

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL  
COUNCIL HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2020  
VIA ZOOM**

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Bannister, Harvey, Howells, Knight, Morris and Vesma (Chair)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Angela Price – Town Clerk

**C224. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Eakin, Manns and Whattler

**C225. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**C226. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF AN  
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 13  
AUGUST 2020 AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Full Council held on 13 August 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**C227. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CO-OPTION  
CANDIDATES**

Members were advised that Sarah Stanbridge had contacted the Clerk to advise that she was unable to attend the meeting and would therefore wish to withdraw her application for co-option to Ledbury Town Council.

The Mayor welcomed Mr Stephen Chowns to the meeting and invited him to give a 5-minute presentation to Members.

Mr Chowns reiterated information provided in his written application and added that he has lived in the north of Ledbury for 7 years in October. He advised that he has a wide range of interests and commitments within Ledbury and considers he has a progressive liberal approach to religion and politics, which he believes are interwoven. He also stated that he believes that decisions should be made at the appropriate level of society and believed that Ledbury as a community and town is changing

rapidly and he feels he has the background to commitment to help to guide these changes.

Mr Chowns invited questions from Councillors.

Councillor Harvey declared an association with Mr Chowns via his daughter stating that although she is part of the Cabinet at Herefordshire Council which means she does sit alongside Mr Chowns daughter, as a Ward Councillor, this would have no bearing on any decision that she made on his application to become a town councillor.

Following questions from some councillors Mr Chowns was asked to wait in a Zoom Waiting Room, whilst Members went into confidential session to discuss his application.

The Mayor advised members of the public watching on Facebook that they would be able to re-join the meeting when Members return from the confidential session.

C228.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, in the public interest the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

C229.

#### **TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION**

Members discussed Mr Chowns' application or co-option prior to returning to the public session to vote on the application.

C230.

#### **REOPENING OF PUBLIC SESSION**

Members of the public were invited back to the meeting along with Mr Chows.

C231.

#### **TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION**

Councillor Morris nominated and Councillor Howells seconded the nomination that Mr Stephen Chowns be co-opted to Ledbury Town Council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Mr Stephen Chowns be co-opted to Ledbury Town Council as a town Councillor.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Chowns to Ledbury Town Council and advised that he will need to call into the council office to sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

C232.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That it be noted that the next ordinary meeting of Full Council is scheduled for 1 October 2020 at 7.30 pm, and that there is also an extraordinary meeting of Full Council scheduled for 17 September 2020 at 7.30 pm.**

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