QUESTIONS ASKED BY MR STEVE ELLIS AT AN EXTRAORIDNARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 31 August 2021 (excluding extracts from a confidential report)

1. I can understand that after I gave you my unofficial report, you would have wanted to get an official one carried out. But can LTC explain why after receiving the first report from the architects Caroe & Partners, who had more or less said the same in their report as what I had found in my survey, stating that The Stone workshop had not worked to the drawing provided and had used the wrong materials, LTC were asking contractors, including The Stone Workshop, to quote for work to replace the incorrect slabs that have been laid ! Surely it should have been the case that The Stone Workshop, either return to site and lay the correct thickness and type of slab in the specification provided to them, or LTC demand that The Stone Workshop foot the bill for another contractor to replace the current slabs and put right other work that they carried out in the refurbishment !

In all of the emails between the Town Clerk and The Stone Workshop that have been made available to me, I have not seen anything that asks Paul Jones from The Stone Workshop, why they did not carry out the works as is shown in the drawing and specification. Why ? I can only think that the reason that LTC have not pursued The Stone Workshop about why they have used the wrong materials, not worked to the specification and the drawing is either, they were given permission to proceed with the work doing and using what they pleased without any checks, changing whatever they wanted to, or someone or a committee of Councillors from LTC gave The Stone Workshop permission to change things. Either one of the above needs to be owned up to and it made clear to the public who it was that gave permission to work unchecked and without specific licences in place.

2. I have said in emails and verbally to Councillors and the Town Clerk that the key to any further works taking place on and adjacent to the war memorial should include a drainage camera survey carried out to see where the ACO Channel is discharging into. I have my suspicions the channels empty into a soakaway and not into the main storm drain as shown on the drawing. The ACO Channels currently laid are the wrong type, as I have pointed out in my report and also by the LTC Consultants Caroe. The channels should be an ACO Brickslot Channel B125. Currently the channels only go halfway around the memorial and not all of the way as shown in the drawing. The type currently laid is a domestic drainage channel and should not be used in a public pavement. The reason for is the gratings can easily be removed and possibly be thrown around; a grated channel could have been used, but in a public place, would have needed to be the bolt down type. Aesthetically the Brickslot channel would have been better. The current channel is half full of grass, silt and rubbish, this is because no sump unit was installed as shown on the drawing. Why, when it is so important to make sure the drainage is correct and is properly connected and laid all the way around the memorial and a sump unit installed, none of this was asked for in an email to Cambridge Services by the Town Clerk on the 25th March 2021. No mention of a camera survey or replacing the current ACO Channel and installing a sump box was mentioned in the scope of works Cambridge was asked to quote on. I reiterate, there is no point in carrying out further works until the drainage issues are checked and rectified.

3. In my second question sent to the Town Clerk to be read out at the council meeting on Thursday, 20 May 2021, I asked " Will Councillors Manns, Bannister and Morris now apologise to Mr Heaton and the people of Ledbury for their part in wasting £30,642 of donated money " Councillor Bannister refused to apologise as did Councillor Manns, Councillor Morris just muttered something in the Zoom meeting. It is clear there has been a monumental mess made of the war memorial refurbishment by LTC and Mr Heaton's donation was wasted on the work carried out by The Stone Workshop, so if Councillors Manns, Bannister and Morris wash their hands of any responsibility in recommending the contractor to carry out the work and refuse to apologise, who is it that should be saying sorry for this mess ?

4. Without mentioning any money figures involved, can you confirm that the costs of the works to put right the town war memorial will be more than what has already been spent on the shoddy refurbishment ?

5. Looking at the LTC accounts from 2020 on Payments Over £500, it appears that £31,071 has been paid to The Stone Workshop. Why is this more than the £30,642 they quoted for in the works and why are there so many monthly Payments Over £500 missing from the accounts shown In the public domain on the LTC Website from late 2019 and some during 2020 ?

6. In an email dated 20th June 2019 from The Stone Workshop to the Town Clerk, Paul Jones asks and I quote " I have quoted for Yorkstone paving but it may be cheaper and make more sense to go for Forest of Dean sandstone. Also there is a Portland that is cheaper and would match quite well " .

It is obvious that The Stone Workshop went for the cheaper alternative to the 50mm thick Yorkstone they quoted to lay, so was there a saving made on the cheaper materials ? If so why wasn't this saving passed on to LTC and how much was the saving ? As I have said in question 5. The Stone Workshop have been paid more than their original quote of £30,642. The original quote from The Stone Workshop for laying Yorkstone was for £6,357.