

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
HELD ON 17 APRIL 2025**

PRESENT: Councillors Browning, Chowns (Town Mayor), Harvey, Hughes, Kettle and Morris

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Julia Lawrence -Deputy Clerk

C736. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sinclair.

C737. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Harvey and Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 11(ii) Invoices for Payment (March) Final and 22 To review the partnership working between Love Ledbury and Ledbury Town Council in respect of Bye Street Toilets.

C738. TO NOTE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be noted.

C739. TO APPROVE AND SIGN, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 27 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 March 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C740. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE ACTION SHEETS

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Action Sheet be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Clerk review the format of the action sheet.**

C741. WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS

RESOLVED:

That the Ward report provided by Councillor Harvey be received and noted.



MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor provided the following statement in relation to his year as Mayor of Ledbury.

"I will certainly look back on this year with mixed emotions, quite a lot of it has gone very well and it has certainly been an honour to represent the town in so many places and forums through the year. For many years I used to think my proudest handshake was when I shook the hand of one of the twelve men who walked on the moon, astronaut Dave Scott, but it was actually capped by shaking hands with our new MP on 6 July, welcoming her to the town.

However, I am saddened by our inability to rebuild a full team of 18 Councillors. I can remember the joke when it was said by parliamentary parties could drive around in a black cab, and we are almost at that point with Ledbury Town Council at the moment, and that is very regrettable and my travels to other councils tells me that other comparable councils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire don't seem to have the same problem, but most of my fellow Mayor's do acknowledge that most councillors do intend to be older people, usually retired from active full time employment,

I don't intend to stand down as a councillor after my period of office and intend to stay until 2027 elections, and possibly if, I think the phrase is "if I am spared" will stand to continue. I should welcome any advice any of you are prepared to give about what I might say on my formal report to the annual parish meeting next Thursday, in the Burgage Hall. I do hope and trust that you will all be present at the Civic Celebration on 27 April in the Rugby Club. This is definitely a town Celebration, it's not my valediction or a personal thing. We will have guests and there is a good turnout of other dignitaries. There is a short service included, the affirmation which is normally spoken by the Mayor on this occasion and it would be good if you were all of you able to stand with me and hear that affirmation made, but its only going to be about probably 30 minutes of a 2½ event, the emphasis is on celebrating things that have happened and a satisfactory number of organisations are going to be displaying around the edge of the room and there will be a decent buffet too, so please come on 27 April.

I want to pay a tribute to Councillor Harvey, who has been a tremendous support to me. I think you characterised at one point that I am honey and your vinegar; we do a sort of good cop, bad cop act as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and I am so grateful to you."

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Mayor's correspondence be received and noted.**



2. That consideration be given to how funds are dispersed to the Mayor's chosen charities throughout the Municipal Year.
3. That acknowledgments be provided at the Annual Council meeting to all those who have donated towards the Mayor's events throughout his term of office.

C743. **TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(e) AND 3(f)**

None received.

C744. **TO RECEIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9**

None received.

C745. **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE MONTH 11 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Clerk advised that these reports were not available for this meeting and confirmed that they will be available for the next meeting of Council.

RESOLVED:

To note that the month 11 financial reports be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

C746. **INVOICES FOR PAYMENT**

Councillors Harvey and Morris left the room due to having declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of payments in relation to Bye Street Toilets for agenda item 11(ii) and returned following the vote on this agenda item.

RESOLVED:

- i. That Members endorsed the actions taken by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in consultation with the Clerk to approve the payments for March 2025 via urgent actions.
- ii. That the comments provided in respect of invoices for payments March 2025 be noted.
- iii. That the invoices for payment in respect of the sum of £2,217.18 plus VAT be approved
- iv. That the notes provided by the Clerk in respect of overspends to-date be noted.



- v. That the invoices for payment in respect of the sum of £16,503.09 plus VAT be approved.
- vi. That consideration be given to commissioning trees works to take place in the autumn of 2025/26.

C747. GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

RESOLVED:

- i. That Ledbury & District u3a be awarded a grant in the total of £500, noting that the power to award this grant is Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9-10 Power to provide and maintain open spaces as gardens in or outside the Council's area.
- ii. That Catcher Media Social CIC be awarded a grant in the total of £500, noting that the power to award this grant is S137 Local Government Act 1972 – Power to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised.
- iii. That a letter be sent to Catcher Media Social CIC to ask them to consider linking with the Masefield Matters project and Ledbury's Heritage Open days event in September.
- iv. That Ve Day grants in the total sum of £100 be awarded to the following:
 - a. St. Katherine's Almshouses
 - b. Warren Drive Neighbourhood Association
 - c. Audley Croft (Roger Cooper)
- v. That the Oak Inn, Staplow not be awarded a VE Day grant due to them not being in the Ledbury Parish.

C748. GRANTS FEEDBACK

RESOLVED:

That the feedback report from LEAF in respect of grant funds provided over the past three years be received and noted.

C749. SUBSCRIPTIONS

None to be considered.



**OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT – REFERENCE
COC093 STANDARDS PANEL HELD ON 2 APRIL 2025**

Disappointment was expressed that Councillor Bradford was not present at the meeting, and that he had chosen not to apologise to the complainant.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the recommendations set out in the Standards Panel Decision Notice in respect of COC093 be accepted as detailed below:**
 - i. That Councillor Bradford should apologise to the complainant for his poor judgment in his handling of interactions and its impact on the complainant. The wording of the apology should be agreed by the Monitoring Officer as far as scope and tone is concerned before it is sent to the complainant.**
 - ii. That Councillor Bradford undertake training focussed on member responsibilities around dignity and respect to be arranged by Ledbury Town Council within three months of the Decision Notice.**
 - iii. The Chairperson of the panel write to the Clerk of Ledbury Town Council to determine what support, processes or procedures could be considered, to try to build trust and confidence between Councillor Bradford and the complainant. If the panel considers they are appropriate, then such will be a recommendation of the panel to the Town Council to implement.**
- 2. That the Resources Committee be delegated to consider an appropriate response on point 3 to be informed by consultation with both parties.**
- 3. That the Clerk write to Councillor Bradford to advise him of the decision of Council to accept the recommendations from the Standards Panel, and to invite him to meet with the Clerk to discuss the type of support, processes or procedures he considers appropriate to build trust and confidence between himself and the complainant.**
- 4. The outcome of discussions with both the Complainant and Councillor Bradford be provided to the Resources Committee at its meeting on 1 May 2025.**



C751.

**OUTCOME OF NOTICE OF ELECTION FOLLOWING RESIGNATION
OF TWO COUNCILLORS**

The Clerk advised Members that she had received notification from Elections at Herefordshire Council that they had not received a request for by-election to fill the two vacancy which have occurred following the resignation of two Councillors and that the Council were now able to attempt to fill the vacancies via co-option.

RESOLVED:

That the update from the Clerk be received and noted.

C752.

PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

1. Application no. 250727 – proposed single storey front extension – 14 Homend Crescent, Ledbury, HR8 1AJ

RESOLVED:

No objection

2. Application no. 250622 – Proposed erection of 5 dwellings, new vehicle and pedestrian access landscaping and associated works – Land at Ledbury Road, Wellington Heath, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1NB –

It was noted that this planning application did not fall within the Ledbury Parish and therefore Members agreed to make no comment.

RESOLVED:

No comment.

3. Application no. 250902 – Application to vary the section 106 agreement of application 171532 – to modify the Agreement by amending the definition and location of Canal Corridor Land – Land North of the Viaduct, Adjoining Orchard Business Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire

Members raised a number of concerns in respect of this planning application. It was noted that S106 monies had been ringfenced in respect of works to the canal and that the information provided within the application did not provide sufficient evidence and confidence that this money would be used as originally planned.



RESOLVED:

That the Clerk request more information and clarification in terms of the remarks made about difficulty going viaduct in terms of the deliverability of the whole project.

C753. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

RESOLVED:

1. That the planning decisions be received and noted.
2. That it be noted that further information is now available on the planning portal in relation to the planning application for proposed works at the Bevisol site and that this should now be referred back to this Council for further consideration.

C754. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CHAIR OF WELLINGTON HEATH

RESOLVED:

That the correspondence received from the Chair of Wellington Heath be received and noted.

C755. TO REVIEW COUNCIL'S SECTION 106 WISH LIST

RESOLVED:

That the review of the Council's S106 wish list be deferred to a meeting of Councillors.

C756. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED BASE STATION UPGRADE AT WALLSHILL FARM, HEREFORD ROAD, LEDBURY

RESOLVED:

That the information in respect of the proposed base station upgrade at Wallshill Farm, Hereford Road, Ledbury be received and noted.

Councillors Harvey and Morris left the room due to having declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 22.

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C757. TO REVIEW PARTNERSHIP WORKING BETWEEN LOVE LEDBURY AND LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF BYE STREET TOILETS

RESOLVED:

That the Council inform Love Ledbury that following the trial period of partnership working, they would be pleased to enter into a permanent partnership in respect of the management of Bye Street Toilets on the same terms as those agreed for the trial period.

Councillors Harvey and Morris rejoined the meeting.

C758. EVENT PLANS AND BUDGETS FOR 2025/26 EVENTS

Whilst Members were grateful for the information provided they did not feel able to approve the expenditure on events as detailed in the report without information of how much of the budget for the various lines detailed within the report remains were Council to go ahead with the plans. Also, how much staff resources are required in order to deliver these events, and some of the events look very expensive in terms of the total costs. More clarity on whether the balance of investment into money and staff time is right across the mix of events detailed.

They did feel that the information provided was good, however it would be helpful to have a narrative arc that would explain the rationale for why the money is being spent the ways in which are proposed and the disproportionate expenditure overall,

It was recognised that some of the event expenditure had already been agreed, but it would be helpful to understand what the staff effort is in relation to the events, not just attendance at the events, but also staff time to help prepare for the events.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the Community Engagement Officer had discussed with her the need to hire a generator for the Whale, as this had been omitted from the initial quote.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Community Engagement Officer be asked to provide more information and a narrative arc as explained above.**
- 2. That the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) check the original quote for the Whale and check whether it included details of the need for the Council to provide a generator. If not then the CEO should suggest to the company providing the whale that as it had not been quoted as a requirement and therefore a change to the contract they should cover the cost of a generator.**



3. If the company providing the whale is not agreeable to funding the generator the CEO put a callout to local providers of generators and ask if they would be willing to provide one free of charge, as a donation to the event.

C759. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(x)

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order 3(x) be suspended for a period of 30 minutes to enable the remaining business of the agenda.

C760. REPAIRS REQUIRED TO HANGING BASKETS

Members were advised of a number of hanging baskets posts which have been damaged and therefore unable to be used for hanging baskets in 2025.

RESOLVED:

1. That Company no. 2 be appointed to provide new hanging baskets posts and that the work be scheduled to take place in the 2026/27 financial year.
2. That the Town Maintenance Operative identify where posts have been removed from their locations in the past and that these be added to the list for replacement.
3. That officers investigate possible funding to help cover the costs of the hanging basket posts.

C761. WATERING OF HANGING BASKETS 2025

The Deputy Clerk advised that the information within the report was not accurate as it had been established that the number of baskets provided within the report was considerably higher than that advised by the Yard House

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred to the next meeting of Council and that option 3 be removed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a large loop and a trailing flourish.

C762. QUOTES FOR REPLACEMENT TIMBER SLEEPERS FOR RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

RESOLVED:

That the youth of the town be consulted on the options in respect of whether the timber sleepers be replaced, or that an alternative option be considered, and if so what.

C763. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 MARCH 2025 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 27 March 2025 be received and noted.

C764. OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the minutes of a meeting of the Ledbury Carnival Association be received and noted.**
- 2. That the Community Engagement Officer be asked to provide the Clerk with copies of minutes from any outside bodies that she receives.**

C765. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

RESOLVED:

- 1. That a new award "Community Impact Award" be approved as a way of recognising those who provide a substantial contribution to Ledbury and/or its residents through community and public service.**
- 2. That further consideration be given to the criteria for this award, noting that this will be an exceptional award and not normally an annual award.**

C766. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

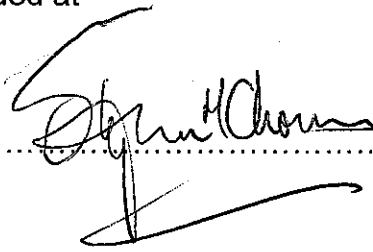
RESOLVED:

To note that the next meeting of Council is scheduled for 7.00 pm on Thursday, 1 May 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a loop and a horizontal stroke.

The meeting ended at

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. Chou". The signature is written over a dotted line and includes a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Date

2nd June 2025

