

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2018

Minutes of the Leominster Annual Town Meeting held at The Council Offices. 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP on Tuesday 24th April 2018 commencing at 7:30pm

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr Roger Pendleton

PRESENT: 19 members of the community.

OFFICERS PRESENT: The Town Clerk, the TIC Manager and the Environmental Supervisor.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Cllr R Pendleton welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Stone.

3. MINUTES

The meeting **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meetings held on 30th May 2017 be adopted and signed as a correct record.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Roger Pendleton presented the annual report for 2017/18. He outlined the work undertaken by the Town Council over the past year and thanked everyone for their support.

Projects and achievement during the year included:

- The completion of the new Leominster Tourist Information Centre at 11 Corn Square;
- The completion of the Stables Gallery at 11 Corn Square. Regular exhibitions were now taking place and being well received by both residents and visitors;
- Grounds maintenance and open spaces responsibilities continued to be met;
- Congratulations were expressed to Leominster in Bloom for achieving a Gold Award. The Town Council had continued to support this initiative;

- The completion of Regulation 16 for the Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan. An examiner had been appointed and the Plan would complete its final processes during 2018;
- A memorial bench had been installed in front of the Tourist Information Centre as part of the 100 year commemorations of WW1;
- On 30th June 2018 Leominster will have the honour of hosting the Herefordshire Armed Forces Day;
- On Thursday 10th May 2018 Leominster will be receiving a Royal Visit by HRH Duke of Gloucester;
- The Town Council continues to support the Leominster News;
- A review of youth services has been undertaken and the results will feed into youth provision during the 2018/19 year;
- As part of youth development support for boxing sessions and skateboarding sessions was secured and delivered;
- A Street Ambassador programme was currently being developed in partnership with Vennture;
- A public consultation was carried out in order to inform the renovation of the Sydonia play area. This work was in progress and would be completed in the next month;
- The Town Council had continued to lead on the Destination Leominster initiative to help drive forward local initiatives;
- The Town Council had embarked on a partnership with Leominster Museum.

Initiatives pursued during the year included:

- A Public Realm improvements consultation had been undertaken between the Town Council and Balfour Beatty. This continued to be developed and a Task & Finish Group had been appointed;
- A Traffic Management plan study has been secured by Ward Councillors and was currently being progressed;
- It was noted that permission had been granted for 414 dwellings at Baron's Cross.

Grants secured during the year:

- Kingspan community fund
- Leominster Community Connect Fund
- Awards for All for the Sydonia play area

The Town Council had awarded a number of grants during the year to support community organisations and initiatives which totalled around £52,000.

Challenges in 2018/19 included:

- The introduction of the new GDPR legislation on 25th May 2018;
- The issues related to further funding cuts and savings being implemented by Herefordshire Council;
- The potential development of a multi-agency drop in centre to provide support for local residents to meet the introduction of Universal Credits;

- Additional responsibilities taken on for grounds maintenance within Leominster.

The Mayor had attended 140 events during his Mayoral year from the installation of the High Sherriff of Herefordshire to the opening of the Railway Station café. He had thoroughly enjoyed his year and thanked everyone for their support.

5. QUESTIONS

Questions were invited from the electors present.

The McDonalds Application

The meeting was informed that the planning application to site a McDonalds Restaurant at Morrisons had been submitted and would be considered by the Town Council's planning committee on 21st May 2018. The final planning decision was Herefordshire Council's and it was expected that it would be subject to consideration by the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee. Concern was expressed regarding the use of plastic straws and the potential impact on the environment.

Etnam Street Residents Parking Zone

It was confirmed that a new application could be developed to create a residents parking zone in Etnam Street. The Ward Councillor would liaise with residents.

Bus Station

The request submitted last year to erect a sign asking drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting, similar to the signage in Hereford, was raised. It was confirmed that notices had been erected but not all drivers switched off their engines. The bus companies would be contacted again.

Local Government Funding

Clarification was sought as to whether a request for additional funding for local government had been raised with Bill Wiggin MP. It was confirmed that requests were made but current Central Government policy continued to require principal authorities to make savings. All funding from Central Government would cease in 2020 when all local revenue would be generated via the precept and business rates.

Relief Road

Clarification was requested on the progress of the southern relief road. There was concern expressed that the majority of funding secured was invested in Hereford and not the market towns. The relief road would help alleviate the issues related to Bargates but would probably depend on the Southern Urban Expansion area being developed. This would add to the capacity issues of the schools and NHS services locally. There were also some concerns expressed at the impact the new development at Barons Cross would have on the local infrastructure.

6. SUMMARY AND CLOSURE

Cllr R Pendleton, Mayor of Leominster, acknowledged the frustration that had been expressed.

Sadness was expressed that Cllr Pauline Davies was not in attendance. The Council missed her a great deal.

Thanks were extended to all those who had attended.

There being no other business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:04pm.

MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER

DATE:

