

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT LEDBURY COMMUNITY HALL ON THURSDAY, 25 APRIL 2019

PRESENT: Councillor Shields (Chairman of Ledbury Town Council) together with Councillors Harrison, Hopkins and Warmington

IN ATTENDANCE: Gwilym Rippon (SLCC)
Angela Price (Town Clerk)

PARISHIONERS: 26

1. PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED CITIEN AWARD

The Distinguished Citizen was presented by the Chairman of Ledbury Town Council, Councillor Shields, to Mr Lloyd Meredith in recognition of his many years of service to the British Legion.

Mr Meredith had been nominated by Councillor Francis for his many years of service to the Royal British Legion and for his involvement with the Armistice Parade which takes place in the town annually. The Chairman also highlighted that this will be Mr Meredith's 19th year of organising the Poopy Appeal within the Town. Mr Meredith has also worked with the Town Council for many years in ensuring the flags are "run-up" the flag pole as and when required.

Mr Meredith has been involved with many organisations in the town over the years which have included HMS Ledbury and the Town Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Roberts (Deputy Mayor) and Councillor Francis.

3. TO CONFIRM THE ACURACY OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 26 APRIL 2018

Councillor Harvey asked that the Town Council receive a draft copy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting at its next available Full Council meeting for the purpose of confirming the accuracy of the minutes due to a year being a long time for those present at the meeting to recall discussions that had taken place.

RESOLVED: by a majority that a draft copy of the minutes of future Annual Town Meetings be made available to the next available meeting of Full Council for the purpose of confirming the accuracy of the minutes.

Councillor Morris raised concerns regarding some comments from former Councillors having not been include in the minutes.

Councillor Shields advised that as written reports were now being presented by the Chairman/Mayor and Committee Chairs such issues should be avoided in the future.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19**

The Chairman of Ledbury Town Council, Councillor Nina Shields, welcomed those present to the Annual Town Meeting and read out her report which provided information on issues that the Town Council had dealt with during the 2018/19 Municipal year.

She referred to the Judicial Review that the Council had been through as well as the many issues that had arisen as a result of staff leaving the employ of the Council.

She thanked the Deputy Town Clerk, Tracey Smith, for all her hard work and help during her year in office and also Mel ab Owen who had acted as an interim Clerk and Gwilym Rippon of the SLCC who had helped clerk meetings.

To finish she wished the Council every success in the future.

5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS 2018/19**

a. **Economic Development & Planning Committee**

Councillor Warmington, Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee provided a summary of the work undertaken during 2018/19. These included the Neighbourhood Plan, Town Plan and Traffic Management Plan as part of the Economic Development of the town and various issues around proposed new housing sites within the town such as the Viaduct, Dymock Road and Little Marcle road projects.

b. **Environment & Leisure Committee**

Councillor Jane Hopkins, Chairman of the Environment & Leisure Committee provided an overview of projects that the committee had been dealing with over the past 12-months. She advised that these **included a new shelter for the Recreation Ground, repairs to the Cemetery Wall and the War Memorial.**

c. **Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee**

Councillor Harrison, Chairman of the Finance, Policy & General /Purposes Committee, reported that 2018/19 had been of transition and rebuilding for the Council, especially in respect of the Finance, Policy & General Purposes Committee. He advised that the watchwords for the year had been transparency, accountability and prudence.

He provided a summary of how they had approached the three watchwords and explained that the 20% increase in the Council's

precept for 2019/20 equated to an increase of £0.57p per week for a Band D household.

6. TOWN COUNCIL'S ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2019/20

The Town Council's estimates of income and expenditure for 2018/19 were noted.

7. COMMENT AND QUESTIONS FROM ANY ELECTOR OF THE PARISH

Q. The Council had recently appointed a new groundsman; can they explain why therefore there is an item on their website inviting tenders for grounds maintenance?

A. The groundsman recently appointed by the Council is employed to maintain the cemetery grounds, water the hanging baskets in the town when in place and other similar tasks. The Council are inviting tenders in respect of the maintenance of other sites maintained by the Council, such as the Recreation Ground, Deer Park, Dog Hill Woods, benches and footpaths.

Councillor Morris thanked the Chairman and Committee chairs for all their hard work over the past 12-months.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed

Dated