

## LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF JOHN MASEFIELD WORKING PARTY HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2022

---

**PRESENT:** Councillors Beddoes-Davis, Chowns and Morris  
**NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Christine Tustin (Ledbury Civic & District Society)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Julia Lawrence – Deputy Clerk  
Emma Jackson – Community Development Officer (CDO)  
Charlotte Barltrop – Minute Taker

#### **JM03 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2022/23 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Morris be elected as Chair of the John Masefield Working Party for 2022/23 Municipal Year.**

#### **JM04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Howells, Sims, and Sinclair; Tim Keyes (Tower Captain, Ledbury Bells); Charles Masefield (local resident and descendent of John Masefield); Bob Vaughan (Hon. Chairman of The John Masefield Society).

#### **JM05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**No declarations of interest were received.**

#### **JM06 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Discussion focused in particular on point 6: “Responsibilities and Areas of Operation”.

Members noted the absence of reference to timescales and educational outcomes. Councillor Beddoes-Davis also noted that from her professional experience and expertise, the stipulation around securing quotes was in itself problematic when dealing with the artistic profession. She asked for clarification on whether this was a ‘call for artists’ or an ‘artistic commission.’ Councillor Morris, as Chair, advised the former.

Members also noted the absence of reference to responsibilities for fundraising, public engagement, artistic development, and the tendering process, which again would be common practice in scoping a Working Party of this kind.

Councillor Chowns, as Chair of Environment & Leisure Committee, reminded members that the Working Party reports into the Environment and Leisure Committee via way of recommendations, in particular regarding financial

matters, and onward recommendations to Full Council or the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Deputy Clerk revises the *Terms of Reference: Item 6 – “Responsibilities and Areas of Operation”* to reflect the above discussion and circulates an updated copy of the Terms of Reference ahead of the next meeting, for recommendation.**

**JM07 ELECTION OF NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THE JOHN MASEFIELD WORKING PARTY**

Christine Tustin was nominated and elected as a non-council Member of the Working Party.

Members noted the absence of other non-council members who may wish to be considered as non-council Members at a future meeting of the Working Party. These included Tim Keyes; Susie McKechnie (as current Chair of Ledbury Business and Traders, or an alternative representative from LBTA); Chloe Garner (Director of Ledbury Poetry Festival); a representative from The John Masefield Society; Charles Masefield; Mark Lister (Ledbury District and Civic Society/ Ledbury Food Bank); a representative from each of John Masefield High School and Ledbury Primary School. Councillor Morris, as Chair, advised that ideally the total membership of the Working Party should not exceed ten.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That Christine Tustin be elected as a non-council Member of the Working Party.**
- 2. That the individuals listed above continue to be invited to attend the Working Party meetings, and that they be offered the opportunity to be elected to the Working Party as non-council Members when they are next present at a meeting.**

**JM08 TO APPROVE AND SIGN NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP HELD ON 24 JUNE 2022**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the notes of the meeting of the Task and Finish Group, held on 24 June 2022, be approved and signed as a correct record.**

## **JM09 UPDATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON REGARDING ANY POTENTIAL CONTROVERSIES RELATING TO JOHN MASEFIELD**

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that The Clerk had written to Dr Philip Errington, the only Masefield Scholar and academic at University College London, and was awaiting a response. Councillor Morris advised that this was important given local hearsay on John Masefield's own wishes, as expressed in his will, on the nature of any memorial to him, noting that living family members were supportive.

## **JM10 PROJECT PLAN**

Following Councillor Morris' comments about John Masefield's will, Members discussed at length how John Masefield's wishes might be incorporated creatively into a final tender. Councillor Beddoes-Davis thought this project was ideal for a different kind of memorial and referred to the growing popularity of 'concrete poetry.'

Councillor Chowns suggested a water memorial, especially given Masefield's affection for the sea, and Christine Tustin wondered if there was a possibility of harnessing a local water supply to be incorporated into the final commission.

The CDO re-shared the initial draft of the project plan (submitted to Environment and Leisure Committee on 7 July 2022; Minute Reference E284) and reminded the Working Party that this was only a basic outline project proposal.

Prior to the meeting, Councillor Morris had requested, via the Deputy Clerk, that the CDO draft a note of intent which reflected discussions, and could be shared more widely with the public, local businesses etc. He was keen that this memorial project was marketed as a positive, collaborative, and celebratory Ledbury Town Council facilitated initiative that reached out into the local community in an exciting and innovative way. Members were provided with a draft note of intent for consideration. The CDO requested that it be revised before wider circulation.

The Deputy Clerk reminded members that the draft project plan also needed to be reviewed and scoped out in more detail. Members of the working party discussed the proposals outlined, including position of information boards, the content of such boards and the community workshops. Councillor Beddoes-Davis advised that one stage should lead to another e.g., community workshops would supply the content for the information boards, exhibition etc. Councillor Morris reminded members that the project had a dual purpose:

- boosting the economy and tourism of Ledbury by raising awareness.
- educational outreach within the local community. Christine Tustin asked how poets would and could be involved and advised that the Poetry Festival be included from the outset.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That the Deputy Clerk, in conjunction with the CDO, finalise the note of intent, to reflect the discussions above, and circulate internally for review, prior to wider publication.**
- 2. That the Deputy Clerk, in conjunction with the CDO, draft a precise of the note of intent for inclusion in the next Ledbury and District Civic newsletter, due at the end of September.**
- 3. That the Clerk writes to Ledbury Poetry Festival to request a separate meeting to discuss how they would like to be involved at the core of this memorial project.**

**JM11 BUDGET**

Councillor Beddoes-Davis provided suggestions on the break-down of the budget. The CDO reminded members that there was no budget allocation in the 2022/23 financial year, and that external funding from the outset would be required. She advised that the Clerk had suggested Awards for All, which could help progress future, larger funding applications to the National Lottery.

Councillor Morris requested that the budget discussion be deferred to a future meeting once meetings with potential community stakeholders had taken place as he felt that this would help inform the budget detail, which, as the Deputy Clerk reminded members, was at this stage, only in draft, headline format.

**RESOLVED:**

**Budget discussions be deferred to a future meeting of the Working Party.**

**JM12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the date of the next John Masefield Working Party meeting will be held on Friday 23 September 2022 at 2.00pm, Ledbury Town Council offices.**

Meeting closed at 11.33 am.

Signed ..... Dated .....  
(Chair)