

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
HELD ON 4 JULY 2024**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Price – Town Clerk

C295. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Furlonger.

C296. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Morris declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.

C297. NOLAN PRINCIPLES

RESOLVED:

That the Nolan Principles be received and noted.

C298. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 6 JUNE 2024

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6 June 2024 be received and noted.

C299. TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF STANDING ORDERS 3(E) AND 3(F)

No members of the public were present.

C300. 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.



C301.

TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND (NLHF) IN RESPECT OF THE JOHN MASEFIELD MEMORIAL PROJECT

The following points were raised for consideration as amendments and/or to the NLHF application:

- Vision that it be made clear that the list of suggestions of what for the memorial could take is not exhaustive;
- That the first sentence of the Vision statement be amended to read "In the 1920's John Masefield was a best-selling poet."
- Page 2 it be noted that the spelling of Gandhi is incorrect "Ghandi";
- Page 12 – penultimate paragraph be reworded in relation to the mention of the war memorial being completed on time and to budget;

Page 7 penultimate paragraph:

- No date provided in the document
- It was understood by Councillor Sinclair that this project would be self-funding with no burden being placed on Ledbury Town Council or the residents of Ledbury.
- Page 9 of the Terms and Conditions of the grant – "4.3 when you might need to repay your grant" – concerns were raised about the financial implications in respect of the following condition:

"we feel you have not made good progress with your project or are unlikely to complete the project or deliver the approved purposes"

Who would be responsible to bear any financial burden if this project were not to progress satisfactorily or fail to be delivered?

- Concerns were also arranged about changes that had been made in respect of setting up a separate charity bank account – the Clerk advised that members of the Working Party had advised that this would not be possible. The Council as the primary applicant would be required to receive the funds and then be able to provide defrayal evidence of payments of invoices and salaries from their bank account. The advice from the person completing the funding application was that it would not be possible for the council to receive the funds and then simply forward them onto a bank account set up for this project by the John Masefield Society.

It was suggested that actions to be taken to ensure circumstances such as those mentioned above did not happen would need to be included as part of the risk management, such as the project



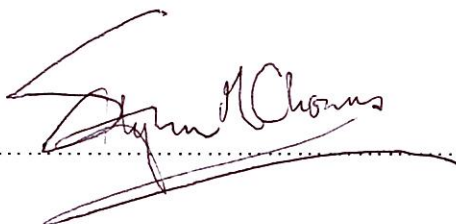
engage the Council's Internal Auditor to ensure that the funds were being handled and spent accordingly.

- Concerns were raised in respect of the breakdown of the proposed in the total of £248,615 and the lack of "in-kind" contributions from the Council. Also, that just £60,000 of the total amount of the grant would be spent on the final memorial.

Following considerable discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That further information in respect of the content of the application, for example costings, clarification of town council involvement, and provision of a project delivery plan and timeline to ensure support and confidence from Ledbury Town Council.
2. That further investigations be undertaken into how the project will be managed and the possibility of setting up a separate charity for this project.

The meeting ended at 7.26 pm.

Signed  Date 1st August 2024

