



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2020** at **6.30PM**.

FC/295 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor Gill

Councillors: Adams, Clarke, Cobley, Garner, Ginger, Lyle, Naysmith, Parry, O'Neill, Perks, Sheward, Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk
Kate Adams, Deputy Town Clerk
Sean Turgoose, Direct Labour Force Supervisor

FC/296 **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/297 **RECORDING OF MEETINGS**

The Mayor informed Council and the public that under the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014, recording and broadcast including blogging, tweeting and other social media was permitted during the public session of Council meetings. He stated that the act of recording and broadcast must not interfere with the meeting.

He added that the Council understood that some members of the public may not wish to be recorded and asked that they make this known immediately.

FC/298 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Pote and Jones.

FC/299 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None.

Conflicts of Interest
None.

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Lyle	Flooding	Member of Extinction Rebellion and Ludlow Residents Association
Councillor Parry	Flooding	Member of Ludlow Residents Association
Councillor Adams	Flooding	Member of Ludlow Residents Association
Councillor Naysmith	Flooding	Partner is a member of Extinction Rebellion
Councillor Smithers	Youth	Chairman of Ludlow Youth Forum and member of Ludlow Youth Partnership

FC/300 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were seven members of the public present.

A Member of Extinction Rebellion

She explained that we are in the midst of a climate crisis and that human life is being threatened by climate events, an extreme and immediate response but little seems to have been done and this is important.

The severity and scale of recent devastating floods is set to become more frequent. Flooding is causing immeasurable damage and we need to organise emergency measures to deal with this and tackle the causes – not just deal with the symptoms. The Council must understand that emergency means prevention from underlying causes.

Building flood defences, dredging rivers or providing sandbags, is not the solution.

They requested specific answers to the following questions below by the next Full Council meeting on 9th March.

- What steps does the Council intend to take to explore a climate change strategy within the community?
- What does the Council intend to do to further publicise its Climate Emergency Declaration of 17th June 2019?
- How does the Council intend to influence the County on matters which impact on any Climate Emergency such as planning, transport and building efficiency?
- What ways have the Council identified so far to become carbon neutral by 2030?

The National Lottery has launched a 100 million pound Climate Action Fund that will enable people and communities to take the lead in tackling the Climate Emergency. The money is there, we need the political will to address this, now! Anything less is failing the residents of Ludlow and beyond.

A member of Churches Working Together in Ludlow

Churches Working Together in Ludlow are looking how to help people who have been affected by the flooding and how we can be better prepared in future.

Suggestions:

- Fundraise capital for future. Hands Together Ludlow has co-ordinated, along with Citizens Advice Bureau and the Foodbank, to set up Ludlow Relief in Need. This group had resources and grants set up following the 2007 floods and there is a fund of £6,000 ready to be distributed.
- They would like to give this money to a group, such as the Town Council, to be distributed. It was suggested that Hands Together Ludlow asks for the money and they distribute it as needed following an assessment process. They would like the Town Council's views.
- To note that the area and properties covered includes some in the parish of Ludford.
- There is a current fundraising scheme towards the next event and to feed in to Ludlow Relief in Need.

FC/301 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Four Unitary Councillors were present at the meeting: A Boddington, T Huffer, V Parry and R Huffer.

Councillor Boddington, Unitary Councillor for Ludlow North

Sandbags have now been delivered before a predicted flood event but they may just be a placebo. Minor engineering works need to be explored.

During recent floods part of the problem was culverts blocked further up the river Corve, and from Burway bridge a large boulder was visible which showed the force of the water.

Engineers and land owners will need to work together to make changes, the wall should be raised down Temeside – these are minor works which won't stop overall flooding but may help reduced the intensity and speed. Works upstream could include planting more trees.

The resilience of properties needs to be considered and conditions of the grants needs to be clarified by Shropshire Council. Everyone affected by the floods has to be registered with Shropshire Council so they are in the system should they wish to make a claim.

Shrewsbury is flooding and this will move to Bridgnorth. Two hundred officers are being deployed daily last week.

The flood event is only the short term clear up and reducing flooding is a longer term issue.

Councillor T.Huffer Unitary Councillor for Ludlow East

Councillor Huffer is pleased that we have been given a reprieve regarding the youth consultation and that we now have 12 months to consider the future of the service.

She mentioned that Ludlow Town Council will be given £9000 to allocate to Youth services.

Ludlow Town Council need to contact Richard Parks (responsible for setting up the Oswestry Youth provision) to discuss it further we have until March 2021 to put arrangements in place.

Councillor Parry Unitary Councillor for Ludlow South

With regards to youth services Councillor Parry suggests Ludlow Town Council think about allocating money ready for next year, we have to decide if Ludlow Town Council is going to help continue a service.

With regards to flooding. On Sunday Councillor Parry requested sandbags but they arrived too late. Councillor Parry stood in the road and prevented access for vehicles but the police weren't happy.

She is aware there is a flood plan in process but it needs to be in action and not just on paper. People also need to be out on the street helping and Ludlow Town Council should have been visible. She has been thanked by residents and she was involved in the organising of skips.

Councillor R.Huffer, Unitary Councillor, Clee Ward, Shropshire

Councillor Huffer pointed out that agricultural waste in the river such as wrapped silage bales etc. pose a real hazard to structures such as bridges. He suggested that the National Farmers Union was written to about this hazard.

FC/302 YOUTH SERVICES IN LUDLOW

RESOLVED (9:1:2) TG/DL

To accept the proposal that Shropshire Council extend the funding for the Youth Services run in Ludlow by Shropshire Youth Association (SYA) until March 2021.

FC/303 STORM DENNIS

RESOLVED (11:0:1) GP/TG

That the Town Clerk prepare a report recording the ideas and suggestions put forward at the meeting and initially distribute this to members of the Town Council,

and follow up with wider distribution and consultation to local organisations and Shropshire Council. The report would include reference to:

- Flood doors for properties;
- Co-ordinator to organise processes such as opening doors to release water;
- Wall height to be increased at Temeside by 2ft and this would reduce flooding during the peak time;
- Traffic must be stopped during flooding and signs put out to close the road;
- It will be important to see what Shropshire Council are prepared to do including preventative measures and also an emergency process/procedure, such as assistance with flood forum;
- Flooding of this severity is a multi-agency issue and should involve the Environment Agency, Shropshire Council, the government and Ludlow Town Council have been leading;
- A knee jerk reaction would be incorrect and the review needs to be structured;
- People must be available to co-ordinate help in an emergency;
- The Flood Forum needs funding to progress further. Ludlow Town Council are to blame for some things not happening;
- At the lowest tier of government is there much else that we can do?;
- Our review should be that as Ludlow is so far from Shrewsbury we should put efforts in to make a more robust emergency strategy – based on trained people who know how to deal with these situations, we should not allow members of the public to be put in danger by opening flood gates;
- We need to look at the process in greater detail at a later date;
- Not to forget Lower Corve Street – both the river Teme and the river Corve can be high risk to flooding;
- A robust emergency strategy is required and a plan in place for both rivers;
- The flooding and river levels has been exacerbated by climate change and this is going to get worse;
- The Quaker House in St Marys Lane was open and assistance was offered to residents;
- Flooding from Residents Association will be useful;
- We need to prepare for the residents and do something positive.

The meeting closed at 7:15pm.

Town Mayor

Date

No confidential minutes will be issued