

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 13th MARCH 2017** at 7.00 PM.

FC/258 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Mayor Draper

Councillors: Clarke; Copley; Gill; Ginger; Jones; Kemp; Lyle; Parry; Sheward and Smithers.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Sarah Hughes, Finance Assistant

FC/259 **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/260 **APOLOGIES**

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

FC/261 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None Declared

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Ginger	13	Local business owner
Councillor Clarke	13	Local business owner
Councillor Parry		Chair of Ludlow in Bloom
Councillor Draper	13	Local business owner
Councillor Gill	13	Local business owner

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Copley	8	Family member employed by West Mercia Police Force
	9	Friend of Ludlow Hospital
	12	Receives SC Pension

Councillor Draper	8	Business makes protective equipment used by a number of Police forces across the country & member of National Standards Committee
	9	Friend of Ludlow Hospital
	19	Former Employee of one Tender Company
Councillor Parr	9	Friend of Ludlow Hospital
Councillor Sheward	12	Receives SC Pension

FC/262 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

Robin Pote, Ludlow Town Residents Association, raised a question for the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion, regarding speeding in the Town Centre and how he proposes to keep this at a minimum.

Hilda Roberts, Castle House, asked for clarification regarding parking on the Market Square, as she has concerns regarding damaged to the cobbles as more cars drive over them. Councillor Ginger provided a response explaining that the defining of the yellow lines by Shropshire Council will make the area safer for market activities.

Gill George, Shropshire Defend our NHS, updated members regarding two reviews from the Shropshire Clinical Commission Group (CCG), which would result in cuts to Maternity Services and levels of care at Ludlow Hospital. At a meeting Gill attended regarding the issue this morning (Monday 13th March 2017), the recommendation was made to end in-patient anti-natal care at Ludlow Hospital.

She noted her concern regarding services offered to Ludlow Hospital being refused, which suggests the intention to downgrade the hospital by stealth. She thanked the Council for their ongoing support.

Daphne Jones, Friends of Whitcliffe, expressed her disappointment regarding the letter received from the Town Council informing her of the withdrawal of the grant in 2017 / 18. She reiterated that the decision relating to the felling of the oak tree on Whitcliffe Common was made following extensive public consultation, which resulted in support for the felling. She felt that the work of the volunteers to maintain the space had been undermined, and asked for an apology.

FC/263 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

In compliance with the election purdah period, no update was made.

FC/264 MINUTES**RESOLVED (10:0:1) TG/JS**

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 30th January 2017, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

FC/265 ITEMS TO ACTION**RESOLVED (10:0:1) PD/CS**

That the Items to Action be noted.

FC/266 PRESENTATION FROM WEST MERCIA POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Mr Campion thanked the Mayor for inviting him to the meeting. He provided a brief background of his professional career and talked through the vision of his plan, which is separated into 4 key areas: putting victims first, building a more secure West Mercia, reforming West Mercia, and reassuring West Mercia's communities.

He outlined his main responsibilities during his tenure, including controlling the budget, which is set at £212 million for 2017/18, setting the Council Tax Rates, controlling assets, and working with the Police Chief Constable to ensure efficient running of the Police Force. He added that one aspect of his action plan is to introduce more modern technologies to the Police Force in order to provide Officers with more time to spend within their communities, giving them a stronger sense of presence within the town.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the cost of such upgrades, and ensuring these technology remain efficient long term, to which Mr Campion confirmed that care would be taken to ensure that upgrades are made in the right places and that new technologies are fully understood by the users. He added that trials of more mobile working showed an increase in more 'visible hours' for officers as it limited them being 'on elastic' to their stations and increased their time within the community.

Councillor Ginger commented that he would like to see an increase in officer visibility, particularly on a Friday and Saturday evening, to which Mr Campion responded that his aim is to get the most out of his very small team, and utilising them efficiently through the use of new technologies.

Discussion took place regarding crime in rural communities, and delivering the plan to ensure crime is kept to a minimum. The chair thanked Mr Campion for attending the meeting and invited him back in future to update members on his progress.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 7.47pm

Councillor Jones left the meeting at 7.47pm

FC/267 LUDLOW HOSPITAL

Members had received a copy of the updated Vision of Ludlow Hospital League of Friends, and their newsletter. The Mayor reiterated that Ludlow Hospital is a vital and valued asset to the town and its services must be protected.

Councillor Clarke re-entered the meeting at 7.50pm

Councillor Jones re-entered the meeting at 7.50pm

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GP/VP

To send a letter of unequivocal support for the League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital.

FC/268 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S INTERIM REPORT

RESOLVED (Unanimous) PD/AC

That the Internal Auditors Interim report be adopted.

FC/269 PARLIMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION

RESOLVED (10:0:1) GG/TG

That the Parliamentary Boundary Review Consultation be noted.

FC/270 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FORUM MEETING NOTES

Members expressed concerns regarding the completeness and accuracy of the services cost figures provided by Shropshire Council because it could not be assumed that exactly the same costs would apply to the Town Council, which is a different sized and structured organisation without the massive supporting infrastructure enjoyed by Shropshire Council. It was agreed that there could be potential pitfalls if the level of information provided is not sufficient to identify all inherent and implicit service costs.

Councillor Ginger left the meeting at 8.05pm

RESOLVED (Unanimous) PD/RJ

That the Town and Parish Forum update be noted

FC/271 BUSINESS RATES

Letter from Phillip Dunne MP

Members supported the signage being displayed by shop owners in the town because it was helping to raise awareness of the issue.

However, it was noted that the budget had taken place since the letter from Philip Dunne had been received and the figures were now out of date.

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/JS

That the letter to be noted.

Councillor Ginger re-entered the meeting at 8.07pm

FC/272 NALC AMENDMENT TO 'TOILET TAX'

Councillor Sheward expressed his support for the proposal from NALC, and raised the question of the possibility of extending this tax relief to other services.

Furthermore, Councillor Ginger raised the suggestion that the Town Council's services should be treated separately, which would enable local authorities to take advantage of rate relief if and when they take on new services.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GG/JS

That:-

- i) Ludlow Town Council support NALC's amendment to the Local Government Finance Bill for mandatory rate relief for public conveniences.
- ii) Ludlow Town Council lobby NALC and the local MP to support mandatory rate relief for all premises providing public services.

FC/273 SECTION 137

RESOLVED (10:0:1) GG/JS

That the Section 137 spending limit for 2017/18 be noted.

FC/274 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Services Committee 20th February 2017

S/109 MARKET ELECTRIC

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) RJ/JS

That:-

- i) The fee of £1 for use of electric on Ludlow Market remains the same in 2017 /18.*
- ii) Once the current market electricity contract expires, a further review is undertaken to ensure the fee is still adequate.*
- iii) The Market Officer ensures that the ban on the use of electric heaters on the market is enforced.*

S/201 BUTTERCROSS COVERED MARKET AREA

RECOMMENDED (10:0:2) MC/RJ

Subject to agreement with licencing and the local police, to approve the use of the Buttercross covered market area by the landlord of the Church Inn on specified dates at a rate of £35.00 per evening.

RESOLVED (Unanimous) RJ/AC

That the open and closed recommendations from the Services Committee meeting held on the 20th February 2017 be approved:

MARKET ELECTRIC

That:-

- i) The fee of £1 for use of electric on Ludlow Market remains the same in 2017 /18.
- ii) Once the current market electricity contract expires, a further review is undertaken to ensure the fee is still adequate.
- iii) The Market Officer ensures that the ban on the use of electric heaters on the market is enforced.

BUTTERCROSS COVERED MARKET AREA

That subject to agreement with licencing and the local police, to approve the use of the Buttercross covered market area by the landlord of the Church Inn on specified dates at a rate of £35.00 per evening.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

That subject to receipt of details of a fourth contractor and a like for like quotation, the Town Clerk has delegated authority to award the waste management contract for Ludlow Market and Henley Road Cemetery to the most appropriate contractor.

LUDLOW MUSEUM AT THE BUTTERCROSS

That the Forward Plan for the Museum at the Buttercross be approved.

FC/275 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY & FINANCE 27TH FEBRUARY 2017

PF/101 POLICIES

Customer Care Policy

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) AC/RJ

That the Customer Care Policy be adopted subject to comments from Ellis Whittam.

PF/103 FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/PD

That Ludlow Town Council formally renews its commitment to and support for Fair Trade in Ludlow and Ludlow as a Fair Trade Town.

PF/104 RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) RJ/AC

That:-

- i) the Council annually nominates a Councillor to act as representative on the Ludlow Fair Trade Town Steering Group.*
- ii) the Council displays its commitment and support prominently on the Ludlow Town Council website to make it clear that Ludlow is a Fair Trade Town.*
- iii) Where appropriate the Council uses Fair Trade products at its events and when the Town Council has any promotional events it liaises with the Fair Trade Steering Group for it to provide fairly traded refreshments.*
- iv) Representatives of Ludlow Town Council continue to work with the Fairtrade Steering Group to generate ideas for how the town can celebrate the 15th anniversary in 2018, including a larger scale Mayor's reception and also investigating the scope for signage to include the Town's Fair Trade status.*

RESOLVED (Unanimous) AC/TG

That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on the 27th February 2017 be approved:

POLICIES

Customer Care Policy

That the Customer Care Policy be adopted subject to comments from Ellis Whittam.

FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

That Ludlow Town Council formally renews its commitment to and support for Fair Trade in Ludlow and Ludlow as a Fair Trade Town.

That:-

- v) the Council annually nominates a Councillor to act as representative on the Ludlow Fair Trade Town Steering Group.
- vi) the Council displays its commitment and support prominently on the Ludlow Town Council website to make it clear that Ludlow is a Fair Trade Town.
- vii) Where appropriate the Council uses Fair Trade products at its events and when the Town Council has any promotional events it liaises with the Fair Trade Steering Group for it to provide fairly traded refreshments.
- viii) Representatives of Ludlow Town Council continue to work with the Fairtrade Steering Group to generate ideas for how the town can celebrate the 15th anniversary in 2018, including a larger scale Mayor's reception and also investigating the scope for signage to include the Town's Fair Trade status.

FC/276 COMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Representational Committee 8th February 2017

RESOLVED (Unanimous) GG/MC

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on 8th February 2017 be received.

FC/277 Policy & Finance 27th February 2017

RESOLVED (10:0:1) AC/GG

That the minutes from the Policy & Finance Committee held on 27th February 2017 be received.

FC/278 Services 20th February 2017

RESOLVED (Unanimous) RJ/GG

That the minutes from the Services Committee held on 20th February 2017 be received.

FC/279 Staffing & Appeals 1st February 2017

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/GG

That the minutes from the Staffing & Appeals Committee held on 1st February 2017 be received.

FC/280 Civic Events Working Group 9th February 2017

RESOLVED (Unanimous) JS/PD

That the minutes from the Civic Events Working Group held on 9th February 2017 be received.

FC/281 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 8.45pm

Town Mayor

Date

NB Closed session minutes will be issued.