

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, CHURCH STREET, LEDBURY HEREFORDSHIRE HR8 1DH. Tel. (01531) 632306

Email: clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk Website: www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

31 July 2024

Dear Councillor

Please find attached the "To Follow" agenda items in relation to the **LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL** to be held on Thursday, 1 August 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Town Council Offices, Church Lane, Ledbury.

Yours faithfully

Angela Price PSLCC, AICCM, MIWFM Town Clerk

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AGENDA

5. Herefordshire Councillors' Reports

To receive reports from Ledbury Ward Members:

i. Councillor Harveyii. Councillor Peberdy(To Follow)

iii. Councillor Simmons (Pages 1702 - 1703)

12. To receive and note the minutes of a meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 25 July 2024 and to give consideration to any recommendations therein (Pages 1704 - 1709)

25. 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.

26. John Masefield Memorial Project

(Pages 1710 - 1731)

Distribution: - Full agenda reports to all Councillors (10)
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Agenda reports excluding Confidential items to:

Local Press (1) Library (1) Police (1)

Ledbury South Ward Report July 2024 - Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council Update

There are no live consultations but the council officers are working through the consultation responses on the local spatial plan and local transport plan review, and implications if any of the change of government on these plans.

McCarthy Stone Planning Application I attended and spoke at the Planning Appeal hearing for the McCarthy Stone development, representing the council planning committee who refused the planning application. This limited my ability to speak on wider issues beyond grounds for refusal, but I was pleased at the collective defence presented from all those residents, councillors and ward member in attendance. Unfortunately the Planning Inspector allowed the appeal and whilst recognising the planning balance of loss of the green space felt that the benefit of older people having dedicated housing, freeing up other local housing, outweighed this.

Ledbury Youth

The work with multiple local organisations and schools supported by Herefordshire Council's Talk Community team is continuing with an initial report having been produced, and Rural Media are working with a representative small group to explore the issues further looking to present the work done to Ledbury Town Council and other interested organisations and individuals **on Saturday 12th October** at St Katherine's Hall.

Leadon Way Road

The construction of the 'Hopfields' development on the land south of Leadon Way is ongoing. The roundabout and highways works to narrow the road (to reduce speeds) and install a footpath, cycleway and toucan crossing are now almost complete – just awaiting lights switch on, speed roundels and gates for abnormal loads.

The proposed planting of the reinstated bund with trees has been delayed due to missing the planting window following planning discussions requiring greater density – this should commence from late October.

The works to connect the site to Shepherds Close have commenced and I am in discussion with highways and s106 officers for funding to improve the connections to Mables Furlong. Cllr Peberdy, Harvey and myself viewed the new show homes on site and discussed the potential for the meadow behind Shepherds Close/Spring Grove to be handed over to LTC once the development is complete.

Southend/Parkway

I have been in contact with LTC, BBLP, Head of Highways and Building Enforcement about the poor state of maintenance of the Southend to Parkway wall, hedging and pathways. LTC requested work to be done by the Parish Lengthsman to address weeds that were blocking the path near the vets and as strimming was deemed not possible due to potential for stones to damage cars, spraying was undertaken. The dead weeds are due to be cleared asap. Enforcement have written to the Biddulph Estate to repair the collapsing brick wall on the Southend and I am awaiting a response from the officer. BBLP have commenced some clearance work of the pathway and cutting of hedging past the tennis club to the Bullen. I will continue to demand work is extended to cutting back and clearance of the dangerous pathway to Parkway.

I have also reported multiple times that the operation of the lights at the Top Cross is causing difficulties and delays in some directions. I have noted some improvements however it is still does not appear to be operating smoothly.

Hawk Rise

I have been in discussion over a period of time with DRM bus operator, highways, transport and s106 officers to try and install and extend the bus service to the Hawk Rise development. This is now at an advanced stage with funding allocated, shelter design and build team determined and highways adoption being brought forward to enable buses to operate on the site. I hope to have more details and date for service extension in due course.

I requested that the Streetworks inspector attended the Hawk Rise/Martins Way roundabout to ensure reinstatement of the roundabout following recent works to enable grass cutting by BBLP. The roundabout has been seeded and cut

and the bank in front of Deer Park Care Home has been cut. I am due to discuss sponsorship of the roundabouts to ensure planting and maintenance in line with other excellent examples in Ledbury.

Platinum Way/Full Pitcher

Occupation of housing on Platinum Way behind the Full Pitcher is moving ahead following resolution of delays with legal agreements and highways works between the developer and the HC. The work to install a new toucan crossing at the bottom of New Street across the Leadon Way to the Riverside Park has now been agreed. I am hopeful we will have a date for this soon. I welcome all the new families and people moving into their new homes.

Planning Committee

My work on the Planning and Regulatory Committee continues. I have been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers, s106 and highways officers.

Contact details

I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm by appointment, or I can visit individuals if mobility an issue. I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706

Please send any written correspondence to:

Cllr Stef Simmons C/O Herefordshire Council Plough Lane Hereford HR4 OLE

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JULY 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Bradford, Chowns (ex-officio), Eakin and Harvey

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk

Julia Lawrence - Deputy Clerk

F173. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howells, Hughes and Newsham

F174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chowns declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7, due to being a Community Action Ledbury driver. However, as he was in attendance as ex-officio, and therefore had no voting rights at the meeting, would remain in the room for the presentation.

F175. NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.

F176. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

F177. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE, POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 MAY 2024

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee be approved and signed as a correct record.

F178. **ACTION SHEET**

RESOLVED:

1. That the action sheet be received and noted.

2. That a report be provided to the next meeting of the Committee detailing the income and expenditure in relation to the Market Square electricity for Members to consider a potential increase to the fees for provision of electricity.

F179. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM COMMUNITY ACTION LEDBURY IN RESPECT OF GRANT FEEDBACK

Mr Tim Barnes gave a presentation on how the grant awarded to Community Action Ledbury from Ledbury Town Council.

Mr Barnes advised that Community Action Ledbury provide the ring and ride service which has about 450 users, undertaking circa 4200 trips a year of which the majority are transporting people to and from medical appointments. They have approximately 45/50 volunteer drivers who travel around 80,000 miles per year. They also run day trips out for the elderly and more recently have started doing overnight trips to Minehead, which are proving very popular. They also offer low costs travel to other local community groups as well as two commercial contracts for school transport.

Mr Barnes provided details of income and expenditure per annum explaining there is an annual deficit of circa £4850,000 and that to cover this they apply to Trust Funds.

Mr Barnes explained that having a secure multi-year grant from Herefordshire Council and Ledbury Town Council helps the group get grants from the Trust Funds and other sources.

Members felt that the charges levied by Community Action Ledbury were very reasonable and asked whether there were any plans to increase the charges.

Following further discussions the Chair thanked Mr Barnes for his presentation following which he left the meeting.

F180. TO APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the invoices for payment be approved in the sum of £9,806.20.
- 2. That Citizens Advice be invited to give a presentation on how they have spent the grant award at the next meeting of the committee.

F181. TO RECEIVE THE RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2024

That the receipts and payments for May and June 2024 be received and noted.

F182. TO RECEIVE THE BALANCE SHEET AND TRIAL BALANCE FOR MONTHS 2 AND 3

RESOLVED:

That the balance sheet and trial balance for months 2 and 3 be received and noted.

F183. BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS 1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2024

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Budget Monitoring Reports 1 April 30 June 2024 be received and noted.
- 2. That the Clerk be instructed to arrange a budget monitoring meeting to include consideration of the format and content of reports to council.
- F184. TO CONFIRM VERIFICATION OF BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2024

RESOLVED:

The Clerk confirmed that the Chair of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee had attended the office to verify the bank statements and reconciliations for May and June 2024.

F185. **AUDIT REPORTS**

None

F186. **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. That John Masefield High School be awarded £400.00 to fund the Book Trusts Book Buzz Scheme 2024 via Local Government Act 1972 S137 financial assistance on the proviso that the reading material is not part of the curriculum.
- 2. That Ledbury Places be awarded £500.00 to fund a new display featuring images of a recently acquired 17th Century

Indenture concerning manorial rights to the town via the Local Government Act 1972 s144 Power to attract tourists and visitors (village signs/Christmas Lights) subject to agreement to them recognising the funding being awarded by Ledbury Town Council on the display cabinet.

3. That Ledbury Primary School be awarded £500.00 to support a firework's display via Local Government Act 1976 s19 Local Government Act 1976 and that they be asked to consider a safe sparkler zone at the event.

RESOLVED:

That an item be included on the next Planning, Economy & Tourism agenda for members to consider displaying the Ledbury Charter in a similar way to that of the Manorial Rights.

F187. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS HIRE AGREEMENT – CONFIRMATION OF PAYMENT TERMS

RESOLVED:

That this item be referred to a meeting of Council.

F188. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

RESOLVED:

That this item be referred to a meeting of Council.

F189. **NEW MODEL FINANCE REGULATIONS (NALC)**

RESOLVED:

That this item be referred to the Budget Monitoring Meeting.

F190. DRAFT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Draft Training & Development Policy be submitted to Full Council for approval.

F191. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED:

To note that the next meeting of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee is scheduled for 26 September 2024.

F192. **EXCLUSIONS 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.

F193.. FEE PROPOSALS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Ledbury Town Council continue to use Caroe and Partners as the Council's technical advisers in relation to all projects of the council, noting the costs outlined in their fee proposal.
- 2. That officers be instructed to appoint Caroe & Partners to provide architectural services in relation to the paving and threshold improvements to Church Street north door in the sum of £1,720.00 plus VVAT.
- 4. That the quinquennial inspections be undertaken in the 2025/26 financial year and that consideration of the fees as provided in the proposal from Caroe and Partners be included in the 2025/26 budget.

The meeting ended at 8.22	pm.	
Signed		Date

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