

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022 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, Jacquet (19.04), Murdoch, Norman, Preece, 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

100/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council for Cllr Marshall (Holiday).

101/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

- Cllr Murdoch - Walkers are Welcome and Allotments
- Cllr Norman – Walkers are Welcome
- Cllr Sutcliffe – LARC Development Trust
- Cllr Herschy – LARC Development Trust

102/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

103/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

104/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 24th January 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

105/21 POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

A representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team was unable to attend the meeting.

106/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- **Community Seed Funding Grant** – the Town Council has been awarded a community seed funding grant to develop the Team Leominster outreach work at Barons Cross by connecting it to the Talk Community hub. The seed funding will be used to raise awareness of the Barons Cross Talk Community hub, and to enhance the levels of support that it is able to provide, through the purchase of a community

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noticeboard, a tablet for use at hub support surgery services and promotional banners, posters/leaflets and pop-up flags.

- **Get Active Green Spaces Fund** – the Town Council has been awarded a grant of £1904 to install a seasonal circular 4 lane 400 metre running track (and a rounders pitch if possible) at Sydonia and a 50 metre straight track with additional hopscotch or long jump activity at Ginhall Green.
- **Welcome Back Fund** – Spending has been completed on the projects covered by the Welcome Back Fund. There was a small underspend on the projects and this will be used, if possible, to purchase deckchairs (to be used on the Grange), additional copies of the Leominster Town map and tote bags.
- **Leominster Food Bank** – The Food Bank are planning to update a 40-page booklet containing recipes for food bank and food share users. The Food Bank will be applying for a grant of £900 from the Town Council to update the booklet and print 500 copies.

107/21 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for February and March 2022, as outlined on the payment statements provided.

The clerk will ask the Finance Assistant to produce the list in date order in future.

- (b) **Income & Expenditure Report Month 11** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income & Expenditure Report for Month 11 and accompanying notes.

108/21 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

One of the Council's L200 trucks failed its MOT and the cost of repairs is likely to be in excess of the value of the vehicle. Council **RESOLVED** that the clerk investigates purchasing a relatively new vehicle and also purchasing a new vehicle on HP. The clerk will report back to Council in order that a decision can be made on which vehicle to purchase.

109/21 WELCOME BACK FUND

The deadline for the submission of claims for the grant from the Welcome Back Fund is 7th April 2022. A list of invoices will be submitted for approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at the next meeting on 25th April 2022.

Cllr Hanna requested that total figures are shown on the bottom of invoice lists in future.

110/21 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Council **RESOLVED** to ratify Council's annual subscriptions to the National Association of Local Councils, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks, the National Association of British Market Authorities, Hereford Green Network, Rural Services Network and any other subscriptions as considered appropriate.

111/21 MEETING CALENDAR 2022-23

Council noted the meeting calendar for 2022-23 and **RESOLVED** to accept the calendar.

112/21 THE OLD PRIORY ASSET TRANSFER

Two surveys on the Old Priory, including a measured survey are currently in progress and are being funded by Herefordshire Council. The transfer is working its way through the legal process and will be completed shortly after 31st March 2022.

113/21 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Nominations were invited for the Mayor Elect for the 2022-23 civic year.

Cllr Marsh was nominated by Cllr Rumsey and seconded by Cllr Williams. There being no other nominations Cllr Marsh was formally appointed as Mayor Elect.

Nominations were invited for the Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2022-23 civic year.

Cllr Williams was nominated by Cllr Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Norman. Two further nominations were made but declined by the nominees. Therefore Cllr Williams was formally appointed as Deputy Mayor Elect.

114/21 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- 17th March 2022: Meeting with Cllr Stone and residents at Porters Mill Close regarding the proposed new health hub
- 24th March 2022: Three Choirs Festival (Hereford)

115/21 DRAFT CIVIC EVENTS LIST 2022-23

Council noted the draft Civic Events list for 2022-23.

116/21 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

ShopMobility

Cllr Thomas advised that ShopMobility will be closed this week as a number of volunteers have Covid-19.

Waste Recycling Management

Cllr Thomas requested that the clerk organises a briefing for Full Council on the changes to waste recycling management.

Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Stone congratulated the Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect and advised that he was looking forward to the Mayor Making ceremony on 21st May 2022.

Cllr Stone added that:

- Shop Local cards – The Shop Local campaign is due to end on 31st March 2022. Cards have been topped up by £10, giving households a total of £25 to spend in local businesses.
- Leominster Food Bank recently commemorated their 10th anniversary. Many villages around the town send contributions to the Food Bank.
- Brimfield & Orleton parishes hold a monthly Community Library and coffee morning, in the village halls, which provides a useful service to residents unable to visit Leominster. The books are provided by Leominster library.

Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Norman requested that Councillors contact her if they have any suggestions to help keep ShopMobility operating in the town.

Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett

The council noted the following report:

At its March council, Herefordshire Council unanimously passed a motion in support of Ukraine and its people. *‘This motion calls on the executive to consider and put in place whatever facilities as may be reasonably expected to receive Ukrainian refugees, subject to direction from national government and an evaluation of council resources required, to ensure that schooling and health services are alerted and to inform the government in Westminster, immediately, that Herefordshire will not be found wanting in our welcome. And to extend a wider request to our residents to be willing to welcome any refugees that they can into their homes, and to be ready to facilitate such organisation and support as these actions may require’.*

There is a drop off collection point in Bridge Street Sports Centre for anyone who wants to donate essential supplies. All the information about how to help can be found on the Herefordshire Council website and on the Talk Community Directory, which gives clear and useful advice [Talk Community Directory Ukraine](#)

There is also a dedicated email address for residents who have spare accommodation to offer refugees, once they arrive -

housingdevelopment@herefordshire.gov.uk

The next Talk Parish event takes place on Tuesday March 22nd the topic is the new Integrated Waste Strategy. Significant changes to our waste policy is in response to the Resource and Waste Strategy 2018 and the Environment Bill 2019-20. New policy and legislation will influence everything from packaging design & production to how local authorities provide their waste management services. This will introduce the requirement for councils to provide weekly food waste collections to all households from 2023. Reducing the amount of waste we produce, and reusing and recycling where possible, benefits the county and the environment, and is the aim of a new waste strategy for Herefordshire.

HALO free gym memberships and swimming lessons in Leominster and across the county were a great success over the February half term. All the swimming lessons were sold out and over 2,700 free gym memberships have been provided to youths in years 11, 12 and 13 across the HALO county sites. A resounding success.

Congratulations to the Town Council and everyone who took part in making Leominster's Independents Day on Saturday 12th March such a brilliant day. The town was buzzing and the weather was definitely on our side.

Fastershire's free monthly 'Introduction to the Internet' digital inclusion workshops are continuing in main libraries, offering help using smartphones, tablets, WhatsApp, email and Facebook. Details of the following workshops are here. Community venues or organisations who would like to host a free workshop to help local people or groups get more from the internet – by learning how to make video calls, send emails, shop online, search the internet safely, etc. – email jennie.morgan@herefordshire.gov.uk to find out more.

Herefordshire Council is asking residents for their views on the introduction of measures to enforce moving traffic regulations (TRO's). This includes stopping in yellow boxes at junctions, ignoring no-entry signs, making banned turns and contravening 'access only' routes and parking on yellow zig-zag lines outside schools. Traffic regulations act to make the roads safer for all users and to help keep traffic flowing in busy areas. Changes in Government legislation (implementation in full of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004) mean that councils in England will have control of enforcement powers for moving traffic contraventions, previously held by the police.

The consultation asks a range of questions about the impact of driver behaviour, and for views on proposed locations for camera enforcement. This is a very targeted list of 23 locations and categories in the county. The question around camera locations includes the Ginhall Lane / Green Lane banned turning in Leominster.

All schools yellow non stopping zig zags are also included, which may be relevant to Leominster residents depending on which school they use. The consultation can be found here [Moving Traffic Consultation](#) and it closes on the 15th April 2022.

117/21 ALLOTMENTS RENTAL INCREASE

Council considered a rental increase per plot for 2023-24 and **RESOLVED** to increase rents by 20%. The increase will be shown on invoices for 2022-23 but will not be implemented until 2023-24.

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

118/21 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) **Grant Application** – Following consideration of the grant application, Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a grant of £119.60 from the General Grant budget to Walkers are Welcome to pay for public and employees liability insurance. This will enable Walkers are Welcome to lead walks in and around the town and organise ‘clean up’ sessions on specific footpaths.
- (b) **Civic Awards** – Following consideration of the nominations received Council **RESOLVED** that five nominees be presented with a Civic Award. The Civic Awards ceremony will be held prior to the Mayor Making ceremony on Saturday 21st May 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to organise a retirement party for the Sergeant at Arms and Mace Bearers.

Council noted that an event to celebrate the life of Mike Thornhill will be held at Grange Court on 18th and 19th June 2022. The event on the 18th June will be an open to all day. The event on the 19th June will be for invited guests where the Civic Award (posthumously awarded by the Town Council in 2021) will be presented. All Councillors are invited to the event on 19th June and should advise the clerk if they would like to attend.

- (c) **Clerk’s report** – The clerk updated Council on the Cultural Consortium’s application for funding from the Let’s Create Jubilee Fund.

119/21 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted the dates of the following meetings:

- **Annual Town Meeting** - the date for the Annual Town Council meeting will be 4th April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.
- **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).
Councillors to advise the clerk if they require any adjustment to robes.
- **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.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.20 hours.

MAYOR: _____ **DATE:** _____