

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL	7 NOVEMBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM: 13
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Report prepared by Angie Price – Town Clerk

LETTER RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF WAR MEMORIAL REPAIR COSTS

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a telephone conversation and subsequent letter received by the Town Clerk in respect of an offer to donate the funds for the repairs to the War Memorial.

Detailed Information

On Monday, 28 October 2019 the Town Clerk took a telephone call from an elderly gentleman who advised that whilst he no longer lives in Ledbury he was born and bred in Ledbury and that his father had been the editor of the Ledbury Reporter for 34-years.

He advised that he had served in the second World War as a navigator in bomber command and had flown several missions over Germany. As he had grown up in Ledbury and served in the Second World War he feels he has an affinity with the town and also with those from Ledbury who lost their lives in the Second World War and whose names appear on the War Memorial.

He advised that he had previously spoken to the former Chairman of the Council, Councillor Nina Shields and the previous interim Clerk, Mel ab Owain, about this very generous offer. Whilst discussing the cost of the repairs the gentleman asked when we would be making the payments, of which the Clerk advised the Council were in the process of making payment of the deposit of just over £15,000 and that the remaining balance would be paid on completion in early Spring. He suggested making a donation of the deposit initially and then proceeded to offer the final amount once the work had been carried out.

The Clerk asked the gentleman if he would send something in writing so that the Clerk would be able to formally bring it to the attention of Council, the letter was subsequently received on Wednesday, 30 October.

The letter reads as follows:-

“I write to confirm yesterday’s telephone conversation when I offered to donate the amount of £30,642 to cover the cost of the repairs to Ledbury’s War Memorial. In the war I was a Navigator, based in a Lancaster Squadron of the RAF Bomber Command. For 34-years my father was editor of the Ledbury Reporter. My parents are remembered in a stain glass window of Ledbury Parish Church. It would be nice to meet, but although I am quite active I do find long train journeys somewhat tiresome.

S85