

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 29th JANUARY 2018** at 7.00 PM.

FC/297 PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Colin Sheward, Deputy Mayor

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

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

FC/298 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/299 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gill and Paton.

FC/300 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Ginger	11	Owns a business in Ludlow.
Cllr Pote	19	Marked as a recipient of the letter but not received.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Cllr Cobley	8	Son works for West Mercia Police
Cllr Clarke	11	Resident on Old Street and pays parking charges.
Cllr Ginger	8	Business Owner in Ludlow
Cllr Mahalski	17	Knows a lot on the Committee and member of the Conservation Trust for St Laurence.
Cllr Parry		Chair Ludlow in Bloom.

Cllr Perks	8a	Had passed on concerns about street lights
	9	Concerns regarding timings for the budget decision
	11&12	Believes that despite consultation Shropshire Council have already made a decision
Cllr Pote	15c	Bench repairs and twinning
	11	Member of Ludlow Town Centre Residents Association

FC/301 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)**

There was four members of the public present.

Alison Hiles, Save Ludlow Maternity Unit – Mrs Hiles stated that there were still serious concerns about the future of Ludlow Maternity Unit as it was closed again last weekend overnight. She had been informed that this had been due to staff sickness at Telford Hospital, despite the Authority having recently recruited 20 new midwives.

She highlighted that an expectant Mother from Ludlow had been sent home from Telford Hospital, and that the outcome was a birth at home in her bathroom. She added that having been through the experience herself it had been horrendous and stressed that the Maternity Unit was vital to Ludlow. When a baby is born outside a maternity unit this is termed Born Before Arrival (BBA), and Mrs Hiles stated that she feared that the BBA statistics would increase.

Mrs Hiles reported that she had written to the MP, but had not yet had a reply, and thanked the Councillors for their ongoing support.

Gill George, Defend Our NHS – Ms George stated that she wished to update on the current threats to the Ludlow Community Hospital. At a meeting of the CCG on the 10th December a decision was expected on in-patient beds and the Minor Injury Units. However, no decision was made and Ms George said that in her opinion the decision had been delayed due to the public meeting attended by over 400 residents, held at the Methodist Church in November.

Instead of making a decision in December, the CCG started a longer conversation, and she felt the public meeting had allowed for alternative discussions and opportunities to be considered by the CCG. The threat she said, however, had not gone away. She added that a Health & Scrutiny Meeting of Shropshire Council that morning had been considering community in-patient beds as a wider work stream and would be a longer term issue under review.

Ms George went on to say that a decision regarding Minor Injury Units was progressing more quickly and that a decision may be reached in February. If it

was in line with the information given in the Autumn, the Minor Injuries Unit may close.

Ms George supported Mrs Hiles' comments regarding Ludlow Maternity Unit. She stated that since May 2017 there had been 5 BBA babies and if the service continued in the same fashion, as they had in recent months, this figure was set to increase. She informed Council that it had been proposed that some services were being transferred to Helena Lane Day Centre and these included some maternity appointments and Orthopaedic services.

Mr R Huffer, Cleve Hill – Mr Huffer asked why Councillor Sheward's comments regarding youth provision blaming, in his opinion, Unitary Councillors, were not included in the Town Council's minutes of the previous meeting. He stated that he believed that Ludlow Town Council should not be party political, and traditionally this had been the line that Parish and Town Councils took. He said that it was hard enough for decisions to be made at Shropshire Council, without party political views from town councils.

Councillor Ginger asked for clarification whether Mr Huffer's comments were directly solely at Cllr Sheward, or whether they were being applied to the Town Council as a whole. He confirmed, with the support from councillors present, that Ludlow Town Council was not political.

Mr Huffer stated that he was not sure if Councillor Sheward had been speaking on behalf of the Town Council, or voicing his personal views. He added that Shropshire Councillors had fought strongly for the youth provision in Ludlow and that the comments had not been warranted, and he felt they were party political.

FC/302 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Cllr Viv Parry, Ludlow South – Councillor Parry said she agreed with the comments made by Mr Huffer in the public session, stating that the comments had felt political.

She went on to say that there was a meeting at Helena Lane Day Centre on Tuesday 30th January regarding Ludlow becoming a Dementia Friendly Town, which had sprung from the Hands Together initiative and she had received plenty of offers of support and help including, a Solicitor, and local Funeral Director who was offering to set up a bereavement café.

Moving onto rising electricity and gas bills, Councillor Parry highlighted an Energy Saving Advice Programme being organised by Clive Leworthy, the Energy Champion from the Community Council. Local roadshows had been organised and residents and Councillors could find out more information by contacting Clive directly on **07791 260888** or email clive.leworthy@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

Cllr Tracey Huffer, Ludlow East – Councillor Huffer endorsed the comments made by Ms George regarding Ludlow Hospital. She confirmed that she had been at the Health and Scrutiny Overview Meeting that morning but had been

unable to ask questions of the CCG about the MLUs because no-one from the CCG had attended. She confirmed another meeting had been scheduled in February.

Regarding consultations Councillor Huffer highlighted a Needs Assessment consultation regarding Shropshire Pharmacies had open from 18th January to 19th March 2018. She urged those present to get involved and send their comments in as the consultation was regarding changes and cuts that would affect Market Towns.

Turning to the comments made by Ms Hiles regarding the MLUs, Councillor Huffer confirmed that although Telford Hospital had recruited 20 new midwives these new midwives were band 5 and were not able to deliver babies without supervision. Only midwives band 6 or 7 were able to deliver babies unsupervised. She stated that therefore in reality the situation had not changed because the midwives recruited were not able to resolve the problem.

Councillor Huffer then asked Cllr Sheward for evidence regarding the comments he had made at the previous meeting. Councillor Sheward confirmed that he would do this.

Cllr Huffer stated that the Community Enablement Officer, despite very little provision had delivered 62 projects to Ludlow. In her opinion, they had worked very hard to deliver these projects. She explained that youth work was her passion. She went on to say that she felt like it was a personal attack and she was extremely upset.

Cllr Sheward stated that his comments had been his personal view and were not political. He too had been upset regarding youth services and added that as he had been elected to represent the Town, if he was unable to make a comment or give his opinion, there would little point to being a Councillor. He added that he viewed Unitary Councillors as professional politicians compared to Town Councillors and in his view they had to take some responsibility for services.

FC/303 OPEN & CLOSED MINUTES - 10th JANUARY 2018

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/JS

That the open and closed session minutes of the Full Council meeting on 10th January 2018 be approved, as a correct record of the meeting.

FC/304 ITEMS TO ACTION

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/GG

That the Items to Action be noted.

FC/305 LUDLOW BUSINESS PARK

The Deputy Mayor invited Mr Draper to speak.

Mr Draper thanked the Chairman and the Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that he was the business owner of DMS Plastics and had attended the Services Committee Meeting on the 15th January 2018. He said he had reported the recent crime wave in Ludlow at the meeting and wished to add a little more to what he had said then.

He reported that there had been further burglaries in Ludlow namely, DMS Plastics, Castle Joinery, the Rose & Crown and Garlands. He had noticed another break-in at DMS Plastics two Sundays ago, and although not a work day, as a Director he would pop into the premises occasionally. Damage had been done to doors, locks and filing cabinets. After two calls to the Police, and two hours passing, the Police arrived, but initially the police said they could not supply a forensic officer until late on Monday morning, but Mr Draper persisted and explained that the forensic evidence would be destroyed by employees who would arrive early on Monday morning. Fortunately, his persistence paid off and the forensic evidence had then been tied in with a number of other break-ins.

Mr Draper expressed concern that ongoing police inaction could cause simmering frustrations to lead someone to taking the law into their own hands. As an example, he explained that images of a burglar in the act of committing an offence had recently had been put onto social media, but police had not taken any action yet.

He informed Council that he had written to John Campion, the current Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia regarding these issues and had received a response that the matter had been referred to Jason Wells the Superintendent for Shropshire, and that a member of the team would contact Mr Draper in the near future. He went on to say that he and a colleague would be collecting signatures for a petition regarding the lack of action. He outlined that he travelled round the world for work and that other countries, especially Ireland, where he had been the previous week were putting more police back onto the street, the old fashioned beat, with positive results.

RESOLVED (11:0:1) GP/GG

That:-

- i) The expressed concerns are raised with Inspector Morgan, and he is invited to update the Town Council on local intervention resources available to support residents and businesses;
- ii) Tracey Onslow, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for West Merica is invited to update Council on the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the support that is available to local businesses.

FC/306 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2018-19**RESOLVED (11:1:0) AC/GG**

- i) To approve the £862,549.00 expenditure budget for 2018-19.
- ii) To approve the £545,166.00 precept for 2018-19.

FC/307 MINUTES OF THE MIU & DAART WORKING GROUP AND RECOMMENDATIONS, MINUTES OF A MEETING WITH THE CCG**RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/GP**

- i) To note the report of the Working Group Meeting with the Clinician Commissioning Group (CCG);
- ii) To write to the CCG, and SALC to ask that Ludlow Town Council, along with other Town and Parish Councils, be recognized as 'consultees' by the CCG in future public consultations.
- iii) That the Working Group continue their work, and hold a meeting with local GPs, and contact a similar sized Town Council in Staffordshire to hear of their experiences of going through a similar process.

FC/308 LETTER FROM THE MP REGARDING LUDLOW MLU**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/EG**

- i) To note the letter;
- ii) To inform the MP that the CCG are not recruiting new midwives trained to a suitable level deliver babies without supervision. It is very likely that the current situation will result in more mothers and babies being put at risk of Born Before Arrival (BBA).

FC/309 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARKING CONSULTATION**RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/GG**

- i) To write to the Head of Infrastructure & Communities to express strong concerns that the new measures will cause irreparable damage to Ludlow;
- ii) that Ludlow was being harshly dealt with, with some of the highest parking charges in the county, and these charges were planned to be implemented in September before any other Market Town. The next Market Town to have new charges implemented was Market Drayton in January 2019. High car park parking charges in Castle Street car park were unjustified in a small market town with a population of 11,000 people;
- iii) The high on street parking charges were also unjustified. Ludlow is popular town, but it should not be used as a 'cash cow' by Shropshire Council;
- iv) The town has very limited parking available and the Town Centre Car Park needs to remain be short stay parking to keep a reasonable level of churn in the town centre. There is already enough provision for all day parking in other car parks near the town centre;

- v) Request that the bandings and the timing for implementation be reviewed;
- vi) That Shropshire Council is requested to review the decision and include Ludlow Town Council in this process;
- vii) That a letter to Shropshire Council be drafted by the Town Clerk and circulated to Members for comment before submission.
- viii) That the views from the Chamber and other groups within the Town is sought.

FC/310 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/JS

- i) To note the budget;
- ii) To communicate Members concerns that the budget does not support market towns; and have serious concerns regarding the investment in shopping centres in Shrewsbury. Members could not see how Shropshire Council could expect a significant return when there would need to be ongoing investment to keep the shopping centres running. Members also noted that the rurality of the county puts Shropshire Council at a financial disadvantage in terms of funding for Adult Social Care.

FC/311 GUILDHALL

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/CS

To note that scaffolding will be erected at the end of February and that Treasure & Son are due to commence work the second week of March.

FC/312 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM P&F COMMITTEE 22nd JANUARY 2018

PF/83 POLICIES

Smoking & E Cigarettes

RECOMMENDED (6:0:1) AC/TM

- i) *To approve extracted amendments in The Employee Handbook (marked in red);*
- ii) *To approve extracted amendments in The Disciplinary & Grievance Policy (marked in red);*
- iii) *To approve the letter to staff.*

RESOLVED (11:1:0) AC/CS

That the recommendations from the P&F Committee meeting held on the 22nd January 2018 be approved;

Smoking & E Cigarettes

- i) To approve extracted amendments in The Employee Handbook (marked in red);
- ii) To approve extracted amendments in The Disciplinary & Grievance Policy (marked in red);
- iii) To approve the letter to staff.

FC/313 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Policy & Finance Committee 4th December 2017

RESOLVED (unanimous) AC/JS

That the minutes from the Policy & Finance Committee held on 4th December 2017 be received.

FC/314 Representational Committee 15th November 2017 and 17th January 2018

RESOLVED (unanimous) GG/CS

That the minutes from the Representational Committee held on 15th November 2017 and 17th January 2018 be received.

FC/315 Services Committee 15th January 2018

RESOLVED (unanimous) MC/GP

That the minutes from the Services Committee held on 15th January 2018 be received.

FC/316 Staffing & Appeals Committee 16th January 2018

RESOLVED (11:1:0) DL/JS

That the minutes from the Staffing & Appeals Committee held on 16th January 2018 be received.

FC/317 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Cobley thanked both Councillors Pote and Lyle for their contributions.

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/JS

To accept the resignation of Councillor Pote and Councillor Lyle from the membership of the Policy & Finance Committee.

FC/318 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/JS

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

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

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 29TH JANUARY 2018 at 7:00PM**

FC/319 TOWN WALLS

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/EG

That:-

- i) To thank Councillors Gill, Ginger and Sheward for their contribution to the Working Group;
- ii) To note the Minutes for the meeting on the 8th January 2018 from The Morton Partnership

FC/320 WORKING AT HEIGHTS AND ON THE HIGHWAY

RESOLVED (unanimous) GP/MC

That:-

- i) The Direct Labour Force (DLF) take down the Christmas Lights leaving a small section for training purposes;
- ii) Health and Safety documentation is reviewed;
- ii) Subject to quotations as per Financial Regulations, a professional H&S consultant is engaged to assess the activity of putting up and taking down the Christmas lights and banners in Corve Street; and create safe systems of work and staff training.
- iii) All DLF staff to sign off on all the risk assessments and procedural documents.

FC/321 EXTENSION OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED (unanimous) CS/GG

That the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

FC/322 HLF BID INFORMATION

RESOLVED (unanimous)

- i) To seek advice from the Town Council's solicitor regarding the future maintenance implications attached to any development works in the Garden of Rest;
- ii) The Town Council has a maintenance responsibility for the Garden of Rest, but ownership remains with the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence.

- iii) Councillor Garner is authorised by Council to attend HLF Bid working group meetings as an observer reporting back to the Town Council. Councillor Garner will attend the meetings on Friday 2nd February and Monday 12th February and to report back to Council.
- iv) The Town Council's timescales for repairing the wall are independent of the timescales of the HLF Bid.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Town Mayor

Date