



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2016 at 7.00 PM.**

FC/172 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Sheward, Deputy Mayor

Councillors: Clarke; Cobley; Gill; Ginger; R Jones; Lyle; Parry; Perks; and Smithers.

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

FC/173 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/174 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Draper, Kemp, J Newbold and S Newbold.

FC/175 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Clarke	10	Pays Business Rates on an office in Ludlow
Councillor Gill	10	Pays Business Rates
Councillor Ginger	10	Pays Business Rates
Councillor Perks	10	Trustee of South Shropshire Furniture Scheme

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Cobley	8e	Has a friend who works at Shrewsbury Maternity unit.
Councillor Lyle	13	Son works for West Mercia Police.
	8a	Knows Gill George, Defend our NHS
	13	Knows the Secretary and Chair
Councillor Parry	16b	Knows Roger Furniss
	8e	Is a friend of the Facebook Save our Maternity
	10	Committee Member of the Ludlow Youth Partnership
Councillor Perks	16b	Daughter plays hockey
	8a	Members of Defend our NHS
	8e	Is a friend of the Facebook Save our Maternity page
	10	Assisted Businesses in the past with Business Rates
Councillor Sheward	12	Friend's child in the photograph
	12	Holds an Arts Funds Pass
Councillor Smithers	9	Treasurer for the Ludlow Youth Partnership

FC/176 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

Alison Hiles, Save Ludlow Maternity Unit (Facebook) – Mrs Hiles explained that she was a mother of two boys, and both had been born at Ludlow Maternity Unit. She stated she had been concerned about the future of the Maternity Unit and six to eight weeks ago she had set up a Facebook Page with Sarah Meek to 'Save our Maternity Hospital'. She went on to say that there was funding for the Maternity Unit until April 2017 but she was campaigning to get funding until May and past this date. She highlighted that in collaboration with Defend our NHS the aim was to keep the Unit open. She stated that she welcomed the move to Stretton Ward and stressed that the Unit was essential to the Town and the community for current parents and potential parents. In her opinion she said that it was unacceptable to travel for an hour for care or for mothers to be taken in an ambulance to either Shrewsbury or Telford Hospital, even if ambulances were available, due to under funding. She said she hoped that the Town Council would support the cause.

Gill George, Defend our NHS - Gill George paid tribute to the work of Alison Hiles to save the Maternity Unit and said that without this action she believed that the Unit would not have re-opened. Ms George added that she felt that bosses thought that this was quite acceptable and that 'Save our Maternity Unit' had forced them on to the back foot, although it may be a temporary reprieve.

Ms George went on to say that the current contract between the Clinical Commissioning Group and SaTH, who provided the Hospital services, was due to be signed on the 23rd December 2016. She informed Council that she and

another member from Defend our NHS had attended a meeting and when they had asked about the contract and services the response had been evasive and non-committal. From April 2017 the Hospital Operational Plan was to save £1.5m annually on maternity and care and this included Oswestry and Bridgnorth and in her opinion was currently a turf war between NHS organisations. It had always been that rural care and units were more expensive than urban areas due to small numbers and no economies in scale. She added that there was no conveyor belt system in rural areas which affected this figure. SaTH Hospital Trust had stated that they could not afford £1.5m but if the CCG wanted the level of services the CCG would need to meet the funding, but it was unlike that the CCG would find the funds. At a meeting on the 19th October, Dr Julian Povey (CCG) stated that the CCG was unlikely to have any additional funding. The CCG is in financial difficulties and Ms George said in her opinion that organisations would pass the blame for loss of services between them.

She stressed that it was not just about choice but about safety, risk and that it was well known that if women birth in a midwife unit, it was safer. However, she had been made aware that women were worried about the future and were opting to be induced early. She stated that if Maternity Services were lost it would be another nail in the coffin.

Ms George declared that any concrete support from the Town Council would be welcomed, whether it was in the form of a letter to the CCG, being copied to the Board, a letter to SaTH with copies to the board, or any support regarding the public march on the 3rd December 2016.

FC/177 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Councillor A. Boddington, Ludlow North – Councillor Boddington informed Council that health was an important document agenda for Shropshire Council and that Shropshire Council was meeting with the NHS Health Trust in regard to the Neighbourhood Provision.

The Neighbourhood Provision was looking at a sustainable transport plan as opposed to the Future Fit Programme which looked at community services spread out. Future Fit had now been abandoned and had been replaced with the Neighbourhood Provision and plans for a workshop was being organised for 7th December, but would be confirmed closer to the date.

Referring to Defend our NHS Councillor Boddington highlighted again the March for the Ludlow Maternity Unit on the 3rd December 2016. He praised the work of Save our Maternity Unit adding that in 24 hours of establishing the page there were 1,700 supporters. Councillor Boddington informed Council that he had been liaising with the Town Clerk regarding the march and invited Councillors to be stewards on the day. He stressed that it was important and would send the message home. Rural services matter. He emphasized that rural services needed all the support possible.

Turning to the proposed supermarket at Rocks Green he informed Council that the planning application would be considered at the December or January Planning meeting at Shropshire Council. Following a question from Councillor Lyle, Councillor Boddington confirmed that the public would know whether the item was on the Agenda at least a week before the meeting.

Councillor V. Parry, Ludlow South – Councillor Parry reported that the SALC AGM would be on the 19th November at the Dawley Community Centre at 2.30pm.

Regarding the planning application for Ludwick Court, on the Sheet, she explained that a presentation was being made at Ludford Parish Council on the 14th November at 7pm. She outlined that the application was not solar power but for a battery system which held generated electricity. The application was because the current system failed on a regular basis, resulting in power cuts and this would help residents resolve the issue.

FC/178 MINUTES – 26th SEPTEMBER 2016

Councillor Perks raised the question over the recorded vote at FC/148 as this referred to the previous set of minutes. He stressed that if a named vote was requested this should be done at the time the vote is taken and not after.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Chair had resolved the issue and that a recorded vote had been included in the previous set of minutes referred to.

RESOLVED (9:0:1) GG/TG

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 26th September 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/179 ITEMS TO ACTION – 26th SEPTEMBER 2016

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their ongoing work to undertake the Items to Action.

RESOLVED (9:0:1) TG/GP

That the Items to Action be noted.

FC/180 LUDLOW HOSPITAL

Councillor Perks urged the Town Council to support the request from Defend our NHS and for staff and Councillors to be empowered to support this cause.

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/VP

That the update be noted.

FC/181 UPDATE LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF SHROPSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH NHS TRUST**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/DL**

That the letter be noted.

FC/182 UPDATE LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF SHROPSHIRE'S CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/JS**

That the letter be noted.

7.40 pm Councillor Clarke left the meeting.

7.42 pm Councillor Clarke re-joined the meeting.

FC/183 PUBLIC MARCH 3RD DECEMBER 2016 – SAVE OUR MATERNITY UNIT**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC**

That:-

- i) the Town Council supports the Defend our NHS and Save Our Maternity Unit March on the 3rd December 2016; and
- ii) the Town Clerk will liaise with Councillor Boddington and provide practical assistance in planning and provision of hi-viz vests and signage.

FC/184 LOCAL YOUTH SERVICES**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC**

That the Town Council will continue to liaise with Di Philips from Shropshire Youth Association and Linda Monteith, Shropshire Council to receive proposals for Ludlow Youth Activities.

FC/185 BUSINESS RATES

Councillor Ginger informed Council that he had been legally advised that as he was a Business Rates payer he had a serious conflict of interest but could make a statement regarding business rates but would need to leave the meeting for the discussion and vote.

He went on to say that he had been in negotiation with the Valuation Office based in Wolverhampton and had been representing number of shop keepers and also voiced his concerns as a Councillor. He advised Council that he had not been making representations on his behalf but for other shopkeepers. (A copy of his notes has been attached to these minutes).

Councillor Ginger explained that business rates were set by the position and frontage onto the highway. This was then calculated from the frontage and back by meterage into three zones A, B, C at 6.1m (20 feet) per zone. The zone was not broken unless there was a solid wall. He outlined that zone A was the most expensive, zone B was 50% of the cost of zone A and zone C was 25%.

He went on to say that Ludlow was blessed with independent traders. It was Central Government who in his opinion had arbitrarily decided what the first zone/meterage was worth. Therefore the cost of zone A for Bodenhams would be set at £661.50, Poyners £405 and Fat Face £450, Roundabout Stationery £460. In the market square, Castle Street Bookshop £300, Prices Bakery £310 and Country Linens £310. He added if these rises happened shopkeepers have indicated they would close.

Due to this proposed annual rise, business rates for Bodenhams would rise to £21,373, Poyners £9,561 and both indicated that they would cease trading as they would no longer be viable businesses. Fat Face he said as a multi-national company would only be liable to pay £12,194. Councillor Ginger went on to say that transitional relief would be made available, but this would be temporary. Once this finished this would mean that the Bodenhams rates would increase to £31,055.50, equating to £600 per week, Poyners £14,593.75 equating to £300 a week.

Councillor Ginger highlighted that the currently vacant Chocolate Shop, owned by Barclays Bank on King Street is currently rated at £9,145 annually. He asked that if shops were required to pay £9k annually how it would encourage traders to Ludlow. On Corve Street, Myriad Organics would be liable to pay £155 per sq metre and in his opinion this benefitted from the high footfall from Tesco and Costa. However, if traders wanted to trade in the cheapest area, Castle Square had the lowest rates set.

He went on to say that no-one from the Valuation Office in Wolverhampton had ever visited Ludlow and had been informed that his business on Corve Street was in the Centre of Ludlow.

Councillor Ginger informed Council that the independent shops were planning to close for a day, whitewash their windows to demonstrate what Ludlow would look like if the proposed business rates went ahead.

7.55 pm Councillors Ginger and Gill left the meeting.

Councillor Clarke confirmed that this position with business rates was not just affecting businesses in the centre of Ludlow. He cited the case with businesses on the Industrial Estate increasing by 60%, with one business in particular where some elements had been classed as improvements. The business had been judged on the fact it had cobbles, not tarmac and LED lighting and air conditioning and although the business/building was new this had been classed as improvements. He added that the business would have to sell more, although this was probably possible.

7.58 pm Councillor Clarke left the meeting.

Members agreed that the situation was serious and noted that there was a Chamber of Commerce meeting on the 15th November.

Councillor Perks informed Council that on Wednesday at Prime Minister question time, traditional shops had been highlighted in Widney and that changes in business rates were being made to support businesses but clearly this was not the case in Ludlow.

8.04 pm Councillor Perks left the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/DL

That:-

- i) Representation are made on behalf of the business community of Ludlow in protest against excessive and unsustainable business rate charges to the MP and Valuation Office;
- ii) Representation is made directly to the Prime Minister.
- iii) The Town Council liaise with Ludlow Chamber of Commerce.

8.06 pm Councillor R Jones left the meeting.

8.06 pm Councillors Clarke, Gill, Ginger and Perks re-joined the meeting.

8.08 pm Councillor R Jones re-joined the meeting.

FC/186 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/AC

To suspend Standing Order 11a for the next item.

FC/187 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members noted that Councillor M Jones had requested to be on the membership for Representational Committee and Services Committee but was not present.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/CS

That the matter be deferred to a future Full Council meeting when Councillor M Jones is present.

FC/188 RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/JS

That Standing Order 11a is re-instated.

FC/189 LUDLOW MUSEUM AT THE BUTTERCROSS – SCHOOL PARTIES

Councillor Perks stated that with the Buttercross Market being smaller than first proposed a fee should be paid with the caviate that if Schools decided not to visit the Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross the matter be brought back to Full Council.

Councillor Ginger agreed stating that in a perfect world the Town Council would not charge but that this was not really a viable option. Members discussed the current admission charges at the Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross, which was 50p for children over the age of 5.

RESOLVED (4:6:0) GG/RJ

That:-

- i) The Town Clerk contacts the Museum Services, Acton Scott and Ludlow Castle for their school fees;
- ii) £5 per class per visit is charged;
- iii) The fee is reviewed in the next financial year.

The motion was not carried.

FC/190 RESOLVED (6:31) MC/VP

That the fee for schools visits is set on the on costs for staff to open the Ludlow Museum at the Buttercross, and be present for the duration of the visit.

FC/191 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members discussed the current position with CCTV in the town and accepted that the current cameras were placed at the Police Station, although not always manned. A proposal had been made some years ago for the cameras to be moved up to Shrewsbury but to make the equipment compatible with the cameras at Shrewsbury the cost would have been £16k and the Town Council decided that this would not be viable as the cameras would not be manned 24 hours a day.

8.36 pm Councillor Gill left the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC

That:-

- i) the Town Council supports the actions of the Police, Ludlow Town Centre Residents Association and Unitary Councillors to curtail recent anti-social behaviour;
- ii) the Town Council undertakes a review on the effectiveness of public money committed to town centre CCTV.

FC/192 REFUGEES

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/DL

That the update from Councillor Boddington on refugees be noted.

FC/193 PARKING ON THE MARKET SQUARE

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/AC

That the report be noted.

FC/194 ANNUAL CORE GRANT FEEDBACK

Citizen's Advice Bureau

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/VP

That the letter of thanks be noted.

FC/195 LUDLOW HOCKEY CLUB

RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/DL

That the feedback from Ludlow Hockey Club be noted.

FC/196 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE 31st OCTOBER 2016

PF/65 POLICIES

Member Co-Option Policy

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) AC/JS

That, subject to insertion of the word "Council" to read "next full Council meeting" at paragraph 1.5 and the replacement of the word "applications" with "applicants" at paragraph 1.7, the Member Co-Option Policy be readopted.

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/RJ

That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 31st October 2016 be approved.

Member Co-Option Policy

That, subject to insertion of the word "Council" to read "next full Council meeting" at paragraph 1.5 and the replacement of the word "applications" with "applicants" at paragraph 1.7, the Member Co-Option Policy be readopted.

FC/197 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2016****RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/JS**

That the minutes of the Representational Committee on the 21st September 2016 be received.

FC/198 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING – 19TH OCTOBER 2016**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/CS**

That the minutes of the Representational Committee on the 19th October 2016 be received.

FC/199 MINUTES FROM THE STAFFING & APPEALS COMMITTEE MEETINGS 28TH SEPTEMBER, 17TH OCTOBER AND 31ST OCTOBER 2016**RESOLVED (8:0:1) JS/RJ**

That the minutes of the Staffing & Appeals Committee meetings on the 28th September, 17th October and 31st October 2016 be received.

FC/200 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) RJ/JS

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

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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 7th NOVEMBER 2016** at 7:00PM

FC/201 **EXTENSION OF THE MEETING**

RESOLVED (8:0:1) **CS/GP**

To extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

FC/202 **STAFFING MATTER**

Councillor Perks requested a named vote.

RESOLVED (7:2:0) **GP/JS**

For:- GG/RJ/CS/JS/AC/DL/GP

Against:- MC/VP

Abstentions: - None.

To approve the Job Description and Person Specification for the new post of Deputy Town Clerk.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Town Mayor

Date

