

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 29th July 2019 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Thomas (Mayor), Rumsey (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Marsh, Murdoch, Norman, Preece, Rosser, Rumsey, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone, one member of the public and a member of the press.

40/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

41/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Herschy: Trustee of LARC

42/19 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received. It was noted that any dispensations requested would have to be considered, and granted if appropriate, by the Herefordshire Council Monitoring Officer. Dispensations lasted for a maximum of four years.

43/19 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum 15 minutes)

There was one Member of the public present. The following matter was raised:

- Smoking on Council property – Concern was expressed that there had been some people smoking at a public event that had recently taken place in the Secret Garden to the rear of 11 Corn Square. Council agreed to review whether smoking should be banned on Council property in the future, especially during public events.

44/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meetings held on 11th May, 13th May and 24th June 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

Minute 34/19 – It was noted that funding had been secured by the Community Centre for a new floor but it had not yet been installed.

45/19 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- (a) Communication & Events Committee Meeting Minutes** – Members were provided with a hard copy of the minutes of this meeting.

- (b) **Planning & Highways Meetings** – Council noted that two Committee meetings would take place on 5th and 19th August 2019 at 6pm.
- (c) **London Bridge** – Council noted that staff were being briefed on this matter.
- (d) Council noted that Mr John Thomas had passed away over the weekend. Mr Thomas had been a previous Mayor of Leominster.

46/19 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD**

Council approved the minutes of the following meetings held and ratified the decisions and recommendations made:

- Cllr Rosser, Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee. presented the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held on 20th May, 10th June and 8th July 2019, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
- Cllr Rumsey, Chair of the Communications & Events Committee. presented the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Communications & Events Committee held on 22nd May & 24th July 2019, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein
- Cllr Murdoch, Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. presented the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 24th June 2019, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- Cllr Herschy, Chair of the Environment & Services Committee. presented the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee held 20th May & 15th July 2019, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein

The following matters were raised:

- Cardboard Recycling Initiative – It was agreed to request that a full update be provided by Binit UK Ltd on the implementation of this initiative at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held on 2nd September 2019;
- Minute CE21/19 – It was **RESOLVED** to give delegate authority to the Christmas Lights Task & Finish Group to accept one of the two quotations received on behalf of the Town Council to provide Leominster's Christmas Lights for the next five years;
- Noted that a specification had been written for the upgrade of the CCTV system in Leominster and was being reviewed. It was anticipated at present that the new cameras would be installed April 2020.

47/19 **FINANCES**

- (a) **Accounts Paid Statement** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for June and July 2019, as outlined on the payment statement provided, amounting to £35,392.68 for June and £41,961.03 for July, inclusive of VAT.

48/19 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Council considered the proposal to request Herefordshire Council to continue to progress the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) across Herefordshire, which has been paused.

Council noted that legal powers for English Planning authorities to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy had been in place since the Planning Act 2008. Part of its provision included the receipt by Parish and Town Councils of at least 15% of all proceeds, or 25% if a Neighbourhood Development Plan was in place. The lack of a levy in Herefordshire was depriving Town and Parish councils of this potential income.

It was further noted that most neighbouring authorities had introduced the levy including Shropshire, Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City, Tewkesbury Borough, Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon Councils.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- To request Herefordshire Council to investigate and progress the adoption of the Community Infrastructure Levy as a matter of urgency, ensuring it is implemented for Herefordshire as soon as possible;
- That the current exemption of the Southern Urban Expansion area (SUE) proposed for Leominster from the Community Infrastructure Levy be rescinded and that all future development in Leominster be subject to CIL;
- That clarification be sought regarding whether the proposed development of the Barons Cross Camp site could be subject to the levy, if CIL was introduced prior to the commencement of the development.

49/19 MARKET TOWNS FORUM

Council considered the proposal to support the reintroduction of the Market Towns Forum. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- To support the reintroduction of the Market Towns Forum;
- To recommend a full review of the draft Terms of Reference to ensure that the Forum is fit for purpose and its role is clear;
- To note that the new administration at Herefordshire Council intended to engage fully with the market towns;
- To offer to host the first meeting of the revived Forum at Leominster with the Clerk taking the minutes.

50/19 REFILL SCHEME

Council discussed the opportunity of becoming involved in the Refill Scheme and to create a Refill Station at the Tourist Information Centre. Following consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to become part of this scheme and to develop a community scheme for Leominster.

51/19 REPORTS

Council received the reports from Representative on Outside Bodies:

- Community Centre – Cllr Bartlett informed the meeting that the AGM had been held recently and the centre was in good financial health;
- Council noted that S&A were going to provide volunteers to help paint the pavilion in due course

Council received the reports from Herefordshire Council Ward Members:

Cllr Stone – Leominster Rural and North

- Repair of safety railings on Mill Street – A date for the repairs is awaited and the permissions are now in place. Balfour Beatty is awaiting details of a Network Rail closure to enable the work to take place.
- Flood Defence Plan – new flood defences. A planning application has been received to install a flood wall on the right bank of the River Lugg bypass channel. The Environment Agency report that the proposed scheme will improve the standard of flood protection to 250 residential and commercial properties.
- Police numbers- positive news that more Police are to be recruited.
- Armed Forces Day – The Rifles Regiment did Leominster proud on Armed Forces Day June 29th on one of the warmest days of the year. It was good to see the contingent exercising their Freedom of Leominster. The parade was well supported and plenty of cadets also took part.
- Refuse Collection – Attempts continue to solve the problems concerning refuse collection in Hinton Terrace New Street.
- Cllr Stone expressed his condolences to the family of John Thomas following the news of this passing. He had served with John at Herefordshire Council.
- Cllr Stone wished success to Leominster in Bloom following the judging and many thanks to all their volunteers who do so much to enhance the town as well as the shops, businesses and sponsors for their support.

Cllr Felicity Norman, Leominster West

- The recent local elections brought a change to local government in Herefordshire. There is now a coalition in administration made up of a partnership of Herefordshire Independents, the Green Party and Its Our County (IOC). The Cabinet is made up of four Independents, two IOC and two Greens, myself and Trish Marsh, so Leominster is well represented.
- Early agreement has been reached on some priorities: the overriding importance of addressing Climate change through all our decisions and activities; increasing democracy through change from a cabinet system to a committee system (this will take a year to implement); and a whole county focus, not just on Hereford.
- There are further changes on Council with twenty-one women councillors, a far higher number than ever before, many in roles of responsibility. In Cabinet, six of the eight members are women, while two of the three Scrutiny committees have women as chairperson and vice chairperson.
- As Cabinet Member for Children and Families, I have spent the last few weeks being briefed by officers on my role and all that comes under my

portfolio, including education, safeguarding, children in care, children's health and wellbeing, and care leavers.

- I am also now Deputy Leader of Herefordshire Council, so will be attending events when the Leader is elsewhere, and working with him and the rest of the Cabinet on our priorities for the first year.

Ward matters

- Progress seems to have stalled on developments at Barons Cross Camp, and the poultry house application at Stagbatch.
- Requests for pedestrian crossings over the A44 at Barons Cross and near Morrisons have not progressed. An ongoing concern about a lack of signs blocking HGV access to Ginhall Lane from the town end also has yet to be resolved.

Local events attended

- Launch of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust's enhancement works at Bodenham Lake
- Dementia Friendly Leominster – Information and celebration
- A visit to Barons Cross during half term where Wildplay (Herefordshire Wildlife Trust) were leading activities for children from all parts of Leominster. A very successful and entertaining day with over 20 children taking part along with families, and enjoying sausages and drinks. This was organised and funded by Leominster Town Council.
- Shopmobility AGM
- Leominster Festival – Lots of events, including the Great Outdoor Quiz, the Family Funday and the finale, the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra.
- Congratulations to Leominster in Bloom on receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, very well deserved. The town looks wonderful, with its glorious planting and many community initiatives, thanks to help from many volunteers and the Town Council.

Herefordshire Council

- Policy is being updated and published regularly once approved by Cabinet. The Adoption of the Children and Young Peoples Plan, is being undertaken.
- Request Town Council to look again at the proposal put forward some years ago to form a Youth Forum or Council in Leominster
- The Herefordshire Suicide Prevention Strategy has been updated. It includes reference to children as well as adults, stresses the importance of listening to people who are suffering from depression, or other mental health issues, and encouraging them to share their feelings.

Herefordshire events attended

- Lugg Drainage Board Inspection day, visits to some of the water courses HC is responsible for.
- Herefordshire Games – 2,000 pupils from schools across the county came together to take part in the games, with senior students taking on leadership roles at the event.

- Launch of the County's Cultural Strategy at the Courtyard
- Climate Change Seminar at the Shire Hall
- Launch of the Beryl bikes in Hereford, a scheme similar to the Boris bikes in London, designed to encourage people to leave their cars at home and get about by bike, or if coming in from elsewhere to leave cars at strategic points and cycle within the city.

Cllr Trish Marsh, Leominster South

- The Alliance administration for Herefordshire Council now has a Cabinet of four independents, plus two from It's our County and two Greens.
- Cabinet Member – Portfolio covers the lead on Environment, the Climate emergency, Tourism, Broadband, Economic development and Skills.
- Broadband programme, Fastershire, continues to be roll out, now focussing on the 3% most rural properties.
- Work on the practicalities of addressing the climate emergency are underway.
- Tourism is an increasingly important potential source of income for the county as a whole. Currently running a feasibility study on pitching a county Business Improvement District, which could help fund marketing and development of tourism.
- Looking ahead to the 2019/2020 budget. There will be a public consultation this autumn. There is considerable work going into the capital programme, an area in which there is more scope for initiatives than in the very constrained revenue budget.
- It is likely that the settlement from central government will not be announced until later this year, so there will be some inevitable uncertainty in the budget setting process.
- Cabinet meetings will now be moving round the county with evening slots to enable more of the public to attend.

Cllr Jenny Bartlett, Leominster East

- End of May and early June was spent completing mandatory training.
- New role as Vice Chair of Adult and Wellbeing
- The first full Council and the Annual lunch of the new council took place on the 24th May.

Other meetings:

- Ridgemoor site meeting - Environment Agency proposed flood work behind Dales.
- Cheaton, Cogwell, Ridgemoor natural flood defence group at Hamnish
- Development Partnership briefing, Herefordshire Council have partnered with Keepmoat and Engie.
- Children's safeguarding briefing.
- Treasury Management briefing.
- Climate Emergency briefing.
- Hereford Library new exhibition.
- Heritage High Street bid was supported by Herefordshire Council and local businesses.
- Attended both the Healthwatch AGM and the Wye Valley Trust AGM.

- Launch of the Herefordshire Cultural Strategy at The Courtyard.
- Leominster Station with Transport for Wales and the rail users group.
- NMiTE (The university) Women into Engineering fundraiser and open evening.
- Waverley House care home open day.
- July Full Council.
- Regular Ward members meeting with Richard Ball, Director of Economy and Place.
- On Wednesday meeting with Highway England to discuss any issues with the A49 Trunk road through the county.
- Leominster Festival Friday market civic parade.
- The Rifles Freedom of the town.

52/19 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- Thanks were extended to the Leominster Town Council staff and the marshals from Vennture who facilitated the Rifles Regiment exercising their Freedom of the Town on Saturday 29th June 2019;
- Wednesday 22nd May – Mayor Making at Ludlow;
- Friday 24th May – Herefordshire Council Annual meeting plus lunch at Bishops palace Hereford;
- Saturday 25th May – An evening at the Opera at The Priory;
- Saturday 1st June - Leominster Twinning Association visitors from Saverne, Deputy Mayor;
- Saturday 1st June - St John Ambulance Herefordshire annual service Hereford Cathedral;
- Thursday 6th June - Meeting Leominster Festival volunteers;
- Thursday 6th June - Grapes big pub quiz Broad street;
- Friday 7th June - Stourport on Severn civic reception;
- Saturday 22nd June - Lucton school speech day at the priory;
- Saturday 22nd June - EchoFest at West Eaton;
- Sunday 23 June - Ludlow Civic Service, Deputy Mayor;
- Monday 24th June - Flag raised for Armed Forces Day, Leominster;
- Monday 24th June - Flag raising for Armed Forces day Hereford, Deputy Mayor
- Friday 28th June - Waverley House open day, Mayor and Deputy
- Saturday 29th June – Rifles, Mayor and Deputy;
- Saturday 29th June - Rifles unveiling of plaque Queenswood, Dinmore;
- Saturday 29th June - Rifles beating the Retreat, Hereford;
- Saturday 29th June - Hereford String Orchestra, Priory, Deputy Mayor;
- Wednesday 3rd July - Herefordshire School Sports day;
- Thursday 4th July - Society for independent living, Deputy Mayor;
- Friday 5th July - Meeting judges from Britain in Bloom and members of Leominster in Bloom;
- Sat 6th July - Shirejam at three counties showground;
- Sunday 7th July - Civic service, Kidderminster, Deputy Mayor;
- Tuesday 9th July - Herefordshire Heartstart AGM at Hereford;
- Thursday 11th July - High Sheriff at home, Eastnor Castle;

- Friday 12th July - Leominster Osteopaths 30 anniversary;
- Saturday 13th July - Ivington Church Fete.
- Saturday 13th July - Commissioning support vehicle for St John Hereford, Deputy Mayor;
- Saturday 13th July Official reopening of the Barons Cross;
- Thanks were extended to Cllr John Rumsey, Deputy Mayor and his wife for their assistance;

53/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 30th September 2019 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

54/19 LARC

Cllrs Herschy, Norman and Sutcliffe left the room during the discussion of this item.

Council had received a presentation prior to the commencement of the Full Council meeting from the LARC Trustees. As certain items to be discussed included 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 would 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Following discussion, it was agreed to request further information from the LARC Trustees. Cllrs Thomas, Murdoch and Preece were appointed by Council to liaise with the LARC Trustees and report back to Council as required.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:25pm.

MAYOR

DATE: