



## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2019 at 7.00 PM.**

### **FC/251 PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor Gill (Councillor Sheward for Item 13)

Councillors: Clarke; Copley; Garner; Ginger; Lyle; Mahalski, O'Neill; Parry; Paton; Perks; Pote; Sheward (Deputy Mayor) and Smithers.

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

### **FC/252 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/253 APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

### **FC/254 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

#### Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Parry		Ludlow in Bloom

#### Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Copley	14	Is an allotment holder.
Cllr Gill	13	Item relates to the Mayor.

**FC/255 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There were no public present.

**FC/256 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION**

Councillor Andy Boddington, Ludlow North – Councillor Boddington advised Council that the Ludlow Young Health project would be starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 3pm-7-pm. This would drop in sessions for young people under the age of 25 giving mental health therapeutic support and psycho-education. He explained that the Project was a collaboration between Shropshire Council, the Town Council, (being the Mayor's Charity for 2018-19), and Beam, a National Charity run by the Children's Society. He explained that there had also been a monetary contribution from the Rotary Club and the Project would be an experimental year, in relation to sustainability and funding.

Turning to the Town Walls, Councillor Boddington asked if a schedule for the work had been agreed, as it was coming up for the sixth anniversary since its collapse, and there were now well established saplings growing out of the wall. He added that he was aware that there had been issues surrounding responsibility that had been resolved and that due to the materials, the work would be weather dependant.

The Mayor responded to Councillor Boddington's comments by asking all those present to publicise and support his Charity events. He added that there was a schedule for the works for the wall and that this would be followed through until completion.

Councillor Parry, Ludlow South - Councillor Parry informed Council that a display of wedding dressings would be in St Laurence's as part of Ludlow in Bloom for 2019, and that any funds raised would be donated to the Ludlow Young Health Project.

Regarding the proposed development at Foldgate Lane, Councillor Parry added that following Section 278 the vegetation would not be removed by the developer and would provide screening.

Finally she reported that due to a review of Highways services, Shropshire Council were reducing staff from 20 in the county down to 8. The three members of staff working at Craven Arms would no longer be there. Councillor Parry went on to say that the loss of the Community Enablement Team would mean the loss of a lot of local knowledge at principle council level, and this would have disastrous consequences when residents needed advice.

**FC/257 MINUTES – 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2018****RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/CS**

That the open and closed minutes of Full Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**FC/258 ITEMS TO ACTION – 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and staff for their hard work, stating that a lot of actions came out of meetings.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/CS**

That the Items to Action be noted.

**FC/259 LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – SITE ALLOCATION CONSULTATION**

The Mayor explained that Officers from Shropshire Council were not able to attend Full Council but had visited the Town Council Offices that morning. A copy of the notes of that meeting is attached to these minutes.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP**

To make the following response:

Ludlow Town Council welcomed the informative presentation from Liam Cowden, Shropshire Council Principle Planning Policy Officer, and wish to make the following responses in relation to the specific site allocations in the consultation, and also address the wider issues relating to planning and economic growth for Ludlow and the south of the county.

**Ludlow Town Council would like to make the following suggestions for changes to site allocations in Ludlow.**

In the area of LUD052, there are significant opportunities to improve the access to residential and business areas.

With reference to the hatched area current allocated as existing mixed use by the Sheet, this area should be reallocated as residential land to support the development of the existing housing at the Sheet. Ludlow Town Council would also like to see a roundabout created at the point that the road forks.

The area of the proposed employment site LUD052 should be extended in a block along the edge of the A49, which would create up to an extra 4 hectares of employment land. A roundabout should be created on the A49 to serve access to the existing Foldgate Lane housing allocation and the extended LUD 052 site.

Ludlow Town Council believes that the town needs to attract more employment opportunities to support the 1,000 extra properties that Shropshire Council has allocated for Ludlow. Working from the premise that one hectare of land will support employment for 100 people, there is a disparity between 1000 new homes, which could equate to up to 2,000 adults seeking employment, and only 11 hectares of employment land is currently allocated to Ludlow. Ludlow will need to attract and keep a younger population to ensure the town thrives in the future, which means there needs to be sufficient employment land available, and the sustained and planned impetus from Shropshire Council to help attract employers.

### **Significant need for actively generating business opportunities**

Employment opportunity and economic growth are the driver that will fulfil Ludlow's planned housing growth. At present the significant new employment opportunities are being created 30 plus miles from Ludlow – this needs to change. The A49 needs to be developed as a corridor for economic growth.

The issues faced by the south of the county in terms of much lower levels of industrial development than the east and north of the county, need to be recognised, and the solutions to these problems need to become the planning and economic focus of Shropshire Council in the south of the county.

### **Ludlow needs the right sort of housing for the right reasons**

Ludlow is heritage rich, and people will pay considerable amounts to buy into the historic environment / properties. However, ill-advised builders think that because people will spend large amounts on beautiful period homes, there is a market for 'run of the mill' expensive new homes in Ludlow, which is completely missing the point of the attractiveness of Ludlow.

It is also the case that whilst there are over 500 listed properties in Ludlow, there are not enough historic properties to accommodate everyone, and the income levels of the majority of people who live and work in Ludlow will not stretch to affording a period property, so there is a significant need for affordable housing for those on typical rural economy wages, and also a need for a supply of mid-range well-designed modern housing to ensure that Ludlow continues to thrive as a market town.

Ludlow currently has a significant aging population, and whilst there is a need to support young families and offer them the right sort of housing, it is also revealing to understand that in a survey of estate agents by Ludlow Town Council the most desired type of property were bungalows, but no new bungalows are being built in Ludlow.

Ludlow is a town on the border of Shropshire, Herefordshire and Wales. Historically border towns are at risk of poor impetus for development from the planning authority. Ludlow Town Council asks Shropshire Council for

assurances that Ludlow will be adequately supported within Shropshire's planning and economic growth strategies, policies and initiatives.

Ludlow Town Council appreciates that the majority of residential and business development land is in Ludford Parish. However, the future prosperity and development of the town must be considered holistically from a joined up and inclusive perspective.

Ludlow is a beautiful town and an asset for Shropshire, and Ludlow Town Council want to work with Shropshire Council to create opportunities that support the future prosperity of Ludlow. Currently, employment prospects are not growing in Ludlow, and in the past 11 years, no significant new employers have moved into Ludlow.

Our town needs to be made attractive to new employers, and also retain its unique heritage appeal. Ludlow Town Council wishes to work with Shropshire Council to find the best ways to achieve positive long term outcomes for Ludlow.

**FC/260 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The Mayor expressed thanks to the Working Group for their hard work stating that it was a well-structured proactive budget.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/VP**

That: -

- i) The precept of £557,037.00 is approved for 2019/20;
- ii) The budget 2019/20 is approved;
- iii) There is no increase to Council tax. The band D Council tax bill will remain at £159.11 per annum.
- iv) During the financial year 2019/20, Policy & Finance Committee consider a report from the Town Clerk on the re-structuring of the ear-marked reserves budgetary codes;
- iv) The first Budget Working Group meeting for the 2020/21 budget is to be held in September 2019, and should review:
  - The budgetary spend for the first six months of the 2019/20
  - Earmarked Reserves

**FC/261 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Members agreed that the document was a depressing document. There was nothing positive in the papers and despite the savings that had been made, and the Council Tax being increased to the maximum level by Shropshire Council, there were still significant cuts to local services for the electorate to endure.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/GP**

That the Budget Consultation from Shropshire Council be noted.

**FC/262 COMMUNITY ENABLEMENT TEAM**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DL**

That a further letter is sent to Shropshire Council to re-iterate the town council's profound concerns about the detrimental local effect of the withdrawal of the Community Enablement Team.

The Town Council believes that losing the Community Enablement Team is a significant blow to the ever diminishing original vision of a Unitary Council, which supported the entire county through hubs in each town / larger rural settlement.

The resulting over centralisation of information, governance and local services in Shrewsbury means people living in market towns and rural settlements are becoming increasingly disadvantaged within their county.

**FC/263 UPATED ON THE COMMUNITY LED PLAN (CLP)**

8.12pm Councillor Paton left the meeting

8.14pm Councillor Paton re-joined the meeting

**RESOLVED (unanimous) TG/VP**

To note the update that:

Since December further analysis of the consultation feedback had taken place, and a public meeting had taken place on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

35 residents had attended and all were actively involved and wanted to lend support to developing the key themes of the emerging plan as listed below:

- Young and older people
- Tourism and economic development
- Health and well being
- Environment and green space
- Crime and safety
- Transport parking and road safety
- Increasing the activity of the Market
- Employment for young people and families

From the beginning public engagement has been at the heart of the creating of the CLP as a living document that has people who are truly interested in improving their community at the heart of the process. .

To further this aim, working groups would be formed to address each of the areas listed above, and town councillors will work with members of the public and representatives from established local groups.

The next steps are for the steering group to bring to Full Council in March / April 2019:

- A draft vision for the 5-10 year CLP for consideration
- The first full draft of the Community Led Plan (CLP) for consideration
- Key actions that have been identified as priorities and the suggested timescale for actioning for consideration.

Members made the point that whilst the work of the CLP in engaging the community is respected and welcomed, due process is also an important consideration, and it should also be respected that the town council are the local elected body that make democratic decisions relating to funding or local services within the remit of the council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Garner and the Steering Group for all their ongoing hard work and dedication to facilitate the creation of Ludlow's community Led Plan

#### **FC/264 BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

Councillor Sheward chaired this item. The Mayor was present.

##### **RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/TM**

That the Mayor Councillor Tim Gill and Mayoress Mrs Mary Gill be nominated to enter the draw for an opportunity to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Councillor Gill chaired the remainder of the meeting.

#### **FC/265 WILLOW TREES AT WIGLEY FIELDS ALLOTMENTS**

The Town Clerk informed Council that there was enough in the budget for the tree works to be carried out.

##### **RESOLVED (13:1:0) DL/VP**

- i) That the tree works application to Shropshire Council is approved for submission.
- ii) That the works proceed in compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- iii) To note that quotes had been sought in line with financial regulations and expenditure will be within the existing budget

iv) That the landowner is notified of the works to be undertaken.

**FC/266 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – SERVICES COMMITTEE 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

*S/102 AMENITY AREAS*

*RECOMMENDED (unanimous) MC/DL*

*That the expenditure of £2397.03 for Wheeler Road and Houseman Crescent is approved to ensure that play equipment is maintained and open for use.*

**RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/GP**

**AMENITY AREAS**

That the expenditure of £2397.03 for Wheeler Road and Houseman Crescent is approved to ensure that play equipment is maintained and open for use.

**FC/267 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – POLICY & FINANCE 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

*PF/89 POLICIES*

*Reserves Policy & Investment Policy*

*RECOMMENDED (8:1:0) AC/GP*

*That:-*

- a) subject to further comments from the Internal Auditor, the Reserves Policy be adopted;*
- b) subject to further comments from the Internal Auditor the Investment Policy be adopted;*

**RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/TG**

**POLICIES**

**Reserves Policy & Investment Policy**

**That:-**

- i) subject to further comments from the Internal Auditor, the Reserves Policy be adopted;**
- ii) subject to further comments from the Internal Auditor the Investment Policy be adopted;**



**FC/268 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

**Policy & Finance Committee 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/TG**

That the minutes from the Policy & Finance Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be received.

**FC/269 Services Committee 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/GP**

That the minutes from the Services Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be received.

**FC/270 Representational Committee 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DL**

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 be received.

**FC/271 Representational Committee 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/DL**

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be received.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm

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Town Mayor

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Date

NB Closed session minutes will NOT be issued.