



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 at 7.00 PM.**

### FC/52 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

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

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

### FC/53 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/54 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor M Jones, J Newbold, S Newbold and Parry.

### FC/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
A. Copley	11	Grant for Rockspring may fund employment in the future.

#### Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
G. Ginger	17	Shopkeeper and current business rates payer.
T. Gill	17	Current business rates payer.

#### Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
A. Copley	10	League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital Member

	19	Friends of Whitcliffe Common
	15	League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital Member Library in Craven Arms Community Centre, place of work
P. Draper	10	League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital Mayors Charity 2015-16
	17	Is a business owner and pays business rates
	19	League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital Mayors Charity 2015-16
G. Perks	10	Supported the Hospital's request to buy the site and signed the local petition document
	11	Board Member of SSFS
	15	Friends of Ludlow Library and works on various projects
	17	Supports Poyners, local business regarding disparity in business rates
	21	Member of the Working Group of the War Memorial and involved with memorial seat
C. Sheward	15	Regular user of Library services

#### FC/56 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

Gill George – Defend Our NHS – Ms George advised Council that the main area for concern was the context of a major funding cut in the near future. The NHS had stated short-term there was a £30 million deficit. She emphasised that this would rise year-on-year and by 2020 would be £90 million. She explained that there were concerns regarding community hospitals with threats to beds and also certainly maternity services. She added that the lease at Ludlow Hospital was still unresolved and the owner Propco were now operating on a more commercial basis and expecting all lessees to pay high rental values.

Ms George went on to say that the loss of rural care centres would undermine rural care. She informed Council that acute care was also suffering with the Stroke Unit at Shrewsbury being closed last week. The Hospital Trust in the new financial year were making £9 million cuts which they have said were duplicate services and in her opinion these cuts were all directed at Shrewsbury Hospital. She went on to say that she understood the Town Council was organising a public meeting and she was in total support. She informed Council that she would be attending a similar public meeting at Oswestry shortly and that these meetings could become a key activity for Town Councils.

Pat Hanson – Friends of St Leonard's Churchyard – Ms Hanson spoke on behalf of the Friends of St Leonards Churchyard thanking the Town Council for the grant and explained that Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June would be the Friends 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. She invited all those present to attend outlining that a BBQ would be held with 'bring you own meat' and visitors would be welcomed with non-alcoholic drinks. There would be games for children and dogs were also welcome.

David Burta – Mr Burta explained that he was a resident and out of courtesy was attending the Council meeting to inform residents and councillors of a development in Ludlow which would equally be beneficial for residents and the Town Council. He outlined that two projects Ludlow 21 were started in April and the outcome of one of the meetings held was concern expressed on long-term plans for the Town. The group had voted to create an umbrella organisation and to work with other organisations and making representations. The group has been named People's Alliance for Ludlow (PAL) and the next public meeting would be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Brewery. This meeting would establish the Group's aims, objectives and a mandate would be made, structure and constitution formed and also how to take the Town forward for a thriving future.

Mr Burta stated that he saw this group as being a positive development group with long-term viability.

Tony Malhaski – Friends of Ludlow Museum and Member of the Civic Society – Mr Malhaski queried the opening date of the Museum at the Buttercross as the exhibits had been in situ for some time. He went on to say that he understood there had been an issue over the ramp to the lift which had slowed progress but requested that the issue was resolved and opening fast tracked.

Secondly Mr Malhaski explained that he was Vice-Chair of the Civic Society and that volunteers had reattached the chains to the posts surrounding Castle Gardens. He added seven chains were missing which he understood the Town Council had in storage and put forward the offer for the Civic Society to re-instate them.

The Mayor stated that the Town Council was working to open the Museum at the Buttercross as soon as it could.

## **FC/57 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Councillor A Boddington, Ludlow North – Councillor Boddington gave Councillor Huffer's apologies for the meeting.

He said that when Unitary Council had been formed in 2009 Parish and Town Councils were almost forced into the background, and day-to-day services were run from Shrewsbury.

With this trend now being the reverse, he praised Ludlow Town Council for the lead it had taken recently regarding local services, and a meeting which had taken place recently between Shropshire Council, Mayors and Town Clerks, Parish and Town Councillors. Councillor Boddington stated that Shropshire Council's view was that the transfer was running smoothly, however the comments of the Town Clerk in the Shropshire Star had correctly reflected the outcome and he congratulated the Town Council. He added that Shropshire Council were determined not to be responsible for county services, but this is their role and the reason the Unitary Authority was created in 2009.

Councillor Boddington informed Council that there was a public Local Joint Committee (LJC) meeting 30<sup>th</sup> June at the Elim Church at 7 pm to discuss the future of Ludford Bridge and the issues during its recent closure.

Councillor Ginger stated that in his opinion the issue could be resolved if Highways put in a new roundabout for HGV's to access the town from the A49 to the north of Ludlow .

Councillor Boddington agreed, but confirmed that changing the junction at Bromfield Road would incur costs in the region of £2 million and at present no funding was available.

**FC/58     MINUTES – 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

**RESOLVED (unanimous)     JS/RJ**

That the open and closed session minutes of the Council meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**FC/59     ITEMS TO ACTION – 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their ongoing work to undertake the Items to Action.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)     PD/JS**

That the Items to Action be noted.

**FC/60     PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor read both citations on the Civic Awards and both Ms Gill George and Mrs Jane Davies received their awards.

**FC/61     ANNUAL RETURN, INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT AND REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**RESOLVED (unanimous)     PD/GG**

- i) To approve the Annual Return for 2015-2016;
- ii) To note the electors rights;
- iii) To adopt the Internal Auditors report;
- iv) To adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

**FC/62     LUDLOW HOSPITAL AND FUTURE FIT**

The Mayor read out an extract of a letter from the League of Friends of Ludlow Hospital to Philip Dunne, MP for Ludlow,

*There is "profound dissatisfaction of Ludlow and district residents with the continued debates over the future of NHS services under the "FutureFit" process which appears to have achieved little other than the ignition of world war 3 between Telford and Shropshire CCGs. The promised "rural urgent care centres" have now evaporated, the A&E provision in the County has descended into political squabbling between Telford and Shrewsbury ... Ludlow Hospital alone, is to be hit with an unfair and unreasonable rental charge which will in effect make the hospital the most expensive in the County.*

*In the absence of any indications to the contrary, we are preparing for the inevitability of the total run-down of services in Ludlow as a pre-cursor to closure of Ludlow Community Hospital"*

The Town Clerk updated Council on the proposed public meeting regarding Ludlow Hospital and FutureFit. She explained a provisional date of the 6<sup>th</sup> July had been put forward, 6.30pm at the Ludlow Methodist Church on Broad Street with the MP, representatives of the CCG and NHS Trust being invited, along with Unitary Councillors. Replies were still awaited and providing sufficient representatives could be present, the date would then be advertised for residents to attend. Failing that another date would be scheduled.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/JS**

That:-

- i) The letter from the Chairman of the Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust be noted;
- ii) The letter from the MP regarding Ludlow Hospital be noted;
- iii) The press coverage regarding rural care units be noted;
- iv) A public meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July or soon after be approved.

**FC/63 LOCAL SERVICES**

The Mayor outlined the revised proposal from Shropshire Council, explained that the Memorandum of Co-operation had been raised at the meeting with Clerks and Mayors on 8 June 2106.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP**

That:-

- i) The revised proposal from Shropshire Council be noted;
- ii) The Memorandum of Co-operation be adopted
- iii) A meeting is arranged with the LJC Parish Councils and the focus for a referendum is included in the meeting.

**FC/64 GUILDHALL ROOF**

Members discussed the notes from the Informal meeting at the Guildhall on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) JS/GG**

- i) That works are undertaken to ensure the smooth running and correct fall of the valleys; free flow of the weirs; and increase the size of the outflows.
- ii) Gridwork is put in place above the level of the valley to prevent blocking of the valley and ensure unimpeded water flow to prevent backing up.
- iii) The restricted current dormer access is improved to enable effective access for regular maintenance
- iv) Scaffolding should be the minimum necessary to ensure safety and effective access.
- v) To remove the Air-Conditioning Units and repair the existing windows in all office accommodation to enable opening for ventilation; install security locks; and refurbish the front door & pillars.

**FC/65 COUNCIL CALENDAR****RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/GP**

That the additional Full Council meetings on 22 August, 10 October and 5 December 2016 are approved.

**FC/66 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Mayor requested any amendments for 2016-17 membership on outside bodies.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/AC**

- i) That Councillor R Jones become the representative for the Teme Weirs Trust
- ii) All other Representatives on Outside Bodies be adopted for 2016-17 as per the previous year.

**FC/67 LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

Members noted the reduced usage of the library, and acknowledge that this might be due to changes of service provision at the library since 2009 including the addition of front-line staff from Shropshire Council and Registrar Services.

It was stated that in the recent past Shropshire once had the third best research library facilities in the region. It was felt that the reduction in weekend and evening hours would affect those who used the library for PhD research and similar activities.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/GP**

That:-

- i) The background papers for the Library Consultation be noted;

- ii) The library is a statutory services and therefore protected disappearing from the county, but Shropshire Council's long term intention remains unclear, and members felt the Ludlow Library should not be closed by increments.
- iii) Councillors agree to complete the online consultation individually.

**FC/68 PROTOCOL FOR MARKING THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE OR LOCAL HOLDER OF HIGH OFFICE**

**RESOLVED (10:0:1) RJ/JS**

That the Protocol for Marking the Death of a Senior National Figure or Local Holder of High Office be adopted.

**FC/69 BUSINESS RATES**

Councillor Ginger stated that he was not party political but felt that as a working Councillor and working businessman that the letter from the MP was an insult to local traders due to the fact it suggested that Shropshire Council could reduce business rates, considering Shropshire Council was £12 million in deficit. He added in his opinion the letter did not accurately reflect the full picture.

Councillor Perks agreed adding that he had a long standing issue over fairness with shop frontages and length and felt in his opinion Shropshire Council would not go the route of reducing business rates.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC**

Members noted that the letter from Philip Dunne MP regarding business does not address the real situation or the inherent unfairness of the system.

**FC/70 PHARMACY CUTS**

The Town Clerk explained that feedback had been received from Dr Cook at Station Drive Surgery and he had indicated he would be interesting in attending a meeting in the future.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC**

That:-

- i) To note receipt of the letters from Philip Dunne MP and Alistair Burt, Minister of State for Community and Social Care from the Department of Health.
- ii) The Town Clerk write to MP to ask him to make the Minister of State for Community and Social Care's fully aware of expanding needs of market towns and their rural hinterland. SAMDev means that over 800 houses are allocated to be built in Ludlow in the next 10 years and the increase in population is estimated in the region of 3,000.
- iii) Members also wish Ludlow's MP to ask Alistair Burt to explain the contradiction in paragraph three of his letter which states: "*We need a clinically focused community pharmacy service that is better integrated*

*with primary care and public health in line with the Five Year Forward View. This will help to relieve the pressure on GPs and A&E Departments, ensure better use of medicines and better patient outcomes, and contribute to delivering seven-day health and care services.”*

The concern that that changes proposed could threaten pharmacies, particularly in rural areas and could make it unaffordable for pharmacies to provide such services as home delivery and even, in some cases, threaten their viability.

- iv) Members also ask that the MP seeks clarification on how the Pharmacy Integrated Fund will operate in Ludlow.

**FC/71 LETTERS OF THANKS**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) PD/RJ**

That the letters of thanks be noted.

**FC/72 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

**MINUTES FROM THE REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 AND 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2016**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/RJ**

That the minutes of the Representational Committee meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 be received.

**FC/73 SERVICES COMMITTEE – MINUTES 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

**RESOLVED (10:0:1) RJ/DL**

That the minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be received.

**FC/74 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

PF/11 POLICIES

- a) Castle Gardens Policy

**RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/AC**

*That the Castle Garden Policy as amended, be adopted.*

- PF/12 b) Environmental Policy

**RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/TG**

*That the Environmental Policy be adopted.*



PF/13 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 2016/2018

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/TG

*That the National Salary Award 2016/18 be adopted.*

PF/14 STAFF AND COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous) JS/CS

*That the Staff and Councillor Expenses, as set out in the SLCC advice note be adopted.*

**RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/TG**

That the recommendations from the Policy and Finance Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be approved:-

POLICIES

a) Castle Gardens Policy

That the Castle Garden Policy as amended, be adopted.

b) Environmental Policy

That the Environmental Policy be adopted.

NATIONAL SALARY AWARD 2016/2018

That the National Salary Award 2016/18 be adopted.

STAFF AND COUNCILLOR EXPENSES

That the Staff and Councillor Expenses, as set out in the SLCC advice note be adopted.

**FC/75 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPRESENTATIONAL COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2016**

R/27 MARKET SQUARE WAR MEMORIAL BENCH

RECOMMENDATION

GG/PD (unanimous)

*To replace the existing two benches on the Market Square Memorial with one bespoke large bench with the seating capacity equal to two benches and to be positioned to enable civic events to continue in their traditional way.*

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

That the recommendations from the Representational Committee held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June be approved.

**MARKET SQUARE WAR MEMORIAL BENCH**

To replace the existing two benches on the Market Square Memorial with one bespoke large bench with the seating capacity equal to two benches and to be positioned to enable civic events to continue in their traditional way.

**FC/76 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016***S/10 VAN REPLACEMENT*

*RECOMMENDED (unanimous)*  
*RJ/TG*

- i) That due to the current period of uncertainty regarding service cuts from Shropshire Council, the current Vauxhall van lease is extended beyond the term of the lease.*
- ii) The Peugeot is retained.*
- iii) That options are reviewed by Services Committee in September 2016.*

**RESOLVED (unanimous) RJ/TG**

That the recommendations from the Services Committee held on the 6<sup>th</sup> June be approved.

**VAN REPLACEMENT**

- i) That due to the current period of uncertainty regarding service cuts from Shropshire Council, the current Vauxhall van lease is extended beyond the term of the lease.
- ii) The Peugeot is retained.
- iii) That options are reviewed by Services Committee in September 2016.

**FC/77 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/RJ**

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

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NB Closed session minutes will be issued.

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## CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Closed Session minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016** at 7:00PM

**FC/78** **CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) AC/TG

That the confidential recommendations from the Policy & Finance Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> June be approved.

**CEMETERY ELECTRIC CONTRACT**

That the Henley Road Cemetery electricity contract be renewed with EDF Energy for 1 year to bring it in line with the 2017 date of the majority of other Council electricity contracts.

**WEST MERCIA ENERGY**

That West Mercia Energy is approached to undertake bill checking at no cost and with no obligation and potential savings are reported to the Policy & Finance Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

