

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021
VIA ZOOM**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Town Clerk – Angela Price

C353 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Chowns.

C354 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None received.

C355 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 22 APRIL 2021

Members were asked to receive and note the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Full Council held on 22 April 2021.

Councillor Hughes highlighted errors within the minutes and the Clerk informed members that she would amend accordingly.

The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 22 April 2021 were received and noted.

C356 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT

A written report was received from Councillors Howells and l'Anson.

That the Ward Councillor report provided by Councillor Howells be received and noted.

C357 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

C358 TO RECEIVE MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a. The following motion was received from Councillor Harvey:

That Ledbury Town Council adopts the Hereford City Council approach to the presumed sequencing of Councillors for the civic honour of becoming Mayor of Ledbury.

Councillor Harvey explained that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would be appointed on the basis of seniority of service with the Town Council. However, councillors who are due to be Mayor may defer for 1-4 years in succession or refuse the honour entirely.

Councillor Bannister felt that the above motion was unsuitable to discuss at the meeting due to Councillors having no voting rights. **Councillor Bannister proposed that an extraordinary meeting of Full Council is held where councillors are able to make a vote on Councillor Harveys motion.**

Whilst Councillor Eakin agreed with the above motion, he agreed with Councillor Bannister and suggested deferring the motion to an extraordinary meeting of Full Council where Councillors can vote.

Councillor Knight advised members that her preference would be to not defer the discussion, as the meeting was streamed on Facebook which allowed members of the public to be a part of the meeting. She felt that this was more transparent.

Councillor Morris seconded Councillor Bannisters proposal to not discuss the motion further.

Councillor Vesma proposed the following amendment to Councillor Bannisters proposal.

That each Councillor has an opportunity to express their view on the motion provided by Councillor Harvey, and that an extraordinary meeting of Full Council is held when Councillors are able to vote.

Members were asked to take a named vote on the substantive proposal by Councillor Vesma.

FOR

**Councillor Eakin
Councillor Knight
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Hughes
Councillor Troy
Councillor Whattler
Councillor Vesma**

AGAINST

**Councillor Bannister
Councillor Manns
Councillor Howells
Councillor Morris**

The substantive proposal by Councillor Vesma was passed.

Each Councillor had the opportunity to express their views on Ledbury Town Council adopting Hereford City Council's approach to the presumed sequencing of Councillors for the civic honour of becoming Mayor of Ledbury.

Councillor Vesma strongly agreed with the motion and felt that it was a fairer and more democratic way for members to take turns to become Mayor.

Councillor Knight asked why the public could not vote for a mayor. Councillor Harvey advised that the public voted for all members to sit on the Council, and that it is written in the Local Government act 1972, that councillors vote on who the next mayor will be.

It was suggested that the above motion be deferred to an extraordinary meeting of Full Council for further discussion and vote.

b. The following motion was received from Councillor Manns:

That all essential workers who have worked through the Covid Pandemic are not only thanked but have their names recorded for future reference.

Whilst Councillors agreed with the motion put forward by Councillor Manns, there were some concerns with the logistics and how the names of essential workers would be obtained.

Councillor Manns suggested contacting business that stayed open throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, including large supermarkets and local garages.

Councillor Vesma suggested creating a nomination form and advertising it on the Ledbury Town Council website, and potentially a wall of thanks.

Councillor Hughes had some concerns, including what the definition of an essential worker was and potentially missing residents off the list. Councillor Whattler also had concerns with GDPR.

Councillor Manns suggested an E-Scroll, where names could be updated regularly and shared on the Town Councils social media sites and website.

Members agreed that the motion was a fantastic idea and understood the importance of recognising those who have worked tirelessly through the pandemic.

Councillor Harvey suggested deferring the motion to the relevant standing committee for further discussion.

It was suggested that the above motion be deferred to the next meeting of Environmental and Leisure Committee.

C359

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members were requested to receive and note the minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee held on 8 April and 13 May and to consider recommendations therein.

The minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Committee held on 8 April and 13 May 2021 were received and noted.

C360

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members were requested to receive and note the minutes of a Resources Committee meeting held on 29 April 2021 and to consider any recommendations therein.

Councillor Hughes asked whether the new salary for the Community Development Officer has been analysed professionally. Councillor Harvey advised the new members of council that a recent organisational review has taken place where staff salaries have been scored by an appropriate process.

The Clerk advised members that she would send a copy of the presentation that the new Community Development Officer presented to members of Resources.

The minutes of the Resources Committee held on 29 April 2021 were received and noted.

C361

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members were requested to receive and note the minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 20 May 2021 and to consider any recommendations therein.

Councillor Morris left the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 20 May 2021 were received and noted.

C362

CO-OPTION POLICY

Members were asked to give consideration to a suggested amendment to the Council's Co-option Policy.

Councillor Harvey asked members to consider either of the following processes being included in the Council's Co-option Policy:

- I. That all applicants are required to obtain two signatures from electors who reside within the ward the applicant wish to represent, this would be in line with the process when putting their name forward to stand in election.

OR

- II. That all applicants be required to obtain signatures from ten electors who reside within the ward the applicant wishes to represent, which is in line with the process for calling bye-elections.

Whilst Councillor Eakin agreed with the amendment to the Co-option Policy, he felt that it should be deferred to an extraordinary meeting of Full Council, where members can vote.

Councillor Vesma advised members that his preferred option was (1) and agreed with Councillor Eakin in relation to deferring to a meeting where members can vote.

Councillor Harvey asked whether it would be possible to approve all the draft minutes at the extraordinary meeting of Full Council as opposed to the Annual Council.

It was suggested that the proposed amendment to the Co-option Policy be deferred to the extraordinary meeting of Full Council.

C363 OUTSIDE BODIES

No update received.

C364 NEWSLETTER

The Clerk updated members on the summer edition Newsletter and advised members that they need to provide the Community Development Officer with their article by Monday.

C365 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next Full Council and the Annual Council meeting, scheduled for Thursday, 24 June 2021 at 7:30pm and will be held in the Burgage Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.24 pm.

Signed
Town Mayor

Date