

LUDGERSHALL TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 9th March 2021 at 7pm, remotely using Microsoft Teams.

Present: Cllr M Giles (Chair), Cllr B Cordery (Vice Chair), Cllr M Williams, Cllr N Allingham, Cllr J White, Cllr C Giles, Cllr V Dixon, Cllr CA Allan, Cllr B Dance, Cllr P Burgon, Cllr CA Moore, Cllr J Langley

Representatives: Cllr Christopher Williams, Wiltshire Councillor; WO1 RSM Marc Elliott – 26 Engineer Regiment; Lt Col Nick Turner, Garrison Engagement

Public: none

AGENDA ITEM

134-20/21: 1. Apologies – Cllr D Downie, working. The Cllrs resolved to accept these apologies and record under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 40.

135-20/21: 2. Declaration of Interests – none.

136-20/21: 3. General Public Questions - none

137-20/21: 4. Chairman's Report – Cllr M Giles advised that due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions there is nothing to report to the Council. However, he wanted to say a continued well done to the Memorial Hall Committee and volunteers in relation to the ongoing Vaccination programme.

138-20/21: 5. Police Report – this was circulated prior to the meeting. In Ludgershall there were the following incidents: 4 x ASB, 2 x theft, 1 x criminal damage (domestic related), 1 x drugs and 2 x public order.

139-20/21: 6. St. James's Church Report – no report was received from Rev T Laundon prior to the meeting.

140-20/21: 7. 26 Engineer Regiment Report – WO1 RSM Marc Elliott reported that one Squadron is deployed in Europe with the NATO Armoured Engineers. In the UK the teams are still focused on Covid planning and NHS support work. On the Charity front some of the youngsters are carrying out fundraising events for a Homeless Shelter and the Benevolent fund. The message being given to the soldiers is to remain cautious despite the upcoming lifting of restrictions. If discipline is maintained, then the end is in sight as the country has worked hard to get to this position. There is excitement for upcoming events and Marc also offered his thanks to the volunteers at the Memorial Hall Vaccination Centre who are showing amazing Community Spirit and doing a fantastic job.

141-20/21: 8. Garrison Engagement Report – LtCol Nick Turner opened by re-iterating the comments made by Marc about everyone remaining cautious, so the country does not end up taking backward steps again; especially as we are so close to the end. Some troops within the Garrison are being deployed to America. He stated that the message has also gone out to reiterate the importance of completing the Census especially as it is the first time it includes questions related to the Armed Forces. The arrival of the new Garrison Commander has been delayed until May 2021. The Plains Drumbeat publication has the first rough edition in draft and it is hoped it will be ready for publication in early April. The outgoing Commander, LtCol Jamie Balls is to receive a High Sheriff's Award at a ceremony on 17th March 2021. The Town Clerk has the details if anyone wishes to attend online.

142-20/21: 9. Wiltshire Council Report – Cllr C Williams advised at the recent full council meeting on 23rd February the figures were finalized; a 1.9% increase on the standard figure and a 3% adult

social care increase which has been forced upon them by Government. The Council have decided to put this onto the bill as 3% in one go (that covers 2 years) rather than splitting it 2% this year and 1% next year which means there will be no increase for this element of Council Tax next year. Wiltshire Council have been able to deliver a balanced budget with no reduction in services and no cuts to the planned budgets. There is a hardship Allowance available to residents if they are in financial difficulty however part of the reason for the increase is related to the number of residents on Universal Credit who only pay 20% Council Tax. He also commented that the Foreman Homes document detailing Local Plan for Ludgershall is somewhat different to the Town's vision (this has been sent to the Office). As Elections are coming up in May a lot of staff have been re-deployed to this task and things should go back to normal again by summer. The Lorrywatch training took place last week and they are awaiting a risk assessment by the Police before it can fully begin. The idea is to combine this with Community Speedwatch and the office will send over the information that has been received. He ended by saying that Purdah starts on 11th March 2021.

143-20/21: 10. [Memorial Hall Committee Report](#) – Cllr B Dance reported that the Vaccination programme being run 3 days a week at the Hall is going well and wanted to offer his continued thanks to the Committee and volunteers. There was a trial market held in the Car Park last Friday morning and there has been good feedback so far. A Surveyor is due to visit Perry's Cottage as there is a continued issue with vegetation growing under the windowsills and around the skirting boards. The Friday Club are no longer going to be using the memorial Hall once face to face gatherings are permitted.

144-20/21: 11. [Minutes of the previous meeting held 09/02/2021](#) – these had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further comments were made. Cllr M Giles proposed they be accepted, Cllr P Burgon seconded, all in favour. Office to publish on the website.

145-20/21: 12. [Committee Reports: Ratification of minutes for the following meetings: Civic Events meetings 11th February 2021](#) - minutes have been circulated, there were no questions or comments; Cllr B Dance proposed the minutes, Cllr C Giles seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41; **Recreation, Leisure and Environment meeting 15th February 2021** - minutes have been circulated there were no questions or comments; Cllr J White proposed the minutes, Cllr CA Allan seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41; **Planning meeting 22nd February 2021** - minutes have been circulated there were no questions or comments; Cllr P Burgon proposed the minutes, Cllr C Giles seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41; **Finance & Policy meeting 24th February 2021** - minutes have been circulated. Cllr B Cordery proposed the minutes, Cllr P Burgon seconded, all in favour and the Council resolved to accept these minutes as true and accurate, under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 41.

146-20/21: 13. [Bills for Payment](#)- these had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting, no comments were made. Cllr M Giles proposed they be paid, Cllr B Cordery seconded, all in favour. Office to make payments.

147-20/21: 14. [Cortana Briefing Emails](#) – an explanation was included in the agenda pack on how to use this daily reminder system that the Office staff are finding very useful. The Cllrs were urged to put it to good use as it means that items are less likely to be forgotten or overlooked.

148-20/21: 15. [Grant Requests](#) – Ludgershall Memorial Hall – The annual Grant Application has been received from the Memorial Hall Secretary for £4K. He has confirmed that the Town Council can continue to have 4 free Hall hires included for the next year. The Clerk asked for permission to add onto the Bills for Payment – All Cllrs in favour – Clerk to pay.

149-20/21: 16. [Parnham's Covenant](#) – The Clerk advised that everyone has been sent a copy of Counsel's opinion. The advice from the Covenant Valuer Iain Skinner is that the strength of the covenant is not as LTC would have hoped and that they can only hope to recover all costs related to the covenant (including time and monies spent). The time spent and bills paid is currently being calculated so LTC can look to claim that back from Stonewater. No questions were raised.

150-20/21: 17. [New Social Media Policy](#) – this had been agreed at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting and a copy of the new document was included in the agenda pack. All Cllrs and staff will be sent a copy to sign and return and one to keep so they are aware of the new guidelines.

151-20/21: 18. [Cleaning Contract](#) – the recommendation of the Finance and Policy Committee had been included in the agenda pack. Only one company had actually quoted – all Cllrs voted in favour of using Camille Cleaning Services (there is now a 3-month break clause) – Clerk to advise them they have been successful.

152-20/21: 19. [Maintenance of Play Areas Contract & Maintenance and Small Works Contract Renewal](#) – This contract is due for renewal on 1st June 2021 and is currently carried out by Odd Job Barry. As one of the contracts is worth over £5k per annum it needs to be put out to tender in accordance with the transparency code. The Clerk had submitted a proposal in the agenda pack to include the grass cutting at Pretoria Road into the Maintenance of Play Areas contract as the rest of the small works then falls under the remit of the Allotment Committee. All Cllrs in favour. Clerk to write the specification and tender document.

153-20/21: 20. [Return to face-to-face meetings](#) – The Clerk advised that the legislation allowing for remote meetings to be held is due to end on 6th May 2021 and after that LTC will be expected to return to face-to-face meetings. Of course, this will be difficult as the current roadmap will not allow for this and NALC and other Council bodies are lobbying Government for an extension to the remote meetings rule. In the meantime, all that LTC can do is to prepare for face-to-face meetings which will have to be done on a socially distanced basis while wearing facemasks, using hand sanitiser etc. This can cause issues for those who are hard of hearing and a Grant of £5K has been agreed (but not yet claimed) by the Area Board, which could go towards an intercom system (these cost roughly £20K). This option is being held off for as long as possible due to the high cost and any further updates will be communicated as soon as the office are informed of any changes to the rules.

154-20/21: 22. [Agenda Points for next month](#) – none.

At the end of the meeting Cllr J White reminded all Cllrs that it is a legal requirement that the Census is completed and asked everyone to make sure they do so and encourage anyone they may speak to to do so as well. The Clerk also asked for anyone who hasn't replied regarding the Annual Town meeting to do so ASAP as the agenda needs to go out this week.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 7.46pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7pm using Microsoft Teams.

Signed.....

Date.....