

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Bradford, Chowns (Town Mayor), Furlonger, Harvey, Hughes, Morris and Sinclair

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Julia Lawrence – Deputy Town Clerk (Minute Taker)

C302 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eakin, Howells and Newsham.

C303 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Harvey and Councillor Morris declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 10 regarding Bye Street public toilets.

C304 NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles were received and noted.

C305 TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL HELD ON 4 JULY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 4 July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

C306 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

To receive reports from Ledbury Ward Members:

- i] Councillor Harvey (Ledbury North)
- ii] Councillor Peberdy (Ledbury West)
- iii] Councillor Simmons (Ledbury South)

RESOLVED:

- 1 In the absence of a written report, Councillor Harvey provided a verbal report which included updates on the following:
 - Roadworks at Ledbury Station.
 - Herefordshire Council Economic Development meetings with Ledbury Town Council and the importance of Members attendance at those meetings.
- 2 The Clerk reported that she had emailed Councillors with dates of forthcoming meetings with the Herefordshire Council Economic Development Officer.
- 3 It was noted that no report had been received from Councillor Peberdy due to her being on annual leave.
- 4 That the Councillor Ward Reports be received and noted with thanks.

C307 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Chowns informed the meeting that he was privileged to visit HMS Ledbury on Monday, 29 July 2024, on behalf of the Town, to attend a tour of the HMS ship and Naval Museum.

It was noted that Lidl had asked to meet with Councillors to discuss their planning application.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk is to arrange a meeting with Lidl to discuss their planning application, noting that Councillors Chowns, Morris and Sinclair had expressed an interest in attending that meeting, and that Councillor Simmons be invited as the Ward Councillor along with a Planning Officer.

C308 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(E) AND 3(F)

- 1 Mrs Helen l'Anson, asked whether Councillor Furlonger had provided a report on how communications between Ledbury Town Council and Ledbury Traders Association could be improved (Minute No. P254 refers).

It was confirmed that Councillor Furlonger had not written this report and Committee Members agreed that traders should write formally to Ledbury Town Council and request a meeting in September.

Mrs l'Anson agreed to request such a letter.

- 2 Mr Tim Keyes provided a summary on the current status of John Masefield Memorial project. In the absence of the relevant report in respect of the John Masefield project, it was agreed that Agenda Item No. 26 should be deferred to an Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Thursday, 8 August 2024.
- 3 Councillor Harvey advised that she wished to speak as a Member of the Public as a Trustee of Love Ledbury and subsequently retired from the meeting as a Councillor, in respect of Agenda Item No. 10, reference to the Environment and Leisure Committee meeting minutes of 18 July 2024, Item No. 128.7 on the Action Sheet, where the Town Clerk is to contact the Estates Officer at Herefordshire Council to arrange a meeting between all interested parties. It was noted that a considerable time had elapsed during which time repairs had taken place at the toilets using grant funding, and a resolution had been made by Ledbury Town Council at a meeting on 23 November 2023 to set up a joint operation for a pilot scheme. However, Mrs Harvey noted that this pilot had not commenced and that officers had been asked to arrange a meeting between Love Ledbury, HC Officers and Ledbury town Council to discuss the future of the toilets on Bye Street.

Mrs Harvey stated that little progress had been made and no concerns had been fed back to Love Ledbury in respect of any issues in relation to the draft agreement provided to a meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee.

Mrs Harvey asked that the Council revisit the decision to work with Love Ledbury for a period of six-months as agreed at their meeting of 23 November 2023.

Councillor Harvey rejoined the meeting as a Councillor.

C309 TO RECEIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9

The following motion had been submitted by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Furlonger:-

“That Council suspends the committee structure of developed powers; suspend the current pattern of meetings; and to move to fortnightly meetings of Full Council. The timings of this change to be decided by Full Council. The exception will be the Resources Committee which will continue to meet as an when needed and with the current membership”.

Following considerable discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- 1 That Council suspends the committee structure of developed powers; suspend the current pattern of meetings; and move to fortnightly meetings of Full Council. The timings of this change to be decided by Full Council. The exception will be the Resources Committee which will continue to meet as and when needed and with the current membership.
- 2 That a Resources Committee meeting be scheduled for Thursday, 29 August 2024 to establish work programmes.
- 3 That the first meeting of Council of the new meeting cycle be scheduled for mid/late September.
4. That the Clerk investigate the legalities for the proposed change and report back to the next Full Council meeting.

C310 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 JULY 2024 AND AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2024 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Committee held on 4 July 2024 and an Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 July 2024 were received and noted.

C311 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JULY 2024 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

Councillors Harvey and Morris left the meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 17 July 2024 be received and noted.
2. That the Clerk arrange a meeting to discuss Bye Street toilets as agreed in Minute No. E127.

C312 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLANNING, ECONOMY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JUNE 2024 AND 18 JULY 2024 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning, Economy and Tourism Committee held on 20 June 2024 and 18 July 2024 be received and noted.

C313 TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JULY 2024 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee held on 25 July 2024 be received and noted.

C314 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that this had now been superseded by the Motion passed, as noted above at Minute No. C309.

C315 UPDATE ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE TASK & FINISH GROUP

The Clerk confirmed that both Planning, Economy and Tourism and the Environment and Leisure Committee have reviewed their work programmes and that Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee work programme remains outstanding due to the Chair being unwell.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk meets with the Chair of Finance, Policy & General Purposes to arrange a date for a working party to establish their priorities for 2024/25.

C316 OUTCOME OF NOTICE OF VACANCY LEDBURY WEST

The Clerk reported that notification had been received from Herefordshire Council Elections advising that as no names for election had been received, Ledbury Town Council could now proceed to co-option in respect of the vacancy.

The Clerk advised that she had received one application for co-option and had been contacted by two other interested individuals.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Clerk contact the two individuals who had expressed an interest in co-option to advise that an extraordinary meeting will be arranged and that if they are still interested to ask them to submit their applications as soon as possible.**
- 2. That an Extraordinary meeting be arranged for consideration of co-option applications.**
- 3. That a press release be provided in relation to the current vacancies at Ledbury Town Council and that this be included in the next Council Newsletter.**

C317 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTRACT

RESOLVED:

- 1. That officers be instructed to appoint Company No. 1 to supply and install Christmas lights in ledbury for a three-year contract (2024-2026) in the sum of £13,194 plus VAT per annum.**
- 2. That Members note the Payment Terms of the contract as outlined within the report.**

C318 LEDBURY CHRISTMAS LIGHT EVENT

Members were requested to give consideration to hiring a local events company to manage the Christmas Market for the 2024 Lights Switch on event.

Concerns were raised in respect of the costs quoted bearing in mind the Council had reduced the expenditure on the Christmas Lights for the next three years.

There were also some issues around how the report had been presented and it was agreed that this report should be referred back to officers for more information and reconsidered at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 8 August 2024.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That Ledbury Town Council take an “in principal” decision not to hire an outside company to manage the Christmas Lights Switch on Event.**
- 2 That the Community Engagement Officer be asked to provide a revised proposal on what they believe can be achieved without the support of the events company, along with a detailed**

breakdown of costs and that this be submitted to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 8 August 2024.

- 3 That Mr Wilson's Second Liners be hired for the Christmas Light switch on event at a cost of £800.00.

C319 OFFICER REPORTS

RESOLVED:

That the Officer Reports be received and noted with thanks.

C320 OUTSIDE BODIES

- i] **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEDBURY CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION HELD ON 5 JUNE 2024, 3 AND 17 JULY 2024**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ledbury Carnival Association held on 5 June 2024, 3 and 17 July 2024 be received and noted.

- ii] **REQUEST FROM MALVERN HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND VISIT TO HOPE END**

RESOLVED:

1 That Malvern Hills National Landscape be provided with a grant application from.

2 Councillor Harvey confirmed that if she was available on Friday, 13 September 2024, then she would attend Hope End to represent Ledbury Town Council.

- iii] **REQUEST FROM WORCESTERSHIRE PENSION FUND TO SIT ON LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD**

RESOLVED:

To note that no nomination was received from Members to sit on the Local Pensions Board.

C321 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(X)

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order 3(x) be suspended for a period of 30 minutes to enable the remaining business of the agenda to be completed.

C322 LEDBURY ZERO-FOOD WASTE INITIATIVE

Members applauded the sentiment of the Initiative and suggested that officers visit some of the food lockers in other places, such as Saxon Hall Community and Centre in the City, before making a decision and how this could work for Ledbury. There was concern that having a food locker at the Recreation Ground may cause problems since it would be unattended. It was noted that the Recreation Ground was only a suggestion and that it may be more appropriate to accommodate such food lockers at Supermarkets and therefore the geographics would need to be considered further.

Members considered they were not sufficiently informed to make a decision at this stage but were in favour of exploring the matter further.

RESOLVED:

Members agreed to explore the matter further and that Officers seek further information on the Initiative and bring this back to Committee so that Members are better informed to make a decision.

C323 REQUEST FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENT SUPPORT

RESOLVED:

Members were in favour of Mr Warden providing a presentation to the Resources Committee.

C324 REQUEST FROM LEDBURY COMMUNITY HUB

The Clerk updated Members on the report advising that the organisation had since escalated this and have gone to a different organisation to help them so this item was now obsolete.

RESOLVED:

That this matter had been withdrawn by the Community Hub.

C325 REQUEST FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Members agreed that it would be very useful to have a proper meeting with Mr John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner, as opposed to him just attending a Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk invite Mr John Campion to attend a meeting with Councillors in September 2024.

C326 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

To note that the next meeting of Full Council is scheduled for Thursday, 8 August 2024 in the Council Offices.

C327 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.

C328 JOHN MASEFIELD MEMORIAL PROJECT

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred to the Extraordinary Meeting scheduled for 8 August 2024.

C329 DRAFT LICENCE – ST KATHERINES SQUARE

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred to the extraordinary meeting scheduled for 8 August 2024.

The meeting ended at 9.08 pm.

Signed Date