

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2017 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 17 West Street, Leominster HR6 8EP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors A Pendleton (Mayor), R Pendleton (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Barton, Davies, Freedland, Lacey, Marsh, Norman, Rosser, Rumsey

OFFICER PRESENT: Town Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone, PC O'Donovan, five members of the public and a press representative.

104/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Preece (work), Taylor (work) and Thomas (holiday).

105/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made:

- Cllr Lacey: Allotment plot holder;
- Cllr J Bartlett: LARC Trustee;
- Cllr F Norman: LARC Trustee;
- Cllr Angela Pendleton: LARC Chair;
- Cllr R Pendleton: LARC Trustee.

106/16 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

107/16 CO-OPTION

Council **AGREED** to defer the consideration of this item and call a special Town Council meeting on either Wednesday 19th or 26th April 2017 to interview potential candidates and formally agree to fill the two vacancies by co-option.

108/16 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were five members of the public present. The following matters were raised:

- (a) The Hum** – Concerns were raised regarding the continued noise nuisance emanating from the BPI factory. Local residents suggested that the noise was becoming worse and that action needed to be taken as a matter of urgency. Residents were informed that the Town Council had all but exhausted the options available to it but would continue to press for action.
- (b) Policing in Leominster** – PC Donovan was in attendance. A number of issues were raised including misuse of drugs, antisocial behaviour and fly tipping. PC Donovan agreed to pursue intelligence received.

109/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 30th January 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendments agreed.

110/16 CLERK'S REPORT

The following Clerk's Report was **NOTED**:

- (a) **Clerk's Holiday** – Council noted that the Clerk would be away on annual holiday from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th April 2017.
- (b) **May Fair Update** – Council noted the following update regarding the May Fair:
- Herefordshire Council would be carrying out a consultation exercise regarding the Leominster Fair. It would be seeking to gauge views from as many stakeholders as possible in both digital and paper format. Leominster Town Council had offered its support;
 - At present no other sites were being considered to host the Fair;
 - The current contract with the Fair runs until 2019. The consultation being planned will help Herefordshire Council come to a view when it considers renewing the contract;
 - Herefordshire Council was unaware of any damage caused by the Fair to the public realm in the centre of Leominster. The contract contained clauses within it to cover such eventualities;
 - If part of Broad Street car park was sold, then it would be up to the Fair Operator to seek and secure an alternative location.
- (c) **Herefordshire Family Festival** – Council noted that a meeting had been held with the Festival organisers on Friday 24th March 2017. The Grange had agreed to provide a venue for the Festival and a total of about £2,000 would be required to make local Festival events in Leominster viable, which would be raised from local businesses and organisations. It was requested that it be extended throughout Leominster as it would take place during half term week. Both the Apple Fair and St Edfrith's Day would also take place in the same month. Following consideration Council **RESOLVED** to allocate some initial funding from its 2017/18 grants budget, subject to consideration by the F&GP Committee, and support the initiative.
- (d) **Local Council Charter Branch** – Council noted that NALC had partnered with more than 60 organisations, including the Woodland Trust, to help launch a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People on November 6th 2017. Following consideration Council **RESOLVED** to become a Charter Branch.
- (e) **Members Code of Conduct** – Council noted that new Code of Conduct had been drafted by Herefordshire Council. The consultation period ends on 25th April 2017.

111/16 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- (a) **Planning & Highways Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee meetings held on 13th February, 6th and 20th March 2017, and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- (b) **Finance & General Purposes Committee** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27th February 2017, and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.
- (c) **Environment & Services Committee**– It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Environment & Services Committee meeting held on 13th March 2017, and authorise the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

112/16 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid Statement** – Council agreed to defer consideration of the statement of accounts paid until the F&GP meeting to be held on Monday 24th April 2017.
- (b) **Financial Report** – Council agreed to defer consideration of the Financial Report until the F&GP meeting to be held on Monday 24th April 2017.
- (c) **Risk Register** – Council considered the revised Financial Risk Register and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Register subject to amending RR8 and splitting the risk into two separate sections, one related to the Town Council specifically and one related to public perception. The amended Register would be considered by the F&GP Committee at its meeting to be held on 24th April 2017
- (d) **Interim Internal Audit Report** – Council considered the interim internal audit report and **RESOLVED**:
 - To adopt the report;
 - To agree the appointment of a Councillor to carry out ad-hoc financial inspections at the F&GP Committee meeting to be held on 24th April 2017;
 - To increase the Fidelity Guarantee insurance to better reflect balances being held.
- (e) **Leominster Branding** – Council noted the final branding options received from Orphans Press. A significant amount of work had been undertaken to reach this stage and the initial budget allocated was now exhausted.

Following consideration Council **RESOLVED**:

- That the proposed options for the new Leominster branding be rejected;
- That a line be drawn under the branding work undertaken to date;
- That a revised Design Brief be drawn up and reviewed by the F&GP Committee;
- That alternative proposals be sought.

Council wished it to be minuted that it appreciated all the hard work undertaken by Members of staff involved in the project and that it wished to continue to have a good working relationship with Orphans Press.

113/16 CORPORATE STRATEGY

Following consideration of the 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy Plan by Council it was proposed by Cllr A Pendleton, seconded by Cllr Rosser and **RESOLVED** to adopt the 2017-2020 Corporate Strategy.

114/16 REPORTS

The following Representative on Outside Bodies reports were **RECEIVED**:

Cllr Lacey reported that the Leominster in Bloom entry was on track and progressing well.

Cllr Rosser reported that posters to discourage dog fouling continued to be put up around town. Dog bags were still being obtained and he was working closely with the Environmental Supervisor to continue to address the issue.

Cllr A Pendleton had attended the recent Tree Warden meeting on behalf of Leominster Town Council.

Cllr Norman reminded members that the Museum would reopen on 15th April 2017.

The following Herefordshire Council Ward Members reports were **RECEIVED**

Cllr Stone submitted the following report:

- Herefordshire Council recently approved its 2017/18 budget which would increase by 3.9%, including the 2% adult social care increase allowed by Central Government;
- The issues relating to refuse continued with collection of black bags and fly tipping being the main problems;
- The new hockey pitch at Bridge Street was now open;
- Congratulations were extended to Leominster as it had been included in the Sunday Times Midlands category of "Best Places to Live";
- Cllr Stone congratulated Cllr Marsh on her recent by-election success.

Cllr Bartlett submitted the following report:

- Attended a performance review on the new Hereford university plans. Funding had been secured from Government;
- £7.3 million had been secured by Herefordshire Council to spend on adult social care;
- Attended various meetings including schools, highways and parking;
- Work had been undertaken to help mitigate light pollution on Broad Street car park;
- Residents parking schemes for Rainbow Street and School Road with Cllr Rosser had been completed;
- Took part in the Leominster Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean.

Cllr Norman submitted the following report:

- Had been addressing issues with potholes and other highway issues with colleagues and various agencies;
- Continued fly tipping and black bag issues at Barons Cross. Removal had been delayed due to land ownership issues;
- Attended various meetings including Walkers Welcome, Library and Dementia Friendly;
- Had been involved in various outstanding planning issues;
- Took part in the Leominster Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean.

Cllr Marsh was looking forward to working together with fellow Councillors and thanked Members for their congratulations.

115/16 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The following report was received from Cllr A Pendleton:

- A list of Mayoral engagements attended was provided to all members;
- Mayoral Events included welcoming a choir from Rhayader and the Herefordshire Police Male Voice Choir to Leominster in February 2017. The evening raised £752 for the Mayoral Charities;
- The Mayor attended the Herefordshire Commendation Awards of West Mercia Police;
- An introductory meeting with the Rifles Regiment had been held;
- The Mayor would be joining the Police for a Ride along.

116/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the Mayor Making ceremony would take place on Saturday 13th May 2017 commencing at 7:00pm in the John Abel Room, Grange Court.

Council noted that the follow on Annual Town Council meeting would be held on Monday 15th May 2017 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

Council noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 commencing at 7:00pm at the Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

117/16 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) **Property Report** – Council considered the Property Report and, following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- That the report be noted;
- That the highest offer received for the purchase of 17 West Street, Leominster be accepted and the formal sale of the building commence. This was proposed by Cllr Lacey, seconded by Cllr Rosser and agreed;
- That progress regarding the refurbishment of 11 Corn Square be noted and approved;
- That the lease for 1 Corn Square be extended until 29th April 2017 at a cost of £889.14;
- That the proposal to install stained glass into the exhibition area be deferred until further information is obtained and the final cost of the refurbishment is known;
- That a new suspended ceiling at a cost of £3,037 be agreed;
- That the ramp for the rear entrance at a cost of £295 be agreed;
- That an architect be appointed to address the issues relating to Fire Regulation compliance for the holiday flat.

(b) **London Bridge** – Council noted the update regarding the revisions undertaken.

(c) **Civic Awards** – Council considered the Civic Awards Report and, following discussion, it was **RESOLVED**:

- That the report be noted;
- That the six people nominated be awarded with a Civic Award at the Mayor Making ceremony to be held on Saturday 13th May 2017.

Prior to closing the meeting the Mayor, Cllr A Pendleton, thanked Members for their support throughout the year and outlined what a pleasure it had been being Mayor of Leominster.

There being no other business, the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9:35pm.

MAYOR:

DATE: