

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on Monday 25th January 2016 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Offices, 17 West Street, Leominster HR6 8EP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Norman (Mayor), A Pendleton (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Barton, Davies, Freedland, Lacey, Mifflin, R Pendleton, Rosser, Taylor and Thomas.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllrs McCaull and Stone.

ALSO PRESENT: 1 press representative and 4 members of the public.

138/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Evans (illness), Gibson (work), Marsh (holiday) and Rumsey (work).

139/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

140/15 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

141/15 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

142/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 14th December 2015 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

143/15 CLERK'S REPORT

The following report was **RECEIVED**:

- (a) **Change of Meeting Dates** – Council **RESOLVED** to formally agree the following meeting date amendments and additions:
- 1st February 2016: Footpath Walkers Meeting at 6pm;
 - 1st February 2016: Planning & Highways meeting at 7pm;
 - 8th February 2016: Cancel Personnel meeting;
 - Tuesday 9th February 2016: Special Confidential Council Meeting at 7pm.
- (b) **Museum Update** – Members **NOTED** correspondence received from the Museum informing Council that the Museum Charity would become a “charitable incorporated organisation” called Leominster Museum on 9th July 2015.

The Town Council would continue to have the ability to appoint two Trustees under a 3 year renewable term. The two positions would be formally appointed at the Full Council meeting on 29th February 2016.

- (c) **Redevelopment of West Street** – Council **NOTED** that a request had been made to hold a Consultation Day on Saturday 13 February 2016 in the Council Offices, 17 West Street from 10.00 am until 4.30pm regarding the proposed development of the vacant site in West Street. Council agreed to grant permission subject to a donation being made to the Mayor's Charity.
- (d) **Defibrillator Cabinet** – Council **NOTED** that the cabinet had been ordered and would be erected outside the Co-operative Supermarket. Cllr Thomas informed Council that it had originally been agreed to place the defibrillator outside Wetherspoons but this had proved difficult to achieve. An alternative location had been agreed with the Co-op Supermarket manager.
- (e) **Market Towns Forum** – Council **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7pm in Hereford.
- (f) **Lengthsman Scheme/P3 Update** – Council **NOTED** that the scheme had been closed temporarily for new applicants. Briefings were being held in February and the Clerk would be attending the Briefing at 2pm at Rotherwas on Thursday 4th February 2016.
- (g) **Re-greening Leominster Green Spaces** – Council **NOTED** that a meeting to launch this scheme was being held on Thursday 11th February 2016 between 5pm and 7pm at Grange Court.
- (h) **Wine Tasting, Grange Court** – Council **NOTED** that this event would be taking place from 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 4th February 2016 to raise funds for Leominster in Bloom.
- (i) **Gala Lights** – Council **NOTED** that a meeting had been arranged for 2nd February 2016 at 11.30am to discuss the issue raised by the Finance Committee with Gala Lights.

144/15 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following meetings held and authorise the decisions and recommendations:

- Planning & Highways Committee – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 14th December 2015 and 11th January 2016 respectively and ratify the decisions contained therein;
- Estates, Markets & Environment Committee – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2016 and ratify the decisions contained therein;
- Finance Committee – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2016 and ratify the decisions contained therein.

145/15 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Outstanding** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the outstanding accounts presented relating to January 2016 amounting to £2,927.71.
- (b) **PWLB Loan Drawdown** – Council considered the recommendation from the Finance Committee to draw down £350,000 of the agreed £500,000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the purchase, fees and initial refurbishment of the premises known as 11 Corn Square, Leominster.

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr R Pendleton and seconded by Cllr Thomas that a sum of £350,000 be drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board to be used as outlined.

A recorded vote was requested, the result being:

FOR: Cllrs Bartlett, Freedland, Lacey, Mifflin, Norman, A Pendleton, R Pendleton, Rosser and Thomas.

AGAINST: Cllrs Barton, Davies and Taylor.

The Motion was carried.

146/15 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2016/17

Council considered the adoption of the draft Budget for 2016/17 and the recommendation from the Finance Committee that a precept of £404,062 be requested from Herefordshire Council for 2016/17.

Following the presentation of the budget it was proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr R Pendleton that the budget for 2016/17 as presented be adopted and that a Precept of £404,062 be requested from Herefordshire Council.

A recorded vote was requested, the result being:

FOR: Cllrs Bartlett, Freedland, Lacey, Mifflin, Norman, A Pendleton, R Pendleton, Rosser and Thomas.

AGAINST: Cllrs Barton, Davies and Taylor.

The Motion was carried.

147/15 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Council **RESOLVED** to defer the consideration of appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect for 2016/17 until the Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 29th February 2016.

148/15 CIVIC AND OUTSIDE BODIES

- (a) **Janice and Peter McCaull Trust** – Council **NOTED** that a meeting of the Trustees had taken place on 4th January 2016.

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Gibson & Taylor to become Trustees of the Janice and Peter McCaull Trust. The appointments would be confirmed at the next meeting to be held at 6pm on Monday 29th February 2016

- (b) **Open Space adjacent to Osborne Place, Leominster** – Council **NOTED** that Herefordshire Council had received a request to purchase this open space. There had been no feedback received from residents and following discussion the Town Council **AGREED** that not to object to this request subject to a restrictive covenant being placed on the land that it remained an open space and was not developed in the future.
- (c) **Leominster in Bloom** – Council **NOTED** that Cllr Davies wished to step down from this Committee as a Task & Finish Group had been appointed by the Town Council. It was agreed that the Task & Finish Group would remain the link for the immediate future but that representatives would be appointed once the Task & Finish Group had completed its remit.

149/15 REPORTS

Council **NOTED** the following reports:

Ward Cllr Stone gave the following report:

- Herefordshire Council would set its budget on Friday 5th February 2016. Savings of £28 million needed to be found over the next four years. The proposal is to increase the Council tax by 3.9%. 2% related to the additional funding for adult social care;
- The Lengthsman & P3 Schemes were now temporarily closed. Funding for the existing parishes would remain the same in 2016/17 as it was in 2015/16. In future it is expected that town and parish councils will have to contribute more;
- A litter and fly tipping campaign is being planned by Herefordshire Council to encourage more litter picking events to deter fly tipping. Cost of collection is around £1 million;
- There had been no major flooding incidents reported in the area;
- The one-off grant for the Ludlow to Leominster Bus Service will be discontinued after 9th April 2016. Alternative funding sources were required;
- Horse racing was returning to Hereford Racecourse in the Autumn;
- Grassroots football was struggling with fixtures due to the inclement weather and water logged pitches.

Ward Cllr McCaull gave the following report:

- The Community Champions Awards had been launched by Herefordshire Council;
- Plans for the Queen's birthday were being drawn up with a Clean for the Queen initiative and various competitions. Street parties were also being encouraged.

Ward Cllr Bartlett gave the following report:

- The Local Transport Plan (LTP4) consultation closed on 29th January 2016;

- She had been involved in finalising the Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan ready for submission to Herefordshire Council;
- She had attended a Treasury Management Brief setting out Herefordshire Council's budgetary process and financial constraints;
- She had attended the Etnam Street Residents meeting along with the Police who provided advice on anti-social behaviour and traffic measures;
- The fly-tipping issue in Etnam Street had been actioned and the charity bin sealed as the company had gone into administration;
- The blocked gulley and broken streetlamp in Ryelands Road had been reported and an inspection of the footpath behind Caradoc Road had been carried out with the Locality Steward;
- She had attended the LARC Trustees meeting.

150/15 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor of Leominster, Cllr Norman, informed Council that it had been quiet following Christmas. She had attended two Carol services and the Royal British Legion County AGM which had reflected on the previous year's events. It was agreed to update the website with the various events taking place in Herefordshire.

151/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council **NOTED** that the next Full Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 29th February 2016.

152/15 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information it was **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.

153/15 CIVIC AWARDS

Council **RESOLVED** to defer consideration of this matter until its meeting to be held on Monday 29th February 2016.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:34 hours.

MAYOR:

DATE: