reductions in core local government funding (40 per cent over five years) because they are the reduction in total funding, the main difference being that they include council tax and therefore start from a much higher base.

Figure 4: Composition of total local government funding 2010/11 and 2019/20 (excluding Public Health)



Mapping funding against expenditure

We can now bring together the analysis of projected income and expenditure trends to form a picture of local authority funding overall. This shows that the overall funding gap starts at just over £3 billion in 2015/16 and reaches over £10 billion by 2018/19, before shrinking to £9.5 billion by 2019/20.

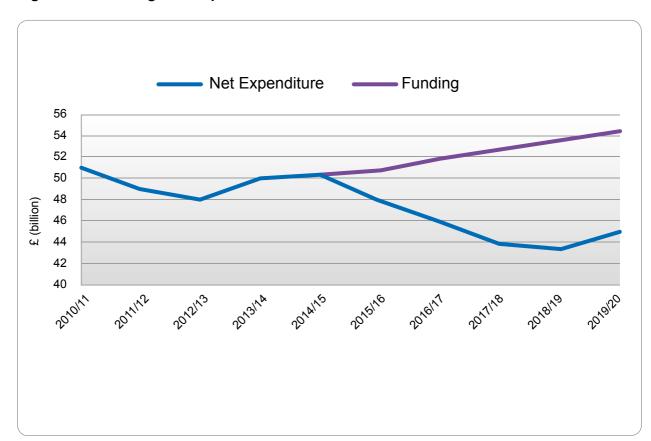


Figure 5: Income against expenditure 2010/11 to 2019/20

In practice authorities have already closed the gap for 2015/16 in order to comply with their duty to set balanced budgets, and they have done this either through cuts, further efficiencies or use of reserves.

Once full data sets are available it will be possible to say more about how they have done this, but our research indicates that in many authorities the well of efficiencies is starting to run dry, with savings starting to come from service reductions.

Many authorities already have in place savings plans to close their budget gap still further in 2016/17 and beyond, but our research shows that 2015/16 is the year in which service reductions will start to account for a higher proportion of savings than efficiencies.

The model provides an opportunity to test councils' ability to deliver their statutory obligations within the available resource envelope.

Many of the service blocks have statutory elements which may not necessarily be prescriptive but have already proven to be highly contested, such as spending on libraries and road maintenance. It is very difficult to isolate what is a statutory service and what is discretionary, but we have followed the previous model in looking just at social care and waste spending. The results of the analysis are shown below:

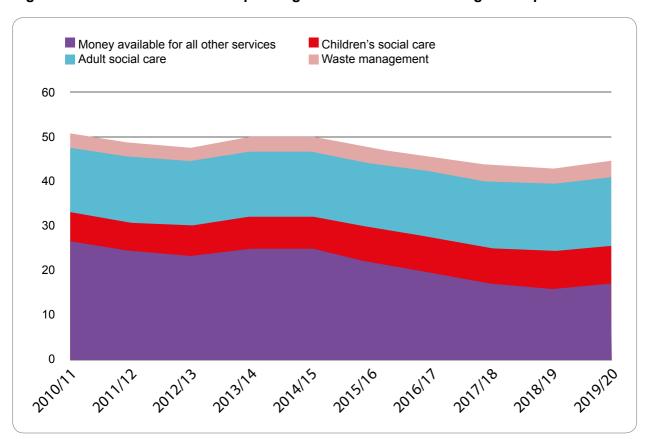


Figure 6: Social care and waste spending within the overall funding envelope

With social care and waste spending absorbing a rising proportion of the resources available to councils, funding for other council services drops by 35 per cent or £9.3 billion in cash terms by the end of the decade, from £26.6 billion in 2010/11 to £17.3 billion in 2019/20.

But even this significantly understates the scale of the problem as within these 'other services' are many statutory obligations which cannot be cut significantly: concessionary fares, minimum revenue provision, waste and transport levies, and other statutory services.

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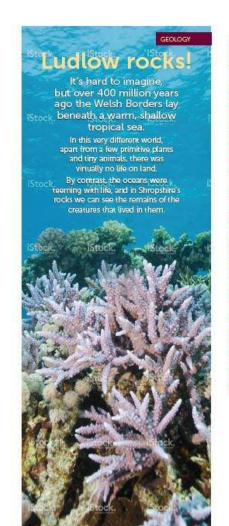
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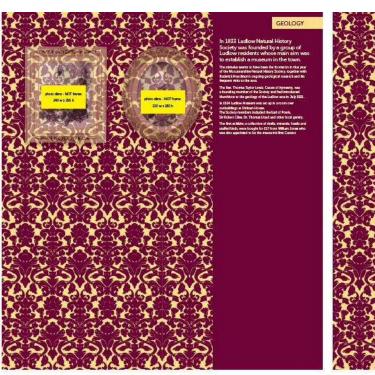
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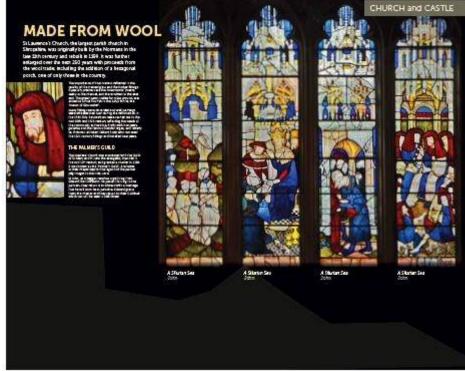
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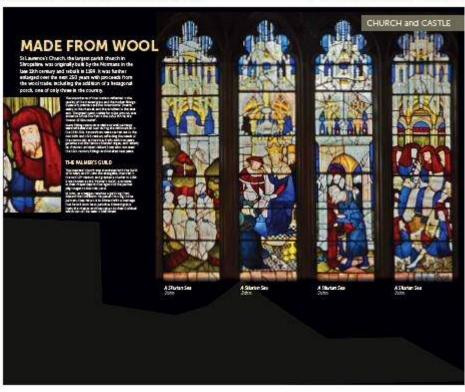


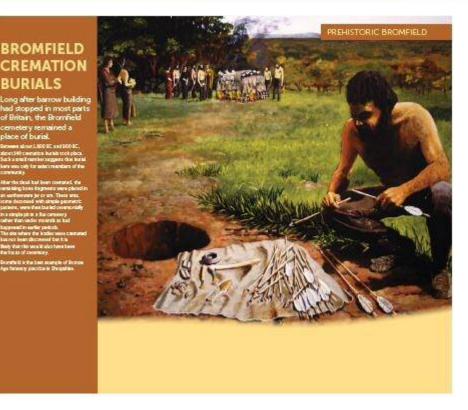


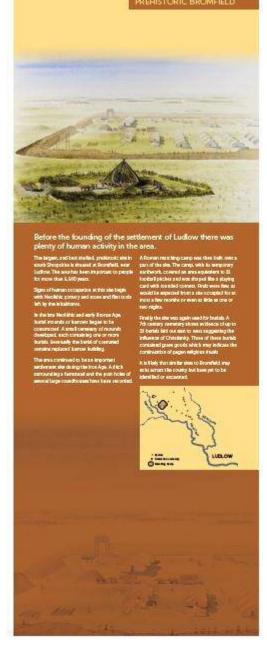






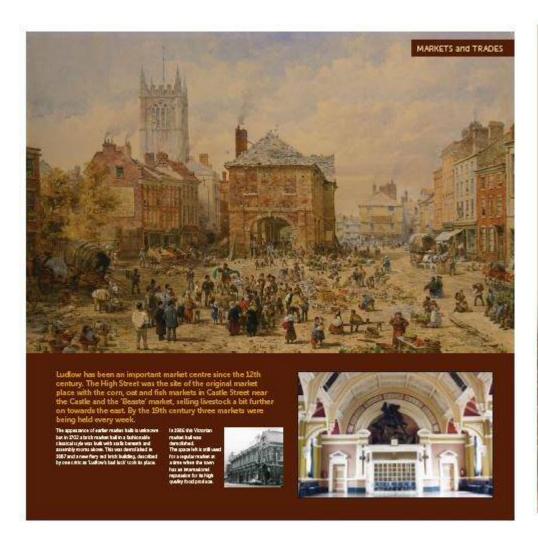


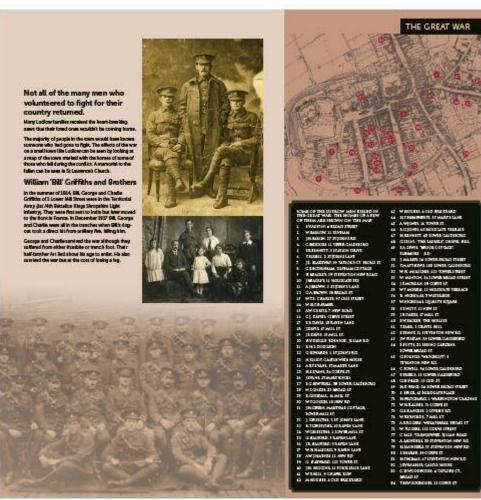


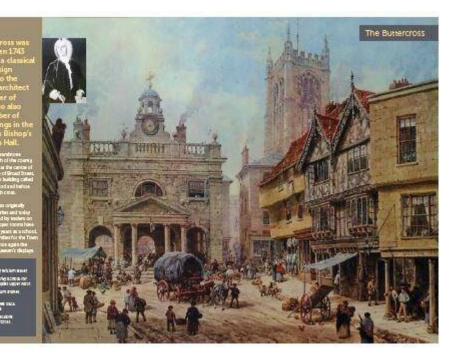


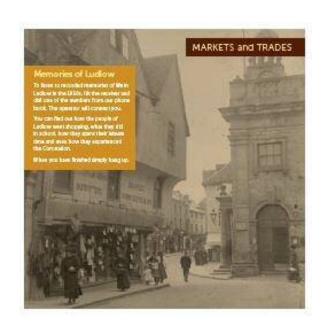


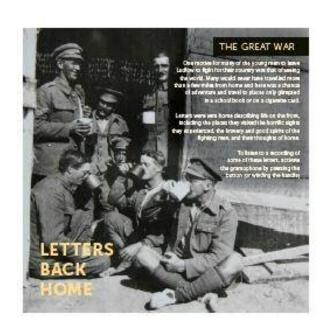
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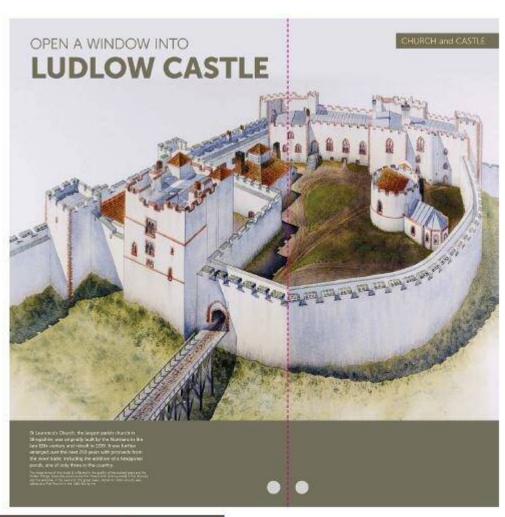


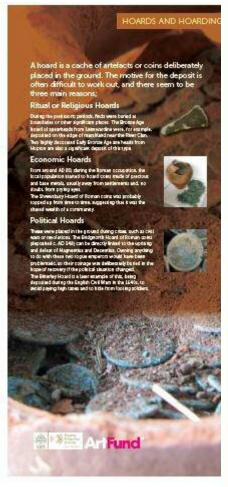


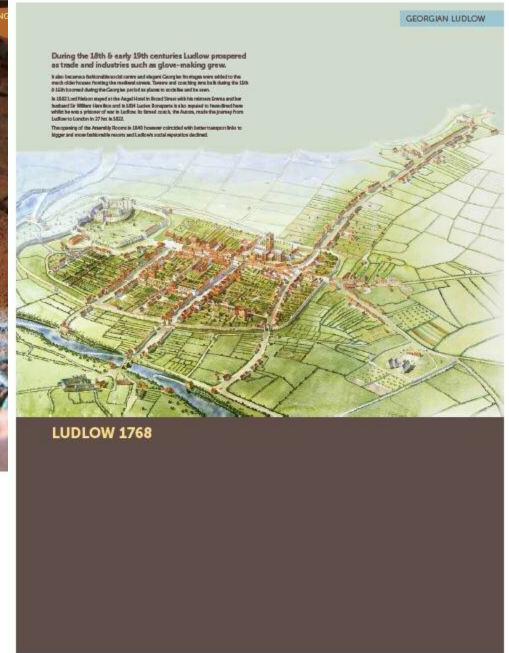


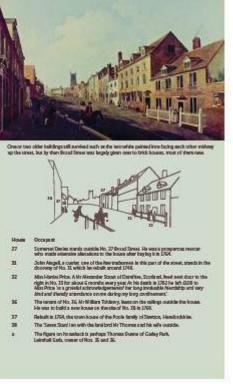
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