

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2017** at 7.00 PM.

FC/255 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Cllr Tim Gill

Councillors: Cllrs Clarke, Garner, Ginger, Mahalski, O'Neil, Parry (7.05pm), Paton, Perks, Pote, Sheward and Smithers.

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

FC/256 **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/257 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cobley and Lyle.

FC/258 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Conflicts of Interest

None.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Gill	9	Supporter of campaign to keep Ludlow Hospital open and for MLU to re-open.
Cllr Ginger	8	Founder member of the WhatsApp Group for retailers and Independent Traders and has a Police mobile shop alarm.
Cllr Perks	9	Supporter of campaign to keep Ludlow Hospital open and for MLU to re-open.
	13c	Member on the War Memorial Committee

FC/259 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were two members of the public present.

Alison Hiles, Save Ludlow Maternity Hospital – Mrs Hiles thanked the Mayor for chairing the public meeting regarding the hospital on the 9th November. She declared that she had not anticipated the amount of support attendance. In her opinion the meeting had gone well and gone in favour of the supporters. She went on to say that the press release issued yesterday was the CCGs proposal to slash maternity services and she felt very little in the way of services would be left at the hospital, other than antenatal appointments. It was she said, her opinion that the Workshops had been a farce and smokescreen for cost cutting.

7.05pm Councillor Parry entered the meeting.

Mrs Hiles stated that the support from the Town Council over the last 12 months had been appreciated and that the group would continue to push and fight for full services at Ludlow hospital, and hoped for the continued support of the Town Council.

Gill George, Defend our NHS – Ms George endorsed Mrs Hiles comments, and said the decision to permanently close the MLU posed serious and real concerns. Four mothers birthed without support recently and two of the stories were on the back of the leaflet distributed this evening. She stressed that this was a cost to human well-being and was not right for the Ludlow.

Ms George went on to say that the perception that Ludlow had a population that was largely rich, elderly residents was a fallacy. This was not the case as there is a high density of families with children, and a low density of car ownership. This she felt that a reduction in services was a deterrent to young families, which was not in the interest of the town, and if it continued the Town would lose its vibrancy.

She asked if the Town Council would consider writing a letter to Philip Dunne, MP asking him to reaffirm his support for birthing facilities/capacity in Ludlow. Ms George commented that he supported this in the past. She also asked if the Town Council could write to the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee at Shropshire Council as it had a statutory duty for local people. The Vice-Chair of the Committee had expressed a strong view that people who lived rurally should not expect to have services. She strongly stated that it was the job of the Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise services whether residents were in rural or urban areas.

Ms George added that another demonstration in support of the Hospital was planned in February 2018. She asked for the Town Council's support with liaising with the Police, publicity and help with public liability insurance. She went on to say that she felt that demonstrations were not a waste and that although the public meeting on the 9th November had not saved the hospital, but it had given the group time and may have influenced the decision of the CCG, which would be announced on the 10th January 2018. She reported that

in her opinion the CCG would not doubt have announced the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit and reduced beds but that now it was the start of a longer conversation, which opened up tremendous potential.

The Mayor responded by stating that the Town Council had made its position clear and nothing had changed, if anything, the matter was more crucial, and Ludlow Town Council strongly supported keeping Ludlow Hospital open and an active MLU that could provide a full midwife delivery service to the local community of fully supporting the hospital.

FC/260 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Cllr Viv Parry, Ludlow South - said that there was a list of utility works being done in January and February.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the works had already been on the agenda of the Representational Committee.

Councillor Parry then informed Council that she had an appointment to meet with Highways England to discuss provision of two roundabouts. Anything then discussed would then be brought back to Council for information.

Cllr T Huffer, Ludlow East – Councillor Huffer stated that she agreed with Alison Hiles and Gill George. She advised Council she was concerned about comments made at a Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee in connection with delay and transfer of care. Monies from central government had been given to Local Authorities to implement schemes to help with things i.e. Delayed transfers of care, this included implementation of schemes in the community. These allocated amounts of money were reduced year on year, and Shropshire has been one of the worst for delayed care up by 69%.

At the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee members were told at a recent meeting that if Ludlow lost the Community Hospital it would not necessarily affect delayed transfer care, because GP Community beds could be commissioned e.g at Four Rivers Nursing Home. They had stated that with this scenario a GP would not be needed or a hospital to home bed. Therefore it was more cost effective for the care to be carried out in a Nursing Home.

Councillor Huffer described that this would have a knock on effect on the community. She added that in Shrewsbury there was a pilot scheme with two mobile Nurses. They would work 10pm-7am and visit vulnerable patients in a bid to avoid hospital admissions. The problem as she saw it was that they would only see 6 patients a night, plus if the scheme was rolled out across the county only Ludlow town centre would be included, not the outlying areas, and this is where she felt the more vulnerable patients were. She urged the Town Council's MIU & DAART Working Group to challenge this, as two Nurse Practitioners were going to be costly and not effective if only 6 patients per night were being seen. Another issue that Councillor Huffer described was patients being taken to A&E at Shrewsbury was that transport back would not be

arranged. The Committee had said that patients would need to take a taxi home or wait for relatives.

She highlighted her concerns as she said health care was fragile with the MLUs being turned into hubs and this didn't bode well for Ludlow. She reported that there was a change as the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee was beginning to question services. She asked if the Town Council could send a letter to the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee.

Turning to youth provision, Councillor Huffer confirmed that Shropshire Council had allocated £18k for youth in Ludlow but they had been told that they would be required to pay for the use and upkeep of the building. It was a commercial cost and the figure had not been given, although she anticipated that it would take up £9k of the amount allocated.

The Fireworks on Gallows Bank Councillor Huffer said had raised £1k and thanked the Town Council for its support and grant. She highlighted that Tesco "Bags of Help" from 27th January to 18th February would be fundraising for the Fireworks and urged shoppers to put their tokens into the box, as it is such a great community event.

Finally Councillor Huffer asked that the Representation Committee request for a call-in on the current planning application for Sidney Road. She had asked for substantial information as she was opposed, and was aware that the Town Council had opposed the application also.

Cllr A Boddington, Ludlow North – Regarding health, Councillor Boddington said that he was astonished that it was proposed patients would be transferred from hospital to Four Rivers Nursing Home, especially as Four Rivers Nursing Home had been celebrating 98% bed occupancy for over six months.

The ice and snow over the last weekend had been a large event, with Shropshire Council staff working 22 hours a day. Unfortunately it was not possible to cover the whole network, with car parks and pavements becoming lethal with ice. A review would be undertaken in the new year of priorities for gritting and the Town Council would be invited to participate. He described that the A49 was gritted and cleared by Highways England. This left the A and B roads for Shropshire Council to clear and grit, with the smaller roads being cleared by local farmers with tractors. A third of the counties grit had been used still leaving plenty for other occasions. A snow warden scheme that had previously been dismissed was being reviewed Cllr Boddington said, with volunteers clearing and getting pavements fit for use again.

FC/261 OPEN MINUTES - 30th OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/MC

That the open session minutes of the Full Council meeting on 30th October 2017 be approved, as a correct record of the meeting.

FC/262 CLOSED MINUTES – 30TH OCTOBER 2017**RESOLVED (11:1:0) CS/MC**

That the closed session minutes of the Full Council meeting on 30th October 2017 be approved, as a correct record of the meeting.

FC/263 ITEMS TO ACTION**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/CS**

To note the Items to Action.

FC/264 PRESENTATION FROM INSPECTOR NIGEL MORGAN, SOUTH SHROPSHIRE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS, WEST MERCIA POLICE

The Mayor invited Inspector Morgan to make a presentation to Members.

Inspector Morgan thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak at Council. He said that would like to introduce the team, give a brief overview of future policing in Ludlow and answer some questions.

He outlined that he had been working for the Police Force for 25 year and had been an Inspector for 12. He had moved 20 years ago from Coventry, now living in Bridgnorth, and Shropshire was now his adopted family home.

Inspector Morgan reported that the area he covered was from the M54 Shifnal and the ten Town and Parish Council's to Bishops Castle. There were seven PCs for this area, one sergeant, Adrian Woolley, although Steve Mason was the dedicated Officer for Ludlow along with Police Communications Officers (PCOs). He outlined that there was 24/7 patrol cover from Ludlow Police station with a rolling handover. As far as he was aware local policing would remain at Ludlow station as he had seen no plans or evidence to the contrary.

He went on to say that he was not responsible for recruiting staff, although he could move staff from one area to another when the need arose e.g nuisance motorists. In Ludlow last night a car had been stopped and seized and was impounded due to no insurance and the driver had been fined.

Inspector Morgan commented on a spate of thefts from shops and retailers. He added that most of the offenders were known to the Police but needed to be caught. He advised Council that it was not just the heart of Ludlow that needed patrolling but the larger area that fed into it. To help retailers, recently a Whatsapp group had been put together to report suspicious activities. This had been very effective, along with retailers installing small CCTV motion detection devices which were linked to their phones. On the whole retail crime had reduced.

There had recently been a trend in thefts of agricultural equipment such as hedge cutters, being taken from outbuildings, sheds and garages and farms. Rural Crime Officers had undertaken pursuits to Kidderminster and Shrewsbury. None of the offenders were local and had travelled some distances to commit the crimes.

CCTV Inspector Morgan stated he knew was another issue, not just for Ludlow but all the Market Towns, as they were all operated and housed in different locations and situations. Ludlow's CCTV was situated in Ludlow Police Station. He stated that he was happy to help, especially as funding was not easy.

Regarding drugs he said that Ludlow was not exempt from the culture. Central Government was currently looking at the drug culture in the UK. It had been noted that groups from Wolverhampton and Birmingham were trying to expand into Ludlow. A car was stopped recently and it was discovered to have a quantity of cocaine and heroin inside. The driver had been taken to court and this has curtailed activities.

He wanted the Council to know what whilst budgets were not limitless he wanted to serve the local community as much as possible.

Councillor Smithers asked whether the PCOs could attend the Ludlow Area Youth Partnership Meetings to share information regarding underage drinking. It was something that had been done before and he was keen to see this re-instated. Inspector Morgan responded that realistically the PCOs would not be able to attend every meeting but could do so periodically.

Councillor Garner referred to the Whatsapp Group for retailers and shop owners, and asked if this could be extended to interested parties and the wider community. Inspector Morgan replied that it was planned that a similar scheme would be set up for Neighbourhood Watch and also Pub Watch.

Councillor O'Neill asked if the evening patrols could cover Quarry Bank as there seemed to be an increase in vandalism and graffiti. Inspector Morgan agreed that this could be included.

Councillor Gill commented that he, along with others, was not convinced of how useful the town CCTV was or even retailers CCTV as offenders were still walking around Ludlow. He went on to say that Council had been informed that a vehicle had been stopped in connection with drugs but to his knowledge this had not been reported to the public and that surely it would be deterrent to others if it was.

Inspector Morgan stated CCTV was effective providing the offender could be identified and he agreed that publicising the Police's successes needed to be done more.

FC/265 MATERNITY SERVICES, LUDLOW**RESOLVED (10:0:1) GP/VP**

- i) To write to the MP asking him to reaffirm his support for births taking place at Ludlow Hospital;
- ii) To write to the Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee at Shropshire Council regarding rural proofing.
- iii) To liaise with Defend our NHS regarding support for the MLU public demonstration planned in February 2018.

FC/266 LETTER FROM NHS PROPERTY SERVICES**RESOLVED (9:1:1) GP/GG**

To respond to the letter from NHS Property Services, stating that the information provided was not helpful, asking that the question posed is answered.

FC/267 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Council went through the questionnaire and made the following points:-

Q2 – Do you agree with the proposal to reduce council funding in support of youth activity?

No. Youth activities are an important investment in future generations. There needs to be an assessment of the impact of this abandonment will have on the next generation. Funding is already inadequate and does not meet the needs of Ludlow's young people at present.

Q3 – Do you agree with the proposal to remove rurality considerations from the funding formula?

No. Rurality is an important consideration and reality for the whole population of Shropshire. Shropshire Council is effectively following a policy of abandoning a whole generation of youth in rural South Shropshire. Why should young people in urban areas of our county be privileged over the young people who live in rural areas?

Q4 – Do you agree with the proposal to allocate funding to the larger market towns?

No. Whilst the provision of £18,000.00 for youth activities in Ludlow is welcomed. The abandonment of young people in the rural areas is to the detriment of the county as a whole.

Q5 – Do you agree with the proposal to remove grants to small voluntary clubs?

No. Without grants, small voluntary clubs quickly become unviable and the county will lose access to a diversity of groups. Grants are the seed funding that enables groups to attract match funding. Grants are essential for the stability and continuity of activities.

Q6 – Do you have any other ideas for how Shropshire Council should use its limited resources to support the provision of youth activities in communities and on how resources should be prioritised?

Shropshire Council should adopt a realistic ethos and approach to investing in Shropshire's young people because they are our future.

There should be greater use of the skills within the Community Enablement Team to assist with securing external funding for youth activities.

The question is not - how can costs be cut and savings made? The question needs to be: How can we address the needs of young people, invest adequately in their (our) future, and give them options even if they are from a disadvantaged backgrounds?

Creating an engaged youth culture will create the best future for the whole community. The allocation of resources should be needs driven, not driven by convenience and cost cutting. Ludlow is sending plenty of money up the A49 to Shirehall in the form of Council tax, business rates, licensing, planning fees and parking revenue; and capital money from the sale of Stone House. What is Shropshire Council investing back into the community for the future?

If a proportion of the parking income was given back to Ludlow, or a percentage of the capital from the sale of the old District Council buildings was reinvested in Youth Activities – we would be looking at a very different and much more positive situation – and Shropshire Council would be actively investing in the long term social and economic growth of South Shropshire.

RESOLVED (unanimous) EG/GP

- i) that the consultation answers are submitted;
- ii) to contact Shropshire Council and arrange a meeting with the Officer responsible for Commissioning Youth Services;
- iii) To publicise the consultation on Youth Activities on the Town Council's website.

FC/268 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON CULTURAL STRATEGY

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/CS

That Members email their responses to the Town Clerk before the closing date on the 5th January 2018 and a collective response is submitted.

FC/269 LOCAL SERVICES CONSULTATION**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP**

- i) that the results of the local services consultation be noted;
- ii) to note the analysis of residents comments;
- iii) to note the priorities for existing services.
- iv) residents' comments are reviewed at the Services Committee

FC/270 UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY LED PLANNING PROCESS

Councillor Garner was invited by the Mayor to provide an update. He thanked her for her hard work.

FC/271 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE 4TH DECEMBER 2017**PF/67 POLICIES**

It was confirmed that weekly and monthly check lists are completed by authorised drivers.

It was confirmed that the 2017/18 budget had allowed for vehicle replacements as agreed by Council. It had been hoped that these would have been purchased prior to April before the increase was made to road tax.

Vehicle Policy & Procedures Policy

Councillor Sheward commented that we are no longer required by law to display a road tax disc.

RECOMMENDED (unanimous) TG/AC

That the Vehicle Policy & Procedures Policy be readopted, subject to the removal of reference to the Road Tax disc.

PF/68 Retention and Destruction Policy**RECOMMENDED (unanimous) GP/TG**

That the Retention and Destruction Policy be readopted

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/GG

That the recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 4th December 2017 be approved;

POLICIES

Vehicle Policy & Procedures Policy

That the Vehicle Policy & Procedures Policy be readopted, subject to the removal of reference to the Road Tax disc.

Retention and Destruction Policy

That the Retention and Destruction Policy be readopted

FC/272 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICES COMMITTEE 27th NOVEMBER 2017

S/85 BUDGET RECOMMEDATIONS

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) GG/RJ

That the fees of the Benches and Banners should remain the same for 2018/19.

S/87 STREET TRADING

RECOMMENDED (unanimous) GG/TG

That the Tower Street Trading pitch is reduced for 2018/19 from its current fee to £10 per normal trading day and £20 per festival trading day.

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/TG

That the recommendations from the Services Committee meeting held on the 27th November 2017 be approved;

BUDGET RECOMMEDATIONS

That the fees of the Benches and Banners should remain the same for 2018/19.

STREET TRADING

That the Tower Street Trading pitch is reduced for 2018/19 from its current fee to £10 per normal trading day and £20 per festival trading day.

FC/273 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Policy & Finance Committee 23rd October 2017

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/CS

That the minutes from the Policy & Finance Committee held on 23rd October 2017 be received.

FC/274 Representational Committee 15th November 2017

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/CS

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on 15th November 2017 be received.

FC/275 Services Committee 27th November 2017

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/TG

That the minutes from the Services Committee held on 27th November 2017 be received.

FC/276 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) TG/CS

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

Meeting closed at 9:15pm

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 18th DECEMBER 2017 at 7:00PM**

FC/277 GUILDHALL

RESOLVED (9:2:0) CS/GG

That the additional expenditure of £2,500 be approved; subject to the provision of a detailed breakdown of costs.

FC/278 EXTENSION OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/GP

That the meeting be extended for 15 minutes.

FC/279 EU LEADER BID

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/TG

That:-

- i) the Expression of Interest for Leader Funding is noted;
- ii) that the full application is circulated to all members before submission;
- ii) an update on the Welcome Coaches scheme is provided to Members.

FC/280 HR AND H&S PROVISION

RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/MC

That the temporary provision be noted.

FC/281 HR AND H&S PROVISION

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP

- i) To approve a three year contract with Ellis Whittam for HR and H&S;
- ii) To note information about Shropshire Council e-learning package that would be brought back to Council at a future date.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Town Mayor

Date