

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL



LEOMINSTER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2016

Minutes of the Leominster Annual Town Meeting held at the Grange Court, Pinsley Road, Leominster HR6 8NL on Wednesday 13th April 2016 commencing at 7:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Norman (Mayor), Bartlett, Barton, Davies, A Pendleton, Rosser and Thomas.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr McCaull (Herefordshire Council Ward Member) and seventeen members of the public.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Cllr Norman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all the Members of the Town Council present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted.

3. MINUTES

The meeting **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meetings held on 26th May 2015 and 17th November 2015 be adopted and signed as a correct record.

4. GUEST SPEAKER

Jane Newton of the Tenbury No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) gave a brief overview of the scheme which had been developed to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged of the community. The scheme enabled people to apply for loans to help purchase white goods or computers. The Scheme dealt directly with the suppliers of the goods which attracted a 20% discount plus free delivery, installation and removal of old equipment.

Over 100 loans had been awarded since 2013 and people were only eligible within a 15 mile radius of Tenbury. A seeding grant had been secured from the Bulmers Benevolent Fund and further funding was obtained from fund raising and benefactors.

Loans of up to £400 were awarded, repayment was agreed subject to a full financial assessment and normally over a period of 24 months. In the case of default repayments could be obtained from the DWP directly.

A savings scheme was also in place which helped people save for Christmas.

It was hoped that a similar scheme could be set up in Leominster and all that was required was office space as interviews with applicants were confidential. It was agreed that the Town Council would provide assistance in securing suitable premises.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Felicity Norman presented the annual report. She outlined the work undertaken by the Town Council over the past year and thanked everyone for their support as well as wishing the Mayor Elect, Cllr Angela Pendleton good luck for her Mayoral year..

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

6. Questions

Questions were invited from the electors present.

Shopfronts

Concern was expressed regarding the poor state of some of the retail units in Leominster. It was confirmed that the Town Council had developed a shopfront grant to help retailers to improve their premises.

The scaffolding in the High Street had been in place for some time and created an obstruction as well as disfiguring the visual amenity of the town. It was confirmed that it would be removed imminently.

Traffic Calming

It was suggested that the Town Council investigate the requirements to provide sleeping policemen at the entrance of Central car park to discourage rat running.

It was explained that the car parks and all highway matters were the responsibility of Herefordshire Council. Concern was also expressed regarding the effect speed humps had on emergency vehicles especially ambulances.

Devolution of Services

Clarification was sought as to whether any funding had been provided alongside service devolution. It was explained that all the services devolved had to be funded by the Town Council as there was no financial support from Herefordshire Council due to the austerity cuts.

Town Council

The Town Council was congratulated on making a difference to the town. It felt much cleaner and friendlier.

Interpretation Panels

A request was made to replace the interpretation panels around the Priory. The meeting was informed that a new information panel was planned for Pinsley Mead following the refurbishment works being carried out at the Tranquil Garden.

The Town Council was also working with the community to develop Destination Leominster which aimed to develop heritage trails and improved signage in the town.

Southern Bypass

Concern was expressed regarding the poor air quality and traffic issues at Bargates and clarification was sought regarding the construction of the new bypass planned to the south of the town.

Traffic counts had been undertaken but no progress had been made to improve the traffic flow or the phasing of the traffic lights at Bargates. The Town Council undertook to pursue this matter.

Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan

Concern was expressed regarding the stalling of the LANP at Regulation 16 following the public consultation. Around 80 plans had been developed in the County with most being at the Regulation 16 stage.

Westfield Walk

Concerns had been raised with Herefordshire Council regarding the poor state of Westfield Walk and its use as a rat run.

Weir on River Lugg

The weir on the River Lugg required some maintenance and it was requested that the Town Council liaises with the Environment Agency to carry out an inspection.

George Street

Concerns had been raised with Herefordshire Council regarding the parking in George Street especially on school days.

Leominster Tourism and Leaflet

It was suggested that a leaflet promoting Leominster should be considered and developed to help promote the town.

Finally thanks was extended to the Town Council, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the work it was doing and for its support of the 490 bus service.

7. Summary and Closure

Cllr Norman, Mayor of Leominster, thanked everyone for attending and gave an assurance that the issues raised would be addressed.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER

DATE:

