



## LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

To: All Members:

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

### NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Leominster Town Council to be held on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022** 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 meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

- 6. POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**  
To receive a verbal update from a representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.
- 7. CLERK'S REPORT**  
To receive the Clerk's Report on matters outstanding that may not appear on the agenda.
- 8. FINANCES**

  - (a) Accounts paid and invoices for payment** - To receive an accounts paid and invoices for payment statement.
  - (b) Income and Expenditure Report Month 11** - To consider the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 11 and accompanying notes.
- 9. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT**  
To make a decision on replacing one of the Council's vehicles.
- 10. WELCOME BACK FUND**  
To receive a verbal update regarding the final claim from the Welcome Back Fund and all of the completed projects.
- 11. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
To ratify Council's annual subscriptions to the National Association of Local Councils, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of British Market Authorities, plus any other subscriptions as considered appropriate.
- 12. MEETING CALENDAR 2022-23**  
To ratify the attached meeting calendar for the next year.
- 13. THE OLD PRIORY ASSET TRANSFER**  
To receive an update on the transfer of the Old Priory and the survey in progress.
- 14. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT**  
To formally consider appointing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect for 2022-23.
- 15. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**  
To receive an update on Mayoral appointments attended by the Mayor.
- 16. DRAFT CIVIC EVENTS LIST 2022-23**  
To note the draft Civic Events list for 2022-23. Please see attached documents.
- 17. REPORTS**  
To receive update reports from:

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

**18. ALLOTMENTS RENTAL INCREASE**

To consider a rental increase per plot for 2023-24. Please see attached documents.

**19. 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) Grant Applications** - To consider any grant applications.

**(b) Civic Awards** - To consider nominations for civic awards, which will be presented at the Mayor Making ceremony scheduled to take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

**20. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Annual Town Meeting** - To note that the date for the Annual Town Council meeting will be 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP. This is usually the meeting between the Mayor and the town, where the annual report is read out to members of the public. The recommendation is that the Chair of each Committee attend to answer questions from the public. The meeting will be advertised 10 days in advance in the Leominster News, noticeboards, signage in Town and on the website.

**The Mayor Making** ceremony will take place on Saturday 21st May 2022 commencing at 7:00pm in The Priory, Church Street, Leominster HR6 8NH (Councillors to arrive by 6.30pm).

**The follow-on Annual Town Council Meeting** will be held on Monday 23rd May 2022 commencing at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP

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

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ward Cllr Stone and a member of the press

## **84/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council for Cllr Hanna (Holiday), Cllr Marshall (Work), Cllr Preece (Isolation) and Cllr Rumsey (Isolation).

## **85/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were received:

- Cllr Murdoch - Walkers are Welcome
- Cllr Norman – Walkers are Welcome

## **86/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

No requests for dispensation had been received.

## **87/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The following question had been received from a member of the public prior to the meeting:

- Has Leominster Town Council considered applying 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 has contacted the Public Rights of Way officer to determine the process for recording unrecorded paths.

## **88/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **89/21 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Council noted the requirements for General Power of Competence.

- (a) Council **RESOLVED** that Leominster Town Council met the criteria for eligibility with twelve elected councillors and a CiLCA-qualified clerk.

- (b) Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence which would be reviewed at the first meeting following the next ordinary election of the Council in 2023.

#### 90/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- Sewerage Works – the clerk has been contacted by a member of the public, Herefordshire Council and Welsh Water, to set up an online meeting during office hours, to discuss the capacity of Leominster sewerage works. The clerk will set up a zoom meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and forward details to Councillors.
- The clerk will be on annual leave from 26<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.
- Parish Summit – Cllr Thomas advised that he attended the Parish Summit on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Herefordshire Council are promoting collaborative working including hospital trusts and Wye Valley NHS Trust. The main complaint has been ambulance response times. Leominster First Responders are seeking funding for a replacement vehicle due to issues with their current vehicle.
- Apologies for Absence – Councillors should advise the clerk in writing, prior to the meeting, with their apologies and provide a reason.

#### 91/21 COMMITTEE PREFERENCES

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

- Planning & Highways Committee
- Environment & Services Committee
- Communication & Events Committee

#### 92/21 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for December 2021 and January 2022, as outlined on the payment statements provided.
- (b) **Income & Expenditure Report Month 9** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income & Expenditure Report for Month 9 and accompanying notes.
- (c) **Risk Register** – Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Governance and Management Risk Register and to review the register annually.

#### 93/21 BUDGET 2022/23

Council reviewed the final budget presented for 2022/23 financial year that had been developed by the appointed Budget Task & Finish Group. Public consultation had taken place by means of an online survey and engaging with residents at the Friday Market and Farmers Market and this had informed the budget setting process.

Following discussion, the proposals were put to a named vote and agreed unanimously.

For: Councillors Marsh, Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Jacquet, Murdoch, Norman, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams.

Against: None  
Abstentions: None

Following the named vote, Council **RESOLVED** to formally adopt the Budget for 2022/23.

Cllr Sutcliffe suggested publicising the use of Thermafleece cosy wool, to insulate the roof at 11 Corn Square, in Leominster News.

#### **94/21 PRECEPT 2022/23**

The recommendation from the Budget Task & Finish Group, that a precept of £598,117 be requested from Herefordshire Council for 2022/23, was put to a named vote and agreed unanimously.

For: Councillors Marsh, Bartlett, Davies, Herschy, Jacquet, Murdoch, Norman, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams.

Against: None  
Abstentions: None

Following the named vote, Council **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £598,117 from Herefordshire Council for 2022/23, which would result in a Band D charge of £164.18, an increase of 3.9% on last year.

#### **95/21 CCTV REVENUE FUNDING 2022/23**

Council **RESOLVED** to accept the request, from Herefordshire Council, for the contribution towards CCTV in Leominster for 2022/23.

Council noted that there have been a number of incidents in Central Car Park and that these should be reported to the police. The clerk advised that there may be provision to install CCTV in Central Car park through the rollout of Leominster Town Wi-Fi by Westend WiFi.

#### **96/21 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Training and Development Policy.

The clerk advised Councillors to contact her if they have any training needs requirements either as a group or individually.

Cllr Thomas suggested inviting planning officers at Herefordshire Council to give a presentation to the Council.

Council noted that the clerk can provide copies of a 'Planning Overview' training pack, prepared by HALC. Councillors to advise the clerk if they would like a copy.

Cllr Sutcliffe advised that he would like to attend a GDPR course.

**97/21 REPORTS**

The following reports were received:

**Cllr Thomas – Transport for Wales**

Council noted that Transport for Wales have published a consultation document regarding railway services. The Chairman of the Rail User Group has advised that there are errors in the timetables.

**Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone**

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Stone congratulated Cllr Murdoch and the Budget Task & Finish Group for their excellent work with the budget and setting the precept for 2022/23.

Cllr Stone thanked Balfour Beatty for installing a high quality litter bin on Bridge Street.

Cllr Stone added that:

- Restriction Grant – the county will receive a top-up to the Restriction Grant allocation of £440,000. The funds will provide up to £3000 of support to smaller hospitality and leisure businesses without a rateable value.
- Pharmacy survey – Herefordshire Council are conducting a survey on Herefordshire Pharmacy Services. Due to the slow response, the completion date has been extended until the end of January 2022. The survey is available online at [Pharmacy Survey](#) or paper copies can be requested by email to [researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk)
- Shop Local cards – 56,000 cards, worth £15 each, have been issued to households in Herefordshire and used in over 1000 businesses in the county.

**Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh**

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Marsh added that she attended a tree planting event at Ledbury Cemetery on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman**

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

**Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett**

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Council noted that Cllr Herschy and Cllr Sutcliffe attended a meeting regarding the Herefordshire Destination Bid. Cllr Herschy will send the presentation slides to the clerk for onward circulation to Councillors.

Ward Cllr Stone and the member of the press left the meeting.

**98/21 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.

- (c) **Grant Applications** – Following consideration of the grant application, Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a grant of up to £110 from the General Grant budget to Walkers are Welcome in Leominster to pay the annual subscription as part of the National Network.
- (d) **Staff Update report** – Council noted that a part-time Tourism and Media Assistant has been appointed. The clerk is currently reviewing the job description for a caretaker and the vacancy will shortly be published on the Town Council website.
- (e) **Capability Policy** – Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Capability Policy.
- (f) **High Street Heritage Action Zone** – Council **RESOLVED** to undertake delivery of the HSHAZ Community Engagement projects and charge Herefordshire Council for the total costs – including staff time. Council noted the procurement suggestions listed for each project.

Council noted that the clock in the bus station is still awaiting repair. The clerk will chase this up.

- (g) **Clerk's report** – Council noted that the leader of the Leominster Area Polish Society (LAPS) is stepping down and the position is being reassigned to a very active group member. The leader thanked Leominster Town Council for the assistance given to enable the aims of LAPS to be achieved. Council **RESOLVED** to return a letter of thanks for everything that LAPS does for Leominster.

**99/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.16 hours.

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



# LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2022-23

<b>April 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Annual Town Meeting</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7:00pm

<b>May 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Annual Town Council Meeting</b>	7:00pm

<b>June 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council (End of Year Accounts)	7:00pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7:30pm

<b>July 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council	7:00pm

<b>August 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm

<b>September 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council	7:00pm

<b>October 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7:00pm
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7.00pm

<b>November 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council	7:00pm

<b>December 2022</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm

<b>January 2023</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Full Council	7:00pm

<b>February 2023</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7:00pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm

<b>March 2023</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Environment & Services Committee	7:00pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Communications & Events Committee	11:30am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Planning & Highways Committee	7:00pm
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Full Council	7:00pm

**LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC EVENTS 2022**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION/TIME</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>ROBES</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Service	The Priory	Councillors, Mace Bearers	Yes
28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> April	May Fair	11 Corn Square/TBC	Councillors, Mace Bearers & civic list	Yes
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Mayor Making	Priory Church at 7pm	Councillors, Mace Bearers and Town Crier	Yes
TBC	Leominster Festival Market	11 Corn Square TBC	Councillors, Mace Bearers, Town Crier & Civic list	Yes
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Leominster Festival service	The Priory Church 4.30pm	Councillors, Mace Bearers, Town Crier & Civic list	Yes
TBC	Leominster Festival Parade	TBC	Councillors, Mace Bearers and Town Crier	Yes
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Ivington Fete	Ivington 2pm	Councillors	No
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Food Festival	11 Corn Square	Councillors, Mace Bearers and Town Crier	Yes
23 <sup>rd</sup> October tbc	Civic Service	Priory Church 10am	Councillors, Mace Bearers and Town Crier	Yes
TBC	Ivington Harvest Festival	Ivington Church	Councillors, Mace Bearers	Yes
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Polish Remembrance Service	Leominster Cemetery	Councillors	Yes
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance	Cenotaph	Mayor, Deputy	No
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday	Cenotaph	Councillors, Mace Bearers	Yes
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Nativity & Christmas Lights Switch On	The Priory & 11 Corn Square	Councillors, Mace Bearers	Yes
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Victorian Market	Council Offices at Official opening 11am	Councillors, Mace Bearers and Town Crier	Yes

Councillors are reminded that it is their duty to attend as many of the Civic Events as possible.

## **Ward Councillor report Leominster North & Rural March 2022**

### **Budget and Council tax 2022 – 2023**

The Council tax for 2022 – 2023 was approved by Full Council on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The increase of 2.99% is made up of a 1% adult social care precept ring-fenced to support the delivery of adult social care services and a 1.99% increase in core Council Tax which will fund all other areas of Council services. The Band D equivalent charge increases to £ 1,701 ( £4.12 a month ).

The Council tax Reduction Scheme will remain at 100% and benefits over 6,000 households, nearly one thousand more than in 2021.

Young adults who have left care and the Council's foster carers will continue to pay no Council Tax.

The total Budget which included the Police and Fire Authority and parish council precepts was approved by Full Council on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Fire precept increases by just under 2% and the police by 3.94%.

One bright spot is that the Council voted to delay an increase in car parking charges for two years. The county also continues to benefit from the Rural Services Grant from government of £5m.

### **School news**

Herefordshire Council has offered 1,860 places at secondary schools for September 2022. 1,666 are first preferences and 114 second preferences, so a high proportion of pupils will receive their preferred place. Six secondary schools have waiting lists and five have available places. Although several schools like Tenbury are popular out of county, Herefordshire schools remain net importers of pupils.

I was pleased to hear that 3,900 children and young people eligible for free school meals were given financial support with food vouchers through their schools at the February half term. The same will apply in the Easter holidays which should relieve some of the pressure on families. Holiday Clubs will also be operating.

2,700 teenagers are enjoying free gym membership this academic year. Many missed out on their education and sporting activities during the lockdowns and all this support is very welcome.

### **Balfour Beatty update**

During February Balfour Beatty repaired 1,721 potholes across the county, cleansed 300 gullies, cleaned 38 culverts and removed 118 fly tips. When Storm Eunice and the other storms hit, BBLP handled over 1,000 emergency calls and put in place 31 road closures. The wet weather in recent weeks has increased the number of potholes and there is always a backlog at this time of year. There has however been less gritting because there have only been short spells of cold weather. I am pleased to report that substantial drainage work is at last taking place on the C1055 at the Bache lane junction in Kimbolton. The road was closed due to flooding for six weeks last February and March causing great inconvenience and disruption locally. The works are due to take place at the end of April. Please continue to report potholes on the Herefordshire website or phoning BBLP on 01432 261 800. Please don't wait for someone else and please give an accurate location.

**Land to the north west corner of Marsh Court, Mill Street**

Planning permission has been granted for a 2 storey Health Hub including integrated pharmacy and related cycle storage, parking, landscaping and drainage, subject to completion of a Section 106 Agreement. There are 17 conditions attached including a whole series of schemes to be agreed before occupation. These include a drainage scheme, details of a pedestrian crossing to be submitted, a Road safety audit and a Full Travel Plan. Local residents are concerned about the access through Porters Mill Close and this needs more clarification. There are a whole series of concerns but the new Health Hub with all its facilities represents a major investment in Leominster and will improve the medical provision for all those patients and many more who use the current surgeries. I will meanwhile keep in contact with Balfour Beatty about the issues understandably affecting residents in Porters Mill Close involving access, speeding traffic, noisy drain covers and siting of a pedestrian crossing.

**Leominster Independents Day March 12**

Like many residents and visitors I enjoyed the sunshine and free parking in Leominster and there was a holiday atmosphere in the town. There were stalls and activities and a chance for everyone to visit and spend in our independent shops and cafes and support small businesses. With the current cost of living problems affecting high streets it is even more important to support our local economy in Leominster and the nearby villages. Many essential shops helped us through the lockdowns and cafes offered takeouts so it is our turn to support them. I hope the Mayor's charity benefitted from the morning too.

**Covid**

Covid has unfortunately not gone away as rising cases show here in Herefordshire and across the UK. Ending of most restrictions, another sub variant and waning immunity are all factors which make the fourth or booster jab being rolled out in April all the more important. Anyone aged 75 or over will be eligible, plus older care home residents and various vulnerable groups. The NHS continues to step up to the challenge and vaccination rates are high in Herefordshire ( over 70% have received their third jab) . Please accept any offer of vaccination to keep the pressure off our hard pressed hospitals.

**And Finally**

We are all aware of the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine caused by the Russian invasion, the plight of its people and millions of refugees. Details of how to provide accommodation are still awaited and Herefordshire Council has offered to help in any way possible. Supplies have already been sent to Poland and there is a Council depot in Three Elms Hereford accepting donations and items which will help. There are many ways to donate and the Little Hereford Voices are giving a concert to support Ukraine refugees in Tenbury Methodist Church on April 9th. It is hard to believe that civilians are being bombed and shelled in their homes in European cities in 2022 and Poland and neighbouring countries feel vulnerable. The Act of Remembrance at the Polish War Graves in Leominster has become more meaningful and relevant than we can have possibly imagined. We will pray for peace in Ukraine this Easter.

Councillor John Stone, Leominster North and Rural, 01584 711 227

## **Leominster South Ward report March 2022 from Councillor Trish Marsh**

As always, the last two months have brought a huge range of briefings and topics: violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, communications, market town investment, Leominster's Heritage Action Zone and the reappraisal of Leominster Conservation Area. Plus an invitation to a zoom event run by a Wolverhampton Muslim Women's organisation celebrating their centenary this year by planting 100,000 trees. Never a dull moment! I have enjoyed the chance to meet some of our school children. Ivington Primary year 4s came to see the visiting sculpture of the Last Supper surfaced with computer keys, which is in the Priory till June. Leominster Primary School put on a happy evening concert featuring the many pupils who had taken part in the Herefordshire Festival's choir, instrumental and poetry reading classes. It feels, happily, as if the arts are back. I'm delighted there will be two concerts in Leominster on the opening day of the Three Choirs Festival in July.

I am part of a HC Scrutiny subgroup examining the effect of Intensive Poultry Units on human health and wellbeing. We are hearing from many people, including industry representatives. To ensure the widest possible input, the group would like to hear from residents who have experiences and evidence to share that could be relevant to the review. If you believe your health and wellbeing has been directly affected by intensive poultry farming please email [residentfeedback@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:residentfeedback@herefordshire.gov.uk) by **Friday 25 March**.

HC precept has now been set for 2022/23, with a 1.99% rise plus 1% for adult social care. Unfortunately with inflation spiraling there are many challenges ahead for all for both the council and residents. The county has a council tax discount scheme and provides free advice on cutting your energy bills from Keep Herefordshire Warm; details of both are on Herefordshire Council's website.. Leominster Foodbank reached its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last month and continues to offer regular Foodshares for all who wish to come. Their dearest wish is to be needed no longer - but it seems they are becoming even more of an essential local service. Like so many of our voluntary groups they do so much for our community!

Sadly Covid case levels remain high and the withdrawal of free tests means people will find it more difficult to know if they are infectious to others. Although Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, this is not the end of the virus, so Herefordshire Council ask you to continue with the good habits you have formed during the restrictions, wherever and whenever possible, to protect us all. These include:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Wear face coverings where required and in crowded areas, and give people plenty of space
- Take a test if you have Covid-19 symptoms: stay at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive
- Stay at home if you feel unwell
- Get your [booster jab](#) as soon as you are eligible
- Take up the offer of the [flu vaccinations](#)
- Make sure there's good ventilation in indoor spaces, or meet others outside

Face coverings are still required to be worn in healthcare settings such as GP surgeries, Hospitals and Vaccination centres.

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

Since my last report, when I described the support for and settlement of Afghan refugees, the terrible attack on Ukraine by Russian forces has taken place and is continuing, with the result that thousands are leaving and seeking refuge wherever they have family, including in the UK. We have many Ukrainians living in Herefordshire and my thoughts are with them as they anxiously wait for news of family and friends. As in all parts of the country, Herefordshire is ready to welcome these refugees, and many of our residents have offered both temporary and longer-term accommodation. You can find out more about how to offer help in different ways by following this link: [talkcommunitydirectory.org/Ukraine](http://talkcommunitydirectory.org/Ukraine)

The Citizens Assembly, who met to consider “How should Herefordshire meet the challenge of Climate Change?”, have now finished their deliberations. The meetings focused on transport, buildings and food, farming and land use, with the panel having briefings by experts followed by discussion and consideration of recommendations on practical actions. Those recommendations will now be considered by Cabinet and those accepted will then be taken forward.

No change on the moratorium on development in North Herefordshire, as phosphate levels in the River Lugg are still well above the legal limits, a situation that is frustrating for local developers, and is still delaying many local planning applications. Plans for WET systems (reed bed filters) to reduce the pollution from sewage outlets are making progress, with one at Luston about to commence, but the bigger source of pollution (70%) comes from farming and this is proving far more difficult to deal with. Council planners are devising a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) focusing on water quality and the impact of intensive farming.

I am part of a Herefordshire Council Task and Finish group considering the potential impact of Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs) on our health and wellbeing. This was set up by the Adults and Wellbeing scrutiny committee. As well as reading lots of related reports, we have or will be interviewing officers from Environmental Health, Public Health and Planning; representatives from the NFU, Avara, and the Environment Agency; authors of reports on IPUs; and will also consider the responses we have had from ‘experts by experience’, residents who have felt the impact of IPUs on their everyday lives. These residents responded to a press release we sent out asking for comments. The consequent report will include recommendations to address the problems, only some of which will be within the remit of the Council, and suggestions for further investigation.

Leominster Shopmobility, which I chair, is struggling to survive for the first time in its 27 year existence, due to a reduction in funding from larger Trusts following the pandemic. Shopmobility, which provides a hugely important service to the town and surrounding area, supplying wheelchairs and other disability equipment, was set up by Leominster District Council with an annual grant and premises in Central car park. Reduction of the local authority’s funding from central government, led first to the grant being withdrawn and then to the premises being sold, leaving us to find the funds to pay our part time manager and rent for the premises, which we have successfully managed until now. Indeed, for some years we were the only Shopmobility scheme to keep going in the county. Our volunteers have regularly raised several thousand pounds each year, apart from the grants we have received from our town council and from big funders such as Eveson Trust. If we have to close it will be a serious loss to the town and its businesses. Any ideas on our next steps forward will be very welcome.

Well done all those promoting and supporting Leominster Independents Day on 12 March, a great success and enjoyed by all. Great to have lovely weather and to feel a wonderful buzz with lots of visitors and residents enjoying the entertainment, the range of market stalls and our variety of small, independent shops. Thank you to our hardworking town council staff, and to all involved.





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**Full Council**

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**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

**Title:** Allotment Rent Report

**Purpose of the Report:** To provide Members with an update on the proposed increase of allotment rents from April 2023 at Ginhall Lane Allotment site.

**Contact Officers:** Julie Debbage

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**1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 That the report be noted;**
- 1.2 That consideration be given to increasing the rent per plot to cover increased costs for maintenance of the site.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The allotment land is leased from R M Caldicott Enterprises Ltd. A 21-year lease was originally entered into on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005. A further lease for 21 years was entered into on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.
- 2.2 The original lease terminates in November 2026. There is therefore 4.5 years of the lease remaining. The second lease terminates in October 2029. There is therefore 7.5 years of the lease remaining.
- 2.3 Allotments rents are set at £100 per annum for a full plot, £50 per annum for a half plot, £25 per annum for a quarter plot and £5 for a mini plot. Income received to date in 2021/22 amounts to £6,006.
- 2.4 Expenditure in 2021/22 to date amounts to £2,751 which includes rent, water rates and maintenance. This does not include grounds staff resource costs for mowing, hedge cutting, strimming, general maintenance, inspection, attendance at meetings etc. It does also not include administration of leases, invoicing, processing of payments and dealing with general enquiries.
- 2.5 As staff costs and fuel costs for the maintenance machinery are rising combined with the need to renegotiate the lease with the landlord, a review has been carried out to ensure that the council can meet those costs until a new lease is negotiated.

- 2.6 The allotment plot rent has not had an increase for at least 10 years and a period of one year's notice will be given to plot holders of any agreed rise.

### 3. CURRENT INCOME, CURRENT EXPENDITURE AND PROJECTED EXPENDITURE

- 3.1 Current Expenditure 2021/22 to date (excluding staff time and fuel)

Rent	£1361
Water	£545
Maintenance	£845
Total	£2751

- 3.2 Income based on rental of all plots (this can vary due to people leaving plots mid-year and extra added plots).

Plot Size	Number	Current Rent	Sub-Total
Full	14	£100	£1400
Half	86	£50	£4300
Quarter	7	£25	£175
Mini	10	£5	£50
Total			£5925

- 3.3 Projected Expenditure for 2023/24

Rent	£1400
Water	£700
Maintenance	£1000
Staff	£3940
Fuel	£70
Total	£7110

- 3.4 Recommended Rents for 2023 onwards

Plot size	Number	Recommended Rent increased by 20%	Sub total
Full	14	£120	£1680
Half	86	£60	£5160
Quarter	7	£30	£210
Mini	10	£6	£60
Total			£7110

### 4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The recommendation is to increase rents by 20% as outlined in 3.4.