



## LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

To: All Members:

Councillors Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Preece, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams (2 Vacancies).

### NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Leominster Town Council to be held on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021** commencing at **19:00 hours** in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

***Julie Debbage***

Julie Debbage  
TOWN CLERK

### AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.

**3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

To consider requests for dispensations (must be notified in writing).

**4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum 15 minutes)**

To receive questions and statements from members of the public.

**5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Leominster Town Council Extraordinary meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

**6. CLERKS REPORT**

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

**7. FINANCES**

**(a) Accounts paid and invoices for payment** – To receive an accounts paid and invoices for payment statement.

**(b) Income and Expenditure Report Month 5** – To consider the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 5 and accompanying notes.

**(c) External Audit** – To consider the result of the External Audit for 2020/21.

**8. GRANTS**

**(a) Welcome Back Fund** – To note the potential grant of £20000 from the Welcome Back Fund. Please see attached briefing paper regarding eligible activities for the grant.

**(b) Great Places to Visit Fund** - To note the grant of £90000 from the Great Places to Visit Fund. Please see attached briefing paper regarding eligible activities for the grant.

**9. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

To review and adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2021/22. Please see attached documents.

**10. REPORTS**

To receive update reports from:

- Representatives on outside bodies (verbal)
- Herefordshire Council Ward Members (text)

**11. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

To receive an update on Mayoral appointments attended by the Mayor.

**12. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Finance Committee is, therefore, recommended to resolve "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) Co-option** – To consider co-opting one Councillor to fill the vacancies in the South Ward.

**(b) Grant Application** – To consider any grant applications.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe (19.08) and Williams.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer, Projects and Grants Officer.

## 48/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Preece (Work), Thomas (Holiday) and Sutcliffe who advised that he was attending an overlapping meeting. Cllr Sutcliffe joined the meeting at 19.08.

## 49/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 50/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

## 51/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

## 52/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## 53/21 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items to be discussed included 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 would 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### (a) Potential Devolved Asset – The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8EQ

Council considered the recommendations made in the Old Priory Community Asset Transfer Report.

It was proposed by Cllr Rosser and seconded by Cllr Norman:

1. That the Council adopt the Old Priory CAT business case developed by the Old Priory working group;

2. That the Old Priory CAT business case for transfer of the ownership of the Old Priory building from Herefordshire Council to Leominster Town Council is submitted to Herefordshire Council on or before 23rd September 2021;
3. That the Council delegate authority to the Old Priory working group to negotiate terms of a CAT agreement for the Old Priory building, should Leominster Town Council's CAT application be successful;
4. That the funds required to support years 1-6 of the Old Priory CAT business case are drawn from existing Town Council reserves and unspent loans listed in 3.5.1, alongside the Council actively seeking external grants.

The proposals were put to a named vote and agreed unanimously.

For: Councillors Rumsey, Marsh, Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Rosser, Smith-Winnard and Williams.

Against: None

Abstentions: None

Following the named vote, Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations made in the Old Priory Community Asset Transfer Report.

#### **(b) Civic Awards**

Council **RESOLVED** to present Civic Awards to the following recipients for their invaluable contribution to Leominster:

- Richard Barlow
- Marina Morris
- Mike Thornhill (posthumously)

Council **RESOLVED** to send a letter of appreciation and a plaque to the following organisations for their invaluable contribution to Leominster:

- The 6 doctors surgeries involved with the Covid-19 vaccination programme for the residents of Leominster;
- Leominster In Bloom;
- Community Wheels;
- Leominster Food Bank.

#### **54/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 19.20 hours.

**MAYOR:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Ward Councillor report Leominster North & Rural September 2021**

### Recycle Week

Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> is Recycle Week. It is all about encouraging people to be creative and find ways to reuse or recycle unwanted goods. Currently about 40% of our waste in Herefordshire is recycled and I hope this will increase when the new waste contract starts in 2023. Meanwhile here are three tips from Herefordshire Council.

1. Always think about reusing things first, donate to a charity shop if necessary.
  2. Don't throw plastic carrier bags into your recycling bin.
  3. Make sure everything you put in a green bin is clean, dry and empty so it can be recycled.
- We are very fortunate to have accessible and efficient recycling sites like Bridge Street and the appointments system seems to work well.

### Litter Pick

Litter and fly tipping remain a problem across the county. My thanks to my fellow ward councillors and several other volunteers who turned up in Cheaton Close on Saturday morning August 21<sup>st</sup>. 27 bags of litter were collected in two hours. It was part of a county wide initiative by BBC Hereford and Worcester and I was impressed by their hands – on approach on the day, quite literally! There was an appalling amount of litter in Cheaton and Ridgemoor Road and some of it was fly tipping. We need to find some way of involving the community more in keeping our estates as much as possible litter free. I applaud the Sunday volunteers who clear litter around the town on a regular basis plus a number of individuals who keep certain streets and areas clear, unsung heroes. Many thanks also to Balfour Beatty for clearing the 27 bags and fly tip items so promptly.

### Mill Street Temporary closure

Level crossing repair work is taking place on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 50 metres on either side. This means the A44 will be closed there for two days and diversion routes will be in operation. There will still be pedestrian access and vehicles access to frontages in Mill Street.

### Balfour Beatty update

Potholes have been filled in Cheaton Close, Porter's Mill Close, Osborne Place and Millers Close in recent weeks. Please continue to report potholes. I know we have issues about the length of time and inconsistent filling in of some but not others, please do not assume that someone else will report them. Please report potholes or blocked drains on the Herefordshire Council website or phone Balfour Beatty on 01432261800. Meanwhile the new drain outside the Golden Lion appears to be working well. I am sure it will be tested in the next few months.

### Flood Alleviation, Ridgemoor and Osborne Place

I have been monitoring this for several months and it is taking rather longer than expected. Cllr Trish Marsh has been in touch with the Environment Agency as we were offered an inspection of the completed works some time ago. Toby Whitehouse of the EA says the embankment work is still not completed in Osborne Place and weed growth needs to be cut back. The pathway along the river Lugg behind The Mallards is still closed because the grass seed has apparently not germinated as well as expected. The EA assures us of a letter drop to residents and new signage. Unfortunately, there has been some fly tipping and vandalism in the vicinity. It is good and welcome that so many properties will be better protected from flooding but we are keen to see the public footpath reopened and the

conclusion of the project. It has been a major investment in Leominster by the Environment Agency.

#### Covid Vaccinations

The latest data show that 87% of Herefordshire residents aged 16 and over have received one dose and 81% their second dose. This compares closely with the national figures. By September 4<sup>th</sup> 64% of 16 and 17 year olds had been vaccinated compared with 49% nationally which is encouraging. Walk – in clinics are available in Elgar house and Saxon Hall in Hereford for anyone aged 16 or over with appointments not necessary. Cases remain relatively high in Herefordshire and home testing kits are available to residents. They can be picked up from Council buildings, libraries and from some pharmacies or can be ordered online.

12 to 15 year olds are being offered one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine but parent or carer consent will be sought. The vaccinations will take place at school. This is a familiar process and I recall flu and polio inoculations from my distant schooldays! There is no cause for complacency but it has been good to see so many Community events and gatherings taking place again this summer. The Community weekend in Brimfield and the Little Hereford Fete were well supported and Orleton had a day of village activities at the weekend.

#### And Finally.....some good news

The Council's £6m Covid Recovery Plan is being carried out. Two examples below. Weekend bus travel is free throughout the county with additional services on Sundays. The bus journeys must be within Herefordshire. I know some residents cannot take advantage of this due to lack of local services but anything that helps the environment and supports public transport use is surely welcome.

Secondly, free swimming lessons are being offered to adults at all four HALO pools. Free 30 minute weekly lessons are being offered. This follows a similar scheme for children in the school holidays.

Thirdly, H.Art was a great success this month with 100 venues all over the county displaying local artists works. There was a particularly impressive display at Grange Court attracting hundreds of visitors. Other local venues included the Lion Ballroom, Stockton Bury Gardens and Barnfield Farm Pudleston. H.Art not only demonstrates the extraordinary range of talent in the county but encourages tourism and benefits the local economy so its return this year was very welcome.

I look forward to the Mayor-Making in The Priory on Saturday evening and every good wish to Cllr John Rumsey in the months ahead.

John Stone Leominster North and Rural 01584 711 227

## Ward Cllr report for Leominster South September 2021

Our last ordinary full council meeting in July seems well over 2 months ago as we race into autumn and shortening days. But we do find ourselves in the season of mellow fruitfulness – and still with time to enjoy outdoor activities like the Leominster Plant and Craft fair last Saturday. Autumn is also the season for budget consultation - and looking ahead well past Christmas to 2022/23. Herefordshire Council's consultation is open on their website till 4<sup>th</sup> October and the Town Council are consulting until mid-October. As it is your money these councils are spending, it's well worth putting in your views!

Covid rates in our county are currently above the English average – you can see up to date figures on [Herefordshire.gov.uk coronavirus](https://Herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus). As rates are still high it makes sense to wear a mask in crowded places and to open windows when possible. Please encourage people who have not yet been vaccinated to get their jabs. Vaccinations are available in Hereford: just type *grab a jab* into the HC search box to find out about options in the coming week. Lateral flow test kits are still available free of charge from many pharmacies in town, enabling you to check in less than half an hour if Covid is detected.

Our Herefordshire rivers have been in the news, sadly because of the poor condition they are in. You can watch a new documentary about the Wye, Riverside at [Riverside.tv](https://Riverside.tv). Many agencies are working together on the pollution problems the Wye and Lugg are facing, both from sewage and from the spreading of the manure from Intensive Livestock Units. These highly protected iconic rivers bring thousands of visitors to Herefordshire each year and support many livelihoods. One way to play a part is by contacting the producers of the eggs you buy to ask them out how they dispose of their manure to make sure it does not reach rivers. Citizen scientists are now testing the rivers with CPRE and the Herefordshire College of Art students are starting a project on the rivers shortly - there are many ways to contribute! The Friends of the Lower Wye have recently been formed: this includes the River Lugg, which feed into the Wye at Mordiford.

Councillor training continues regularly on zoom with recent sessions on the Capital programme, Understanding Herefordshire, and the Children's Improvement programme. I have also attended Adult Scrutiny and Pension meetings.

I was glad to take part in Radio H&W's litterpick in Leominster at Ridgemoor. It was good to work together with volunteers to make a difference. The efforts of regular litterpickers help make our town attractive and are much appreciated.

Soon the UK will be hosting COP26, the global climate summit where world leaders will aim to secure actions to reduce global warming below 1.5C. After this year of floods, droughts and wildfires few are in doubt that this is humanity's most urgent priority. This week walkers from the Marches Camino came through Leominster taking this message to Glasgow. I'm heartened that both HC and Leominster TC have pledged to reach net carbon zero carbon by 2030. To achieve this will require us all to play our parts in finding ways to reduce energy uses, for instance by increasing insulation in our homes, and rethinking our travel habits. Happily, all buses in the county are now free at weekends till the end of March. There are 17 different services going out of Leominster bus station alone, so do treat yourself to a free ride and a chance to explore a new area - you can even have a drink without worrying about having a designated driver!

Cllr Trish Marsh

## ***September Ward Report from Councillor Felicity Norman***

As Cabinet member for Health and Adult Wellbeing, I was very pleased to be one of the judges for the Hereford Times Health and Social Care Awards. A hugely difficult task as all the entrants showed impressive qualities and all deserve an award. The finalists have been chosen, and the winners will soon be announced. My very best wishes to them all.

Herefordshire Council recently announced that all bus travel at weekends will be free for the next few months. A number of new Sunday services have also been introduced. A great opportunity to get out into the countryside for walks, or to visit other market towns and some of our attractive villages. We hope that this will encourage car users to give other forms of transport a try and leave the car at home.

Well done to all the litter pickers who turned out on 21 August to tackle the grot spots in Leominster. We were joined by Nichola and Andrew from BBCH&W who put out the challenge, and collected 28 bags in a busy morning. We also have a regular litter pick from 10 -12 on Sundays, and a number of independent pickers who look after their own patch on a regular basis. Many thanks to all.

I enjoyed visiting some of the local h-Art venues last week, including the Lion Ballroom, Grange Court and Stocktonbury Gardens at Kimbolton. There was some splendid artwork, pictures, sculpture, pottery, stained glass, jewellery and much more, all well displayed in these lovely settings. This is a wonderful county wide festival of art, and as well as the displays, often provides an opportunity to see artists and makers at work.

Grange Court has hosted several different events this year, including opening the lovely walled garden as part of the National Garden Scheme; as an h-Art venue for the first time; and for Heritage Open Days, where the theme was of particular interest to the crowds of children attending who were given the opportunity to make food pictures.

Leominster in Bloom Plant Fair, held on 18 September in Corn Square was packed with interesting stalls, lots of plants, of course, including herbs and wildflowers, and others selling colourful vegetables, dried flowers, preserves and handmade herbal soaps. It was a lovely day, and everyone seemed to be enjoying the opportunity to attend an open air event and catch up with friends. Like others, I have so enjoyed the wonderful flower displays around the town, making the town look so attractive and raising our spirits even on cloudy days. Thank you, Leominster in Bloom, all the volunteers and the Town Council who support their work with watering and other help.

Another enjoyable event was held at The Forbury, celebrating the conclusion of the lottery funded project that included the restoration of the Forbury building, and several heritage events, including the monastic walks and talks, and the making of an interesting video made about the turbulent relationship between the monks and the townspeople of Leominster during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, which was shown during the evening.

A thank you to the Town Council who look after the network of footpaths in and around Leominster, and to the many volunteers who help to keep an eye on them and report any blockages, missing signs, broken stiles etc. These paths have been a great solace to us over the past few months, and we are lucky to have so many lovely places to walk to out from Leominster. We are also lucky to have the Herefordshire Trail going through Leominster, a long-distance footpath that links all the market towns, visiting many places of historic, landscape and botanical interest along the way. Sadly, many parts of it are quite seriously blocked and overgrown, partly due to neglect during the pandemic, and are in need of care and attention. As well as being of great value to residents, our paths also attract many visitors who find this a wonderful way to explore our beautiful county, and as an important visitor attraction need better investment and management.

## Cllr Jenny Bartlett Leominster East Ward Members Report September 2021

The month of August tends to be a quiet month in local government with fewer committee meetings and members briefings but we have still been very busy.

Following August's OFSTED visit, work on the Children's Improvement Plan continues to ensure our children's services are robust. Recent all members workshops have fed into this progress.

An all members workshop and public consultation on buses will feed into the Bus Service Improvement Plan. The government will be providing financial help to enable bus service operators and local authorities to work together in 'enhanced partnerships' to work collaboratively together to create a county wide sustainable and effective service.

Together with my fellow Leominster Ward Members, we all took part in the BBC Herefordshire & Worcestershire Great British 'Grot Spot' Clean up. Working with the local community we met at Cheaton Close and spent a busy morning cleaning up the play areas and connecting walk ways around the estate.

Consultations on this years proposed budget have now started and I attended the North area budget consultation for parishes. The consultation is online and I would encourage everyone to have a say in what your priorities are for Herefordshire. [Herefordshire budget consultation-2022-23](#)

There is also a Council Tax Reduction scheme consultation running alongside this. Council Tax reduction is a scheme to assist people on a low income with their Council Tax bill. The amount of reduction a person can claim will depend on their circumstances. Eligible applicants receive this discount through a reduction in their Council Tax bill. [Herefordshire council tax reduction scheme consultation](#)

Septembers Parish Summit had another packed agenda with updates on Visit Herefordshire and the Covid Recovery schemes, as well as an update from Police Superintendent Ed Williams. The main summit focus was on youth and the workshops discussed local services and the high level results of the recent Children & Young People's Quality of Life Survey 2021 that was carried out in schools at during the spring term. There was also a report back from the Parish Reference Group, who have cited communications between Parishes and Herefordshire Council and Section 106 monies as the two most important things parishes would like to see improved. There are a number of parishes involved in this group so far and it would be good to see some local input from Leominster parish in there too.

The Covid Recovery Plan is a £6.1million package of schemes to support the county's economic and wellbeing recovery. Some of these schemes, such as free and more buses at weekends are already seeing a good take up.

The full list of schemes include:

**Revive and Thrive** – financial support for businesses taking retail and commercial premises on High Streets and business parks for the first time. Also support for pop up enterprises testing the market.

**Visit Herefordshire** - Promote Herefordshire as a fantastic staycation destination, building on the very successful phase 1 marketing and PR campaign into the autumn, Christmas and spring 2022.

**Return to Towns and City** - Incentivising people to get back to leisure/ social activities, working out of home, exploring new places through free weekend bus travel, car pool scheme, business grants for e-bikes.

**Joined up for Jobs** - One stop shop advice to guide people to the right location to access the wide range of available support. Launch of the Herefordshire Youth Employment Hub.

**Incentivising people to spend/ shop locally** - through a pre-paid card scheme that can only be used within the County.

**Shop Local** – Promotional campaign to encourage people to shop locally/ buy locally, particularly over the Christmas period.

**Great Places to Visit** – Support for each of the market towns, improving the welcome for residents and visitors such as public realm enhancements.

**Get Active** – Free swimming and range of get active events through to September 2022. Supporting health and wellbeing recovery, while encouraging people to visit and spend at related destinations.

Recently Cabinet have approved the Herefordshire Futures Homes Environmental Standards and the Herefordshire Future Homes Report. This sets out the environmental building design standards for housing delivered by the council in the county. These will be used to build good affordable homes with reduced heating and running costs, whilst maintaining and enhancing our environment.