



MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the **SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Stable Block Meeting Room, Stone House, Corve Street, Ludlow on **MONDAY 5th JULY 2010** at **7.00PM**

S/01 **PRESENT**

Chairman: Councillor Parry

Vice Chairman: Councillor Hunt

Councillors: Callender; Glaze; Hunt; Jackson; Newbold; Pope; Pound

In Attendance: Councillors Aitken; Davies.
Councillor Rosanna Taylor-Smith, Shropshire Council, also Ludlow in Bloom
Alan Meyrick (Streetscene, Shropshire Council).
3 Members of the public (Town Traders)
Hannah Costigan (Shropshire Star Reporter)

Officers: Veronica Calderbank, Town Clerk;
Naomi Brotherton, Administration Assistant

S/02 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received.

S/03 **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 the following interests:

Personal

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
Cllr Parry	12. Ludlow in Bloom 16. Memorial Benches – knows the former Councillor Morris' family.

Prejudicial

<u>Member</u>	<u>Item</u>
Cllr Pope	19. A-Boards

S/04 **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

Debbie Chatham, Ludlow Cookshop Limited, asked for a protest to be recorded that the discussion on 'A' boards in the Town would be done in closed session. The Town Clerk stated that letters from the public had been received regarding the issue but their comments could not be discussed in open session.

Councillor Rosanna Taylor-Smith, Mill Street, Unitary Councillor stated that she would be interested to hear the views on item 5, the discussion whether Shropshire Council should be offered the maintenance of street lights, item 7, the discussion on whether the Town Council should offer to take on the maintenance of public toilets and added that she was surprised to see item 19, 'A' boards on the Agenda and suggested that any letter should be forwarded to Shropshire Council to reply to after being acknowledged by the Town Council. She also thanked the DLF and office staff for their help in Ludlow in Bloom, especially Sean Turgoose for the planting.

The Town Clerk introduced Alan Meyrick, a Streetscene Officer from Shropshire Council who explained that although he was unable to answer questions regarding 'A' boards, he would gladly discuss any issues regarding street cleansing, graffiti, fly posters, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, litter bins, sweeping and litter picking. He informed the Committee and public that other than the stray dog service which was a 24 hour service, that general requests were dealt with within half a day.

Councillor Pound voiced his concern to Alan Meyrick regarding the possible closure of the Coder Road Depot and he stated that Shropshire Council, Councillors and the Management Team had been unable to provide him with a definite answer. He explained that should this go ahead fly tipping in susceptible areas would increase.

The Chairman invited further comments and a member of the public returned to the issue of 'A' boards. She stated that matter had not been dealt with correctly as some traders had been excluded from the discussions and consultations organised by Shropshire Council. She asked if it could be confirmed in writing which 'A' boards were the problem and whether they would be taken away, and thought it was unfair that traders would be charged for storage and then their 'A' Boards would be disposed of, and she doubted the legality of their actions which no-one seemed to be taking into account. Members assured her that her comments would be discussed in closed session.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That:-

- i) Alan Meyrick, the Streetscene Officer be asked to investigate and report back to the next Services Committee regarding the rumoured

closure of the Coder Road Depot and any comments on potential fly tipping.

- ii) the Town Clerk write a letter to Shropshire Council for clarification and to provide the member of the public present with any response received. See closed session.

S/05 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Minutes of the Services Committee meeting held on the 17th May 2010, subject to the amendment of Councillors present as Members of the Committee and those 'also in attendance', be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

S/06 **STREETLIGHTING**

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)

That:-

- i) the Town Council Street Lighting Powers under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 be given to Shropshire Council together with the Council's lighting stock.
- ii) negotiations be undertaken for this to take place as soon as practicable.
- iii) this be referred to Council via Policy & Finance Committee.

S/07 **BUTTERCROSS**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update to the Committee that the first stage of the grant funding had been received from English Heritage and the contractors had started work on the 28th June 2010. She added that the bell tower and the clock would be protected during the works.

S/08 **TOILETS**

The Town Clerk introduced this item, which had been placed on the Agenda by one of the Members and said that in the view of the comments from the Unitary Councillor, in public session, and the willingness of the Town Council to transfer its lighting stock to Shropshire Council, the Town Council might wish to consider taking over the maintenance of public toilets in Ludlow. She drew Members attention to correspondence received.

a) Somerfield/Co-op Toilets

The Town Clerk had received suggestions that dialogue should be opened with the Co-op who were perceived to be the new owners of the building. A member asked if supermarkets were obliged to provide a toilet and the Town Clerk responded by saying only if the supermarket had a café.

b) Castle Square Toilets

The Town Clerk stated that following the death, in one of the toilets, the Town Council would be informed they would be obtaining a key from Shropshire Council to gain access should such an incident occur again.

Councillor Pound stated that if the Town Council was interesting in taking over maintenance of the toilets that Shropshire Council should be approached regarding custodianship of the adjacent car park also in order to create revenue to fund the maintenance obligations.

c) East Hamlet Toilet Block for Sale

The Town Clerk explained that the advertisement closed on the 24th June, however, enquiries had been made and the toilet block had not been sold. There was a discussion to whether or not the Council should express an interest and Members considered a site visit. There were concerns that the toilets had been problematic in the past under four inches of water and it was not the correct place for a toilet block.

d) Smithfield Toilets

A Councillor made a comment that there is usually a shortage of hand soap. Alan Meyrick stated that this concern would be passed on and the problem remedied.

e) Signage

The Town Clerk referred the Committee to the email regarding signage to toilets which no longer were in use. She confirmed the signs had now been removed or covered to avoid confusion.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That:-

- i) the Town Clerk write to Shropshire Council with the view to taking over Castle Square car park and pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the car parking powers from Shropshire Council together with the power of enforcement.
- ii) a site visit should be arranged to view all the public toilets including East Hamlet if that could be arranged.

S/09 **GARDEN SHARE**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update report to the Committee about a possible garden share scheme. There was some discussion over the legalities and practicalities.

RESOLVED (5:1:1)

That the matter be referred to Shropshire Council with a recommendation that the Scheme be pursued due to their specialist knowledge of education and Social Services.

S/10 **THE LINNEY**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update, there has been no further progress with Shropshire Council offering help with the erosion. She informed the Committee however, that the toilets would be repaired and re-opened shortly.

S/11 **STABLE BLOCK**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update. The Lease has still not been signed as it had not been undated. This will be a 10 year Lease with a 5 year break clause and Shropshire Council had moved the toilet as promised, as part of the pre-Lease Agreement. Problems with overcharging from BT for re-direction of calls from the Buttercross had now been resolved in favour of the Town Council. She also asked the member of the Press to record and advertise the new number at the Stable Block as being 01584 838010. The old line has been cancelled as the redirection had been charged at national rate for all calls diverted.

S/12 **WHEELER ROAD COMMUNITY PROJECT**

The Town Clerk gave an oral update on the above project. She explained that planning permission had been agreed for the new Boxing Club but news of the grant funding was awaited.

S/13 **LUDLOW IN BLOOM**

a) Minutes of the Meeting 10th June 2010

The Committee noted the report. Councillor Parry thanked the DLF for all their hard work. She invited all Members to attend the buffet lunch on Judging Day 8th July at Guy Thornycroft 12.15 pm.

b) Heart of England in Bloom 8th July 2010

The Committee noted the itinerary for the Heart of England judging day.

S/14 **ROTARY PURPLE CAMPAIGN**

The Town Clerk drew the Committee's attention to the email received from Rotary regarding the campaign for Polio. Rotary will provide purple crocus bulbs to be planted to raise awareness of the disease which is prevalent in children, especially in India. Councillor Parry suggested that schools could be involved by invitation and the Mayor agreed. In this way the beds for summer bedding would be unaffected.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Town Clerk write to the schools inviting their participation.

S/15 **WINTER SERVICE REVIEW 2010/11**

The Town Clerk referred the Committee to the letter from Shropshire Council asking for views on how the service could be improved.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Town Clerk write to Shropshire Council with improvements to the winter service to include:-

- Grit boxes to be replenished more often
- Roads to be snow ploughed more regularly
- Pavements to be gritted

S/16 **PROPOGATION OF PLANTS FOR 2011**

The Town Clerk circulated an email from Shrewsbury Town Council. She explained that providing the Town Council could supply a list of bedding plants required, Shrewsbury Town Council would grow these in their greenhouses at a cost.

RECOMMENDED (unanimous)

That the Town Clerk investigates the option for Shrewsbury Town Council to grow bedding for the Town Council and report to the next Policy and Finance Committee.

S/17 **RESOLVED (6:0:1)**

That the Town Clerk orders winter pansies for bedding.

S/18 **MEMORIAL BENCHES**

The Town Clerk referred to the recommendations in the extracted minute from the Representational Committee on the 29th June. Councillor Davies passed the Chairman some papers regarding ownership of benches in the

town but stated that it was inconclusive as to ownership. There was some discussion over the general management of benches and also the former Mayor Councillor Morris' bench.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Town Clerk asks Graeme Perks to examine the former Mayor's bench, to see if it is repairable.

S/19 RECOMMENDED (unanimous)

That the recommendations from the Representational Committee are presented to the next Policy & Finance Committee as the matter requires firm policy to balance the needs of the public and also the existing bench owners' benches.

S/20 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 9.35pm.

Chairman

Date

N.B. Confidential Minutes will be issued.