

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
Held at Ledbury Community Hall
On Thursday 26th April 2018

Present: Councillor Fieldhouse – Mayor of the Town Council (Chair)

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk cover and Jennifer Eva – Deputy Clerk

Parishioners: 57

1. Presentation of Distinguished Citizen awards for 2018

There were four Distinguished Citizen Awards, one Youth Achievement Award and one Joint Award for Twinning Activities. The individuals who had made the nominations introduced the award winners and spoke further about their achievements. Awards were presented by the Mayor to:

A: Reo Selwyn. (Youth Achievement) Cllr Keith Francis explained that Reo had been nominated for the fund raising he has done to support "Bailey" the Ledbury Primary School Dog, who is being trained under the "Dogs Helping Kids" scheme. Reo is in year 6 and has raised over £1300 in support of this cause.

B: Ken Davies. Mr. Clive Jupp nominated Ken for "outstanding commitment to Ledbury community". Ken restarted Ledbury Carnival some 30 years ago and was one of the key inspirations behind the starting of Ledbury in Bloom.

C: Jennifer Harrison. Cllr Robert Barnes nominated Jennifer for her research into the history of Ledbury, particularly the Great War – both militarily and socially. Jennifer was also one of the key organisers of the rededication of the Ledbury Recreation Ground.

D: Clive Jupp. Hilary Jones nominated Clive for being a stalwart of Ledbury Community for 25 years – including 20 years on the Town Council and twice Mayor. Clive has been heavily involved in Ledbury Carnival, Ledbury Strömstad Twinning Association, Ledbury in Bloom and Ledbury Places to name a few.

E: Helen Moody. Helen was nominated by several parishioners for her organisation of events for the community including Viking Day, Halloween celebration and Tudor Christmas. All these events have helped promote Ledbury.

F: Ledbury Community Choir. (Joint Award for Twinning Activities between the towns of Strömstad and Ledbury) The choir was nominated for its outstanding commitment to twinning activities between the two towns.

2. Apologies.

No apologies were received.

3. To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 27th April 2017.

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 27th April 2017 were APPROVED as a correct record and SIGNED by the Chair.

4. Town Mayor's Report.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Elaine Fieldhouse, welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting and read her report regarding the Council's achievements and actions during 2017-18. These included the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the rededication of Ledbury Recreation Ground and involvement with local schools. Appendix 1

5. a) Summary of Town Council's work during 2017/18 by the Committee Chairmen.

5.1 Environment and Leisure Committee

Councillor A. Bradford, Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee, presented a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee during 2017-18 – Appendix 2

5.2 Planning and Economic Development Committee

Councillor A. Crowe, Chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, presented a report highlighting the large number of houses that have been granted planning permission around Ledbury during 2017-18, and the importance, therefore, of the NDP. – Appendix 3

Cllr Crowe resigned from her position as councillor and left the meeting

5.3 Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillor Robert Barnes, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, presented a summary of the role of the committee, the reason why the precept has increased this coming year and confirmation that no issues have ever been identified by either internal or external auditors as to the financial management of the Town Council. – Appendix 4

b) Town Council's Estimates of Income & Expenditure 2018/19.

The estimates of income and expenditure were NOTED

6. Comments and Questions from any Elector of Ledbury Parish.

- Why were the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 31st May 2017 not on the agenda for approval? – *The clerk covering the meeting reported that she was unaware, at the time the agenda was set, that there had been another Town Meeting. She did, however, confirm that the notes from this meeting had been taken to the next Council Meeting on the 8th June 2017 for consideration, as was right and proper.*
- Total precept is £375,000 of which £64,309 has been spent on solicitors fees. Can the council comment on this? – *The council is involved in a legal case that was brought to the council and the payment for professional services was required.*
- A query was raised about the extra hours that the groundsman had worked. *It was confirmed that the groundsman had been paid his overtime and an assistant groundsman has now been appointed.*
- Has the vacancy for town councillor been advertised? *It was noted that the paperwork has been put up and advertised.*
- What is the outcome of the judicial review? *It was reported that this is still awaited.*
- Were all council members allowed to decide what to do with regard to the Judicial Review? *All recommendations from Standing Committees are taken to Full Council for approval.*
- Which councillors sit on the Standing Committee? – *The Chairs of all the committees.*
- Are decisions taken available to view on minutes? – Yes
- Will the cost of the judicial review come out of the precept? – *The advice given to the Council was indemnified. In the event that the advice was wrong the Council is then covered by insurance.*
- Has the mediation for councillors following the judicial review started? No – *as the Judicial Review outcome is not yet known.*

Cllr Barnes resigned for his position as councillor.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed: _____ Dated: _____