

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL HELD ON
9 FEBRUARY 2022**

PRESENT: Councillors Bannister, Bradford, Chowns, Eakin, Harvey, Howells, Hughes, Knight, Morris, Sinclair, and Whattler

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Amy Howells – Minute Taker

C521 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Troy and Manns.

C522 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

C523 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.

C525 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(E) AND 3 (F)

RESOLVED:

No public present

C526 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for 31 March 2022 at 7:00PM

C527 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, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public are excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

C528 LEDBURY WAR MEMORIAL

Members were requested to give consideration to information provided in respect of the letter sent from the Council's solicitor to the contractors solicitors.

They were requested to give consideration to the following five recommendations:

- 1. That Members give consideration to the letter received from the contractors' solicitors on behalf of their client The Stone Workshop and agree how they wish to proceed in the light of the information contained therein.**
- 2. That Members give consideration to the information and attached to this report in respect of the Structural Engineers and decide which company they wish to appoint to provide their services in relation to the repairs needed to the War Memorial.**
- 3. That Members take notice of the advice provided by the Councils solicitors in respect of the Caroe report and do not release the report to the individual or make public in any way at this time.**
- 4. That Members receive and note the attached information received and sent to a member of the public.**
- 5. That Members consider the advice received from the Council's solicitors in respect of any further engagement with members of the public and agree on a way forward.**

All members were given the opportunity to speak on the issues concerned and following considerable discussion the following was proposed:

That Ledbury Town Council make a counteroffer to that proposed by the contractors' solicitors that Ledbury Town Council request a payment of £10,000 as full and final settlement to the matter, noting that should the contractor refuse this offer the Council will take legal action to recover monies.

A named vote was requested the outcome of which was as follows:

FOR: (9)

Councillors Bannister, Whattler, Sinclair, Chowns, Harvey, Hughes, Morris, Howells, Eakin

AGAINST: (1)

Councillor Bradford

ABSTENTION: (1)

Councillor Knight

Councillor Bradford proposed that the works to repair the War Memorial be commenced as a priority.

FOR: (10)

Councillor Bradford, Sinclair, Knight, Chowns, Harvey, Hughes, Morris, Whattler, Bannister, Howells

**Abstention: (1)
Councillor Eakin**

Councillor Chowns proposed a press release being prepared as soon as possible.

Councillor Eakin left the meeting at 7:58PM

The Clerk advised that she had received advice from solicitor regarding Mr Ellis' request for a copy of the advice from the Solicitors in respect of the release of the Caroe report. She informed members that the Solicitor had declined the release of his email on the grounds of legal privilege.

Councillor Harvey proposed that the Clerk write to members of the public and thank them for engaging in this matter advising them of the Council's next steps.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Ledbury Town Council make a counteroffer to that proposed by the contractors' solicitors that Ledbury Town Council request a payment of £10,000 as full and final settlement to the matter, noting that should the contractor refuse this offer the Council will take legal action to recover monies.**
- 2. That the Council make arrangements for the repairs to the Memorial to be expediated.**
- 3. That the Clerk advise Caroe of the Council's decision in respect of which structural engineer to appoint.**
- 4. That the Council follow legal advice in respect of the request by Mr Ellis in respect of the release of the Caroe report.**
- 5. Councillor Harvey proposed that the Clerk write to members of the public and thank them for engaging in this matter advising them of the Council's next steps.**
- 6. That the Clerk drafts a press release and letters to be sent to members of the public who have engaged via email/letter and that this draft be sent to all Councillors for their comments prior to sending.**

C529 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM RESOURCES MEETING

Staffing Issues

Councillor Morris had requested further discussion in respect of Minute No. 148.

Following considerable discussion, it was RESOLVED:

- 1. That the review of Post Holder 50 be undertaken prior to them going on Maternity leave.**
- 2. That the Clerk advertise the role of Community Development Officer as a one-year fixed term (maternity cover) as a priority.**
- 3. That the Clerk and Community Development Officer meet to discuss the current job description to ensure it is fit for purpose.**

The meeting ended at 8:39pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)