



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 23rd APRIL 2012** at **7.00PM**

PF/179 PRESENT

Chairman:	Councillor Smithers
Councillors:	Aitken; Davies; Newbold; Parry; Perks; Pound; Wilcox
Officers:	Gina Wilding, Deputy Town Clerk Lucy Morgan, Secretary
In Attendance:	Tim Mawson Chris Crowcroft David Mulliner Stanley Jones

PF/180 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors McCormack and Philips.

PF/181 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>
V. Parry	Ludlow in Bloom Queen's Diamond Jubilee Group
J. Smithers	Ludlow in Bloom Queen's Diamond Jubilee Group
J. Wilcox	Visitor Information Centre

Prejudicial Interests

No prejudicial interests were declared.

PF/182 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were four members of Ludlow's Twinning Associations present who would speak at the agenda item on twinning.

PF/183 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK

All questions posed at the previous meeting were answered during the meeting.

PF/184 MINUTES

RESOLVED (6:0:1)

That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 12th March 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

PF/185 TWINNING

Councillor Perks introduced the powerpoint presentation (attached) and the members of the Twinning Associations present to the Committee, he also reminded Members of the "Reaching Out" document that the Town Clerk had recently circulated that would feed into this presentation.

Tim Mawson of the La Ferte Mace, French Twinning Association, explained to Members the organisations objectives and images of their recent events. He stated that the Association were looking to improve sporting links between the towns which could include boxing.

The presentation included images of some of the tokens of friendship made between the towns, Mr Mawson stated that the Association were looking to move towards the provision of bursaries for young people to visit Ludlow and La Ferte Mace rather than physical tokens in the future.

Stanley Jones of the San Pietro, Italian Twinning Association informed the Committee that this twinning came about following a rugby match between the two towns in Ludlow that was attended by the then Mayor of San Pietro who then wrote to Ludlow to invite the twinning in 1990. The twinning was formalised in Ludlow in 1992 and then in San Pietro in 1993

Chris Crowcroft of the Italian Twinning Association stated that there have been four rugby matches between the two towns and they were looking to hold further matches in the future.

Mr Jones informed the Committee that each year San Pietro held a Magnalonga, this year would be attended by the Mayor of Ludlow, the twinning of the towns which enabled visit by residents and particularly the Ludlow Food Festival resulted in the setting up of the Ludlow Magnalonga. He added that

every year residents of San Pietro and the surrounding area attended the Ludlow Food Festival and are very keen to promote their local small producers just like Ludlow.

Councillor Perks stated that Ludlow's link with Narbeth began through the heritage of the Mortimer family and that though Narbeth was a smaller town than Ludlow they were similarly passionate about their traditions, heritage, market towns and local produce. There was currently no formal twinning association for Narbeth but he had become involved through Skillbuilders which greatly benefited from twinned town youth exchanges.

Mr Crowcroft drew Members attention to the "Reaching Out" report which includes several options for future events and way in which to develop the connection between the associations and the Town Council. Which include further sporting events, a twinning calendar, use of the Town Council's website, European funding applications which would benefit from Town Council endorsement and twinning events during the Ludlow Food Festival which could bring all twinned towns together.

Mr Jones explained to the Committee that in Italy twinning associations/committees are part of the local Council and covered all twinned towns unlike in Ludlow which had an association for each twin. This made funding etc. easier.

The Mayor pointed out that the Council had recently set up a Twinning Sub-Committee to enter into a dialogue with the associations, this Committee had recently made recommendations to Council which were agreed to offer further support. He suggested that these resolutions be passed to the associations.

Councillor Parry thanked the associations for the hard work and stated that a joint twinning event at the Food Festival would be wonderful.

The Chairman thanked the Twinning Association representatives for a very interesting presentation.

PF/186 CONSULTATION ON THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

Councillor Perks explained to Members that he had attended a recent Tourism meeting and had been provided with figures on the usage of the Visitor Information Centre ("VIC"). This illustrated that 50% of visitors used the VIC in some form during their trip. Councillor Parry added that she understood that during the last winter half-term school holiday there had been 6000 visitors to the VIC.

Councillor Aitken pointed out that though there were fewer visitors during the winter months the museum offered an indoor attraction for days with bad weather. He stated that he supported the Museum and VIC being open all year

round but believed that closing early during the winter would not have a material impact on visitors due to the darker evenings.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Town Council:-

- i) support the opening of the Museum and Visitor Information Centre all year round.
- ii) support the Visitor Information Centre and Museum remaining in their current location.
- iii) believe the Museum provides an important indoor activity for visitors to the town.
- iv) believe the Visitor Information Centre and Museum are very important to the local economy.

PF/187 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SERVICES COMMITTEE

Service Plan 2012-2013

That the Service Plan as amended be adopted.

Terms of Reference for Services Committee

That the Terms of Reference as amended be adopted.

Councillor Parry thanked the Direct Labour Force for their hard work cutting and weeding the Town's amenity areas. She added that the mould under benches need to be removed.

RECOMMENDED (Unanimous)

That the Service Plan 2012-2013 and Terms of Reference for Services Committee be adopted.

PF/188 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

a) Payments

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Payments report for March 2012 be noted.

PF/189 b) Income

Councillor Parry thanked the staff for their hard work in pulling together these financial reports and also for the tremendous increase in income this year.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Income report for March 2012 be noted.

PF/190 BANK MANDATE

The Deputy Town Clerk explained to Members that in order to complete the Council's change of bank a specifically worded resolution needed to be agreed.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

That:-

- i) a banking relationship be maintained with the National Westminster Plc (the Bank) in accordance with the Mandate; and
- ii) the individuals identified as Authorised Signatories may, in accordance with the Signing Rules, sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other payments on the Accounts even if it causes an Account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit.
- iii) any Authorised Signatory may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the Accounts; opening account with the same Signing Rules and Authorised Signatories; closing accounts; or other banking services or products.
- iv) the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions.
- v) the Customer will provide the Bank a copy of its constitution and any amendment to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary.
- vi) this Mandate will continue until the Organisation gives the Bank a replacement mandate or the Organisation passes a resolution changing the Signing Rules and/or adding or removing an Authorised Signatory by completing and returning the Change of Signing Authority form in which case this Mandate will continue as amended.

PF/191 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)

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman

Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.