

LUDGERSHALL TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on
Monday 12th December 2022 at 07:00pm at the Unit 2A, Castledown business park
Tidworth Road.

Present: Cllr O White (in the Chair), Cllr M Williams (Vice Chair), Cllr J White, Cllr E Williams,
Cllr N Gregory & Cllr J Walker, Cllr D Lillywhite, Cllr T Webber & Cllr P Porter

Absent: Cllr L Coombes

Representatives: None (Cllr C Williams arrived at the meeting at 7:25pm & then left the
meeting at 7:30pm.)

Public: 2

AGENDA ITEM

THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED.

266-22/23 1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr L Ramsey, Cllr D Langley-Smith & Cllr L Wilkins, Cllrs
RESOLVED to accept these apologies and record under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para
40.

267-22/23 2. To Receive Declaration of Interests – Cllr J Walker, Cllr T Webber & Cllr P Porter-
12 B&C. Cllr O White- 12 A.

268-22/23 3. General Public – Questions – please read policy for public participation- Question
raised regarding a crossing at Empress Way. Cllr O White confirmed that it has been handed
over to CATG to investigate. Accepted.

**269-22/23 4. Planning Applications – any public member wishing to speak must make
themselves known prior to the meeting and then only through the Chairman of the council.**

- a) **PL/2022/09114** – Householder application – Rear single storey extension with
internal alterations, at Bramble Towers, Andover Road, Ludgershall, SP11 9PD- **No
objections office to action.**
- b) **PL/2022/09255** - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - Ash
No 732 - Fell due to Ash Dieback Ash No 311 - Fell due to Ash Dieback Ash No 312 -
Fell due to Ash Dieback Ash No 313 - Fell due to Ash Dieback Ash adjacent to No 313
- Fell due to Ash dieback Ash No 314 - Reduce single western lowest branch over
footpath by 2-3m and remove hanging branch. Sycamore No 315 on plan. Crown
reduction/re-pollard to previous pollard points. (Decay at base of tree) at Castle
Street, Ludgershall, SP11 9QT- **no objections with the condition that they are
replace with new suitable hardwood trees- office to action.**

270-22/23 5. Planning decisions- NONE

271-22/23 6. Chairmans report – 16/11/22- I attended a site meeting with a waste officer from
Wiltshire council, reps from Hill the waste contractors & Wiltshire councilor Chris Williams to
discuss the issue with household rubbish not being collected at Bell Street on the unmade road.
Wiltshire council do not want to put their vehicle up there, they do not want to move the
wheelie bins over the rough surface due to one of their operatives injuring themselves. They've
proposed that the residents use black plastic bags to then put them into the wheelie bin then
on collection day they've asked that the residents take the black bags back out of the wheelie
bin and leave them on the pavement for them to be collected. 17/11/22- I attended the funeral

of Maurice Betteridge who was a previous Ludgershall Town Councillor. He did a huge amount for Ludgershall over the years and had been given the Freedom of the Town. There was a good turnout, fire brigade, ambulance and flag bearers. I also had a team's meeting with the Yellow brick road to discuss their events for next year, they held an art project for us this year and a football coaching, they've been funded for another year so they'll be in contact with us.

25/11/22 switch on the Christmas lights with Father Christmas who arrived in a smart sports car. Very well done. Well attended with Castledown FM & Just the 2 of us and the free drinks were much appreciated on a cold evening. Well done to office staff, done an excellent job.

27/11/22 new venue for our Christmas fayre at the Ludgershall sports and social club. Well attended by the local community to view quality stalls selling Christmas gifts, visit Father Christmases grotto, which was a busy attraction with background music from Castledown FM and Just the 2 of us. Sincere thank you to all the volunteers who made this day very successful. I would like to thank, Nick, John and Nigel for their hard work and the work of everyone else because without their help that would not go on, we cannot put on events without this, we need volunteers. We had a good write up, about those events in the Andover advertiser.

As chairman of Ludgershall Town council I am automatically on the trustees of the Ludgershall scout's hall committee, at a meeting there was a discussion around replacement windows & heating costs. There has been a grant application put in by that committee, which will be discussed under point 12 a. 12/12/22- I was invited to the carol service by Wiltshire Council, this was arranged by the Lord Lieutenants office, very well attended- between 60 & 70 people turned up. A lot of mayors, clerks & dignitaries there. A very nice carol service. And finally don't forget Santa is touring Ludgershall on the 19th, 20th & 21st December, each route can be found on Facebook & the website.

272-22/23 7. Update from outside representatives-

- a) **PCC quarterly update-** included in agenda pack- noted.
- b) **Local police Via Town Clerk-** Read to council- noted. Request made from Cllr O White that a letter be written to the police commissioner. Office confirmed it is being done.
- c) **Wiltshire Councillors-**

Please find attached my report for Ludgershall TC meeting on Monday evening. I have to attend Collingbourne Ducis PC meeting that evening and may not be at Ludgershall, though I know Tony will be there. Thankfully we have enjoyed some warm days in September and October, but many people are concerned as more colder temperatures are forecast. Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses and communities - there is detailed information online at:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support Please do take a look, as there may be additional help available for our residents. Assistance has already been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund (£2.7m to vulnerable households), the Council Tax Energy Rebate to residents in Council Tax bands A-D and the School Holidays Activity and Food programme. The discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate scheme for households in bands E to H is now open for those in receipt of Council Tax reduction, or if the property has been adapted to accommodate a disabled person (including severe mental disabilities). The £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme is payable to every household - the discount will be applied to monthly household electricity bills for 6 months from October 2022 - you'll get £66 in October and November and £67 in December, January, February, and March. The discount is paid monthly, even if you pay for your energy quarterly or use a payment card. Prepayment meter users will get equivalent vouchers that will need to be redeemed. Alongside this, the Government's Energy Price Guarantee – the "Energy Price Cap" ensures that a "typical" household will pay no more than £2,500 per year until April 2023 when there will be a Treasury-led review into how energy bills are supported going forwards. Of course, many households in the Tidworth Community area, and the majority of those in the rural parishes are off the gas grid, and rely on heating oil or LPG, in addition to electricity. The Government is also providing an additional payment of £200 (recently increased from £100) to compensate for the rising costs of these other fuels and I know our MPs are lobbying ministers for more detail about how this payment will be

distributed. In the meantime, Wiltshire Council is focused on supporting residents, businesses (including schools) and Wiltshire Council staff. Area Boards are being asked to work with their communities to ensure that local support is in place for the most vulnerable, including food banks. The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is supporting residents with financial wellbeing concerns. The 09:30hrs restriction on concessionary fare bus passes has been lifted, so that they can be used at any time and Warm and Safe Wiltshire will continue to offer free and impartial energy advice to reduce fuel poverty. It goes without saying that these are challenging times – but I am confident that with these measures, and the fabulous community spirit in parishes across Tidworth Community Area that our more vulnerable neighbours will be properly supported over the coming months. Chris Williams - Wiltshire Councillor for Ludgershall North and Rural

d) **26 Engineer Regiment-** apologies sent.

273-22/23 8. Update from LTC's representatives on outside bodies –

a) **Update from Memorial Hall Reps/Clerk** – AGM was due to be the 15th December, however it cannot happen due to errors in the committees agenda & not giving enough notice. noted. Office requested a temp rep for the hall, Cllr P Porter volunteered. Accepted. **Cllr C Williams arrived at the meeting at 7:25pm.**

b) **Scout hall – Cllr O White-** as the scout hall is trying to change the name of the hall, Cllr O White asked the office to check, if the council accept their grant request, that the account details are correct before sending a cheque to them. Accepted. **Cllr C Williams updated the council with information regarding the police, then left the meeting at 7:30pm.** Noted.

c) **NTG- Town Clerk-** Admin read out notes from meeting at point number 7.b. noted.

274-22/23 9. Previous Minutes for ratification – FTC 14th November 2022 & Interim 24th November 2022. Committee resolved to accept these minutes as read. Cllr O White asked if the planning permission has been submitted for the flagpole. Office confirmed it has been. Cllr O White asked if a sample has been received for the poppy repair. Office confirmed still awaiting. Accepted. **Office to action.**

275-22/23 10. Bills for payment – resolved to accept. Cllr J White asked if any work has been done on the toilets. Office confirmed a quote has been received and that the contractors attended and completed the work. Accepted. **Office to action.**

276-22/23 11. Correspondence –

a) **Speeding cars on St James street-** confirmed nothing LTC can do however will monitor & report as necessary. Suggested a reply to resident with decision. **Office to action.**

b) **Notification from external auditor-** agreed and noted.

c) **CCLA no investment in Qatar Banks-** read and noted.

d) **Request from resident for memorial bench on recreation ground-** opted to wait for formal request then take to next full town council meeting for discussion. Accepted.

e) **Price increase from Shred-it-** accepted and noted.

f) **Designated contact for WALC committee member-** no one volunteered, want more information.

277-22/23 12. Grants –

a) **Scout Hall for help with refurbishment of windows-** discussed- Cllr O White has an interest so couldn't vote all others voted accepted by all- agreed. **Office to action.**

b) **St James Church help with refurbishment of Lychgate-** discussed- Cllr J Walker, Cllr P Porter & Cllr T Webber have an interest so couldn't vote- Voted to be accepted by all other cllrs agreed. **Office to action.**

c) **St James Church help towards the ground's maintenance of the closed churchyard-** discussed- Cllr J Walker, Cllr P Porter & Cllr T Webber have an interest so couldn't vote- Voted to be accepted by all other cllrs- agreed. **Office to action.**

Cllr O White/TC informed the council that money will need to be moved from other sections of the grants budget in order to process the applications- resolved & agreed by all.

278-22/23 13. Maintenance update re play parks – no quotes received; office has reached out to a company to obtain- noted.

279-22/23 14. Tree Quotes-

- a) **Work from survey-** Resolved to accept the quote of £650 (not including VAT)- **office to action.**
- b) **Removal of Cemetery Trees-** resolved to accept the quote of £495 (not including VAT). **Office to action.**
- c) **Pollarding of trees in the recreation ground-** no quote received at time of meeting- noted. **Office to chase quote.**

280-22/23 15. Resolution to agree Precept request for 2023/2024 – question raised as to whether it is worth putting more money into the precept due to the sizeable grant requests. Town clerk confirmed that although a good idea, the council is in a good place, therefore if any increases were needed the general reserves could be used if resolved by the council at the time of use. The committee discussed, decision to keep the precept increase as low as possible so residents of Ludgershall do not have to worry about having to find more money to pay bills and agreed that the precept request will be £247,379 which is an increase of 2.29% on a Band D house which equates to an increase of £3.07 for the whole year, a lot lower than inflation.

281-22/23 16. Christmas Lights/Fayre – Cllr O White stated it was a good time had by all. Cllr J Walker stated that people prefer the green lights compared to the blue on front of the memorial hall. Tree lights aren't working, office confirmed that contractors will be looking into it. Asked whether the council will be going back to the memorial hall for next year, Town clerk stated that the council has a lot of good feedback with where the fayre was held this year however its worth considering. Asked if the dates want to be the same, suggested to keep the same as this year where the lights and the fayre were on separate days. Suggestion made to have the raffle announcement & the table closer together. Cllr O White asked about the left over presents & what does the Council want to do to, the committee resolved to donate them to Tesco Ludgershall's present drive for local families. Suggestion to inform the residents of what action the council has taken- **Office to action.**

282-22/23 17. Other Christmas items –

- a) **Update on best dressed Christmas window & elves-** discussed and accepted by all.
- b) **Update on Santa Sleigh rounds-** Cllr E Williams updated the council regarding the sleigh. EPD discussed. NT asked if EW wanted to have anything from the grotto for the sleigh, EW conf no. **Office to buy tubs of sweets.** Discussed the plans for the rounds and who will be doing what role. Accepted.
- c) **Update on residents Christmas Lights-** Discussed and accepted by all.

283-22/23 18. 26 Engrs Freedom of Town Date – decided on the 24th June 2023. Accepted. EPD to be completed and meeting to be set with 26 Engrs. **Office to action.** Request to book the memorial hall. **Office to action.**

284- 22/23 19. 5 Year Plan- Briefly discussed. Cllr O White suggested adding a toilet timer on the doors. Toilet refurb. Purpose built building on the rec with toilets included. Keep on the agenda each month for discussion – **Office to action.**

285- 22/23 20. Update on new office- information has been sent to the loss aduster/insurers, office awaiting on an update from them. Office has asked Wilmont to check the heating, they've suggested to get some electric heaters & add onto the insurance claim. Office confirmed they will speak to LTC's insurers regarding the heating. Accepted. Town clerk asked

that if electric heaters are required, would they have permission to get some. Confirmed yes.
Accepted. **Office to action.**

286- 22/23 21. Agenda Points for next month- none

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next meeting 09th January 2023

Agenda items to the Clerk 7 days before the meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....