

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
HELD ON 27 MARCH 2025**

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**PRESENT:** Councillors Bradford, Chowns (Town Mayor), Harvey, Kettle and Morris

**ALSO PRESENT:** Angela Price  
Councillor Simmons (Ledbury South)

**C707. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Browning, Hughes and Sinclair.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Clerk write to Councillor Eakin to establish whether it would be helpful to him to submit a formal request for dispensation for attendance at meetings and whether there are any reasonable adjustments that Council could consider in respect of how meetings are held which would assist him in his participation.**

**C708. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**C709. TO NOTE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.**

**C710. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 6 MARCH 2025 AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6 March 2025 as a correct record.**

**C711. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE ACTION SHEET**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the action sheet be received and noted.**



C712.

### **WARD COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Harvey provided a verbal Ward Report advising that the middle section of New Street is scheduled to be repaired in April and that the works would be carried out at night so as to minimise disruption to the businesses. She also noted that she had received notification that a planning application from Bloor to change the route of the canal through the development. Councillor Harvey raised the issues around the governments newly proposed housing targets and how this is likely to affect Herefordshire. She advised that as the current Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was adopted in 2023 it does still carry some weight that that can be applied for five years from its adoption. However it should be noted that any planning applications that come forward from now are unlikely to be finalised until 2028 and therefore the weight given to the NDP will potentially light at that point. She urged Members to ensure that Ledbury Town Council engages vigorously in all future consultations in relation to the Local Plan and other planning matters.

Councillor Simmons provided an overview of her written report. Members were also made aware of the damage that had occurred to the "Welcome to Ledbury" sign in Parkway and the Clerk advised that she had received contact details of the individual who had been involved in this incident and advised that she would be making contact with them in due course. Councillor Simmons added further information in respect of the housing land supply changes raised by Councillor Harvey. She also provided an update in relation to the Vistry Development noting that they had taken this to appeal and if they are successful have advised they will be submitting their application within the next two months

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Ward reports be received and noted.

C713.

### **MAYORS COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reminded Members of the Civic Celebration, which is scheduled for Sunday, 27 April 2025 at the Rugby Club.

C714.

### **TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(e) and 3(f)**

The Mayor advised that he wished to read into the record of the meeting the content of an email that had been received from former Mayor Annette Crowe, which would be read without comment or discussion.

*"I understand that on the agenda there is a motion (no 9 ) to recognise former Councillor Howells in some way. I strongly object to this even being discussed bearing in mind that he publicly slandered myself and other residents of Ledbury in a disgusting tirade allowed by the then*



*Mayor. There are past Mayors who worked much harder for the town and actually enhanced Ledbury Town Council rather than bring it into disrepute with his mishandling of the War memorial.*

*I find this motion utterly repellent and it would be a travesty if he were so honoured. I would like this to be read out prior to any discussion and vote on the motion and your confirmation after the meeting that this has been done."*

C715.

**TO RECEIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9**

Councillor Harvey had submitted the following motion for consideration:

*"That Ledbury Town Council consider an appropriate way to formally recognise the service of former Councillor Phillip Howells, particularly his contributions to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Council's Corporate Plan, and his tenures as Mayor and deputy Mayor",*

Councillor Harvey advised that she had been asked by Councillor Hughes, who was unable to be at this meeting, to put forward the Notice of Motion and advised that she had been happy to do so.

Councillor Bradford seconded the motion stating that he was in favour of recognising past Mayors and Councillors and asked that Council look at this as something they would take into consideration future Mayors rather than singling one Mayor out. He stated that he was not against the motion and did recognise Councillor Howells had worked under difficult circumstances and had put himself forward, many times, to be Mayor where others at the time were unwilling.

Councillor Harvey advised that she whilst she had been happy to bring the motion forward on behalf of Councillor Hughes and was in favour of recognising the work of people who have served the Ledbury Community in significant ways, not necessarily just for a long period of time, she suggested, as the proposer of the motion, an amendment to the Notice of Motion to recognise significant service to the Ledbury Community and for Council to consider this on a future agenda how they might recognise significant public and community service.

Following discussion Councillor Harvey provided the following amended Notice of Motion:

*"That Ledbury Town Council consider an appropriate way to formally recognise significant contributions to public and community service."*

Councillor Bradford, as the seconder of the original motion, was happy to accept the amendment.



**RESOLVED:**

**That an item be placed on a future Council agenda that Ledbury Town Council consider options to formally recognise significant contributions to public and community service.**

- C716. **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 MARCH 2024**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 6 March 2025 be received and noted.**

- C717. **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE MONTH 10 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the month 10 financial reports be received and noted.**

- C718. **TO CONFIRM VERIFICATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS FOR JANUARY 2025**

It was noted that due to the resignation of John Newsham the January bank reconciliations had not yet been signed off.

**RESOLVED:**

**That as the suspended Vice Chair of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Harvey agreed to call into the office the following week to review and sign the reconciliation documents.**

- C719. **GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

**RESOLVED:**

**That a grant of £500 be awarded to Ledbury Swifts in support of their visit to Strömstad noting that the statute for this award is Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19.**

- C720. **GRANTS FEEDBACK**

Members were provided with feedback from Citizens Advice Bureau in relation to how they support individuals who experience difficulties accessing the service provided due to travel of financial circumstances.

Councillors expressed their disappointment with the response provided, advising that previously Citizens Advice had attended Council meetings



to provide a report on how their services had helped residents of the Ledbury Community.

It was noted that Citizens Advice (CAB) now operate from the Ledbury Food Bank and a possible way forward in relation to the distribution of funds to CAB could be through the Ledbury Food Bank.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Clerk write to Ledbury Food Bank to ask whether they would consider an annual report to Council on the work of CAB in helping local if the present funding paid directly to CAB were instead to be channelled through the Food Bank.**

**C721. FEES AND CHARGES**

a. Cemetery Fees and Charges

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the Cemetery fees and charges for 2025/26 be increased by 5% with effect from 1 April 2025, and that all Funeral Directors and Memorial Masons be advised of the increase accordingly.**
2. **That the additional charge from the grave digger of £25 per grave excavation be approved, to allow for the disposal of surplus soil to the skip.**
3. **That with effect from 1 April 2025 the current skip hire be amended to a 4 cubic yard skip at a cost of £225 plus VAT per hire.**

b. Room Hire and Market Fees and Charges

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That the Wedding and Charter Market fees and charges for 2025/26 be increased by 5% with effect from 1 April 2025 and that all Market Traders be advised of the new charges as a matter of priority.**
2. **That consideration be given to ways in which the offering for Weddings in the Jacobean Room can be marketed.**



C722. **SUBSCRIPTIONS – CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the subscription with Campaign to Protect Rural England be renewed at a cost of £36.00.**

C723. **PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

1. Application number 250438 – proposed new public entrance into Ledbury Nursing Home with external renovations and refurbishment including demolition of part of existing boundary wall to create stepped access from street. New canopy to Market Lodge entrance. New lighting and signage – **Ledbury Nursing Home, Market Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR 2AQ**

**RESOLVED:**

**No objection.**

2. Application number 250754 – Works to Trees in Conservation Area – T1 – Leaning Yew adjacent to wall, remove leaning tree, retaining small upright tree to the rear. T2 – Two Cypress situated adjacent to the wall, carefully fell in sections to as near ground level as possible. reason – all three trees are within a metre of the wall which is now starting to collapse. Tree works are to facilitate rebuilding wall – Netherhall, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DJ

**RESOLVED:**

**No objection.**

3. Application number 250841 – Works to trees covered by TPO T1: Scots Pine – reduce the overhanging branches by approx. 2-3m (see picture) and remove 5-6 limbs back to stem. T2: Corsican Pine (standing dead) – dismantle down to ground level. Following tree report, - The Garden House, Church Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DJ

**RESOLVED:**

**No objection.**

4. Application number 250472 – Proposed cladding to a portion of the front of the house (retrospective) – 14 Auden Crescent, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2UU



**RESOLVED:**

C724. **No objection.  
TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the planning decisions be received and noted.**

C725. **TO APPROVE THE DRAFT TOWN MAP**

Members were provided with a draft of the Town Map for consideration. Following considerable discussion it was agreed that the following comments should be fed back to suppliers.

Councillor Morris requested that the Masefield Matters logo be included on the map, however Members did not consider that this would be appropriate at this stage of the Masefield Matters project and it was suggested that the link to the Masefield Matters page on the Council website be provided to Visit Herefordshire to be include in the Ledbury Page of the website, which will mean that when individuals make use of the QR Code on the map that directs visitors to the Visit Herefordshire Ledbury page will be able to click on the link and find out information on the Masefield Matters project.

That clarification be sought in respect of the QR Code on the Independent Shopping section of the pages, as this Code takes visitors to the Visit Herefordshire Webpages.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That consideration be given to using a different picture of Church Lane, one that includes the hanging baskets and possibly bunting.
2. That the Ledbury Heritage photos remain as currently shown as a mixture of portrait and landscape views.
3. That the link to the Masefield Matters page on the Council website be provided to Visit Herefordshire to include in the Ledbury Page of the website.
4. That clarification be sought in respect of the QR Code on the Independent Shopping section of the pages, as this Code takes visitors to the Visit Herefordshire Webpages.
5. That a request be made that the small picture of the Heritage Centre overlapping the picture of the Barrett Browning Building



(BBI) moved to the right of the larger picture to allow all of the BBI to be seen.

6. That consideration be given to white borders around all pictures shown in the independent shopping section.
7. That consideration be given to making use of an alternative photograph of the Market House.

**C726. APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE**

**RESOLVED:**

**No objection.**

**C727. UPDATE ON SLOW WAYS PROJECT**

Members were provided with an update on the progress of the Slow Ways project and asked to consider providing a non-committal quote in support of the crowdfunding project.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Clerk and Mayor meet to consider and provide a non-committal quote in support of the crowdfunding project for Slow Ways.**

**C728. OUTCOME OF RECENT DROPPED KERB SURVEY BY LEDBURY MOBILITY USERS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the dropped kerb report provided by Ledbury Mobility users be forwarded to Herefordshire Council Ward members.**

**C729. ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS MEMORIAL TESTING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be received and noted, noting that the information will be provided to the Diocese for next steps in relation to any repairs required.**

**C730. COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF LEDBURY WORLD BOOK FEST EVENT – 8 MARCH 2025**

Members were provided with copies of complaints received from traders in respect of the use of parking spaces for the market on World Book Fest Day.





The Clerk advised that she had written to all those who had submitted complaints advising that their comments had been noted and that going forward use of St Katherine's Square would be prioritised.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the complaints be received and noted, noting that the Clerk has provided responses to all complainants.
2. That going forward delivery plans for all future events should be approved by Council and provided to the traders in good time so that they are aware of events and can consider how they might participate.

C731.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS VE DAY HELD ON 11 MARCH 2025**

Members were advised that a decision had been to not proceed with the event on the recreation ground due to limited staffing resources due to current sickness absences.

The Clerk asked for clarification on the proposed grant funding in support of Street Parties for the event.

Members were concerned with regard the health and safety and insurance implications of a burner to create a beacon effect. Members felt that alternative options should be looked at in respect of this.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That it be noted that the proposed event on the recreation ground will not be going ahead due to lack of resources.
2. That a press release be published that there are grants available up to £100 per street party.
3. That the information packs provided with the grants for the late Queen Elizabeth II 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee be amended for VE Day.
4. That the suggestion of a burner to be carried to the Church tower is not pursued, but that alternative options such as illuminating the lights at the tower with alternative colour bulbs or the projection of a flame onto the tower be investigated.

C732.

**OUTSIDE BODIES**

**RESOLVED:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**That the minutes of the Ledbury Carnival Association Committee held on 5 March 2025 be received and noted.**

**C733. 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.**

**C734. PROVISION OF NEW CCTV – LEDBURY RECREATION GROUND**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the allocation of £8,000 match funding towards the Ledbury Town Recreation Ground CCTV project be approved and that the funds be taken from the earmarked reserves.**

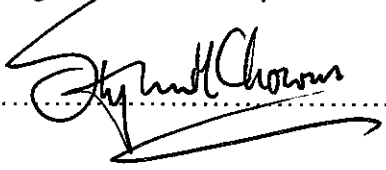
**C735. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**To note that the next meeting is scheduled for 17 April 2025.**

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

Signed .....



Dated.....

17/04/25