

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2022

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Bannister, Chowns, Harvey, Howells, Hughes, Morris, Sinclair, and Whattler

**ALSO PRESENT:** Angela Price – Town Clerk  
Julia Lawrence – Deputy Clerk  
Amy Howells – Minute Taker

**PARISHIONERS:** 10

#### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eakin, Knights and Manns (Mayor).

#### 2. **TO CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2019**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That Councillors accept the accuracy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24 April 2019.**

#### 3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Deputy Mayor read out the Chairman of Ledbury Town Council's report in his absence. The mayor noted that being Mayor this year has been a great honour and privilege and noted that it has been a very interesting yet difficult year in some ways.

The Mayor

#### 4. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

##### **a. Economy & Tourism Committee**

Councillor Hughes, Chairman of Economy & Tourism Committee gave members and the public a description of the newly constituted and convened Committee. The Chairman noted that the committee were able to identify twenty-three key objectives from the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2022 that could be reasonably adopted by the Economy & Tourism Committee, he added that to pursue all of these objectives would be counter productive and that it was agreed to concentrate the work on three main areas:

1. Charter Market and other 'speciality markets' in the town.
2. Painted Room and replacing the Tourist information centre.
3. Poetry Festival and further enhance Ledbury as a Festival destination.

The Chairman added that achievements to date are best credited to our Community Development Officer and our Town Clerk.

#### **b. Environment & Leisure Committee**

Councillor Chowns, Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee gave a brief update on the Committees doings this year, including what the remit covers. Councillor Chair gave an update on events that have happened throughout the year including the Cemetery Chapel which had been opened for visitors on Remembrance Day and Mothering Sunday.

The three working parties that have been created from the parent committee are the Markets, Events and Climate Change. Councillor Chowns gave an update on how each Working Party have contributed this year from events and contributions to the Town.

Chairman wanted to record his appreciation to Council Members and the Town Council staff, he also added his thanks to Councillor Knight for her ability to step in as Chair in his absence.

#### **c. Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee**

Councillor Hughes Deputy Chair read out a report from Councillor Eakin, Chairman of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee who could not attend.

Councillor Eakin would like to thank Councillors, Harvey, Howells, Bradford, and Knight

#### **d. Planning Committee**

Councillor Bannister, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a brief description on the three working group that are under Planning. These groups are Major Planning, Neighbourhood Development Plan and Traffic Management Plan.

#### **e. Resources Committee**

The Mayor, Councillor Manns and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Howells as acting Mayor during periods of the mayor's illness. Councillor Howells addressed that the Resources Committee are mainly concerned with matters connected with employed staff and therefore its activities have to be kept confidential because of their personal nature. He noted that members do not meet frequently compared to other Committees at just 3-4 times a year.

The Deputy Mayor gave his congratulations to the Clerk, Angela Price on recently celebrating her third year with the council and how instrumental she has been in bringing efficiencies to improve the way of the Council. Olivia Trueman was appointed as the Council's first Community Development Officer, who has impressed many with her creativity and enthusiasm.

A special audit was completed recently on the financial consequences of the judicial review of a few years ago.

He added that the Council can confidently look forward to another year of continuous improvement in the range and quality services the Town Council delivers for its residents.

### **TOWN COUNCIL ANTICIPATED BUDGET FOR 2022/23**

#### **RESOLVED:**

The Town Council's estimates of income and expenditure for 2022/23 were noted.

#### **6. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM ANY ELECTOR OF THE LEDBURY PARISH**

Q: Nina Shields – E &L Report – Is there equipment available for use already?

A: Town Clerk was only made aware of a grant being awarded through Great Places to Visit today (28.4.22)

Q: Wonders if all members of E&L committee are aware of the terms of reference and do we need to revise them?

A: Councillor Chowns said he can only apologise of the gap between the working party and what the committee try to do. He noted he has been absent from two meetings due to other commitments and apologises for this. He said he is personally committed to the committee and would like to continue as Chair and said he will make sure the Climate Change working party is a priority,

Q: Helen l'Anson questioned about the Ledbury Youth drop-in centre a question asked at a recent Full Council meeting.

'My question relates to the item on the agenda concerning the youth drop-in centre proposed by Councillor Chowns in which he asks that the Council considers the adaptation of the Youth Centre building currently occupied by Busy Bees, so that it can house both the nursery and the youth drop in for which use it was originally intended.

A few weeks ago, Rural Media spent a day in the BB Building, which was somewhat ironic considering the building had been the venue for the youth drop in until they were evicted in 2019, ascertaining our young people's views on living in Ledbury and what they would like to see improved. Lack of somewhere

to meet featured strongly in their responses, but the most poignant comment was 'I don't know what a youth club is'

Back in September 2020 I emailed Cllr Harvey asking about the youth centre and received the response that she was following up ends and hoped that and I quote 'this gives you some confidence that I am acting on this'. I then emailed the then Mayor Daniel Vesma in February 2021 asking for an update, and he responded saying 'there are behind the scenes meetings and that Cllr Harvey is the best point of contact for further details. I emailed on 22nd February asking if there was any progress on the search but received no response.

As our town councillors include the Deputy leader of Herefordshire council and cabinet member for finance, and the deputy mayor who is the chair of the children's and young people's scrutiny committee there should be no reason why a solution cannot be achieved.

So therefore, my question is 'why has it taken three years for this item to appear on the town Council meetings agenda?'"

A: Councillor Howells responded that the building suggested is a Herefordshire County Council building so Ledbury Council do not have the overall say. Councillor Harvey noted that a discussion did take place at the Full Council meeting

Q: Richard D Watkins – Railway station – Platform issue? Concerned of the inaccessibility of the far platform? Believes a lift should be developed.

A: Councillor Howells addressed that the station is a challenge to access and Ledbury Town Council have been working hard to help with this, grants were available to get development and Ledbury were unsuccessful in getting this funding. The current NDP has the railway as one of the discussions,

The options available are at the moment getting all trains to stop on the same side or a lift. It's a case of saying the lift is the most practical solution but the council would need to find the funding for this.

Councillor Harvey noted that the problem is .....an option on the table that network rails have introduced to twin track which they have done in most of the Cotswold line, they have said this would be too expensive to do this in Ledbury. It would be close to £1 million to put a lift in place on both sides of the bridge.

Councillors Howells noted that the Ward councillors answered the question due to this not being a Parish Council issue as they are limited to what they can do.

Councillor Harvey added in addition information received in an email for a new community group for Colwall and Ledbury station, she said she will pass info to the Clerk ready to be circulated on social media and the Council noticeboards for anyone interested in being a member.

Q: Are their plans to replace the broken safety barriers along the slope on the town trail

A: Councillor Harvey said Herefordshire Council has drafted an annual for this year 2022/23, getting the barriers repaired is on the list. A resurfacing of the road section between Tesco's and the railways station is also on this list. Councillor Howells added that the timescale would roughly be within 12 months.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:27pm

Signed ..... Dated .....  
(Chair)

DRAFT