

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting

Held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

In the Market House Ledbury.

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#### PRESENT:

**Chair of the Council:** N Shields

**Councillors:**

T Bradford	M Eakin
K Francis	A Harrison
P Howells	J Hopkins
D Knight	V Low
N Morris	A Warmington

**In Attendance:**

Mel ab Owain	Acting Clerk to the Council
C Tustin	Minute Taker
40 Members of the Public	

#### **C122-08.18. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Baker, E Harvey, J Hopkins, V Low, A Manns, D Vesma and D Whattler.

#### **C123-08.18 INTERESTS**

No interests were declared.

#### **C124-08.18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A number of members of the public spoke making representation against the concept proposals for the High Street and against the proposal to make the top of Bye Street one way. Concerns were expressed about the general availability of parking in the town, the restrictions on loading bays in the High Street, the lack of coverage in the report about various issues such as provision for mobility scooters, the current state of St Katherine's car park and the proposed landscaping around the Master's House.

Specifically, members of the public requested that proposals 25 and 26 in the report, widening footway to increase public space

around the Market House, and widening footway along eastern end of Bye Street with one way for vehicles, be rejected.

There were questions as to why some of the proposals had been included as it was felt that it was clear from those present, that there was no support for them.

**C125-08.18**

**REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC REALM REPORT**

Cllr Warmington gave the background to the report. He reminded the meeting that that Balfour Beatty had drawn up this report following consultation with stake holder representatives in 2016. He confirmed that if any of the proposals were to be taken forward they would be subject to further consultation and to normal planning procedures. He was pleased to note that there was an acknowledgement that the public realm was in poor repair. He pointed out that in taking any proposals forward, various local plans and strategies have to be taken into consideration in order to comply with the general objectives of Herefordshire Council's policies. Balfour Beatty had identified six priorities but Cllr Warmington pointed out that Council did not necessarily have to agree with these.

Cllr Shields thanked Cllr Warmington for giving an introduction to the report and said she did not propose to go through it page by page but to focus on the proposals. It was agreed to look at proposals 25 and 26 first because of the level of public interest.

**RESOLVED:** With regard to 25 (Market House/High Street), the current options are too limited, creating too many problems. The Council to request the opportunity to look at a wider range of options including increased provision for parking.

**VOTING:** Agreed.

**RESOLVED:** With regard to 26 (Bye Street), Balfour Beatty be advised that the Town Council do not support proposal 26 because of the impact on congestion of the surrounding roads, impact on businesses and hazard to cyclists.

**VOTING:** Agreed.

At this point the majority of the members of the public left the meeting.

The remainder of the proposals in the report were then discussed. During his discussion it was noted that: there were a number of proposals relating to the Town Trail, the railway station was in urgent need of improvements; improvements for disabled access were needed in key areas of the town; street furniture needed replacing; cycling provision needed improvement; and parking provision had needed increasing for a number of years and would become worse with the planned housing developments. Cllr Warmington commented on parking that with the emphasis at county level on sustainability it was imperative that we defend our current parking provision and advised that he was not aware of any monies available for new car parking.

Longer serving councillors advised that over the years various schemes had been proposed by the council and various surveys had been carried out. These should be on file in the office and it was suggested that this information be offered to Balfour Beatty.

Cllr Francis requested that Balfour Beatty be invited to meet with councillors. Cllr Shields said she would send an invitation to them. She believed that it was important for the Town Council and stake holders to give Balfour Beatty as much information as possible on the needs, aspirations, issues and problems for the town, so that they could offer appropriate solutions.

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Clerk said that he would take as an action point, the reinstating of the Traffic Management working group.

The meeting then reviewed all the proposals identifying the ones which the Council would like to see pursued. These were, as listed on page 18 and 19 of the report:

Numbers 1a,b,c, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 34, 35, 36, 37,38, 41, 42, 44, 45a, 45b, 45c, and 45d.

In addition the Council wished to see more options on 25 and be provided with more information on 28 and 29.

Cllr Howells proposed summarising the Council's three priorities as follows:

- Improving pathways, cycleways, racks, disabled access, road crossings;
- Increasing car parking and providing out of town bus links;
- Improving access at the railway station including access to both platforms.

**RESOLVED:** To agree the above three overall priorities.

Cllr Shields to draft the response to Balfour Beatty Living Places and circulate it to all councillors.

**VOTING:** Agreed

The meeting closed at 9.34 p.m.