

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of an Extraordinary
Meeting of Ledbury Town Council
held on Thursday 17th August 2017
in The Community Hall, Ledbury

Present: Councillors: E Fieldhouse (Chairman)
R Barnes A Bradford
A Crowe M Eager
M Eakin K Francis
A Harrison E Harvey
A Manns N Morris
J Roberts N Shields
J Simpson A Warmington

In attendance: Mrs K Mitchell - Clerk to the Council
Mrs J Jupp – Administrative Assistant
16 Members of the public,
1 Police and 1 Press (at the start of the meeting)

C.102 - 08.17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr D Baker.

C.103 - 08.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

C.104 - 08.17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident sought clarification regarding the Council's intent towards mediation and questioned whether it would have to be put on hold pending the legal challenge as the action of initiating a judicial review was not in line with the idea of mediation. The Chairman responded that the Council was making preparations for mediation to go ahead at an appropriate point, but that no discussions could be entered into at the present time due to legal proceedings taking place.

A local resident highlighted that the legal proceedings were putting further pressure on office staff who were already stretched to carry out day to day work, including the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

A member of the public noted that it was pleasing to see mediation on the agenda, together, with the prime recommendations of the Operational Review affecting performance and decision making.

The Chairman responded that ACAS had been contacted; their charge would be £835.00 per day. ACAS were considering the best way to approach the issues as they were not the type of situation they usually dealt with.

The Chairman said that since the recommendations of the Operational Review had been received, the legal challenge had been initiated. ACAS advice would be brought back for consideration by Council at the appropriate time and it was not possible to say anything more definitive at the present time.

The member of the public queried why the Council had not made any public statement regarding its position. The Chairman responded that the Council would not comment whilst legal proceedings were under way.

A member of the public said that with regard to the Operational Review, it was very important that the Town Council equipped itself to manage changing times and developments and that all options were considered. The member of the public requested that the Youth Council were included in any discussions as they were not mentioned in the Operational Review.

C.105 - 08.17 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman advised that she had no matters to report.

C.106 - 08.17 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NDP)

Members considered the approval of the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report for the statutory 5 week Regulation 14 Consultation – 18th August to 25th September 2017.

A list of grammatical amendments were circulated to Councillors.

Following discussion, it was,

RESOLVED: To approve the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report, as amended, for the statutory 5 week Regulation 14 Consultation – 18th August to 25th September 2017.

**VOTING: For 13
Abstentions 2**

C.107 - 08.17 CASUAL VACANCY – LEDBURY SOUTH WARD

Members considered having poll cards in the event of a contested election. If contested, the poll would be no later than 12 October 2017. Estimated costs for poll cards were £2, 000 to £2,500. A lengthy discussion took place around the merits or otherwise of having poll cards. It was suggested that fliers, which would contain similar information, could be delivered to all households at significantly lower cost than poll cards

The Clerk confirmed that there was sufficient money in the budget to cover the cost of poll cards.

A named vote was requested.

RESOLVED: That Poll Cards be issued in the event of a contested election to fill the casual vacancy which has arisen following the resignation of Noel Roberts.

VOTING: For (14)

R Barnes	A Bradford
M Eager	M Eakin
E Fieldhouse	K Francis
A Harrison	E Harvey
A Manns	N Morris
J Roberts	N Shields
J Simpson	A Warmington

Against (1)
A Crowe

C.108 - 08.17 ROUNDABOUT LICENCES

The draft agreement between Ledbury Town Council and Sponsors for roundabout maintenance had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Crowe explained the provisions of the licence and the need to move on quickly before the roundabouts became even more overgrown.

RESOLVED: To approve the draft agreement between Ledbury Town Council and the sponsors for roundabout maintenance.

VOTING For: 14
Abstentions: 1

C.109 - 08.17 OPERATIONAL REVIEW

The Operational Review had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor Shields proposed that a Full Council Working Party meet to debate the report fully. The Chairman agreed and suggested that the authors of the Report should be invited to present their findings.

Cllr Crowe highlighted the need to source additional staffing for the Office. The Chairman said that there was a need to consider the staffing roles and requirements against the needs of the Council but whilst this was underway temporary staff should be recruited to support the Office.

Cllr Crowe drew attention to the Standing Committee meeting held on 15th August 2017 where it had been recommended that a Deputy Clerk (full time) and a Clerical Officer (10 hours per week), be recruited, and proposed that the Council move ahead with the recruitment

advertisement. Following discussion, Cllr Crowe withdrew her proposal to advertise in light of the impending review.

RESOLVED: That a working group of the Full Council meet to discuss the Operational Review with the authors of the document.

VOTING: Unanimous

Cllrs were requested to send in any questions to the office prior to the working party meeting taking place.

Councillor Barnes put forward a suggestion regarding accommodation. The existing Council Offices were unsatisfactory but there was no urgent need to move. The Barrett Browning Institute was not appropriate at the current time nor was the Community Hall.

An approach could be made to Herefordshire Council to see if the building previously used as a Youth Centre could be asset transferred and then altered or demolished to provide suitable facilities. Councillor Barnes requested that members consider this suggestion prior to the meeting with the consultants.

(The meeting was reminded that the Town Council had signed up to support Ledbury Places proposals).

C.110- 8.17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting would be held on 28th September 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.