

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Councillors Bradford, Browning, Chowns (Chair), Harvey, Hughes, Morris, Newsham, and Sinclair.

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk
Julia Lawrence – Deputy Clerk
Honor Holton – Minute Taker

Members of the public were also present.

C645. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kettle. Councillor Howells' apologies were received as per his request for 6-month dispensation.

C646. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Both Councillors Hughes and Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 32 - Citizen of the Year Award.

Councillor Sinclair raised a point in respect of a meeting of Full Council held on 28 September 2023, stating that he believed anyone who had voted to make a payment to illegally fund the Clerk to pursue him at that meeting should declare an interest in item 13 on the agenda.

Councillor Harvey pointed out that it was for each Member to consider whether or not they declare an interest, noting that the decision can be challenged and if it is deemed to be a criminal act then it should be handed to the Police for their consideration.

C647. TO NOTE THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.

C648. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record, with one abstention from Councillor Bradford.



C649. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE ACTION SHEET

RESOLVED:

The action sheet be received and noted.

C650. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor gave an update on the upcoming Ledbury's Got Talent event on Friday, 28 February 2025 as well as International Woman's Day Coffee Morning due to be held at the Town Council Offices on Friday, 7 March 2025.

C651. TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(e) AND 3(f)

Helen l'Anson provided an update on agenda item 18, Ledbury Stakeholder Group with Eighteen 73 and Rose Regeneration. "Ledbury Magic Tenner Town", which will take place throughout Ledbury in the first two weeks of March, which comes under the banner of Totally Locally Ledbury, is a Countryside initiative.

She also stated that the shops in Ledbury would also like to thank Three Shires Rally for listening to their concerns and rescheduling the start dates for this year's rally.

C652. TO RECEIVE MOTIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9

- i. Councillor Sinclair advised that he wished to withdraw his motion made under Standing Order 9.
- ii. The following motion was received from Councillors Hughes:

"That the Council forms a Task & Finish Group to consist of Town and Ward Councillors, Leaders of LEAF and the Community Hub, representatives of young people and other relevant individuals and organisations, to create a response to the recommendations from the Ledbury Listening Creative Consultation presented to Councillors and interested members of the public and other organisations on 12 October 2024 and to bring forward recommendations to Council as a matter of priority."

RESOLVED:

All were in favour of this motion.



C653. TO APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

All recommendations were approved, subject to the following amendment:

'Possible incorrect payment identified to this cc/nc – Clerk to review with accounts clerk (22/4115).' This line entry be amended to 'Possible incorrect posting identified to this cc/nc – Clerk to review with accounts clerk (22/4115)'.

C654. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE MONTH 8 AND 9 FINANCIAL REPORTS

RESOLVED:

That the month 8 and 9 financial reports be received and noted.

C655. TO CONFIRM VERIFICATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS FOR DECEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED:

That the verification of bank statements and reconciliations for December 2024 had been completed whereas January 2025 is still outstanding.

C656. TO APPROVE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF NALC/HALC FOR 2025/26 AND TO APPROVE THE INVOICE FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

Members considered that it was not value for money to continue membership of NALC/HALC and that such costs, going forward, should be moved to the "professional services" budget. All were in favour of this.

C657. OUTCOME OF CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT – REFERENCE 2024-25 COC090a STANDARDS PANEL HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025

RESOLVED:

Councillor Sinclair spoke on the complaint stating that at the time, he was not engaged in Council business. Councillor Bradford and

Sinclair both reported that they were not acting as Councillors in the incident.

The Mayor then read out the Code of Conduct, stating that "Councillors should not bully any person".

A named vote was then taken on the recommendations given.

Recommendation One:

For	Against	Abstention
Councillors: Browning Chowns Harvey Hughes Morris		Councillors: Bradford Newsham Sinclair

Recommendation Two:

For	Against	Abstention
Councillors: Browning Harvey Hughes Morris Newsham		Councillors: Bradford Sinclair

Recommendation Three:

For	Against	Abstention
Councillors: Browning Chowns Harvey Hughes Morris		Councillors: Bradford Sinclair

Councillors Bradford and Sinclair along with members of the Public left the meeting at 8:09pm

C658.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE UPDATE

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of Full Council be on Thursday, 6 March 2025, to reinstate Committees and appoint Councillors to Committees. That a workplan be presented at the next Environment and Leisure meeting to go through Terms of Reference and that Councillor Hughes provides track changes to these.

- C659. i. SUBJECT TO THE OUTCOME OF AGENDA ITEM 8(1) – TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred.

- ii. SUBJECT TO THE OUTCOME OF AGENDA ITEM 8(1) TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred.

- C660. TO CONSIDER PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

RESOLVED:

Application number 250276. Minor alterations to a previous proposal approved in 2019 (P84277/L & P184276/F.) Conversion of existing swimming pool, gymnasium, and function room into letting rooms. Structural repairs to the roof. 25 High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DS - **be approved with no objections.**

Whilst LTC do not have any particular objections to this application concerns were raised that this is more of an upscaling than a minor alteration – whilst LTC recognises increase hotel space in the town is a good thing, but it must be weighed against the loss of the function room. Concerns were also raised in respect of potential parking and vehicle movements that may arise from the changes.

Application number 250277. Minor alterations to a previous proposal approved in 2019 (P84277/L & P184276/F.) Conversion of existing swimming pool, gymnasium, and function room into letting rooms. Structural repairs to the roof. 25 High Street, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1DS - **be approved with no objections.**



Whilst LTC do not have any particular objections to this application concerns were raised that this is more of an upscaling than a minor alteration – whilst LTC recognises increase hotel space in the town is a good thing, but it must be weighed against the loss of the function room. Concerns were also raised in respect of potential parking and vehicle movements that may arise from the changes.

Application number 250279. Proposed side extensions and replacement garage. 25 Elmsdale Road, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2EG – **be approved with no objections.**

Application number 250344. Proposed single storey side extension to replace existing dilapidated sunroom. Old Pasture, Hillfield Drive, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BH. – **be approved with no objections but consideration should be given to the surface finishes to compliment the existing building.**

No objection – however consideration should be given to the appropriate surface finishes and materials used to ensure they complement the existing building.

C661.

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS

RESOLVED:

That the planning decisions be received and noted.

C662.

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEDBURY STAKEHOLDER GROUP WITH EIGHTEEN 73 AND ROSE REGENERATION

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of a meeting of Ledbury Stakeholder Group with Eighteen 73 and Rose Regeneration be received and noted. Councillor Morris expressed his concern that no other Councillors had attended this meeting.

The Clerk is to resend the link to Members for the online survey in order that Members can participate.

C663.

STONE WALL REPAIR AT ST MICHAEL'S AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

RESOLVED:

That Stone Waller Number 3, at a total cost of £6,850 + VAT be appointed as contractor to repair the stone walls at St Michael's and All Angels Church.



C664. POST AND CHAIN FENCE AT LEDBURY CEMETERY

Members considered the proposals put forward for the post and chain fence but sought further ideas before a decision was made.

RESOLVED:

That this item be deferred to the next meeting for further ideas.

C665. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 3(X)

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order 3(x) be extended to enable the completion of business, but not to exceed beyond 30 minutes.

C666. TREE WORKS AT UPPERFIELDS

RESOLVED:

That all Members were in favour of appointing Company No. 1, at a cost of £5,900.00 + VAT and Officers were instructed to appoint this company.

C667. DRAFT AMENDED CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hughes make track changes on the draft Terms of Reference document in line with the Corporate Plan and then present it to the Environment and Leisure Committee for approval.

C668. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF VERGE CUTTING SEASON 2025

RESOLVED:

Members considered the options for and against one or two verge cuts such as "No Mown May" and acknowledging that one verge cut may not be favourable to dog walkers as dogs could be more prone to getting Ticks.

That the Clerk obtain a map from Herefordshire Council setting out the specific areas to be cut and report back to Council.

C669. NOTES OF A MEETING TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE/VJ DAY 2025

RESOLVED:



That the notes of a meeting to discuss plans for 80th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day 2025 be noted.

C670.

COST FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR COMMUNITY DAY/ BIG GREEN WEEK EVENT

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations be agreed:

1. That Members agree to booking the 'Big Whale' Workshop for the Great Big Green Week, at a cost of £1,930 + VAT and that it be funded from the Climate Change Budget Line CC127 NC4595 for 2025/26 – All were in favour.
2. That the Council give consideration to booking accommodation for three people to run the Big Whale Workshop, at a cost of £279 from the Climate Change Working Party budget line CC127 NC4595 for 2024/25, due to accommodation needing to be blocked urgently – All were in favour.

C671.

FEEDBACK FROM LEDBURY LISTENING YOUTH IN RESPECT OF CONSULTATION FOR REPLACEMENT TYRE SWING

RESOLVED:

That Members were all in favour of purchasing tyre swing A – Birds nests swing at a cost of £7,176.96.

C672.

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2025 AND 6 FEBRUARY 2025 AND TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ANY RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of a meeting of Resources Committee held on 16 January 2025 and 6 February 2025 be received and noted.

C673.

OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ledbury Carnival Association Committee held on 8 January 2025 and 5 February 2025 be received and noted.

That the minutes of the Ledbury Stomstad Twinning Association held on 15 November 2024 be received and noted.

C674. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF HILLS FORD RALLY 2025

RESOLVED:

That correspondence received in respect of Hills Ford Rally 2025 be received and noted.

C675. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of Full Council be on Thursday, 6 March 2025.

C676. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

RESOLVED:

Members of the Public were no longer present.

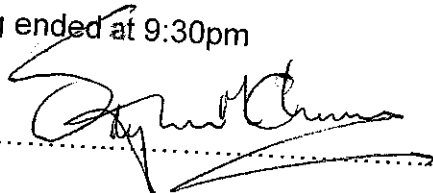
C677. NOMINATIONS FOR DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

RESOLVED:

That all nominations received for the Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award be presented with the Award.

The meeting ended at 9:30pm

Signed



Date

6/3/2025