

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AGENDA 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Leominster Annual Town Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 commencing at 7:30pm. To join this meeting please follow the link;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87227347063?pwd=RWNCCxIIWnFIZDJ2VIBYMmFySWZmdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 2734 7063

To request the passcode, please email [townclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk)

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Local Government electors for the Town will be entitled to raise questions at the Meeting which is open to the public.

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

**2. Apologies**

**3. Minutes**

To receive and adopt the minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The Annual Town Meeting did not take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing restrictions.

**4. Annual Report by the Outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr Clive Thomas**

Report from the outgoing Town Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council in the preceding two years.

**5. Questions**

To receive questions on the Town Council business from the electors present.

**6. Summary and Closure**

Closing statement from the Mayor of Leominster, Cllr Clive Thomas.

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Cllr Clive Thomas  
MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL



## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2019

Minutes of the Leominster Annual Town Meeting held at The Council Offices, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 commencing at 7:30pm

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**IN THE CHAIR:** Cllr Jenny Bartlett

**PRESENT:** 16 members of the community.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** The Town Clerk.

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Cllr Bartlett welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rosser, S Morgan and P Blench.

**3. MINUTES**

The meeting **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 be adopted and signed as a correct record.

**4. ANNUAL REPORT**

Cllr Bartlett presented Leominster Town Council's annual report for 2018/19. She outlined the work undertaken by the Town Council and thanked everyone for their support during the civic year. Achievements included:

Full Council:

- Adoption of a revised Corporate Strategy and a Medium Term Financial Plan
- Hosted Herefordshire Armed Forces Day which was preceded by a number of events in Leominster for Armed Forces week;
- Hosted the Royal visit with the Duke of Gloucester;
- Oversaw the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War including the Remembrance Day commemorations, in partnership with the Royal British Legion Leominster Branch.

#### Environment & Services Committee:

- Provided a new play area at Sydonia utilising S106 funding, an Awards for All grant and around £5,000 from the Town Council's funds. The works included a new play area, an outdoor gym, a new goal end and refurbishment of the existing junior climbing frame and new safer surfacing;
- The cleaning of the War Memorial following the successful application of a grant to help towards the overall cost of the works;
- Secured £32,000 grant funding through LEADER for new signage throughout the town;
- Provided a number of new grit bins in the Town;
- Continued to undertake footpath maintenance under the P3 scheme;
- Continued to undertake limited Lengthsman duties under the Herefordshire Council scheme;
- Took over the licence to mow all the open spaces and verges in Leominster;
- Had to use a contractor due to delays at the beginning of the 2018 season;
- Undertaken a survey of business waste with a view to introducing a business waste recycle scheme in 2019/20 with Binit Ltd as the main partner;
- LTC supported Leominster in Bloom in 2018 and achieved another Gold;
- LTC entered Sydonia Park and received a silver award, so the focus in 2019 will be to bring this up to gold standard;
- Sudden termination of the Interserve contract by Herefordshire Council resulted in the cleaning of the Town Council's toilets having to be done internally;
- Commencement of the Grange Open Space Master Plan consultation;
- Set up a Direct Labour Force to carry out grounds maintenance from April 2019 onwards;
- Julie Debbage, Environmental Supervisor, has left and been replaced with Mark Culbert, Grounds & Environmental Supervisor.

#### Finance & General Purposes:

- Overseen to implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations and the new Data Protection Act 2018;
- Oversaw the application for a further PWLB loan to help invest in the toilets, the Secret Garden, Grange open space and grounds maintenance;
- Completed the "Mapping Leominster's Youth" project report which identified areas of support to be given by LTC;
- Supported the development of a Duke of Edinburgh inclusive programme;
- Continued support for CAB, the Community Centre and LARC;
- The provision, under a Service Level Agreement, of a part time curator for Leominster Museum;
- Overseen staff recruitment via the Personnel Sub-Committee;
- Budget development for 2019/20. Final increase was 4.1%;
- Actively supported the Janice & Peter McCaull Charitable Trust over a difficult period.

Provided Grant support for the following organisations:

Leominster Priory Holiday Club	£900.00
Leominster Festival	£1,000.00
151 Squadron	£1,000.00
Festival Window Competition	£250.00
Window Competitions	£500.00
McCaul Trust	£250.00
Hope	£840.00
Car Parking (SBS)	£1,079.00
Festive Lights	£527.00
Royal British Legion	£400.00
Halo	£1,000.00
Meeting Centre	£1,000.00
Shopmobility	£1,000.00
Leominster Museum	£1,000.00
ECHO	£800.00

#### Communications & Events

- Continued to oversee the Friday Market and the monthly Farmers Markets;
- Continued to manage the Tourist Information Centre providing information to visitors, an opportunity for local producers to sell their products and to promote local tourist focused businesses;
- Provided the Stables Gallery, an opportunity for local artists to showcase their work. This is fully booked for the next 12 months;
- Overseen the final elements to the holiday flat including the fire safety works, a new gas supply and final furnishings. The flat will hopefully be available for rent in May 2019, subject to West Mercia Energy;
- Supported the Small Business Saturday with the provision of free car parking in Leominster funded by Leominster Town Council;
- Put on the second “Through the Wardrobe” event in the Secret Garden;
- Hosted the Christmas Light switch on event for the first time in 2018.

#### Planning & Highways

- Completion of the Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan which successfully passed through its referendum;
- Continued to monitor the HUM issues;
- Planning applications have included the proposed McDonalds restaurant, Barons Cross Camp and a number of new developments in Leominster;
- Continued to lobby Herefordshire Council regarding highway matters;
- Been involved in the development of the emerging Transport Plan for Leominster.

The Mayor had attended 140 events during his Mayoral year from the installation of the High Sherriff of Herefordshire to the opening of the Railway Station café. He had thoroughly enjoyed his year and thanked everyone for their support.

## **5. QUESTIONS**

Questions were invited from the electors present.

### ***The McDonalds Application***

The meeting was informed that the planning application to site a McDonalds Restaurant at Morrisons had been submitted and would be considered by the Town Council's planning committee on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018. The final planning decision was Herefordshire Council's and it was expected that it would be subject to consideration by the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee. Concern was expressed regarding the use of plastic straws and the potential impact on the environment.

### ***Etnam Street Residents Parking Zone***

It was confirmed that a new application could be developed to create a residents parking zone in Etnam Street. The Ward Councillor would liaise with residents.

### ***Bus Station***

The request submitted last year to erect a sign asking drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting, similar to the signage in Hereford, was raised. It was confirmed that notices had been erected but not all drivers switched off their engines. The bus companies would be contacted again.

### ***Local Government Funding***

Clarification was sought as to whether a request for additional funding for local government had been raised with Bill Wiggin MP. It was confirmed that requests were made but current Central Government policy continued to require principal authorities to make savings. All funding from Central Government would cease in 2020 when all local revenue would be generated via the precept and business rates.

### ***Relief Road***

Clarification was requested on the progress of the southern relief road. There was concern expressed that the majority of funding secured was invested in Hereford and not the market towns. The relief road would help alleviate the issues related to Bargates but would probably depend on the Southern Urban Expansion area being developed. This would add to the capacity issues of the schools and NHS services locally. There were also some concerns expressed at the impact the new development at Barons Cross would have on the local infrastructure.

## **6. SUMMARY AND CLOSURE**

Cllr R Pendleton, Mayor of Leominster, acknowledged the frustration that had been expressed.

Sadness was expressed that Cllr Pauline Davies was not in attendance. The Council missed her a great deal.

Thanks were extended to all those who had attended.

There being no other business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:04pm.

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**MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER**

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**DATE:**