



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2014** at 7.00PM.

FC/205 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Draper, Mayor

Councillors: Cobley; Ginger; Holcombe; Jones; Kemp; Lyle; J Newbold; S Newbold; Parry; Sheward; Smithers

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk;
Sarah Hughes, Admin Assistant

FC/206 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/207 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gill and Perks.

FC/208 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None declared.

Conflicts of Interest

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
D. Lyle	Item 8	Chair of Friends of the Festival who have financially supported the Fringe Festival
	Item 15	Involved in Festival of Small Gardens
	Item 16	Involved in Friends of Whitcliffe
P. Kemp	Item 11	Chairman of pubwatch scheme
	Item 18	Reported the Matter
	Item 19	Chairman of pubwatch scheme

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Reason</u>
A. Cobley	Item 8	Involved with Furniture Scheme
	Item 10	Involved with Furniture Scheme
V. Parry	Public Session	Ashford Bowdler is within unitary constituency

	Item 6	Involved in Ludlow Assembly Rooms as a volunteer
G. Ginger	Unitary Councillor Session Item 12	Discussion regarding antisocial behaviour, Councillor Ginger has previously raised concerns regarding his ward. Independently sponsored Ludlow Rugby Club

FC/209 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were 8 members of the public and no members of the press present.

John Hunt, Ashford Bowdler – Mr Hunt explained to members the pending problem presented by Network Rail regarding the proposed removal of the level crossing through the village of Ashford Bowdler which will cut the village in half and destroy the community. Network rail want to close the crossing which runs directly through the village for safety reasons, although they have assured Mr Hunt that there will be no increase in train traffic or speed. However Mr Hunt has also received a letter contrary to this which has caused concern within the community. Mr Hunt is meeting with Phillip Dunne MP next week, who has expressed support in the case. Mr Hunt asked members to show their support and assist in a matter which could have a knock on effect in tourism & economic effects in Ludlow.

Councillor Parry stated that she has already written a letter to Shropshire Council regarding this issue and is awaiting confirmation of a meeting to discuss further.

Gerald Acton – Broad Street – Mr Acton asked councillors to approve the recommendation to remove the gate adjoining Linney Park and Ludlow Rugby Club. He explained the unpleasant and unhygienic consequences arising from dog walkers using the gate to access the pitches.

FC/210 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor A Boddington, Ludlow North, reported that the article in this week's journal newspaper regarding the Youth Centre must be read carefully, as they are still in danger of losing the facility.

He also stated that the temporary repairs to the Town Walls are inadequate and will not protect the walls through the winter months. A meeting is being arranged with Keith Barrows of Shropshire Council to discuss the situation moving forward.

Regarding the recent closure of the Blue Boar, Councillor Boddington informed Council that the licence is being reviewed on 16th December; and an appeal is being made for statements regarding the anti-social behaviour.

Finally, Councillor Boddington thanked the Town Council for its hard work in organising the Christmas Lights switch on, and shared news of the success in waste reduction and recycling during the tidy up following the medieval festival.

Councillor Ginger stated that residents from Corve Ward had suggested with the closure of the Blue Boar trouble has begun to spread through other areas of the town.

Councillor Boddington responded that he was aware of the concern that Anti Social behaviour may progress to other areas, however a change needs to begin somewhere, and although valid, the concerns should not deter from a helpful course of action.

Unitary Councillor V Parry, Ludlow South, spoke about Ludlow College no longer offering their facilities in the evenings and weekends, she is currently in negotiation with Shropshire Council Officers. She requested that councillors attend the forthcoming Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Thursday 4th December, 2pm – 4pm, and/or donate towards the raffle.

FC/211 LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS

a) Update from Tony Blench, Ludlow Assembly Rooms – Mr Blench gave a presentation regarding the journey and progression of the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, and the need for it to change and evolve in order to survive. Mr Blench explained to Councillors the current situation and the limitations attached to the existing model. He went on to describe the vision for the new model, with new lines of income, a newly agreed lease and a more sustainable future. He explained that the first phase of works to the ground floor is expected to cost around £1.5million. Mr Blench invited Councillors to attend a site visit at the Assembly Rooms.

Councillor Holcombe asked the length of the newly agreed lease, to which Tony responded it was a 60 year lease at peppercorn rent.

Councillor Smithers asked who would be responsible for maintenance work under the lease, to which Mr Blench replied that in broad terms they would be responsible for maintenance inside the building, and Shropshire Council would remain responsible for the outside.

Councillor Ginger questioned the timescale of fundraising and works to the ground floor, as this is a vital area to the town centre. Tony assured members that a portion of funding had already been secured, and that discussion has already taken place regarding activities in the ground floor in the interim. Helen Hughes, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, added that support from Shropshire Council in terms of Planning Permission and Change of Use will be vital to the progress of the project.

Councillor Parry stated that in her experience it is a well-run organisation and very important within the community.

Councillor Kemp thanked Mr Blench for his presentation, and asked whether the new restaurant will be run in house, to which he responded that the restaurant will be a concession, although the plan is to engage a company who would work

with Ludlow Assembly Rooms to achieve the most from the space and compliment and strengthen the offer of Ludlow Assembly Rooms.

The Mayor encouraged members to visit the Ludlow Assembly Rooms with any further questions.

FC/212 b) Letter from Ludlow Assembly Rooms

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/PK

That the letter and audited accounts from Ludlow Assembly Rooms be noted.

FC/213 **NHS CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

a) Response to Future Fit via Phillip Dunne MP

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That the response in relation to queries regarding Future Fit via Phillip Dunne MP be noted.

b) Presentation from Mr Peter Gillard, Shropshire Patient Group Representative on the Future Fit Evaluation Panel.

Peter discussed the challenges that the programme faces, including public awareness of the programme and the ageing population within the region. He went on to explain to members the 3 key areas of spending within the programme:-

- 1) Emergency Care
- 2) Planned Care
- 3) Long Term Conditions

The current offer may involve reducing the number of beds in acute hospitals from 750 to 450 in Shropshire, and having a acute centre within the region. The cost of a new A&E is calculated at £655 million, compared to £235 million to upgrade existing facilities. The plan also considers having one urgent care centre in the North, and one in the South of the region. Mr Gillard discussed the detrimental impact of these changes, in terms of the pressure on services and facilities, and the access restrictions it would create. The final options are being produced in February, followed by a period of public engagement before the CCG make a decision. Mr Gillard urged the Town Council to gather responses and opinions from residents and health care professionals alike in the area.

Councillor Parry asked Mr Gillard's opinion on facilities being moved to the Bridgnorth area, to which Mr Gillard replied that an evaluation has not yet been

completed on this, however the current level of opposition in Ludlow has already shifted the strength of opinion regarding what is the best location.

Councillor Ginger expressed concern over only having 2 urgent care centres in Shropshire, and said we should be pushing for towards having 5 units, which Mr Gillard agreed with, adding that access is the most important criteria.

Councillor Jones expressed concern that the level of care could fall to an unacceptable standard.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at 8.10pm

Councillor Jones re-entered the meeting at 8.14pm

FC/214 LUDLOW FRINGE FESTIVAL

8a) Update presentation from Deputy Managing Director, Darren Cadet.

Mr Cadet introduced himself and his role within the Fringe Festival, and gave a brief update on recent activities of the organisation.

Mr Cadet explained to members the vision for the organisation over the coming year, including securing a new base, paid staff and the running of a recycled carnival, and the importance of securing funding in order to fulfil this.

Councillor Ginger stressed the growing importance of the Fringe within the town following the collapse of the main Festival, however he expressed concerns with some of the figures within the proposed business plan. Mr Cadet responded that he will take this comment on board and will reassess figures with the Managing Director.

Councillor Jones left the meeting at 8.25pm

FC/215 8b) To consider a request from Ludlow Fringe Festival for in kind support

Town Clerk gave a report on the actual cost of in kind support as requested in the letter from the Fringe Festival. She explained that there are no direct conflicts with the dates requested. The Council would normally charge £300 per day for use of the events square, the total cost of advertisements requested would be £258, and the charge for putting up a banner would be £470, making a total of £1,328 per annum of in kind support.

**RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/JS**

That the in kind support and dates requested in 2015 be granted.

FC/216 8c) To consider an application for Core Funding

Mr Cadet stated that the Fringe Festival aims to run an open and transparent operation and keep the Town Council fully up to date.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
CS/GG

That:-

- i) Ludlow Fringe Festival are granted £2,000 per annum for a period of 3 years in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- ii) A Service Level Agreement is drafted to clarify the terms and conditions of funding.

FC/217 It was proposed by Councillor Draper that Item 13 of the agenda be moved forward to the next item.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That Item 13 of the agenda is moved forward to the next item.

FC/218 MORTIMER TRAIL

Mr Grove gave a brief history of the Mortimers in Ludlow and the nature of the trail he hopes to produce. He asked that the council write a letter of support for the project, and stressed that he was not seeking financial support from the council.

Councillor Ginger suggested that as the story of the Mortimer family began in Ludlow, the council should show its support.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/NH

That the Town Council write a letter of support for the Mortimer Trail leaflet.

FC/219 HORSE PARADE

Councillor Sheward stated that there are still discussions to be had with the Ludlow Hunt with regards to detail, but in principle they are interested in the event.

Councillor Ginger asked if the £500 budget included the cost of insurance, and if this was a fixed budget, to which the Town Clerk clarified that the Town Council's insurance covers the event.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That:-

- i) The horse parade will be organised by Ludlow Town Council as part of the WW1 Commemorations with expert equine advice provided by Ludlow Hunt;
- ii) The Horse Parade will be held on 26th July 2015 subject to final agreement by all parties and;
- iii) The budget of £500 be approved.

FC/220 CODER ROAD ZERO WASTE/RESOURCES CENTRE

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/GG

That the update on the current position of the former Coder Road Zero Waste/Resources Centre be received.

FC/221 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/PK

That:-

- i) The update on new powers be noted and;
- ii) The community triggers process be noted.

FC/222 LUDLOW RUGBY CLUB

Members were in agreement with the recommendation but could not see any benefit for the Council or users of the Linney and felt that there was no justification to bear the costs.

RESOLVED (10:0:1)
GG/JS

That the gate is removed and hedge row reinstated and the work funded by Ludlow Rugby Club.

FC/223 LUDLOW TOWN BAND

Councillor Parry stated that the recent concert at St Laurence's Ludlow was very enjoyable and of a very high standard.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/JS

That the report from Ludlow Town Band be noted.

FC/224 LUDLOW FESTIVAL OF SMALL GARDENS

Councillor Sheward noted that the repayable grant for the festival had been a success.

RESOLVED (unanimous)
GG/PD

That

- i) a letter of thanks be written to the Festival of Small Gardens,
- ii) the Council would consider further applications for funding of the same basis in future.

FC/225 FRIENDS OF WHITCLIFFE

RESOLVED (unanimous)
PD/GG

That the letter of thanks from Friends of Whitcliffe be noted.

FC/226 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/JS

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

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. Closed Session Minutes will be issued.