



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 16th MARCH 2015** at 7.00PM.

FC/264 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

Councillors: Cobley; Gill; Ginger; Jones; Kemp; Lyle (until 8.00pm)
Parry; Perks; Sheward and Smithers.

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

FC/265 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/266 APOLOGIES

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

FC/267 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
D. Lyle	9a	Chair of the Ludlow Arts Festival which funds some events at the Church.
V. Parry	13	Wrote a letter (with others) to ask LTC to support the Youth Centre.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
A. Cobley	9b	Member of the Ludlow Arts Festival.
	9c	Works at the Rockspring Centre
	19d	Works at the Rockspring Centre
P. Draper	9c	Mayors Charity for 2014-15
G. Ginger	19	Shop owner in Ludlow.

R. Jones	16	Works in the Care Sector
V. Parry	9b	Trustee St Laurence
	13	Member of the Youth Services Panel at SC
		Chair of Ludlow in Bloom
G. Perks	8	Knows a GP on the NHS Steering Group and brother used to work at Station Drive Practice
	9b	Worshiper at St Laurence's Church
	11	Member of the Services Committee
	17	Involved with the Scrutiny Process at SSDC
	19	Has an interest in Ludlow Food Festival
J. Smithers	13	Trustee of the Youth Forum
C. Sheward	15	Member of Shropshire Council Pension Scheme
	16	Receives pension from Shropshire Council
	17	Wrote an article to the press on the subject and Requested the item to be on the Agenda

FC/268 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were 6 members of the public and one member of the press present.

Shaun Ward, Clerk of Works, St Laurence Church – Mr Ward spoke in support of the application for the upcoming Arts Festival being held in St Laurence Church. He thanked the Town Council for their continued. He explained that the Arts Festival's aim was to not only provide a programme of music but expand this to arts and visual displays. The planned event Peter and the Wolf would be free and cater for up to 450 school children in Ludlow. He requested the Council support the application as the Arts Festival had no income except ticket sales and had to be self-funding.

FC/269 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor T Huffer – Ludlow East – Councillor Huffer spoke on Item 13 on the Agenda regarding Youth Services stating that as Chair of the Youth Partnership she was in full support of the proposal to register the Youth Centre as a community asset. She added that at this point Shropshire Council had stated that they were not intending to sell the Youth Centre, however she was fully aware that in the current climate this could change rapidly. She added that there was a consultation at the Youth Club on Friday 20th March at 5.30pm to which all Councillors if they wished to become volunteers to help provide youth services in Ludlow. Anyone who wished to volunteer was welcome.

Unitary Councillor A Boddington, Ludlow North - Councillor Boddington reported that although there was a third consultation on Youth Services this week, it was unlikely to alter the £10,850 budget for 2015-16. He advised Council that Shropshire Council were going to review community and elderly services next but the details given so far had been scant. He voiced his concern regarding plans to redevelop areas on Bromfield Road and Coronation Avenue outlining

the issues of health and safety in relation to the petrol station and new housing development.

Councillor Ginger pointed out that when the planning application for the petrol station was discussed at the Town Council's Representational Committee, Members stated that they would not support the application as they felt that access on the A49 North needed to be altered to allow easy egress of petrol tankers into Ludlow.

Councillor Boddington responded by saying that Ludlow Town Council was the only Town and Parish Council that did not attend Shropshire Council's Planning meetings and that the request for a change of access, such as a new roundabout to the north of the A49 would cost one million which was unfeasible within a £2 million project.

Unitary Councillor V Parry, Ludlow South – Councillor Parry informed Council that there would be an open day the hospital 10.00 am until 3.30 pm to discuss the proposal for Future Fit NHS. She added that there was a Task Force meeting on the 27th March and that she would update members on the outcome. As Chair of Ludlow in Bloom Councillor Parry thanked all Ludlow Town Council and local businesses for making donations to support Ludlow in Bloom.

FC/270 MINUTES – 2nd FEBRUARY 2015

Councillor Perks requested that at minute FC/241 an additional paragraph be added stating that he had responded to the Deputy Commissioner's comment regarding the potential closure of the Police Station and he had advised that Shropshire Council had mapped out properties in Ludlow as well as the Community Hubs in 2011-12 which could be potential options for the Police to continue to have a presence in Ludlow.

Councillor Perks also added that at minute FC/257 he had asked if a decision had to be made that evening and had been advised by the Town Clerk that due to the deadline set by Shropshire Council a decision was required. He stated that he would have liked to have asked more questions and not made a decision that evening but that it had not been possible.

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/RJ**

That subject to the additional paragraph being inserted at minute FC/241 to read

“Councillor Perks responded by stating that Shropshire Council had mapped out properties in Ludlow as well as Community Hubs in 2011-12 which could be potential options for the Police to have a continued presence in Ludlow.”

And subject to the additional paragraph inserted at minute FC/257 to read,

“Councillor Perks asked if a decision had to be made that evening regarding the budget and was advised by the Town Clerk that due to the deadline set by Shropshire Council a decision was required. He stated that he would have liked to have asked more questions and would have deferred his decision.”

the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 2nd February 2015, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/271 ITEMS TO ACTION – 2nd FEBRUARY 2015

The Chair thanked the staff for producing the Items to Action sheets.

Following a question from Councillor Lyle, the Town Clerk confirmed that letters had been hand delivered to properties around the Housman Crescent Play Area but no feedback had been received, and no further vandalism had taken place.

Councillor Parry asked that thanks be passed to the DLF for the maintenance of the benches on the Castle Square.

RESOLVED (unanimous) **PD/JS**

That the Items to Action from the meetings held on the 2nd February 2015 be noted.

FC/272 NHS FIT FOR FUTURE – MR P TULLEY, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR THE CCG

Mr Paul Tulley addressed advised Members that a hospital re-development programme for Shropshire Hospitals was being carried out and that a short-list of six options for Acute Hospitals had been drawn up for consultation. The first three options would be to build an Acute Hospital on a green field site. The fourth option would be to build an Emergency Centre on a green field site and have a planned Care Section on a current site. The fifth option would be to have an Emergency Centre on an existing site and a Care Section on an existing site. There was also a sixth option of keeping the current status quo.

Each option would evaluate quality of care, access for patients and staff, associated workforces and the financial regulations as set out in the Green Book. He explained that this evaluation process should be completed by July of this year, which would be followed by a public consultation late 2015-early 2016.

Mr Tulley established that the current focus surrounded single Emergency Services locally, supported by Urgent Care Centres, and analysing the needs in rural areas differed greatly to those in towns and cities. He added that all rural areas would have care co-ordinated from a central point.

Councillor Ginger voiced his worries by asking how relevant urgent care would be in Telford if Ludlow residents had no access to private transport especially when public transport was unavailable, and in his opinion, the same situation would occur to those residents in Bridgnorth or Bishops Castle.

Mr Tulley responded by stating that access to services was key and reviewing the implications to all patients would be fundamental in any decisions.

Councillor Perks suggested that the Town Council contact Mike Chandler from Future Fit and also the MP as there was still a considerable amount of uncertainty surrounding this issue. Councillor Jones agreed with Councillor Perks adding that elderly patients seemed to be passed from hospital to hospital without any thought for continuation of care or access.

Councillor Smithers pointed out that the previously proposed new hospital for Ludlow a few years ago had been costed at 21 million and included GP surgeries, however this current proposal was for 330 million and did not seem to make sense.

Both Councillor Gill and Sheward stressed the need for local care rather than residents having to travel miles.

Mr Tulley confirmed that Dr Mortimer, a local GP was involved in the consultation process.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GP/PD

That Mr Tulley is thanked for his presentation and be requested to put the points he made at the meeting in writing and update the Town Council as the consultation process continues.

8.00 pm Councillor Lyle left the meeting.

FC/273 CORE FUNDING APPLICATION – NILS TENBURY

Council discussed the application and additional information which had been submitted.

RESOLVED (8:0:2)
PD/GP

That the Town Council support NILS in principle but that the application for funding be declined.

FC/274 CORE FUNDING APPLICATION – ST LAURENCE ARTS FESTIVAL

Council discussed the merits of the project and agreed that as this was self-funding and would be offering a free cultural event to local children, Members

agreed they would like to support the application, but were unable to offer the full amount.

RESOLVED (7:2:1)
PD/GP

That the funding of £250 be awarded.

FC/275 HOMESTART, LUDLOW

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/PK

That the letter of thanks from Homestart Ludlow be noted.

FC/276 TEME WEIRS TRUST

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/PK

That the letter of thanks from the Teme Weirs Trust be noted.

FC/277 POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

a) Minutes – 2nd March 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/RJ

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee of the 2nd March 2015 be received.

FC/278 b) Recommendations from Policy and Finance Committee 2nd March 2015

PF/124 POLICIES

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/PD

That:-

- i) The Stress Policy and risk assessment be adopted*
- ii) The Volunteer Policy, Strategy and sign up form be adopted*
- iii) The Memorial Management Policy be adopted.*

PF/127 INTERNAL AUDITOR

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/JS

The terms offered by applicant B to undertake the audit for a 5 year period

be accepted.

PF/128 MAYFAIR

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/VP

That the starting fee remains unchanged.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/RJ

That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 2nd March 2015, be approved.

a) **POLICIES**

That:-

- i) The Stress Policy and risk assessment be adopted
- ii) The Volunteer Policy, Strategy and sign up form be adopted
- iii) The Memorial Management Policy be adopted.

b) **INTERNAL AUDITOR**

The terms offered by applicant B to undertake the audit for a 5 year period be accepted.

c) **MAYFAIR**

That the starting fee remains unchanged.

FC/279 SERVICES COMMITTEE – MINUTES 23RD FEBRUARY 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/GG

That the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 23rd February 2015, be received.

FC/280 REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE – MINUTES 11TH FEBRUARY 2015

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/JS

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meeting held on the 11th February 2015, be received.

FC/281 YOUTH SERVICES

Following a question from Councillor Gill regarding clarification on the options outlined in the report, the Town Clerk confirmed that the two options were two

separate processes. She explained that by registering an expression of interest the Town Council would not be committing itself financially. However, once the Town Council registered the Ludlow Youth Centre as an Asset of Community Value, or expressed an interest, there could be implications in the future. In an asset transfer options were created for the Town Council or the community to intervene to save the Youth Centre for the future.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GP/GG

That:-

- i) The Town Council registers the Ludlow Youth Centre as an Asset of Community Value;
- ii) The Town Council registers an expression of interest in an asset Transfer in the Ludlow Youth Centre.

FC/282 FOUNTAIN IN CASTLE GARDENS

Council discussed the detailed specification for the refurbishment of the fountain in Castle Gardens submitted by the Ludlow Civic Society.

Members expressed their concerns for future liability of the fountain and asked for clarification on whether the fountain would be functional or just decorative and the extent to which the fountain would be refurbished or restored.

8.39pm Councillor Gill left the meeting.

8.40pm Councillor Gill returned to the meeting.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/PK

That:-

- i) Permission to commence work is withheld until clarification on the degree of missing elements is sought;
- ii) Clarification is sought regarding repair/replacement or refurbishment;
- iii) Once clarification is received from Ludlow Civic Society, further consideration and the decision to proceed as delegated to Representational Committee on the 15th April 2015.

FC/283 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT GRANT

Councillor Perks commented that he found it quite offensive that he had received his Council Tax demand for 2015-16 which stated that Shropshire Council had not increased its tax, especially when the Town Council had been forced to increase its precept because Shropshire Council withdrew the Council Tax Support Grant to the Town Council. Councillor Parry agreed with Councillor Perks adding Shropshire Council had frozen Council Tax.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/GP

That:-

- i) the Town Council write a letter to Shropshire Council's Head of Finance stating:-
- that the Town Council had been forced into raising its precept due to the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant by Shropshire Council;
 - Shropshire Council's action showed no understanding of Ludlow Town Council or local Service provision;
 - that Shropshire Council had been able to freeze its Council Tax by stealth and at the expense of Town and Parish Councils;
- ii) A press release is issued informing the public that requests for grants are currently being refused due to the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant by Shropshire Council.

FC/284 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/RJ

That Standing Order 6 month rule be suspended in order to reconsider the item regarding the Fountain in Castle Gardens.

FC/285 FOUNTAIN IN CASTLE GARDENS

RESOLVED (unanimous)
VP/GP

That the Chair of Representational Committee will be the Town Council's representative on the Steering Group for the restoration of the Fountain in Castle Gardens.

FC/286 RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That Standing Orders be re-instated.

FC/287 EXTENSION OF MEETING

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

FC/288 CARE ACT CONSULTATION**RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/GG**

That Ruth Houghton from Shropshire Council be invited to come and give a presentation to Council on the Care Act Consultation at a single item Extraordinary Council Meeting, date to be agreed prior to the end of the consultation period.

FC/289 RE-THINKING GOVERNANCE**RESOLVED (unanimous)
CS/GP**

That:-

- i) Town Council passes the request to SALC for a consultation of SALCs members prior to the next election in 2017. The consultation is to ascertain members view on the governance arrangements of the Principal Council and ways to help the electorate in a large rural county feel included in the process.
- ii) The Re-thinking Governance document is forwarded to SALC.

FC/290 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/PD**

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

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.