

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Bartlett (Mayor), Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Mr P J Davies, Herschy, Lacey, Marsh, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Preece, Rosser, Rumsey, Sutcliffe and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk.

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

88/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs P Davies.

89/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Rumsey: P183565.

90/18 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

91/18 WASTE PRESENTATION

A presentation was received from Binit Ltd outlining progress to date with the commercial waste recycling initiative, and to confirm the commencement date.

89 businesses had been surveyed in the town centre, the majority of which indicated an interest in the proposed recycling scheme, with only 2 saying no to any further involvement. There was currently no recycling provision available to businesses. The No Waste Leominster (NoW Leominster) scheme would sell the cardboard to Wye Waste Paper and there would be a potential income in the future.

The following matters were agreed:

- The target launch and rollout date would be Friday 18th January 2019. A press release would be developed;
- The bins would be painted pale grey, with the branding on the side being the Binit Ltd logo and the Leominster Town Council crest and name;
- The bulking point would be confirmed with the Council's Environmental Team;
- The initial aim would be to sign up 25 businesses, of which 6 would be large businesses;
- A review of the initiative would be undertaken every four months with the first review taking place week commencing 18th March 2019.

92/18 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the public present. No matters were raised.

93/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meetings held on 24th September and 29th October 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

94/18 CLERK'S REPORT

The following Clerk's Report was noted:

- (a) **Through the Wardrobe** – Council noted that the Nativity service, the Christmas Lights Switch On and the Through the Wardrobe event held on Saturday 24th November 2018 had been very successful. It was agreed that the Mayor would write to the Council staff thanking them for all their hard work.
- (b) **Leominster Armed Forces Awareness Day** – It was noted that a Leominster Armed Forces Awareness Day would be held on Friday 30th November 2018 from 12pm to 4pm at Grange Court, Leominster.
- (c) **Leominster's Oak of Verdun** – It was noted that Leominster in Bloom would be holding a commemoration of Leominster's Vedum Oak at The Priory Church at 2pm on Wednesday 28th November 2018.
- (d) **Festive Music & Verse** – It was noted that that the Leominster Community Choir and Friends would be holding a Festive Music and Verse event on Thursday 13th December 2018 in the Lion Ballroom, Broad Street, at 7:30pm.
- (e) **Final Civic Event of the Year** – It was noted that the final Civic Event of the year would be the Victorian Street Market.
- (f) **Christmas Lights** – It was noted that this was the final year of the three year contract with Lite to supply the Christmas lights. A new tender would be developed for 2019-2021.
- (g) **CCTV Contribution 2019/20** – It was noted that the requested contribution from Leominster Town Council towards the management of the CCTV in Leominster for 2019-20 was £10,849.72.
- (h) **Clerk's Holiday** – It was noted that the Clerk would be on holiday from Monday 4th to Wednesday 6th February 2019 inclusive. It was agreed that the Planning & Highways meeting be rescheduled to Monday 11th February 2019. The revised Schedule of Meetings calendar for 2019 was also noted.

95/18 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (a) **Committee Meetings** – Council approved the minutes of the following meetings held and ratified the decisions and recommendations made:

- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee held on the 1st, 22nd October and 5th November 2018, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
 - P183565 – The Town Council had requested that the works to this tree be restricted to reducing, rather than complete removal. Unfortunately, the tree had been removed and Ward Cllr Stone agreed to investigate why the comments of the Town Council had not been taken into consideration.
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 29th October 2018, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
 - FG28/18 – It was agreed that the Budget Task & Finish Group be requested to review the Museum agreement. The meetings would be held during working hours.
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee held on 19th November 2018, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Communications & Events Committee held on 26th September and 21st November 2018, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Budget Development Task & Finish Group held on 19th October and 14th November 2018, and to authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

96/18 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid Statement** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment all outstanding accounts for October 2018 amounting to £65,522.67, inclusive of VAT, and November 2018 to date amounting to £82,230.01, inclusive of VAT.
- (b) **End of Year Accounts** – It was **RESOLVED** to note that the end of year accounts for 2017/18 had now been signed off. Any actions required would be considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting in February 2019.
- (c) **Draft Budget 2019/20** – Council considered the draft budget, which had been developed by the Budget Task & Finish Group. Council noted that to date 161 residents had taken part in the consultation and a full report would be presented at the January 2019 meeting.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Lacey, seconded by Cllr Davies and **RESOLVED** to adopt the 2019/20 budget, subject to any last minute changes that may be agreed at the Full Council meeting to be held on 28th January 2019.

- (d) **Precept 2019/20** – It was agreed to defer the confirmation of the precept request to Herefordshire Council for 2019/20 until the Full Council meeting to be held on 28th January 2019. If the PWLB loan application was unsuccessful then there would be a requirement to review the precept requirement.
- (e) **Public Works Loan Board** – Council noted the reply, which had been submitted to HALC in response to the queries raised regarding the loan application.

97/18 CORPORATE DOCUMENTATION

- (a) **Corporate Plan 2019-2022** – Council considered the draft Corporate Plan. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Lacey, seconded by Cllr Norman and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Corporate Plan 2019-2022 subject to the agreed minor amendments necessary to 5.11 and 5.12, the Council's Vision and Mission statements.
- (b) **Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/2022** – Council considered the draft Medium Term Financial Plan. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Lacey and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019–2022.

98/18 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

- (a) **Leominster in Bloom** – Council noted that the Leominster in Bloom theme for 2019 would be Children's Books, and a new Chair had been appointed.
- (b) **Railway Station Café** – Council noted that it was unlikely that the café would reopen in the near future due to illness previously reported.
- (c) **Community Centre** – Council noted that a number of grant applications had been submitted and were awaiting approval.

Cllr Stone – Leominster Rural and North

Balfour Beatty Update

The safety railings in Mill Street. Work to replace the safety railings adjacent to the railway crossing will commence on Monday December 17th.

White lining. The recently carried out remarking of the white lines on the zebra crossing on Bridge Street is a big improvement and should enhance road safety there.

Winter gritting. Balfour Beatty seems well prepared for the next few months with its fleet of 16 gritters, which were on show at Thorn recently. Salt boxes are being refilled and salt supplies are at their usual levels in the depots. To supply and install a new salt box with a first fill of salt costs £ 474 plus VAT and future maintenance is the responsibility of the Town or Parish Council.

Balfour Beatty do however replace damaged bins. Let's hope for a kind winter.

Herefordshire will be receiving an extra £5.1 million from the Government's £420m pothole repair fund announced in the Budget recently. This is for repairs and local road maintenance. This is significantly more than last winter's allocation. It has been encouraging to see so much road resurfacing across the county this year including on the A4112 in Kimbolton recently. Balfour Beatty have also bought a new velocity patcher which repairs potholes much more quickly. (13,000 this year since the programme started)

Council Budget 2019-2020

The Council's annual budget will be set in February with the level of council tax to be approved. An increase of just under 5% is expected barring any last minute surprises with 2% ring-fenced for adult social care. Social care due to increasing demographic pressures and children's' services with growing numbers of looked-after children continue to be the main budget pressures. £3.9 million savings are planned for the coming year with the revenue support grant reduced to £0.6m (from £60m in 2011,12) so the Council will have done well to produce another balanced budget with adequate reserves. There are however so many unknowns with the Social Care Green Paper expected soon and the results of the Fair Funding Review. There remains uncertainty over future business rates and the Council will increasingly rely on council tax and one-off grants. Councils up and down the country are struggling to provide the services residents need and expect. Something will have to give.

Meetings

I have attended a number of meetings including a workshop on the Domestic abuse strategy, a Balfour Beatty briefing, a ward councillors' briefing about future health service provision in Leominster. I continue to attend Governors meetings at Earl Mortimer College and trustees' meetings at Grange Court as well as other parish councils in our ward area. Brimfield and Leysters have set their precepts and Kimbolton will next week.

Armistice Day

There was an excellent letter in the Hereford Times on November 8th about Leominster's "remarkable efforts" in the run-up to Armistice Day. The town was transformed with thousands of poppies, with displays in many shop windows and the spectacular display at the Buttercross Arcade. Many thanks to Leominster in Bloom and all the volunteers. The centenary of the end of the First World War was commemorated in Hereford Cathedral with the names of all 3,200 of Herefordshire's war dead being read out every evening in the week before Armistice Day which was very moving. It was good to see so many people of all generations at the Priory and the War Memorial on November 11th.

The week before I attended a special service in Leominster with Town Councillors paying tribute to the Polish soldiers who fought in the Second World War. Many thanks to Joe Cocker for all the work he put into organising this event which was very well attended. The importance of our Polish allies

in the Second World War especially during the Battle of Britain was highlighted. We owe the Poles a great deal and it is good to see their contribution being acknowledged in Leominster. The 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War has given the whole country much to think about. LEST WE FORGET.

Finally, I want to wish all councillors and Town council staff a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and I look forward to working with everyone over the next few months.

Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartlett Leominster East

- Nutrient Management Plan Briefing in Clyro with Natural England and Welsh Water. This has particular bearing on us as the Leominster Treatment Works is one of 11 facilities identified as needing significant work to ensure the needs of the proposed core strategy housing growth can be met.
- Together with Julie Debbage meeting with James Latham, Neighbourhood Planning team GIS Support. Updated our green spaces maps for the submitted Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan. The updated plans were submitted to the Inspector in early October. This then became a longer than anticipated email exchange between myself and the Inspector to answer all his outstanding questions. I am pleased to say that as of the 22nd November he is now satisfied with the plans and with the HRA (Habitat's Regulation Assessment) re-consultation.
- Meeting with CCG and 2gether NHS Herefordshire Governors.
- Full Council at Shire Hall took place on the 12th October.
- Leominster Transport Study meeting with HC and BBLP. The final tally's from traffic counts are now in and the modelling is complete. The feedback from the stakeholders meeting has been incorporated and it is hoped the draft plan will be with us early New Year.
- Ward Member Briefing on Herefordshire Council's Domestic Abuse Strategy.
- Local Access Forum Meeting, The Kindle Centre in Hereford. I brought up the footpath at Pinsley Mill, part of the Herefordshire Trail and Aieda's Accessible Amble. The path has been closed for a couple of years now as development slowly progresses and they have just got a further extension till July 2018. Together with the Rambles Association we are working to get this path open sooner than that.
- Ward members meeting with Richard Ball, who has taken over from Geoff Hughes as Economics, Communities and Corporate director.

Cllr Norman – Leominster West.

Herefordshire Council meetings:

- October Full Council meeting
- Planning meetings
- Corporate Parenting meetings

Takeover Challenge. I recently took part in a mock council meeting with young people where we debated the motion that the voting age be reduced

to 16. A lively and useful event, that brought out varied and thoughtful views from young people and participating councillors.

Children and Young People Scrutiny meetings. As well as these public meetings, I have met with Health Watch, and taken part in two Task and Finish groups. The first has been to consider the court ruling on Herefordshire Council's use of Section 20 in care of Looked after Children (LAC), and the Council's revised approach to this use. The second is looking at provision for children with special educational needs (SEND). I also attend the Schools Forum.

Briefings: Working with partner organisations on strategies for reducing domestic abuse. Nutrient Management Plan update.

Lugg Drainage Board meeting (Herefordshire Council trustee)

Local issues:

- Welcoming the Peace Train as it stopped in Leominster on the way to London.
- Parish Council summit in Hereford
- Bag it, Bin it launch of strategy to reduce dog fouling in Leominster
- Health Hub briefing (Town Council)
- Councillor training (Town Council)
- Shopmobility AGM
- Leominster in Bloom AGM
- Marches Family network AGM
- Dementia Conference: feedback from growing number of Dementia Friendly towns and villages, and update on our Leominster Dementia Meeting project, at Grange Court.
- About Face Theatre event in Leominster
- Celebration of the inauguration of NMiTE, the new university
- Polish Remembrance Service at the cemetery
- Priory Remembrance Service
- WW1 Remembrance Cathedral Service
- RBL service at the Cathedral
- Queens Service award for Vennture at Trinity Church, Hereford

Cllr Marsh – Leominster South.

Attended briefings on:

- Planning training
- Nutrient Management seminar- upgrade of Leominster sewage plant scheduled to improve water quality in the Lugg, an SSSI
- Domestic abuse strategy
- Herefordshire Centre for Community-Led Housing – new organisation in the county
- Took part in meetings of General Scrutiny and Group Leaders

Attended the Parish summit, scheduled to be the first of several. Glad to have two speakers provided by LTC! Pushing for future meetings to be more practically focussed on ways of working together and more two way.

Honoured to lay wreath at our War Memorial on the centenary of the Armistice on behalf on the council in glorious sunshine. Enjoyed sharing harvest lunch at Ivington

Met with incoming interim Director Richard Ball to discuss matters of interest to Leominster, including development of the Public Realm and Transportation appraisal, now due for consultation in the new year

On the publicity front I was pleased to be on the BBC's Sunday Politics West Midlands in October and be able get some points across about Herefordshire, including the extreme difficulty of buying houses for most residents. I have also taken part in the videos to encourage more people to stand for parish and Herefordshire Council seats next May, part of a campaign by Members' Services starting shortly.

I led a successful motion to press for the county pension fund to look seriously at divestment from fossil fuels, on financial as well as environmental grounds. This was passed with cross party support.

I much enjoyed helping to welcome mayors and the High Sheriff's party to our multi-part Christmas light event, which they much enjoyed. The combination of a packed Priory, a lively Square and a serene Through the Wardrobe was special.

99/18 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The following Mayoral appointments attended by the Mayor were received:

- Tour of Leominster Allotments.
- Ledbury Community Celebration.
- Allotment Society Award Ceremony and Harvest Supper.
- Barry Simmon's funeral, representing the Town Council and the Leominster Festival.
- High Sherriff's Shrival Service, Hereford Cathedral.
- Ledbury Mop Fair.
- Ivington Harvest Festival and lunch.
- Inauguration of the NMiTE new university at Hereford Cathedral.
- Ross on Wye Civic Service.
- Mayors meeting, Office of Chairman of Herefordshire Council.
- Peace Train, Leominster Station.
- 'Bag it / Bin It' Dog mess awareness launch.
- Leominster Town Civic Service, The Priory.
- Family Festival with The Courtyard at Grange Court.
- Polish Remembrance Service, Leominster Cemetery followed by the film '303 Squadron' and Polish food at the Community Centre. The Warsaw 303 Squadron were based in England and flew Hurricanes during the war. Without them we would not have won the Battle of Britain.
- 'Field of Remembrance' Service at Hereford Cathedral to remember the servicemen who gave their lives during the Great War.
- Hereford Cathedral 'Roll of Honour' reading of the names of the fallen during the Great War. There are over 3,000 names and each evening an

portion of the Roll of Honour was read out in alphabetical order. Each evening one of the market town mayor's was present for the reading.

- About Face Theatre Company evening of songs and shared food.
- Remembrance Sunday, Leominster Priory and War Memorial.
- Armistice Day Remembrance Service, Hereford Cathedral.
- 'Great Catherine' film and celebration of the restoration of the painting of Sir Charles Hanbury Williams MP, which hangs in the Mayor's Parlour at Grange Court.
- Leominster Choral Society, Handels 'The Messiah' at The Priory.
- Dementia Awareness Conference, Grange Court
- High Sheriff's Lecture, Court 1 Shire Hall.
- Leominster Christmas Lights Switch on and 'Through The Wardrobe'. Brilliantly well done to Lena and everyone who created this magical event.
- Vennture Queen's Award for Voluntary Service presentation, Trinity Church Hereford.

The Mayor thank the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Clive Thomas for representing Leominster at the events she couldn't make, as several clashed with events she was already attending.

Members were reminded that the last civic event for 2018 would be the Victorian Street Market on Saturday December 8th. Robing would take place in the Council Chamber and timings would be sent out nearer the date.

100/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 28th January 2019 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

101/18 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) **Sub-Committee Meetings** – Council **RESOLVED** to approve the confidential minutes of Personnel Sub-Committee held on 5th November 2018. It was noted that a number of revisions to the staffing structure would be required. It was agreed to refer the final structure back to the Personnel Sub-Committee to discuss at its meeting on 14th January 2019.
- (b) **HVOSS No Wrong Doors Partnership** – Council discussed the report and, following consideration, **RESOLVED**:
- That the report be noted;

- That Leominster Town Council joins the No Wrong Door Partnership under the terms as outlined in the report.

(c) **CAB & CCTV Reports** – Council noted the two reports presented. Following discussion, it was agreed to ensure that the CAB sessions held at 11 Corn Square, Leominster were publicised every month in the Leominster News.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:37pm.

MAYOR

DATE: