

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 24th September 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 a member of the Press.

68/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs P Davies. Cllr Egan was absent.

69/18 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE/CODE OF CONDUCT

Council formally received the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Cllr Marshall, who had been formally co-opted on to Leominster Town Council at the Council Co-option meeting held on Monday 13th August 2018.

70/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Lacey: Allotment Association;
- Cllr Murdoch: Allotment Association.

71/18 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

72/18 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present. No matters were raised.

73/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meetings held on 30th July and 13th August 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

74/18 CLERK'S REPORT

To receive the Clerk's Report on matters outstanding that may not appear on the agenda.

- (a) **Corn Square Licence** – Council noted that Herefordshire Council's Market Fairs & Street Trading originally had a licence for Corn Square (PRO1013). Following consideration, Council **RESOLVED** to apply for a licence for Corn Square.

- (b) **Earl Mortimer College** –Council noted that an invitation to attend the Earl Mortimer College open evening on 25th September 2018 at 6pm had been received.
- (c) **Christmas Lights** – Council considered the purchase of some additional festive lights to add to the current display. A budget of £1,673 was available. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to purchase and install lighting and infrastructure for the two trees at the top of West Street at a cost of £2,200 + VAT. The lights would remain in situ and would have a working life of three years
- (d) **Register of Interests** –Councillors were requested to complete a new Register of Interest form.
- (e) **Sydonia Play Area** – Council noted that an initial quotation had been received to supply and fit a new wetpour surface under the climbing frame that had been retained, and was currently being refurbished, at Sydonia. A solid black throughout surface would cost £3,108 and a coloured surface (red, green or blue) would be £4,213 + VAT. Two further quotations were being requested and the matter would be considered by the Environment and Services Committee.

75/18 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (a) **Committee Meetings** – To approve the minutes of the following meetings held and ratify any decisions and recommendations reached:
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning & Highway Committee meetings held on 13th August and 3rd September 2018, and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2018 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein;
 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Budget Development Task & Finish Group meeting held on 13th September 2018. It was agreed to discuss the recommendations under the Public Works Loan Board agenda item;
 - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meetings held on 17th September 2018 and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- (b) **Grant & Project Officer's Report Update** – Council received the update report and additional information and noted the contents. Council discussed the amended proposal to address unsolicited street collection in Leominster. A separate text number had been suggested for the town as even the most robust collection boxes would be a target.

Following discussion, Council **RESOLVED** to seek clarification on what would be required to set up a separate number/posters for Leominster and how Vennture would spend the money raised to prevent and tackle homelessness locally.

Thanks were extended to the Grants and Projects Officer for all the work she had undertaken.

76/18 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid Statement** – It was **RESOLVED** to pay all outstanding accounts up to 24th September 2018 amounting to £44,725.56, inclusive of VAT.

77/18 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD (PWLB)

Council received an overview of the matters that needed to be considered with regard to applying for a loan and setting the budget and precept for 2019/20.

It has been agreed that more time was required for the Budget Development Task & Finish Group to develop the 2019/20 budget. With regard to the proposed PWLB loan it was suggested that a single item Council meeting be held on Monday 29th October 2018 at 7pm, prior to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting to consider applying for a loan.

Papers would be drafted and available by the 10th October 2018 and there would be an opportunity to discuss the contents at the Councillor Training Evening to be held on Monday 15th October 2018 at 6pm.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to hold an additional Full Council meeting to discuss the application for a PWLB loan on Monday 29th October 2018 commencing at 7pm.

With regard to the development of the 2019/20 budget, a brief overview was provided on the funding issues faced by the Town Council since 2014. In that time the Town Council had taken on additional services and suffered a reduction in funding support from Herefordshire Council. The Transitional Grant fund, which had been £40,477 in 2015/16 had been discontinued, The Lengthsman Funding had been discontinued in 2018/19 and the P3 grant funding would be discontinued in 2019/20.

A number of precept increase options were discussed. Following the discussion, it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED:**

- That a precept increase of up to 10% be agreed;
- That a full consultation on the draft budget and precept increase be undertaken in November.

78/18 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

- (a) **Leominster in Bloom** – Council noted that Leominster had won a gold award. Council congratulated all those involved in Leominster in Bloom on their success.
- (b) **Community Centre AGM** – The Mayor had attended the AGM. There were many new ideas emerging and the future looked very positive. Grant funding was currently being sought and a lunch club had commenced.
- (c) **Leominster Senior Football Club** – Council was informed that the senior football club would not operate during the 2018/19 season due to a lack of players. The junior section would continue.
- (d) **Railway Station Café** – Council was informed that due to sudden illness the café had closed. Efforts were being made to reopen it. It was agreed to send the Council's best wishes to the proprietor.

Cllr Stone – Leominster Rural and North

National Planning Policy Framework

A briefing was held for Herefordshire Councillors concerning a number of changes recently made by the Government and their effect on the Core Strategy. It was hoped that the Leominster Neighbourhood Plan could proceed to the referendum stage in the next few months. Recently approved NDPs are now being quoted in planning and appeal decisions in Kimbolton, Brimfield and other local parishes.

Balfour Beatty update

- a. Resurfacing work continue on the A44 and on the A4117 where it was much needed. Some resurfacing is also due in Kimbolton in October on the A4112. Please continue to report local potholes to Balfour Beatty online or on 01432 261800. Potholes have been repaired in Osborne Place and Ridgemoor Road recently and in Paradise Court and Porters Mill Close during the summer.
- b. Still waiting for the re-marking of white lines in Leominster and will continue to request, especially where lines are so faded like the zebra crossing in Bridge Street.
- c. It is disappointing that work has still not been carried out repairing the barrier by the level crossing in Mill Street. The delay appears due to failure so far to settle the issue between Balfour Beatty and Network Rail.

Bridge Street floodlighting

There have been concerns over the extent of the floodlighting at Bridge Street when the all-weather surface is being used in the winter evenings for hockey and football etc.

Earl Mortimer College

I continue to carry out my duties as a governor there and at Kimbolton Primary School. I hope to see continuing links between Earl Mortimer and the Town Council this academic year.

Remembrance Sunday

Armistice Day and the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War will coincide on November 11th. There will be a County Service of Remembrance at 3.30pm at Hereford Cathedral on November 11th. 3,200 poppies marking each of the county's First World War dead will be dropped from the Cathedral tower. Between November 5th and 10th at 4.30pm each day names of the War Dead will be read out and there will be Evensong at 5.30pm.

Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Bartlett Leominster East

- Briefing on Children Wellbeing OFSTED report feedback.
- Briefing on Development Partnership, this is the new partnership with KeepMoat the company that pulled out of Barons Cross.
- Ward Member meeting with Geoff Hughes, our last one with Geoff as he has now left Herefordshire Council. We also attended his leaving do at Shire Hall and wish him all the best in for the future.
- Stonewater Public Information Evening at Grange Court to unveil the plans for Waterworks Lane veterans self-build scheme.
- Meeting with HC Cemeteries to discuss renovation of one of the Polish War Grave's
- Leominster Area Polish Group to feed-back from the above meeting
- Briefing on the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The council core strategy and our neighbourhood plan both have to be in accordance with the NPPF

Cllr Norman – Leominster West

Quite period in August. Planning committee was the only Committee to operate over this period.

September: Children and Young People Scrutiny committee meeting (Youth Justice Plan, Corporate Parenting Annual Update and Education, Development and Skills Strategy), followed by a spotlight review of Obesity and Dentistry in children, both causing concern in the county.

All Ward members had been reminded about their responsibilities as Corporate Parents,

A request was made for offers of work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for HC's Looked after Children.

Informal meeting with new Director of Public Health, Karen Wright, together with Councillor Marsh. Ms Wright had formally objected to the McDonalds plans, expressing concern about both dangers to health of air pollution, and encouraging obesity.

Local issues:

- Planning issues: Keepmoat had pulled out of Barons Cross, so uncertainty about future development there; ILU at Stagbatch, McDonalds application off Morrisons roundabout, and development at Westwinds, Cholstrey Road were all still unresolved.
- Final meeting with Geoff Hughes, Director of Economy and Place who was retiring and being replaced by Richard Ball, who would continue regular meetings with Leominster members. Update on transport study, A44, industrial Estate road, asset transfers and other public realm issues.

- Litter: Welcome publicity for the award given to two of our industrious litter pickers, Chris and Kerry, in the Hereford Times. Congratulations to them and grateful thanks to all the litter pickers who help to keep the town clean.
- ECHO AGM: as ever, a lively and colourful event which puts other AGMs in the shade! Led by ECHO supported members, who are encouraged to participate and be as active in the community as possible. Fiona Ritchie, co-founder and long-time CE is retiring and there were many entertaining and heart felt tributes.
- Leominster in Bloom – Gold award – Wonderful news, Congratulations and well done to LiB, Julie and her team and all volunteers for their hard work.

Cllr Marsh – Leominster South

- The Transport Study was moving forward and it was hoped to report this Autumn;
- Congratulations were extended to the Mayor regarding the art exhibition;
- If it was going to go to Committee, the McDonalds planning application would not be considered until November at the earliest;
- A volunteer initiative to promote oral health in young children was being promoted.

79/18 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council noted the following Mayoral appointments attended by the Mayor.

- 3 Choirs Chairman's Reception and Songs of Praise Concert in Hereford Cathedral;
- Hereford Peace Council Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration
- Ledbury Carnival;
- Twyford Cookers hArt exhibition;
- Swan Brewery open day and SHYPP charity fundraiser with local band Hobson's Choice;
- 'Space to Engage' at The Courtyard. SHYPP Media and residents;
- presentation and exhibition of the work with Hereford, Leominster and Ross Libraries carried out over the summer;
- West Mercia Police Awards Ceremony;
- Battle of Britain Commemoration Service at Hereford Cathedral;
- ECHO AGM at Leominster Sports Club;
- Herefordshire Home Start AGM.

Councillors were reminded that two civic events would take place next month at which robes should be worn.

- Sunday 14th October – Ivington Harvest Festival, assemble at the School for robing at 10.30a, and procession to Ivington Church. Followed by lunch and local auction in the School Community room.
- Sunday 28th October – Leominster Town Council Civic Service, assemble at Grange Court at 9.30am for robing and procession to Priory Church. Followed by light refreshments in the North Nave.

The Fire & Rescue Service would be holding a car wash fundraising event at Leominster Fire Station on Saturday 6th October from 10am to 3pm.

80/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that an extraordinary meeting of the Town Council would be held on Monday 29th October 2018 at 7pm to consider the Public Works Loan Board application.

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 26th November 2018 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

81/18 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) **Sydonia Play Area (Part Confidential)** – Council considered the response received from HAGS and, following discussion, **RESOLVED** to accept the offer of a refund and mitigation works subject to an additional reduction of 50% on the cost of turf.
- (b) **Sub-Committee Meetings** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee meetings held on 13th September 2018 and approved the decision regarding personnel.

Prior to the closure of the meeting Members were asked to consider options to organise a Christmas meal in December. Options would be considered at the training session on 15th October 2018.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:17pm.

MAYOR

DATE: