

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
17 SEPTEMBER 2020
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Councillors Bannister, Manns, Morris, Knight, Vesma

**IN
ATTENDANCE:** The Town Clerk – Angela Price
The Minute Taker- Olivia Bundy

C228 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from both Councillor Howells and Harvey.
Standing apologies received from Councillor Whattler.

C229 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

C230 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None received

C231 CAR PARKING CHARGES

Members were requested to give consideration the request from Herefordshire Council in relation to an increase in carpark charges.

Whilst Councillor Knight appreciated the inflation of the car parking charges, she expressed her concerns with the timing due to Covid-19. She felt this would have a negative impact on tourism and traders in Ledbury and suggested not increasing the charges.

Councillor Bannister agreed with Herefordshire Councils proposal for the 'colour coded theme' and felt that this could be a modern approach to parking. However, he noted that the 50% increase was not viable for many carparking users, especially in these uncertain times. He also noted that the hourly charge for the Bridge Street was the same as St Katherines Carpark which is closer to the town.

Councillor Manns explained that the main issues raised in the Traffic Management Working Party were around roadside parking in residential areas due to car parking charges. With the current proposal for a 50% increase from Herefordshire Council he felt that more people would take advantage of roadside parking as an alternative to paying.

Councillor Knight asked whether it would be possible to postpone the carparking charges until next year and agree on a smaller rise as opposed to 50%

Councillor Bannister advised that the 'active Wednesdays' concessions would not benefit Ledbury due the charter marketing trading on Tuesdays. He also noted that if the car parks were to increase whether some of the income would be directed to the Town Council to spend in the community on other projects.

Councillor Morris asked whether the council would recommend the charter market and users to purchase season tickets.

The Town Clerk advised members that she had received feedback from the Ledbury Traders association in relation to the proposed increase of parking. It was discussed that the car parks should remain free for late night shopping on Friday 4th December and on bank holidays. It was also noted that more traders and residents should be encouraged to use Bridge Street car park and that it remains a cheaper tariff. Although the traders understood the need the income for Herefordshire Council, they were not in favour of the increase of the parking charges.

Members agreed to respond to Herefordshire Council and propose that the car parking charges be deferred until next year, noting that the 50% increase are too high. Due to the extraordinary nature of this year's circumstance that the council would rather err on the side of caution in relation to price increases as opposed to Ledbury Council receiving income for town improvements.

Councillor Manns advised that he had received many complaints in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of some car park in Ledbury. He asked whether it could be raised within the response to Herefordshire Council.

Councillor Knight proposed that the Council give the Town Clerk permission to respond to Herefordshire Council in relation to their carparking charge review. Noting, that the Council would like to delay the car parking charges until next year with the view of a rise of less than 50%.

RESOLVED:

That Council give delegated powers to the Town Clerk to respond to Herefordshire Council in relation to their carparking charge review. Noting that the Clerk send members the response before it has been sent for any comments.

C232

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting is scheduled on 1st October 2020

Meeting closed at :

Signed..... Dated.....

