

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th September 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna, Herschy, Murdoch, Norman, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas, and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone, a member of the press and 3 members of the public.

55/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Marshall (Work) and Cllr Rosser (Work).

56/21 CO-OPTION

Four prospective candidates applied to be co-opted on to Leominster Town Council following the resignation of a previous Councillor. No election had been called.

Each candidate gave a brief personal statement during the meeting. Following the completion of the personal statements, a vote was taken as to which candidate to appoint. Council **RESOLVED** to formally co-opt Jill Hanna on to Leominster Town Council to represent the South Ward.

Cllr Hanna signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was received by the Proper Officer.

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hanna to sit on the following Committees:

- Planning & Highways Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee

57/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

58/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

59/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

60/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council Extraordinary meeting held on 20th September 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

61/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- **Mayor Making Ceremony** – During the ceremony, held in The Priory on Saturday 25th September 2021, the following appointments were made:
 - Sergeant at Arms – Mr Mick Meredith
 - Mace Bearers – Mr Frank Barber and Mr Ken Jones
 - Official Ale Taster – Mr Alan McEwan
 - Official Flesh Taster – Mr John Stirling
 - Official Bread Weigher – Mrs Gill Bullock
- **Hester Clark's Charity** – The trustees of Hester Clark's Charity, which is responsible for the management of four almshouses in Leominster, have advised that they require two Councillors to be representatives on the board. Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Thomas and Williams to be representatives.
- **Footpath ZC143** – A request has been received from a member of the public for the Town Council to apply for the footpath that starts at The Broad and joins ZC143, along with any other unrecorded paths, to be recorded on the Definitive Map. The clerk will contact Balfour Beatty regarding protection and recording of the path.
- **Broad Street Lorry Park** – Cllr Thomas reported the lack of facilities for lorry drivers and requested that consideration is given to the installation of a shower. The clerk will contact Herefordshire Council to find out if they can install a shower.

62/21 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for August and September 2021, as outlined on the payment statements provided.
- (b) **Income & Expenditure Report Month 5** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income & Expenditure Report for Month 5 and accompanying notes.
- (c) **External Audit** – Council noted the result of the External Audit for 2020/21.

63/21 GRANTS

- (a) **Welcome Back Fund** – Council noted the potential grant of £20000 from the Welcome Back Fund and the eligible activities for the grant.
- (b) **Great Places to Visit Fund** - Council noted the grant of £90000 from the Great Places to Visit Fund and the eligible activities for the grant. Council **RESOLVED** to appoint a working group comprising of Cllrs Hanna, Murdoch and Thomas to consider proposals and prepare a list of projects for submission to Herefordshire Council. Councillors should submit any suggestions for the grant to the clerk by Monday 4th October 2021.

Council noted the availability of 2 further grants:

- Climate & Nature grant – a potential grant of £15000 is available if it is match funded, or £5000 without match funding;
- Herefordshire Community Foundation Covid-19 Recovery grant – a potential grant of £10000 is available.

64/21 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2021/22.

65/21 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Stone passed on his congratulations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (following the Mayor Making ceremony); the Civic Award winners; Leominster in Bloom for their Gold award; and Leominster Town Council for their Armed Forces Covenant Silver award.

Cllr Stone requested a list of projects for the Great Places to Visit Fund in order that he can consider them. The clerk will forward a list.

Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Marsh added that the Nutrient Management Board held a meeting on 27th September 2021. It is the responsible body for ensuring the delivery of the conservation objectives for the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

Cllr Marsh also thanked Cllr Williamson for her service to Leominster Town Council especially in relation to climate working.

Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Norman thanked Leominster Town Council staff for their help in watering the plants for Leominster in Bloom.

Cllr Norman emphasised the importance of maintaining local footpaths for both visitors and residents.

Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Bartlett congratulated Leominster Town Council on the Mayor Making ceremony. Cllr Bartlett advised that a lot of families have been using the free bus service at weekends to Hereford.

66/21 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- Tuesday 14th September – Herefordshire Council Parish Council Summit meeting
- Thursday 16th September – Zoom business meeting
- Thursday 16th September – ECHO Community Garden

- Friday 17th September – Meeting with High Sheriff at Lyonshall, Kington
- Saturday 18th September – Leominster in Bloom Plant Fair
- Tuesday 21st September – Mayors meeting (Hereford Town Hall)
- Wednesday 22nd September – Polish Society meeting
- Wednesday 22nd September – HSHAZ Steering Group meeting
- Thursday 23rd September – Mayor’s Macmillan Cancer Support event (Stourport)
- Friday 24th September – Leominster in Bloom Coffee Morning
- Sunday 26th September – Chairman Civic lunch (Kington)

Ward Cllr Stone, the member of the press and the 3 members of the public left the meeting.

67/21 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) Grants – Following consideration of the grant application Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a grant of £400 to the Royal British Legion for expenses incurred in respect of the Remembrance Parade.

68/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 29th November 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 20.11 hours.

MAYOR: _____ **DATE:** _____