

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 30th OCTOBER 2017** at **7.00 PM**.

Canon Jeffry Wilcox said prayers before the meeting.

FC/231 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Cllr Colin Sheward

Councillors: Cllrs Clarke, Garner, Ginger, Lyle, Mahalski, Parry, O'Neil, Paton, Perks and Pote.

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

FC/232 **HEALTH & SAFETY**

The Deputy Mayor informed Councillors and members of the public of the fire exits, fire assembly point and asked that everyone sign the attendance log.

FC/233 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cobley, Gill, Jones and Smithers.

FC/234 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Parry		Ludlow in Bloom
Cllr Perks	11	In relation to the Auditor, at P&F and Full
	17	Council requested information regarding the complaints process. This was raised with both Chairs of Committees.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Clarke	12	Involved with the Market Traders Meetings.
Cllr Ginger	8	Independent trader in Town.
Cllr Lyle	12	Has attended a Market Traders Meeting.
Cllr Parry	8	Volunteer at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms.
Cllr Perks	9	Was part of the original Transport Hub Group at SSDC and knew the late member, Cllr Ed Havard.
	12	Family Member trades on Specialist Markets
	13	Member of the Peace Memorial Group and links with Narberth.
	14	Member of the War Memorial Group mentioned in the Services Minutes in this Agenda.

FC/235 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

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

Gill George, Defend our NHS – Ms George apologised that her remarks would be slightly anecdotal. She described to Members an extremely busy day with visitors and phone calls with residents asking for information and leaflets about the public meeting on the 9th November regarding the hospital. She commented that in her opinion residents would fight for services at Ludlow hospital, and not only those living in Ludlow, but also those outside Ludlow, who cared passionately. She stated that the consultation ended on the 10th November with service changes coming into effect on the 10th January 2018. Ms George added that she was convinced that the outcome of the consultation would be that community hospitals were too expensive, thus justifying the closure of many.

Ms George went on to thank the Members of the Policy & Finance Committee who had grasped the principal issues at the previous meeting and she also thanked the Town Council in advance for its continued support, which she said was essential for local people, and said the group was grateful.

Liz Binch, Mill Street – Ms Binch raised the issue of parking in Ludlow, and the recent consultation. She explained that if on-street parking became unlimited, which at the moment was limited to three hours, then residents on Mill Street and Broad Street would rarely be able to park outside their properties. Ms Binch also said that she was aware of a black market, where resident's permits were being sold on and asked how this would be counteracted.

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that the issue of parking would be discussed later in the meeting.

FC/236 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Cllr Viv Parry, Ludlow South - said that when she had been canvassing many residents were disappointed that the household recycling centre had been withdrawn. This meant that residents had to drive to Craven Arms. Many older residents could not afford to travel this distance and many did not have vehicles. As a consequence fly tipping in Ludlow had increased.

FC/237 OPEN MINUTES - 9th OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED (9:0:2) GG/VP

That subject to the following amendment:-

FC/204 – Cllr Perks Declaration of Interest Item 9 to read – Knew all the Groups.

the open session minutes of the Full Council meeting on 9th October 2017 be approved, as a correct record of the meeting.

FC/238 ITEMS TO ACTION

The Deputy Mayor thanked the staff for the production of the Items to Action list.

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG

To note the Items to Action.

FC/239 PRESENTATION FROM THE LEADER OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR PETER NUTTING

The Deputy Mayor invited the Leader of Shropshire Council, Councillor Peter Nutting to speak.

Councillor Nutting thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to speak. He outlined that following the elections in May this year there had been a conservative majority and he had been elected as Leader. He described that at the first meeting at Shropshire Council the question had been raised of what he would be doing and what direction the Council would be taken in.

The Leader explained that economic growth was high on the agenda. There was not an employment problem in Shropshire he felt, just poor employment, and his aim was to up the skills in the county and encourage young people to stay, as many went to University or moved away, and were not returning. Equally, he added that there were many older people moving to the area and as time went on they entered the social services system. The county was largely older people and this was a social imbalance.

Councillor Nutting said that he had been visiting other Town Councils, with the view to doing annual visits to all, and had come to Ludlow to ask Members what the Town wanted for services and what solutions they saw for their town.

He highlighted that he wanted to change the culture of Shropshire Council from a blame culture and introduce a no blame culture to enable quicker decision making. At present, less senior staff had to go through several layers to reach a decision point. He wanted to short circuit this. Less experienced staff he acknowledged would make mistakes, but the culture would be to review and rectify, rather than blame. By reducing response time to emails too, he anticipated this would improve staff work environment, and this approach had had some results, as staff at Shirehall looked less miserable. The aim then was to continue to improving on this.

Councillor Nutting outlined that Shropshire Council spent £600 million annually but only collected £580 million, leaving a £20 million short-fall. This annual short- was not viable long-term for Shropshire Council. Raising revenue and bringing down costs would address the short-fall. He stated that the parking consultation had not been popular and Shaun Sutton confirmed that he had had 2,000 emails regarding this.

Looking at the parking proposal Councillor Nutting reported that changes would need to be made but that each town would need to be individually assessed. What worked at Shrewsbury may not work well elsewhere e.g evening parking charges and he stated he was not sure how effective evening parking charges would be in Ludlow. The aim was to raise £2.3 million but he would be quite happy with £1.8 million. Councillor Nutting added that he was unable to answer any questions in detail in relation to parking in Ludlow but confirmed that the money raised would go to parking and highways. The bigger picture he felt would be social services where expenditure would increase year on year by around £1.8 million.

Another less controversial issue was that Shropshire Council had £150 million in the system in various accounts, earmarked for projects, floods or other emergencies. Currently those funds were earning 0.64% interest and he stated that if it was invested at a higher rate, Shropshire Council could expect a 7-8% return in the first year. This was purely a financial decision to make money to help bridge the shortfall.

Another controversial problem was the Shirehall building, which was over 50 years old and estimates had shown would cost £50 million for refurbishments and maintenance. It was inevitable that investment would be required to make it more customer friendly. To one side of Shirehall was a building, used by the court services, which would be vacated shortly, and his vision would be to see an M&S Food Hall or Waitrose in this space. The ground floor of Shirehall was light and airy, with glass walls, which he envisaged as a restaurant, Gregg's Bakery and perhaps a Costa Coffee outlet. If this was done well it would welcome visitors and residents. He went on to say that with office refurbishment, and walls being removed, staff could be relocated to the front of the building, leaving the back of the building empty to be rented out to other

businesses. Any revenue from this would help to offset the costs of adult and children's services.

Councillor Nutting went on to say that Shropshire Council's Auditors had informed him that £1 million could be saved on regulatory services, running services in a similar way to other Councils. Although he accepted the finances were currently not in the best shape, in 3-5 years the aim was to have a different picture.

Turning to economic development, Councillor Nutting stated there was no particular budget for this but he had asked for £2-3 million to be allocated for projects around the county, equating to £500k for each Town and invited the Town Council to identify projects which could be put forward. Any proposed projects should be of local benefit and also give a return on Shropshire Council's investment.

Regarding the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, although unable to go into detail, Councillor Nutting said that it was his belief that Shropshire Council should not operate it. He hoped that Shropshire Council could get it into shape using the £500k allocated for projects in the Town, and then give the Assembly Rooms to Ludlow and Ludlow people to continue operating it. He suggested that tourism was more successfully promoted at a local level than county level.

In reply to Councillor Parry's statement about household waste recycling he stated that the usage numbers made it unviable and that by not having a centre in Ludlow saved £400k annually.

In response to the Leader's comments about employment, Councillor Ginger explained that Ludlow had a unique problem as the Town was predominantly independent traders, and many of these traders offered employees lifelong jobs. Although he applauded the vision of inviting chains to occupy space at Shirehall many of these chains only offered zero hours contracts. He emphasized that it was a balance in Ludlow and Ludlow therefore could not be lumped in with the rest of the county and that many independent shops did not tend to employ young people.

Councillor Nutting stated that in Shrewsbury this was the opposite, as young people liked to pick and choose their hours and liked having zero hours contracts.

Councillor Parry advised the Leader of Shropshire Council that when she had been canvassing, many residents had asked if cheap clothing chain shops could be situated on the out skirts of the town, as there was currently no provision for them in Ludlow. She knew it would not be popular, but would give an affordable option to lifelong residents.

Councillor Lyle thanked the Leader of Shropshire Council and said that although she understood that adult social services was a drain on finances, she wanted to flag up that older people moving into Ludlow often brought with them monetary wealth and rich, diverse life experiences, which they contribute to the

town. This contribution was often overlooked, but was positive for Ludlow rather than negative.

Councillor Perks also thanked the Leader of Shropshire Council reporting that the past ten years had not been easy for Market Towns as before unitary there had been more control with District Councils. It was his belief that there was the need for right economic development, which would come from the Town and external forces needed to be mindful of increasing parking charges which would be a detriment to the Town. Re: employment issues - he felt that the dynamic could not be changed within a four year term, and he re-iterated that damage could be made to employment because of increases to parking charges.

Councillor Nutting responded that he understood, but Ludlow would not get everything on its wish list as this was not possible. He said that issues could be revisited and his aim was to set the foundations for the next 30 years. He outlined that 20 years ago the former Leader of Telford and Wrekin Council had invested in land and that Telford & Wrekin Council currently had no financial deficit. He stressed that he was mindful of the long-term and short-term aims.

Following a question from Councillor Clarke regarding costings for the potential changes to Shirehall, and that Ludlow and many other Towns were unique, Councillor Nutting confirmed that there would be a consultation period. He went on to say that he had recently put a block on selling several small holdings around Shrewsbury. This had been because 10k houses were due to be built over the next few years and they would require the infrastructure of sports facilities and schools, and was a seed change to the previous administration.

7.47 pm Councillor Clarke left the meeting.

Councillor Pote voiced his concerns regarding parking in Ludlow. He stated that the proposed unlimited on-street parking would be disastrous, as many cars before charging had been introduced, had been parked in spots for months. He acknowledged there was a black market in parking permits. He stressed that in his opinion local parking costs should be decisions made by local people for local people. He highlighted that most residents appreciated the parking issues, as they lived with them, whereas non-residents did not see the issues, adding that there was resentment towards Shropshire Council as local people did not have a say on how the parking revenue was spent.

7.49 pm Councillor Clarke re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Garner raised the point that at a Local Joint Committee meeting there had been a suggestion that the car parks would be transferred to the Town and asked if this was still the same. Councillor Nutting responded that he would expect Ludlow Town Council to formulate an offer to take over the management of local services to balance any parking revenue that might be received, although he did not know the revenue figure for Ludlow.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Cllr Nutting.

FC/240 RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE

The Deputy Mayor invited the Enforcement Officer from Shropshire Council, Shaun Sutton to speak.

Mr Sutton made a statement in reply to a few issues that had been raised in the public session and also the Leader of the Council's session. He explained that on-street parking was currently cheaper than using the car parks, which was contrary to the established convention that on-street is a premium. By changing the dynamic of the charges it was hoped that more people would use the car parks freeing up on-street spaces.

There was considerable discussion regarding the proposed restricted parking zone.

There was concern regarding a suitable way to prevent inconsiderate parking blocking the entrance to Quality Square. The Shropshire Council Officer in attendance explained that creating more than one parking zone would cause confusion, and people would unwittingly end up with parking tickets, because they would not be able to decipher arbitrary zoning that could not be reflected in the layout of the area, and could only be discerned from detailed reading of signage that is legally required to look exactly the same - apart from the detail of the wording.

Shropshire Council were also able to explain that confusion would be created by trying to operate two different parking regulatory system (restricted parking zone and yellow lines) in a small area because the regulatory systems would conflict with each other and the average motorist would not be able to successfully understand how to park with receiving a ticket.

A suggestion was made to use street furniture (planters) to delineate the edge of the market and the active roadway to Quality Square to help those parking to consider the needs of other users of the area.

RESOLVED (8:3:0) GP/VP

To consult on proposals for the restricted parking zone in Ludlow and bring the feedback to Council

The draft principles and aims for the restricted parking zone are:

- An appropriate and enforceable scheme
- Pleasant town centre environment for residents and visitors
- Removal of hazardous circumstances caused by mixed and ill-defined use by pedestrians and cars
- Unimpeded access for town centre residents and businesses
- Easy to understand and proportionate signage
- Deterrent to anti-social parking during day time trading hours
- Avoidance of displacement parking
- Unimpeded trading of local shops, business, street traders and the market traders

- Support for the night-time economy
- Support cultural events and existing festivals
- Allocated space for motorcyclists in the centre of town
- Defined daytime hours during which parking is prohibited

FC/241 LETTER FROM NHS PROPERTY SERVICES

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC

- To note the letter
- To follow up on a letter previously sent making enquiries about the lease.

FC/242 LETTER FROM CCG REGARDING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MLUs

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/MC

That the letter be noted.

FC/243 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/GG

To suspend Standing Orders to consider creation of a Working Group.

FC/244 CREATION OF A WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/EG

To approve Policy & Finance recommendation PF/55 from 23 October to form to consider review of Minor Injuries Units (MIU), Diagnostic, Assessment and Access to Rehabilitation and Treatment (DAART) Services and Community Beds (MIU and DAART Working Group).

FC/245 MEMBERSHIP OF MIU AND DAART WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/EG

That the membership for the MIU and DAART Working Group be Councillors Parry, Perks and Sheward.

FC/246 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) RP/MC

To reinstate Standing Orders.

FC/247 **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

RESOLVED (10:0:1) **CS/GG**

That the External Audit for 2016-17 be adopted.

FC/248 **EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2017-18**

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GG/RP**

To note that the External Auditor for financial year 2017-18 is PKF Littlejohn LLP.

FC/249 **CALENDAR OF EVENTS, DECEMBER MARKETS 2018**

RESOLVED (9:0:2) **GP/MC**

- i) To approve the Calendar of Events Market timetable for December 2018 to support seven day a week market trading in the 24 days prior to Christmas;
- ii) To inform all market traders and whole let organisations in writing.

FC/250 **NALC – BATTLES OVER**

Members discussed the merits of having a public beacon and its potential location

RESOLVED (10:0:1) **GP/VP**

- i) To approach Gallows Bank trust for permission for a beacon on Gallows Bank to be lit at 7pm on 11 November 2018.
- ii) That Councillor Lyle as the Town Council's Representative is to approach the Ludlow Area Youth Partnership regarding taking on the organising of the event and report back to Council.

FC/251 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE 23rd OCTOBER 2017**

PF/53 POLICIES

Senior's Party Protocol

RECOMMENDED (unanimous) **AC/GP**

To adopt the Senior Citizen's Protocol; and review if necessary depending on the feedback from the Local Services consultation

RESOLVED (unanimous) **GP/SO**

That the recommendation PF/53 from the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on the 23rd October 2017, to adopt the Senior Citizen's Protocol; and review if necessary depending on the feedback from the Local Services consultation, be approved.

FC/252 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICES COMMITTEE 18TH OCTOBER 2017

ROOM HIRE

S/67 RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) MC/AC

That Room Hire charges remain unchanged for 2018/19.

COPIER CHARGES

S/68 RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) MC/JS

That Copier charges remain unchanged for 2018/19.

S/69 STREET TRADING

RECOMMENDED (unanimous) MC/TG

That the Bull Ring Street Trading pitch is reduced for 2018/19 from its current fee of £15 per normal trading day, to £10 per normal trading day, with the fee for trading on a festival day remaining the same (£30).

S/70 RECOMMENDED (unanimous) MC/RJ

That the current fees of £18 per normal trading day/£35 per festival trading day for the High Street Trading pitch remain the same for 2018/19.

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/GP

To approve the recommendations from the Services Committee meeting held on the 18th October 2017.

- i) That Room Hire charges remain unchanged for 2018/19.
- ii) That Copier charges remain unchanged for 2018/19.
- iii) That the Bull Ring Street Trading pitch is reduced for 2018/19 from its current fee of £15 per normal trading day, to £10 per normal trading day, with the fee for trading on a festival day remaining the same (£30).
- iv) That the current fees of £18 per normal trading day/£35 per festival trading day for the High Street Trading pitch remain the same for 2018/19.

FC/253 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/MC

That the Committee and Working Group minutes be received.

FC/254 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) CS/MC

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

Meeting closed at 8:55pm

Town Mayor

Date

NB Closed session minutes will be issued.



CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 30th OCTOBER 2017 at 7:00PM**

FC/255 TOWN WALLS

RESOLVED (10:0:1) GG/GP

That:-

- i) Ed Morton, The Morton Partnership Ltd is appointed as structural engineer for the work stated in his letter dated 9 October 2017 and his quotation for £1,500.00 is accepted;
- ii) The offer of £1,500.00 from the Town Walls Trust is accepted;
- iii) Member(s) of the Town Walls Working Group attend the meeting on 24th November with a watching brief and report back to Council for decision making.

FC/256 STAFFING MATTERS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DL

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Town Mayor

Date