

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **THURSDAY 29th JUNE 2017** at **7.00 PM**.

FC/101 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Mayor Gill

Councillors: Clarke; Copley; Jones; Garner; Ginger; Lyle; Parry; Perks; Pote; Sheward.

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Naomi Brotherton, Senior Admin Assistant
Stephanie Williams, Cemetery Officer

Also in attendance: Jeffry Wilcox, Independent Verifier

FC/102 **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/103 **PRESENTATION – CIVIC AWARD**

Mr Acton was not present to accept the award.

FC/104 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paton.

FC/105 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None Declared

Conflicts of Interest

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Councillor Perks | 7 | Knows candidate who is a former Councillor |
| Councillor Lyle | 7 | Knows one of the candidates, personal friend. |
| All Councillors | 7 | Knows one of the candidates who is a former Councillor |

Personal Interests

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Councillor Cobley | 9 | Is a regular at the Church Inn. |
| Councillor Ginger | 9 | Knows the owner of the Church Inn Chair of Representative Committee |
| Councillor Gill | 9 | Knows the owner |
| Councillor Perks | 7 | Knows two of the candidates |
| | 9 | Knows the owner |

FC/106 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were no comments from the public.

FC/107 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Tracey Huffer, Ludlow East – Councillor Huffer informed Council that Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital (SaTH) had taken the decision to close the three midwife led units for six months. These included Ludlow, Bridgnorth and Oswestry. She stated that the decision was made without consultation and SaTH had informed her that the current issues were ongoing. She said that she had shared her concerns at Shropshire Council and these would be being taken to the Scrutiny Committee.

She went on to say that that six months was a long time and going on current reports this had an impact on Telford and Hereford which is where mothers were being re-directed. Councillor Huffer added that she had had reports that both Telford and Hereford had not been able to cope and that expectant mothers were even being directed further away to hospitals in Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

Councillor Huffer reported that at a recent CCG meeting she had been asked for information about travel times but this had been submitted more than once now and she feared that this was just a tactic, and an unacceptable smokescreen.

She stated that she feared that if the Maternity Unit was closed, in her opinion, this would lead to the closure of Ludlow Hospital and urged the Town Council for support.

Following a question from Councillor Ginger, Councillor Huffer replied that SaTH had given the same reasons as before for short-term closures, sickness and staff shortages. She highlighted that she had put in a Freedom of Information request to confirm this. She stressed that many women wanted to have their babies in Ludlow and did not wish to travel long distances.

Vivienne Parry, Ludlow South – Councillor Parry informed Council that she was due to meet with an Emergency Planning Officer from Shropshire Council. It would be an informal meeting in Ludlow to discuss Emergency Planning and then would be brought to Council.

FC/108 CO-OPTIONS

The Mayor welcomed the co-option applicants to the meeting. He informed Council that one candidate, Mr P Kemp had withdrawn and also Mr P Maile was unable to attend the meeting, and would therefore not be considered.

He explained the majority voting procedure that Members would follow in co-opting new Councillors to Ludlow Town Council.

Following a question from Councillor Parry the Town Clerk confirmed that candidates were eligible to stand for co-option within a radius of 4.8km from the Parish boundary.

The candidates were then invited to speak individually for two minutes each, namely Mr A MacAuley, Mr A Mahalski, Mr S O'Neill and Mr J Smithers.

The Mayor then asked Councillors to propose and second the candidates to allow the process to move onto voting.

| <u>Proposer</u> | <u>Candidate</u> | <u>Secunder</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Ginger | Mr A Mahalski | Councillor Pote |
| Councillor Clarke | Mr J Smithers | Councillor Parry |
| Councillor Lyle | Mr A MacAuley | Councillor Pote |
| Councillor Perks | Mr S O'Neill | Councillor Sheward |

The Mayor stated that candidates had indicated on their co-option application which wards they wished to stand for but could at this point state additional preferences if they wished.

Mr O'Neill stated that he wished to stand for any of Wards, as well as Mr J Smithers and Mr MacAuley. Therefore all candidates would be standing for all three wards.

The vote was independently verified by Mr Jeffrey Wilcox, Members were co-opted as follows:

BRINGEWOOD WARD

| <u>Bringewood – Round 1</u> | <u>No of Votes</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr J Smithers | Four |
| Mr S O'Neill | Two |
| Mr A MacAuley | One |
| Mr A Mahalski | Three |

With the lowest amount of votes Mr MacAuley was excluded from the next round.

| <u>Bringewood – Round 2</u> | <u>No of Votes</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr J Smithers | Five |
| Mr A Mahalski | Four |
| Mr S O'Neill | Two |

With the lowest amount of votes Mr O'Neill was excluded from the next round.

7.37pm – Councillor Clarke left the meeting.

7.39pm – Councillor Clarke rejoined the meeting.

| <u>Bringewood – Round 3</u> | <u>No of Votes</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr J Smithers | Six |
| Mr A Mahalski | Five |

With the majority vote Mr J Smithers was co-opted as Councillor for Bringewood Ward.

CLEE VIEW WARD

| <u>Clee View – Round 1</u> | <u>No of Votes</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr A MacAuley | Two |
| Mr A Mahalski | Seven |
| Mr S O'Neill | Two |

With the majority vote Mr A Mahalski was co-opted as Councillor for Clee View Ward.

ROCKSPRING WARD

| <u>Rockspring – Round 1</u> | <u>No of Votes</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr S O'Neill | Six |
| Mr A MacAuley | Five |

With the majority vote Mr S O'Neill was co-opted as Councillor for Rockspring Ward.

The Mayor thanked all the candidates for standing for co-ption and congratulated the new Councillors to office and invited Mr MacAuley to attend future Council meetings.

FC/109 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The co-opted Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed and countersigned by the Town Clerk.

FC/110 SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/RJ**

That Standing Order 6 month rule be suspended in order to reconsider the item regarding Committee Membership.

FC/111 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/RP**

That the following changes are made to Committee Membership:-

| <u>Councillor</u> | <u>Committee</u> | <u>New Member/Withdrawn</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| E Garner | Representational Committee Structure WG | New Member (Apols till Aug meeting) New Member |
| T Gill | Committee Structure WG | New Member |
| R Jones | Civic Events WG | New Member |
| A Mahalski | Representational Policy & Finance Town Plan WG | New Member New Member New Member |
| S O'Neill | Policy & Finance | New Member |
| V Parry | Representational | Withdrawn |

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| J Smithers | Services | New Member |
| | Policy & Finance | New Member |
| | Staffing & Appeals | New Member |
| | Street Trading Sub-Cttee | New Member |
| | Civic Events WG | New Member |
| | Committee Structure WG | New Member |

FC/112 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/TG**

That Councillor Jones continue as a Representative on the Boxing Club.

FC/113 RE-INSTATE STANDING ORDERS**RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/RP**

That Standing Orders be re-instated.

FC/114 TRADING AT THE BUTTERCROSS**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ**

That when lunchtime trading is permitted, evening trading on the same day is permitted.

FC/115 RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/DL

That only the approved market pitch area, as designed for day time and evening and supplied as a diagram, is used and the ramp is kept clear of tables and chairs, as appropriate at all times.

FC/116 RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ

That:-

- i) Sunday lunchtime trading by the Church Inn is permitted subject to the following conditions/considerations:
- ii) Hours of trading are limited – proposed hours are 11:30am-3pm.
- iii) A fee of £35 is payable to the Town Council for each Sunday lunchtime.
- iv) Proposed bookings should be notified in advance and in writing and permits issued by the Town Clerk, subject to the availability of the space.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm

Town Mayor

Date

NB Closed session minutes will not be issued.