

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021
VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Councillors Bannister, Chowns, Eakin, Harvey, Howells, Knight, Manns, Morris, Whattler and Vesma (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk – Angela Price
Chris Treanor
Gary Troy
Malcom Hughes

C337 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Caroline Green, a candidate who had withdrawn her application for co-option.

C338 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

C339 TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CO-OPTION CANDIDATES IN LINE WITH CO-OPTION POLICY.

Presentation 1 - Mr Troy

The Chairman, Councillor Vesma welcomed Gary Troy to the meeting.

Mr Troy provided members with a verbal presentation on why he would like to be co-opted as a councillor and what made him a good candidate. He advised that he has resided in Ledbury for over 13-years with his wife and two children and that the nature of his work has equipped him with transferable skills that he believed would help the Council.

Members asked Mr Troy questions including how he would deal with being under scrutiny, and whether he could commit to committee meetings which are usually held every Thursday in person.

In response to Councillor Harveys question regarding scrutiny, Mr Troy advised that he had sat on many international committees through his work and that he has dealt with being critiqued, therefore he felt that he had the appropriate experience with understanding issues and developing a process to correct it. Mr Troy advised that attending meetings both in person and virtually would not be an issue.

Councillor Howells explained that Parish Council's do not have as much power as the public may think, and that Councillors are sometimes restricted to what they can do. Mr Troy advised that he understood the importance of having the correct policies in place and providing members of the public with transparency.

Presentation 2 – Mr Treanor

The Chairman welcomed Chris Treanor to the meeting.

Mr Treanor provided members with a verbal presentation on why he would like to be co-opted as a councillor and what made him a good candidate. He advised members that he has resided in Ledbury since 2010 with his wife and two children and that he is a swimming instructor in Cowell. Mr Treanor advised members that he is currently completing a degree in Politics and Philosophy with the Open University and felt that the knowledge he has learnt whilst studying could be applied in the role of a councillor.

Councillor Harvey explained that the Council had been under a lot of public scrutiny and asked Mr Treanor how he would deal with this. She also noticed that Mr Treanor had previously commented on planning applications and asked whether he had taken interest in other work that the Council has done.

Mr Treanor understood the challenges that he may face as a councillor and explained that he has also dealt with public scrutiny in his day-to-day job. He advised that due to his children growing up, he has more time to become involved with the Council.

Councillor Howells asked Mr Treanor whether he could commit to committee meetings which are usually held every Thursday in person.

Whilst Mr Treanor felt that standing committee meetings would not interfere with his work schedule, he advised members that he is waiting to hear back from Hereford Swimming Club with a new schedule of work hours which may mean that on occasions he may be unavailable for meetings.

Presentation 3 – Mr Hughes

Mr Hughes provided members with a verbal presentation on why he would like to be co-opted as a councillor and what made him a good candidate. He advised members that he had stood for election as a town councillor 6-years ago but was unsuccessful. He stated that due to his work commitments and travelling, he felt it was the right outcome for him at that time. Now fully retired, Mr Hughes felt that he could give more time to the council and residents of Ledbury.

Councillor Harvey explained that the Council had been under a lot of public scrutiny and asked Mr Hughes how he would deal with this. She also asked whether Mr Hughes had taken any particular interest in work that the Council has recently done.

Mr Hughes advised that as an ex-schoolteacher, he was used to scrutiny and being public property. He advised that he followed the development of the Town Plan and regularly checks Planning Applications.

Councillor Howells explained that Parish Council's do not have as much power as the public may think, and that Councillors are sometimes restricted to what they can do. He also asked whether Mr Hughes would be able to commit to committee meetings.

In response to Councillor Howells questions, Mr Hughes advised that he understood that a councillor has limited power and that members have to work collectively.

The Chairman, Councillor Vesma, thanked the three candidates for their presentation and advised that the council would be going into closed session to discuss the co-option.

C340 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **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.

C341 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION

There was a lengthy discussion on the three candidates' presentations, following which Members agreed that all three candidates were positive and enthusiastic about the role of a councillor.

C342 The meeting was reopened to the public.

C343 TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION

Nominations were invited from Members in respect of each candidate:

- I. Malcom Hughes
- II. Chris Treanor
- III. Gary Troy

RESOLVED:

That the above candidates be co-opted onto Ledbury Town Council as of Tuesday, 6 April 2021.

C344 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that it be noted that the next Full Council meeting was an extraordinary meeting scheduled for Thursday, 15 April 2021.

The meeting closed

Signed
Town Mayor

Date