



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Stable Block Meeting Room, Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 1st MARCH 2010** at **7.00PM**

PF24/10 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Taylor-Smith

Vice Chairman: Councillor Pope

Councillors: Aitken; Davies; Glaze; McCormack; Newbold; Pound; Wilcox

Officers: Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk;
Lucy Morgan, PA

In Attendance: Councillor V. Parry

PF25/10 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

PF26/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the terms of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (England) Order 2007 issued under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 2000 Members declared interests as follows:

Personal Interests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
McCormack	Cittaslow

Prejudicial Interests

No prejudicial interests were declared.

PF27/10 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

PF28/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 18th January 2010, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PF29/10 ACCOUNTS SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the minutes of the Accounts Sub-Committee meetings held on 20th January 2010 and 17th February 2010, be received.

PF30/10 RECOMMENDATION FROM SERVICES COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)

That the Gritting Policy be recommended to Council on the 15th March 2010 for adoption.

PF31/10 MAYFAIR SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

Councillor Aitken drew the Committee's attention to a letter he had received.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the minutes of the Mayfair Safety Advisory Group meetings held on 20th January 2010 and 22nd February 2010, be received.

Councillor Aitken stated that the Mayfair Sub-Committee meeting would be held on Monday 8th March 2010 at 7.00pm in the Ludlow Conference Centre and that all Councillors were welcome to attend.

The Mayor stated that the Sub-Committee would be making a recommendation to Council. Councillor Aitken added that the Heads of Agreement would be circulated but that the details of the Agreement would be confidential due to the commercially sensitive information contained within.

PF32/10 LUDLOW TOWN DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the minutes of the Ludlow Town Development Working Group held on 18th January 2010 and 2nd February 2010, be received.

The Committee noted the date of the Consultation on 4th March at 7.00pm in the Ludlow Conference Centre and Councillor McCormack stated that all Councillors were welcome to attend.

PF33/10 STANDING ORDERS WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk stated that the Working Group had met last week to discuss the new model Standing Orders from NALC and that there were many changes from the previous set including a new internal disciplinary procedure.

The Mayor suggested that the Working Group meet again before the next Policy and Finance Committee and that Standing Orders be the main item on the agenda for the meeting on 20th April 2010 and that the Standing Orders be circulated prior to the meeting to give Members time to evaluate and annotate.

PF34/10 COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

a) Minutes

Councillor Parry stated that it had been a good meeting and that the Members had very good ideas and had suggested a town vote on their favourite shop/trader which could then be published in the Buttercross Bulletin. Councillor Pound added that this could help the economy of the town at a time when many businesses were struggling.

Councillor Parry also stated that the Working Group had reconsidered the restrictions on adverts in the Buttercross Bulletin and had agreed to lift the restriction to help encourage advertisers.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the minutes of the Communications Working Group meeting held on 24th February 2010, be received.

b) RECOMMENDATION

Agenda Item for full Council 15th March – Ludlow Town Centre: To discuss ways to help businesses that are currently suffering poor trade and high rents.

For example, communications working group are planning to run a 'shopper's poll' in the next issue of BB asking people to vote for, giving their reasons, the best market trader / retailer in Ludlow Town Centre. The winner will receive a certificate and local publicity.

MTS queried whether this recommendation would be better to the Ludlow Town Development Working Group rather than Council.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that a flyer had been produced by the PCT regarding the proposals for the hospital and that it could be sent out with the Buttercross Bulletin/AdMag for a cost of £200.00 plus a fee to put inside the Bulletin, all costs to be paid by the PCT.

In response to a query from Councillor Parry, the Mayor stated that as the flyer was a form of advertising which was being paid for, its inclusion did not need the agreement of Council.

Councillor Pound stated that he thought the flyer was rather one sided and played down the disadvantages of the scheme and he was concerned that including this with the Buttercross Bulletin would give the impression to the public that the Town Council was in support of the scheme.

The Mayor drew the Committee's attention to the fact that Richards Castle and Ashford Carbonell Parish Councils were also sending out the flyer with their Parish magazines and that the request for distribution and the content of the flyer came from all Parish Council representatives on the LJC.

The Town Clerk queried whether a disclaimer on the top of the flyer stating that it was from the PCT and not endorsed by the Town Council would settle any concerns of the Committee.

After considerable debate, Members decided the flyer should be distributed with the Buttercross Bulletin.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the flyer shall be distributed with the Buttercross Bulletin but not distributed within the Buttercross Bulletin.

PF35/10 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

a) Local Joint Committee

Councillor Aitken mentioned the meeting on the 2nd March regarding the hospital, which he hoped as many Councillors as possible would attend and otherwise as the LJC had not met since the last Policy and Finance Committee, he had nothing to report.

b) Six Market Towns

Councillor Smithers was not present.

c) Cittaslow

Councillor Davies provided Councillors with the latest agenda and minutes of the Board Meeting.

The Mayor informed the Committee that Cittaslow had granted the Council a minimum of £2,000 towards Christmas lights.

PF36/10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC: PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED (unanimous)

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.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.