

# LUDGERSHALL TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm at 1d Castledown Business Park,  
Tidworth Road.

**Present:** Cllr O White (in the Chair), Cllr M Williams (Vice Chair), Cllr J White, Cllr E Williams, Cllr J Walker, Cllr D Lillywhite, Cllr P Porter, Cllr L Wilkins, Cllr D Lansley-Smith, Cllr N Gregory & Cllr L Ramsay

**Representatives:** Insp R Lee, Cllr AKJ Pickernell & Cllr C Williams (arrived late to meeting)

**Public:** 4

**Absent:** Cllr L Coombes

## AGENDA ITEM

### THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED.

**369-22/23 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr T Webber. Cllrs RESOLVED to accept these apologies and record under the LGA 1972 Section 99 and Sch 12 para 40.

**370-22/23 2. To Receive Declaration of Interests** – Cllr O White under agenda item 8- accepted.

**371-22/23 3. General Public – Questions – please read policy for public participation-** Cllr O White moved agenda item 5a up, due to the police representative needing to attend another meeting. Accepted. Insp Lee introduced themselves and informed the council of what the plans are going forward including how many members of staff are currently in Amesbury, at present there are 6 sergeants, 27 constables and 3 to 4 PCSOs, there is now a neighbourhood team who manage anything reported by members of the public, which consists of 1 sergeant, 3 constables & 3 PCSOs. Question from a Cllr asking when Ludgershall will get another PCSO, confirmed that a Rupinder Kaur has transferred and will be responsible for Ludgershall and that Mr Lee is hoping another will arrive in about 6 weeks' time. Then there will be 1 constable and 2 PCSOs once they have been tutored. Mr Lee confirmed that they are aware of the issues currently in Ludgershall and are in process of dealing with it. Inspector R Lee then left the meeting. Cllr O White then asked the council if he could move up agenda item 6b as there was a member of the public specifically for this point. Accepted. Question from the member of the public was in regard to the lines outside of Prince of Wales house, they then explained the issues & that they request that the council consider options to stop cars from parking outside, Cllr O White explained the history behind why there is a single yellow line but that the council will discuss it further. Council discussed the request in full and the decision was to request Wiltshire council reinstate the single yellow line, to inform the landlord of the decision & suggest that any new tenants of the landlord are made aware of the circumstances. Accepted **office to action**. There were no further public questions.

**372-22/23 4. Chairmans report-** 14<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> March - Events and Meetings attended: Highworth Town Council - Mayor's Civic Service – Made very welcome, a service incorporating all the Community organisations, then refreshments afterwards. Castledown Business Park meeting. Youth Teams Scout Hall Committee – a thank you was received for the Town Council's recent grant. Salisbury Cathedral for Rule of Law & Choral evensong – the invite to go to the Guildhall for a lunch reception and drinks and then process at 4pm through the City to the Cathedral for the service. The new Consort badge has been received and able to be worn at this event for the first time.

**373-22/23 5. Update from outside representatives-** a) *Local police* – Stated in agenda item 3. b) *Wiltshire Cllrs, Cllr AJK Pickernell*, anyone who is interested in fostering, Wiltshire council are still badly looking for foster parents so please get in touch with them. Eligible families are encouraged to sign up for fuel holiday camps for children which is run by Wiltshire Council, Cllr Pickernell has full

details. Wiltshire has noticed a national trend with 95% of families being offered a second school choice. A document has been published regarding all the school places in Wiltshire, which was sent to the Town Clerk, so there is enough school places. There's a free school for children with SEND & all disabilities has just been opened within Wiltshire, Cllr Pickernell has full details of this. Devizes council leader is holding open evenings so people can come along and ask any questions within Devizes, there will be another in Salisbury, but dates are to be confirmed. Warm spaces are available within the community however they appear to have not been very successful, but they are there if people want to use them.

Southwestern railways they will have strike action on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March. Ukraine update, since the start of the scheme, 1,345 families have been invited as guests to Wiltshire, there are 220 primary and 224 secondary Ukrainian children in the south of Wiltshire schools attending and more than 200 adults are enrolled in language schools. The new police station in Tidworth which has been paid by Wiltshire Police, may not be open until November, they were hoping for October but due to weather conditions it has been pushed back, once its open then the Amesbury one will close. Cllr Pickernell encouraged people to get in touch with him regarding any of the above.

**Cllr C Williams**, As previously report, Wiltshire Council's proposed budget has gone through a detailed programme of overview and scrutiny and was finally approved by the Full Council on Tuesday 21 February. Wiltshire Council's budget for 2023/24 stands at £465m - it is legally obliged to set a balanced operating budget and the budget planning is intended to ensure there is a strong financial foundation in place over the coming years during given the economic challenges and high levels of inflation. The most significant spending in 2023/24 will be on:

- Whole life pathway (mental health, autism spectrum conditions and learning disabilities support services) - £96m, an increase of £11m.
- Living and ageing well (adult care) - £83m, an increase of £15m
- Families and children - £63m, an increase of £2m
- Environment (which includes waste and recycling services) - £48m, an increase of £4m.
- Highways and transport - £41m, an increase of £3m
- Education and skills - £29m, an increase of £6m

The council's last reported budget gap for 2023/24 to 2025/26 in November 2022, stood at £45m, but following confirmation of the Government's financial settlement this was reduced to £33m. Delivering on efficiencies means that budget for this three-year period, does not require the council to use reserves to fund ongoing service delivery. The council is also able to release £13 million of reserves to spend on business priorities, particularly in supporting housing provision during the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, Wiltshire Council is proposing a 2.99% general increase for the council's element of council tax, plus a 2% levy to be spent solely on adult social care. This will mean an increase of £1.57 per week for those in a Band D property. A number of other measures are proposed including an increase in fees and charges for some council services such as leisure and garden waste collection; making better use of the council's own buildings; and a more streamlined Street Scene service. However, despite the challenges, the council will continue to invest in the improvement and maintenance of the county's infrastructure, with almost £200m due to be spent on capital projects in 2023/24. Future meetings: Mon 20 March Tidworth Area Board, Memorial Hall Ludgershall 7pm Neighbourhood Police quarterly update – TEAMS meeting Thursday March 16, 6pm

*c) 26 Engr's. WO1 Rees*, 1 Sqn still on exercise in Germany, due to finish end of March. Boxers competed in the Corps boxing championship. Commanding Officer due to assign out with new CO due in post Easter (Lt Col Buchanan). Spr Macdonald represented Germany to gain 2<sup>nd</sup> cap.

Events: Families Day 3 June 23 Swinton Barracks Boxing Night 30 Mar 23

### **374-22/23 6. Update from LTC's representatives on outside bodies –**

#### *a) Update from Memorial Hall Reps/Clerk – Cllr D Lillywhite,*

The new treasurer is trying to sort through the accounts and sort bank accounts he has had a few visits to the bank. The cleaner resigned from cleaning so in due course we will look for a new cleaner, for the moment the committee have taken this on. We would like to thank the council, particularly Cllrs O & J White, and the council staff, for helping us when we have come looking for advice also thank you for paying Perry's Cottage Insurance till, we can sign the cheques. We have the hall cleaned up to a descent

standard and may I say it is beginning to look good. I would like to say thank you to Linda Poultney for her help as well. It is nice when people say and see the difference in the hall and say it smells nice so it is all worthwhile hopefully at the end of the month a lady will come and give the floor a buff to keep us going, as a volunteer. We have been doing the winter warmer, very slow going as there is only a couple that come there might be five of us but they come in for a chat and a cuppa really. So, we will finish doing it at the end of March. Trying to sort out a load of paperwork into some sort of filing system Think I can say the same for the Treasurer. The Treasurer expressed his appreciation to the Town Clerk & the Council for helping to get the insurance for Perrys Cottage reinstated.

- b) *LHFIG – i) request for lines outside Prince of Wales house-* Discussed in agenda item 3.
- c) *Tidworth AB Environmental Working Group-* discussed in full, Cllr J Walker informed the council that the group will meet on Thursday to discuss walking the footpath LUDG3 and what can be done to improve it.
- d) *Ludgershall & Tidworth Business Forum-* Cllr O White updated the council with what the meeting involved. Accepted.
- e) *Ludgershall/Tidworth Street Based Youth Work project discussion-* Cllr O White informed the council with what it is and what they're trying to do, informed the council that there is a meeting on Wednesday to discuss what can be done in the local community to sort out any anti-social behaviour. Accepted. **Cllr C Williams arrived at the meeting at 7:37pm.**
- f) *Social isolation and loneliness from the local council perspective-* Cllr J White informed the council that she had attended a Teams meeting that was run by NALC re the above, there are many things that the council can do for the community we could work closely with our social prescribing provider link via the castle practice as they are aware of those within the town that have difficulties & are suffering from loneliness. A clerk from another town council mentioned that they have a volunteer who helps people with computers & helps them connect with family members via Whats App etc. a suggestion was raised that if the council has a spare allotment plot then we could put a raised bed onto one for them grow crops and will help combat the users loneliness. Mentioned about the information leaflet that instead of having just local shops, to put local groups/meetings that people can attend. A Full report was produced and sent to the office. Cllr O White confirmed that once the new office is completed there will be computers available for the public to use & that the council can look to finding a free allotment, Cllr J Walker mentioned that the allotment would need to be accessible from the road whereas the ones we have at the moment aren't suitable. The council will add all suggestions to the town plan Accepted.

**375-22/23 7. Previous Minutes for ratification** –Interim Full Town council meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Admin assist confirmed nearly all actions from minutes were completed, Cllr E Williams asked if Dr P Harding has been invited to the office opening, confirmed they have been, but office needs to speak to Cllr O White regarding what we would like Dr Harding to do. Resolved to accept.

**376-22/23 8. Bills for payment** – question raised regarding why Cllr O White's milage claim is on their twice, office confirmed unsure of the reason but thinks it has been out on twice in error, admin assist will check bills for payment again. Accepted.

**377-22/23 9. Correspondence** –

- a) *Change of Microsoft 365 costs and the way of paying-* discussed and resolved to accept & agree to 1 year contract at £238.56 per calendar month. **Office to action.**
- b) *Request from resident to discuss Simonds Road highway problems-* discussed in full, council resolved to put the request to LHFIG for them to discuss. **Office to action.**

**378-22/23 10. Grants** – Ukrainian culture hub 4 kids (English 4 u) via St James Church- two grant applications received; one at £1584 for the hire of the church hall for 2 hours per week & for the hire of the hall for the Ukrainian Independence Day Celebration and the other at £3084 for both the above plus monies for art supplies & materials. Discussed in full, suggestion made that we request for them to source other grants & go to the area board. **Office to action.** Cllr O White proposed that we give them the £1584- agreed. **Office to action.**

**379-22/23 11. Change to full town council date in April due to bank holiday.** Request from office to change the date to 11<sup>th</sup> April- agreed.

**380-22/23 12. Town plan (formerly 5 year plan)-** Noted

**381-22/23 13. Welcome banners-** discussed & request made from Cllrs to source other quotes to reinstall the banners. **Office to action.**

**382 - 22/23 14. Allotments–** discussed who will open the gate & turn the water on. Cllr O White volunteered; the water will be turned on for both allotments on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. Agreed.

**383-22/23 15. Work done by councillors-** office confirmed that councillors can undertake small works & will still be covered by insurance providing that a risk assessment is completed and that the councillor is competent in completing the task. Big works need to be undertaken by a contractor. Resolved to accept.

**384-22/23 16. LTC website update-** discussed in full, councillors expressed their concerns with the website currently, suggestion made to view other councils' websites and source quotes from other website developers as the council would like to start again with the website. Agreed. **Office to action.**

**Under the public bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda items will be closed to the public due to its confidential nature.**

**385-22/23 17. Public Toilet cleaning contract-** Resolved to accept. Office to inform Camille Cleaning that the council has voted for them to carry on with the contract for another 2 years. **Office to action.**

**386- 22/23 18. Agenda Points for next month –** Water Trough, War memorial flood light, toilet light, electric supply for the office porch, recreation ground and car park. Allotment numbers & stakes.

**There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**Next meetings: interim 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 & Full town council 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Agenda items to the Clerk 7 days before the meeting.**

Signed.....

Date.....