

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meeting held on Monday 11th July 2016 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Offices, 17 West Street, Leominster HR6 8EP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Bartlett (Chair), Lacey (Vice-Chair), Evans, Gibson (7:25pm), Mifflin, Norman, and Thomas.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk and the Market Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: One member of the public.

ES01/16 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Bartlett was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Lacey. There being no other nominations, Cllr Bartlett was formally elected Chair of the Environment & Services Committee.

ES02/16 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Cllr Lacey was proposed by Cllr Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Evans. There being no other nominations, Cllr Lacey was formally elected Vice-Chair of the Environment & Services Committee.

ES03/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Davies (ill), Marsh (holiday), A Pendleton (holiday) and R Pendleton (holiday).

ES04/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

- Cllr Lacey: Allotment plot holder.

ES05/16 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations had been received.

ES06/16 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The following representation was received:

- (a) **Footpath ZC93** – The Town Council was asked what was being done by the local authorities to address the alleged unsafe environment around the Cockcroft Lane access next to footpath ZC93.

BBLP had undertaken an investigation into this footpath in March 2016 and had responded comprehensively to issues raised.

Concern regarding the visibility splays would be forwarded to the Locality Steward to investigate. If required, the Town Council's Lengthsman would be instructed to cut back the hedge to improve visibility.

The Locality Steward would also be asked to investigate the trees which were interfering with the overhead cables. It was indicated that the responsibility to cut the trees was the relevant utility company but that permission was required from the landowner to access the area.

ES07/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Estates, Markets & Environment Committee meeting held on 11th April 2016 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

ES08/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report.

ES09/16 FRIDAY MARKET

The Market Officer presented his report updating Members on the operation of the Leominster Market. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted;
- That Quarter One Income of £4,676 be noted;
- That efforts continue to attract additional quality traders to improve the market offer;
- That the opportunity for charities and voluntary organisations to rent space during the week continue to be promoted;
- That negotiations continue regarding the future management and promotion of the Farmers Market, including the linking of a community market;
- That a revised rental structure be developed for the Farmers Market once the Town Council takes control;
- That the launch of the Farmers and Community Market takes place on Saturday 10th September 2016.

Concern was expressed regarding the proposal by BBLP to commence charging for road closures for community events. It was acknowledged that this would have a serious impact on many events within Leominster by significantly increasing costs and threatening many of the events' sustainability. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- That Herefordshire Council be contacted to register the Town Council's concerns regarding the new pricing regime for road closures;
- That the policy to charge for road closures be challenged from a legal perspective;
- That the point be reiterated that six events held annually in Leominster will be potentially under threat;
- That Herefordshire Council and BBLP be urged to reconsider this policy.

ES10/16 LEOMINSTER IN BLOOM

Committee considered the Leominster in Bloom report in detail. Judging had taken place on Friday 8th July 2016. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- That the report be noted;
- That a Service Level Agreement be drafted to formalise the relationship between Leominster Town Council and Leominster in Bloom;
- That businesses and organisations be encouraged to become involved in 2017;
- That additional funding sources be investigated to help fund In Bloom related projects.

The Committee thanked the Environmental Team for all its continued efforts in making the town look clean and attractive.

ES11/16 COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

Committee considered the Committee Update Report in detail and, following discussion, it was **RESOLVED:**

- That the report be noted;
- That the proposal to set up a sub-committee to formalise liaison with Leominster in Bloom and Re-greening Leominster be deferred until the September Committee meeting;
- That Cllrs Lacey and Thomas be appointed to the Task & Finish Group which will oversee the development of the Byelaws for the open spaces recently transferred to the Town Council from Herefordshire Council;
- That additional quotations be sought for the development and improvement of the play areas at The Grange and Sydonia;
- That schemes developed for the two play areas be developed and consulted upon in due course;
- That two additional quotations be sought for the Festive Lights and that the Task & Finish Group reports back to the September meeting with recommendations;
- That investigations be undertaken regarding the Council's commercial waste and recommendations be submitted to Committee for consideration at its November meeting;
- That action be taken to try to address the current spate of anti-social behaviour being experienced at The Grange and Sydonia;
- That proposals to help address the increase in dog mess being experienced be developed and an update be provided the Committee at its September meeting.

ES12/16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items were expected to include the consideration of exempt information the Environment & Services Committee **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) **Toilets Upgrade** – Committee noted that documentation to transfer the Central and Grange toilet blocks had been received by the Council's solicitor.

Committee noted that whilst the transfers were being completed, quotations would be sought for the refurbishment of the two blocks as previously recommended.

Committee also noted a brief verbal update regarding the progress of identifying a tenant/purchaser of the property known as 17 West Street. A full report would be submitted to Full Council for consideration at its meeting to be held on Monday 25th July 2016

There being no other business, the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20:40pm

CHAIR:

DATE: