



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.00 PM.**

FC/222 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

Councillors: Clarke; Gill; Ginger; R Jones; Kemp; Lyle; J Newbold; S Newbold; Parry; Perks; Sheward; and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant

FC/223 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/224 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Cobley and M Jones.

FC/225 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
D. Lyle	18a & 18b	Board Member of Ludlow 21 Chair of Friends of Ludlow Arts Festival, supporting the Fringe Festival
V. Parry	10 & 11	Chair of Ludlow in Bloom
G. Perks	11	Associated with Pride of Place Involved with Twinning (Narberth)

Personal Interests

R. Jones	19	Employee of Shropshire Council
	9	Involved with formation of Defib4you Group
P. Kemp	19	Part-time employee of Shropshire Council

G. Perks	18a	Volunteer at Festivals
	15	Grandson benefitted from Shropdoc recently
	9	Involved with formation of Defib4you Group
C. Sheward	19	Receives a pension from Shropshire Council

FC/226 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

Gill George, Corve Street – Defend our NHS – Ms George informed Full Council of a new threat to in-patient beds at Ludlow Hospital. She explained that she had been at a meeting where the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had announced that it had costed in-patient beds in community hospitals and this cost was 3 times higher than those in independent sector homes. She suggested that the implications of the costing meant that the CCG may decommission in-patient beds in community hospitals and expect independent sector homes to increase their bed capacities.

Ms George stressed that whilst she had received partial information, the information had also been repeated at a separate meeting that the League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital had attended. Efforts were being made to clarify the position with the CCG and NHS Community Trust and she would bring further information to the Town Council when available.

She urged the Town Council to vigorously make representations to the CCG before any decisions were made. She went on to say she understood that a decision on in-patient beds would be made by the CCG by the 31st March 2016.

Denise Thompson, Ludlow 21 – Ms Thompson explained that Ludlow 21 shared similar objectives with the Town Council, wanting the town to thrive, survive and be a congenial place to work in a positive community. She confirmed that Ludlow 21 appreciated the work of the Town Council especially, in the current financial climate.

Ms Thompson informed the Town Council that longer-term planning was essential at this time of austerity, but believed that that the group had the expertise to help the town become more resilient. She added that Ludlow 21 saw the changes as opportunities, which is why it had launched the Vision 21 programme to encompass energy, food, farming, recycling and reusing. She said that changes had to be faced and that a meeting would be set up to look at community processes to which the Town Council would be invited.

She added that the vision would seek formal backing for a long-term and funding would be sought from commercial, charitable and corporate sectors. Ludlow 21 hoped that the Town Council would support this initiative.

FC/227 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Apologies had been received from Councillor Boddington.

Councillor V Parry, Ludlow South - Councillor Parry informed Council that she had attended a bus users group meeting and discussion had ranged from the 490 service that linked towns and parishes in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. Many of the towns and parish councils on the 490 route had each pledged up to £2,000 to safeguard the service. Councillor Parry stressed that this service was invaluable for students and residents alike with no transport who had to rely on the bus service. She requested that Shropshire Council were invited to a future Council meeting to discuss bus services.

Councillor Parry also stated that the bus users group had discussed the lack of bus shelter on Corve Street and the group would be seeking the views of the adjacent restaurant before bringing the request to the town council.

In relation to flooding, Cllr Parry reported that she was in discussions to help ensure residents were able to obtain sandbags.

FC/228 MINUTES – 9th NOVEMBER 2015

Councillor Perks requested that on page 6, at FC/195, that his comment made to Full Council in response to Councillor Boddingtons update, in the Unitary Councillor section, regarding Youth Services and Detached Youth Workers be included:

Councillor Perks informed Council that Churches Together were holding a meeting to discuss their plans to recruit a youth worker. It was later confirmed that the meeting would be held at the Elim Church on the 3rd March at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED (9:0:4) PK/RJ

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 20th January 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/229 ITEMS TO ACTION – 20th JANUARY 2016

The Mayor thanked the staff for their ongoing work to undertake the Items to Action.

RESOLVED (12:0:1) PD/PK

That the Items to Action be noted.

FC/230 DISPENSATION

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/GP

To grant a dispensation for the Pecuniary Interest Members may have as Council Tax rate payers within the Parish in relation to the Budget and Precept setting for the duration of the Council term

FC/231 ANNUAL & PROJECT SUPPORT GRANT – DEFIB 4YOU

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP

That an annual and project support grant of £300 be awarded to the Defib4you Group in 2016/17

FC/232 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SERVICES COMMITTEE 11TH JANUARY 2016

S/115 MARKET ELECTRIC

**RECOMMENDED (11:0:1)
MC/RJ**

That:-

- i) The electric fee for market traders remains at £1 per trader per day
- ii) The usage of market electric is monitored quarterly.
- iii) Write to Market Traders to inform them of the decision and ongoing monitoring.

S/116 LUDLOW IN BLOOM (LIB)

a) Heart of England in Bloom

**RECOMMENDED (unanimous)
GG/RJ**

- i) To approve Ludlow hosting the Heart of England in Bloom awards ceremony in September 2016.
- ii) Subject to availability, to allocate the Town Council's room hire for the auditorium and / or Oscar's

RESOLVED (12:0:1) RJ/TG

That the recommendations from the Services Committee on the 11th January 2016 be approved.

MARKET ELECTRIC

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- i) The electric fee for market traders remains at £1 per trader per day
- ii) The usage of market electric is monitored quarterly.
- iii) Write to Market Traders to inform them of the decision and ongoing monitoring.

LUDLOW IN BLOOM (LIB)a) Heart of England in Bloom

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- ii) Subject to availability, to allocate the Town Council's room hire for the auditorium and / or Oscar's.

FC/233 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/17

The Chairman outlined the report regarding the town council's budget setting process and consultation.

Members noted that the proposed precept of £360,416.00 was a 4.93% increase on the 0% increase of £343, 485.00

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG

That:

- i) the 2016/17 budget is adopted
- ii) the precept of £360,416.00 representing a 4.93% increase be approved.

FC/234 REVIEW INTO COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ**

That the central government review of Council Tax Support be noted.

FC/235 REFERENDUM PRINCIPALS**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC**

To note that the 'referendum principles' which can trigger a referendum if there is an 'excessive' rise in council tax or precept (in England) will not apply to local (town and parish) councils setting their precept for 2016/17.

FC/236 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING REVIEW AND AUTUMN STATEMENT 2015**RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/DL**

That the review and the specific items of interest to town and parish council's be noted.

FC/237 **SHROPDOC**

Councillor Perks stated that a strongly worded letter should be sent because the consultation window was too short and did not allow the town council to meet to consider the issue. Councillor Ginger supported this comment adding that it was almost insulting given the lack of time leaving the town council unable to comment.

Councillor Gill stated in his opinion this was a tactic and deliberate policy as the CCG did not want to encourage discussions as a decision had probably already been made.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/CS

That:-

- i) Ludlow Town Council values the service Shropdoc provides and would not support the loss of Shropdoc as the local out of hours (OOH) service provider
- ii) A representative from the CCG and Dr Beanland be invited to the next Council meeting to explain the implications and rationale;
- iii) The letter is written to stress that the timescale given to reply is too short for the town council to respond;
- iv) An item regarding in-patient community hospital beds be included on the next Agenda.

FC/238 **LUDLOW REGISTRARS SERVICES**

The Mayor outlined the key points of the reorganisation and the proposal from of Shropshire Registration Services.

Councillor Parry suggested that the proposed reduction of the registration service was linked to the proposal of the library hours being reduced to four days a week, since the registrars were based in the same building. Councillor Sheward countered that the paperwork reflected that the reduction in the service was due to staff shortages.

Councillor Jones pointed out that compared to the registration service in other towns, Ludlow's had the highest usage. Councillor Perks agreed stating that this was evidence the Ludlow office was well used.

Councillor Gill referred to the email received requesting that the Town Council act as a critical friend to the Registration Service and stated in his opinion the Town Council should agree to this request.

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/GP

That:-

- i) The Town Council accept the offer to become a critical friend to Shropshire Council's Registration Service;
- ii) The Town Clerk seeks the views of Clerks from other Market Towns regarding the registration service;
- iii) Libraries and Customer Services are will be considered as a separate matter at a future meeting.

FC/239 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE 18TH JANUARY 2016PF/95 ANNUAL CORE GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION FORM AND CRITERIARECOMMENDED (Unanimous) RJ/MC

That the Annual Core Grant Funding Application form and criteria, subject to the amendment of the submission date and the insertion of the phrase "substantial reserves in relation to your expenditure" on the form, be approved.

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/RJ

That subject to the amendment of the wording below the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 18th January 2016 be adopted:-

ANNUAL CORE GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION FORM AND CRITERIA

That the Annual Core Grant Funding Application form and criteria, subject to the amendment of the submission date and the insertion of the phrase "substantial reserves in relation to your expenditure" on the form, be approved.

FC/240 REQUEST FROM THE GREEN FESTIVAL

Members discussed the request and felt that subject to availability, the change of date was sensible. Councillor Perks voiced his support and suggested that the August bank holiday could be an opportunity for the town council to hold a tourism event centred on the market square.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/TG

That:-

- i) The Green Festival be granted free of charge use of Ludlow market and Events Square on the 9th July 2017;
- ii) That the town council celebrates tourism on the August bank holiday in 2017.

FC/241 REQUEST FROM THE FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Town Clerk clarified that Fringe Festival had requested to use the square on the 26th June, although the Royal British Legion (RBL) had already been granted use, but it was expected that it would be possible for both events both events could be accommodated. She confirmed that the request to use the square for the 2nd July could not be approved as there was already a Made in Shropshire Market planned for that day.

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/GP

- :-
- i) That the Town Clerk write to the Fringe Festival and confirm that the events square on the 2nd July is not available;
 - ii) To approve the remaining dates requested;
 - iii) To reiterate the previous condition regarding advertising on the ticketing shed;
 - iv) To remind the Fringe Festival that the areas being used for the Festival are residential and the level of noise/music should be taken into account;
 - v) That the Ludlow in Bloom display on Events Square is not to be obstructed, or damaged by the positioning of the shed and signage; or events and activities taking place.

FC/243 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016-17-18-19**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG**

That Shropshire Council's Financial Strategy for 2016/17 & 2018/19 be noted.

FC/244 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**MINUTES FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE 18th JANUARY 2016****RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/MC**

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of the 18th January 2016 be received.

FC/245 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE – MINUTES 13th JANUARY 2016**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ**

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on the 13th January 2016, be received.

FC/246 SERVICES COMMITTEE – MINUTES 11TH JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/TG

That the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 11th January 2016 be received.

FC/247 BUDGET WORKING GROUP MINUTES 15TH JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/GG

That the minutes of the Budget Working Group held on the 15th January 2016 be received.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm

Town Mayor

Date

NB No Closed session minutes will be issued.

