

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 24th July 2017 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors R Pendleton (Mayor), Bartlett (Deputy Mayor), Barton, Burke, Davies, Freedland, Herschy, Lacey, Marsh, A Pendleton, Preece, Rosser, Rumsey and Thomas.

OFFICER PRESENT: Town Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone, a representative from the press and twelve members of the public.

46/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Norman (holiday).

47/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Lacey – Allotments (Personal)
- Cllr Rumsey – Leominster Business Group (Personal)

48/17 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

49/17 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Adam Michniok, Leominster Safer Neighbourhood Team, was in attendance. The following report was noted:

- There have been a number of issues involving young people over the past few months including vandalism to Leominster in Bloom plantings;
- A Boxing club had been set up in partnership with the South Wye Boxing Academy Summer Training Camp, which was being hosted at the GP Martial Arts Centre on Croft Business Park, Leominster;
- There had been a number of issues, which were still ongoing, in Etnam Street. A meeting had been held and a further public meeting was currently being arranged;
- There had been a number of Housing Association property tenant issues which were currently in the process of being resolved;
- Concern was expressed regarding cycling on the pavements, travelling up the High Street and Broad Street the wrong way. These matters would be investigated. There was the option to issue fixed penalty notices but not to under sixteens;
- There were three PCSO's covering Leominster, which reduced over the holiday period;
- Two warrants had been executed regarding drug related intelligence;
- Residents were encouraged to report issues directly to the Police. A great deal of information was posted up on Facebook but the Police were

unable to react to this unless the matters were reported directly to them via email or 101.

Council thanked PCSO Michniok for attending.

50/17 NHS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE ENGAGEMENT

Jade Brooks, Deputy Director of Operations, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, attended the meeting to outline the engagement process and seek Council views.

The Group would be carrying out a Listening Exercise to obtain views from the community on a range of medical services including surgeries, minor injuries unit and the community hospital.

Normally the NHS would develop a plan and then consult. However, this time they would be consulting prior to developing the plan. The consultation would be promoted on Facebook and Twitter and the first event would be held on 1st August 2017 at 1pm at Grange Court.

The results of the consultation would be collated and it was hoped that they could be presented to the Town Council in late September/early October 2017. The plan would then be drawn up in the Autumn and this would feed into the Sustainable Transformation Plan.

Among the concerns raised were the lack of an NHS dentist in Leominster and little support for mental health sufferers.

Council thanked Jade Brooks for attending.

51/17 COUNCIL VACANCY

Council noted that an election had been called and would be held on 7th September 2017. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** that Poll Cards be requested and sent out to the electorate.

52/17 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Twelve members of the public were present and the following representations were made:

- The agenda for this meeting had not been uploaded onto the Council website and there were a number of inaccuracies. It was agreed to investigate;
- Confirmation regarding the dates of the various Christmas events was requested. It was confirmed that the Lights Switch On, preceded by the Nativity Service, would now take place on 25th November 2017. This would be organised by the Jubilee Committee and the Priory respectively;
- Small Business Saturday would take place on 2nd December 2017 and would be organised by the Leominster Business Group. A road closure on Corn Square had been secured up until 6pm. The Town Council would not be organising an event on this day due to budget restrictions;

- The Victorian Street Market would take place on 9th December 2017 and would be organised by the Leominster Attractions Group. The Town Council would be holding a Christmas event at 11 Corn Square.

53/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meetings held on 13th May, 15th May and 26th June 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

54/17 CLERK'S REPORT

Council **RECEIVED** the following report:

- (a) **August Staff Holidays** – Council noted that a number of staff holidays were being taken over the summer recess and a skeleton staff would be operating the Town Council Offices.
- (b) **Council Christmas Event** – Council noted that a Task & Finish Group had been appointed to organise a Council Christmas Event to be based at 11 Corn Square. Some initial ideas for the themed Christmas Event to be held on 9th December 2017 were presented.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Bartlett, seconded by Cllr Rosser and **RESOLVED** to allocate a sum of £2,000 towards the cost of developing an event to take place on Saturday 9th December 2017. Part of this funding would be used to secure reindeer, subject to ensuring that the correct animal welfare was in place.

- (c) **Leominster Family Festival** – Members were requested to submit suggestions regarding potential commercial sponsors for this event. A sum of £500 was being requested from each sponsor.
- (d) **Youth Services** – Council noted that meetings had been held with a number of different parties including VENNTURE to secure youth provision in Leominster in 2018 onwards. The Mayor indicated that it was his ambition to set up a Youth Club for the young people of Leominster and was currently seeking support for this initiative.

55/17 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- (a) **Planning & Highways Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning & Highway Committee meetings held on 22nd May, 5th June, 19th June, 3rd July and 17th July 2017 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- (b) **Environment & Services Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meetings held on 22nd May and 10th July 2017 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

- (c) **Communications & Events Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Communications & Events Committee meeting held on 12th June 2017 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- (d) **Finance & General Purposes Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th June 2017 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

56/17 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid Statement** – It was **RESOLVED** to pay all outstanding accounts for July 2017 amounting to £51,545.29, including VAT.
- (b) **Financial Report** – Following consideration, it was proposed by Cllr Rosser, seconded by Cllr Davies and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Quarter One Financial Report.

57/17 REPORTS

The following reports were received from the Representative on Outside Bodies:

- (a) **Leominster in Bloom** – Cllr Lacey reported that the Committee was in a positive mood following the recent visit from the Heart of England in Bloom judges.
- (b) **Hester Clarke Almshouses** – Cllr Davies reported that all units were now let.
- (c) **Shopmobility** – Cllr Rumsey informed Council that a collection at Morrison's had raised £600.
- (d) **Leominster Business Group** – Cllr Thomas reported that the group would be developing the Small Business Saturday event, following clarification of the event dates.
- (e) **HALC** – Cllr Pendleton had attended the recent HALC meeting. Among the issues raised was the issue of poor representation in local government by the ethnic population in Herefordshire. Work was being undertaken to try to improve this.

The following reports were received from the Herefordshire Council Ward Members.

Cllr Stone

- Herefordshire & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service – No high rise tower blocks in Herefordshire had been identified as having insulation similar to that used at Grenfell Tower. Cllr Phillips had been elected Chair of the Fire Authority. It was hoped that all fire stations in the rural areas would be retained;

- Balfour Beatty – A new Locality Steward has been appointed for Leominster North. Resurfacing had been undertaken in New Street and part of Bridge Street as well as potholes filled in Osborne Place and Millers Close;
- He attended a meeting of the Friends of Leominster Library. The meeting was against a move from the current building to HALO leisure centre;
- The Poultry Shed application would be reviewed by the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee;
- Congratulations were extended to Leominster in Bloom and the Town Council for all their efforts;
- The aspiration for a youth club was welcomed;
- The Dementia Friendly funding would run out at the end of August 2017. Grant applications were currently being considered.

Council thanked Cllr Stone for his report.

Cllr Bartlett

- The Herefordshire Local Access Forum had met;
- Attended a Footpaths volunteer walkers and PFO meeting;
- Attended the Choral Society and Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra events as part of the Leominster Festival;
- Liaised with BPI regarding the Leominster Hum and planned remedial work during shutdown
- Attended the Savernne Twinning Group welcome to Leominster at 11 Corn Square
- Attended the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony in High Town, Hereford
- Attended the 2Gether NHS Council of Governors meeting
- Attended a town walk about with BBLP Locality Steward James Howell, Cllr Davies and a member of the public to better understand the BBLP procedure for reporting and fixing potholes and highway issues;
- Attended the Leominster in Bloom Judging Day, accompanied the judges around the judging route and the reception at 11 Corn Square
- Attended the Art From The Dark exhibition at Hereford Library, an exhibition of over 350 pieces of art work co-ordinated by Hereford MIND, 31 Broad Street Library Group and the Librarians
- The planning application for the chicken sheds on land at Eaton Hill had been called in to the planning committee
- Had chaired the meeting of the Friends of Leominster Library with Director of Communities, Natalia Silver, to consult on the possible futures of the library in Leominster and the expression of interest from HALO to run the library at a new build site adjacent to the Swimming Pool in Coningsby Road.

Cllr Marsh

- Had undertaken work on the recent Baron's Cross planning application;
- The Westcroft application had not been called in to Committee so was awaiting the outcome of the permission and conditions;
- There would be a litter pick in the Ridgemoor area on 8th August 2017;

- Attended the Priory Holiday Club

58/17 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The following Mayoral appointments had been attended by the Mayor:

- 14th May – Started the Leominster/Ludlow Car Rally – The Mayoralty started early on the day after the Mayor Making when the Mayor was asked, together with the Town Crier, to start the Rally.
- 17th May Day – Open new Café at the railway station, wonderful addition to the town called “Cuplings”
- 17th May Evening – Attended Kidderminster Mayor Making
- 22 May – Attended Royal Ordinance Factory Project at Saxon Hall.
- 23rd May – One of the Mayor’s favourite visits - Swan Brewery open day.
- 24th May Evening – Attended Ludlow Mayor Making
- 27th May – Attended Eardisland Town twinning, together with the High Sherriff and Deputy Lord Lieutenant.
- 30th May – Took part in Herefordshire Mayors meeting at Shire Hall.
- 1st June – Attended the Leominster Festival Reception at Grange Court. A great start to the Festival.
- 2nd June – Thoroughly enjoyed Jazz with Pizazz at Grange Court.
- 3rd June – Attended Leominster Festival Concert, a wonderful evening of uplifting music.
- 4th June – Attended the Festival Service at the Priory.
- 5th June – Attended the Ross on Wye Mayor Making.
- 16th June – Participated in Leominster/Saverne town twinning reception at 11 Corn Square. Even managed a speech in French.
- 16th June (Evening) – Attended Stourport Civic Reception.
- 17th June – Received a presentation of £1000 charity donation from Masonic Lodge on behalf of the previous Mayor.
- 24th June – Attended the Armed Forces Day at Shire Hall.
- 24th June – Attended the Violette Szabo museum commemoration event.
- 29th June – Attended the Funeral of Dennis Sampson (Former Mayor) at Hereford Crematorium
- 2nd July – Attended Kidderminster Civic Service.
- 4th July – Attended Cream Tea at Twyford Cookers.
- 5th July – Represented Leominster Town, as an onlooker only, at Herefordshire School Games.
- 8th July – Attended Ivington Fete. A wonderful Annual Event which raise £1750 for the Church.
- 13th July - Attended the Leominster Scout Troup AGM. 14th July – Accompanied the judges around Leominster for Leominster’s Heart of England in Bloom entry. The judges were very complimentary and the Mayor had high hopes.
- 14th July – Attended the Sheriff’s “at home” meeting with other Mayors and other dignitaries.
- Attended the Priory Holiday Club

59/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Leominster Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 25th September 2017 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

60/17 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information Full Council **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- (a) **Property Report** – Council was presented with the update report outlining progress at 11 Corn Square and the additional projects being developed at present by the Town Council. Following consideration it was **RESOLVED**:
- That the report be noted;
 - That Lloyds Cooper be appointed as Town Council solicitors to act on its behalf in future;
 - That the progress at 11 Corn Square be noted and that additional funding from balances and the sale of 17 West Street be allocated to the project to enable the completion of the refurbishment;
 - That the transfer of the Westbury Street public conveniences be noted and the proposed refurbishment plans be adopted;
 - That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk and his team to develop an application to the LEADER fund;
 - That a Task & Finish Group to oversee the LEADER fund application be appointed;
 - That Cllrs A Pendleton, R Pendleton and Thomas be appointed to the LEADER Task & Finish Group.
- (b) **Grange Court** – Following consideration it was proposed by Cllr Freedland, seconded by Cllr Davies and **RESOLVED**:
- That the report be noted;
 - To agree in principle to commence initial discussions with the LARC Trustees;
 - That a Working Group be appointed to represent Leominster Town Council;
 - That Cllrs Burke, Davies, Preece and Thomas be appointed to sit on the Working Group;
 - That delegated authority be given to the Working Group and the Town Clerk to commence discussions with the appointed LARC Trustees.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: