



MINUTES

Minutes of a special meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Guildhall, Mill Street, Ludlow on **WEDNESDAY 9th JANUARY 2013** at 7.00PM.

FC/294 PRESENT

Chairman: Councillor Pound, Mayor

Councillors: Aitken; Callender; Davies; Draper; McCormack; Newbold; Parry; Perks; Toop; Wilcox

Officers: Gina Wilding, Town Clerk;
Lucy Jones, Finance Secretary

FC/295 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hunt, Phillips and Smithers.

FC/296 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
None declared.

Conflicts of Interest
None declared.

Personal Interests

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Interest</u> | <u>Reason</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Councillor Perks | Skill Builders | Member |

FC/297 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION (15 minutes)

There were no members of the public and press present.

FC/298 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION FEEDBACK (15 minutes)

The Acting Town Clerk stated that all questions had been answered at the previous meeting.

FC/299 UNITARY COUNCILLORS SESSION

Unitary Councillor R Taylor-Smith, Ludlow North, congratulated the Council on a wonderful Christmas Lights display and also for their input into the Tinsel Tuesday markets which she hoped had been beneficial to the town. She offered her support to bring the Buttercross project to fruition stating that the building was a great asset to the town and the Heritage Interpretation Centre would add to that.

FC/300 THE BUTTERCROSS

Councillor McCormack stated that the Town Plan Working Group had met recently to consider the future of the Buttercross and the current business plan for the proposed Heritage Interpretation Centre. She inform the Council that the Working Group had recommended that the Council support the 'stand alone' Heritage Interpretation Bid to Shropshire Council's Market Town Revitalisation Fund with fine tuning of the business plan to be undertaken and consult and develop closer links with town organisations particularly the Church, Castle and College.

The Town Clerk stated that she had met with Shropshire Council's Joe Bubb who had confirmed that there was no requirement for the Town Council to offer any match funding. Shropshire Council required that the Town Council commit to the future of the building and completing the project by March 2014.

The Town Clerk informed the Council that in respect of the other elements of the unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund bid, the town walls works bid was being resubmitted by Shropshire Council to the Heritage Lottery Fund. She stated that currently there was no plan to develop the Castle Gardens, Castle Walks or Riverside Walk elements of the bid though Council could revisit this in the future.

The Town Clerk stated that the Buttercross could be the 'jewel in the crown' of Ludlow providing information to visitors on the special aspects of the town and through the use of GPS handheld devices or downloadable apps guide visitors to sites of interest ago the town.

The Mayor pointed out that this funding was a wonderful opportunity for the town which in light of the current financial climate was unlikely to be available again. He added that the Town Council did not have the funds to carry out these works themselves and therefore losing this funding would endanger the future of the Buttercross.

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Market Town Revitalisation bid be resubmitted to Shropshire Council

FC/301 RESOLVED (unanimous)

That extra work be put into the final details of the Heritage Interpretation Centre business plan.

FC/302 RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Council work in consultation with local organisations, including the Church, Castle and College to define the detail of the interpretation and skills aspects of the project.

FC/303 RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the Council engage in an informative dialogue and consultation with residents and local organisations.

FC/304 RESOLVED (unanimous)

That:-

- a) a Heritage Interpretation Centre Working Party be set up
- b) outside organisations be invited to the working group meetings
- c) the membership of the Working Party be made up of Councillors Aitken, Draper, Perks and Toop.

Members set a provisional date of Tuesday 15th January 2013 for the first Heritage Interpretation Centre Working Party meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Town Mayor

Date

N.B. No Closed Session Minutes will be issued.