



# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

**Minutes** of the meeting of the **Full Council**  
held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.00pm  
at The Corn Exchange, High Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5HL

Present: Councillor H Bramer – Chairman  
Councillors C Bartrum, C Bennett, N Gibbs, R Gibbs, J Gren, J Hyde, D Lister,  
D Ravenscroft, J Roberts, P Symonds, A Taylor, C Utting and J Utting

In attendance: Mrs S Robson - Town Clerk, Mrs R Lewis – Projects Officer  
There was one member of the press present and twelve members of the public.

**18/12#191 Apologies for Absence**

Councillor V Coker, Councillor P Cutter and Councillor H Lerego,

**RESOLVED – to accept the apologies given**

Councillor Mayo emailed late apologies due to a family emergency.

**18/12#192 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor C Utting declared a Schedule 2 Interest in Agenda Item 18/12 # 209 being a member of the Town Team.

**18/12#193 Applications for Dispensations**

None

**18/12#194 Report from Ross Police**

Apologies were sent from the Police as they were unable to send a representative.

**18/12#195 Public Participation**

Three members of the public addressed the Council about concerns for a Planning Application for the development at Merrivale Lane in particular regarding traffic management and parking. There were questions asked about the possibility of re-engineering the road layout. Issues were raised about loss of privacy and the overlooking of certain existing residences in Princess Way. A request was made to amend the scheme and the Council agreed to consider these matters further when it comes to the Planning Committee in order to make a comprehensive response.

Members of the public raised a complaint in relation to the decision made at the last meeting regarding pigeons and the process followed.

A member of the public also raised an enquiry about a bus stop near her commercial property in town and the damage that has been done as a result of bus passengers sitting on a window ledge.

7.35pm Ten members of the public left the meeting

**18/12#196 To resolve to exclude members of the press and public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Proposed: Councillor N Gibbs  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Bennett

**RESOLVED – that agenda items 18/12# 210 be treated as confidential and be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) have been excluded.**

**18/12# 197 Full Council Meeting Minutes**

To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**RESOLVED – that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be signed as a correct record.**

**18/12# 198 Committees – To receive and note the minutes of the following meetings and approve any recommendations;**

Amenities Committee 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Planning & Development Committee 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**RESOLVED – to receive and note the minutes.**

**18/12#199 Mayor’s Announcements**

To receive a verbal report from the Mayor.

The Mayor reported he had been busy over the last month with Christmas events now in full swing, there have been thirteen civic events attended in the last few weeks. One particularly memorable engagement was the Ross Christmas Lights switch on and the large number of people who attended. There will be a number of visits over the Christmas period made to those needing care.

**18/12#200 Town Clerk’s Report – to receive and note the update from the Town Clerk**

The Clerk updated Members on progress to date on the following;

- CCTV – update on progress further to a meeting between HC and West Mercia Police for additional cameras
- Sub lease for Market House is expected to be signed before Christmas

**RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.**

**18/12#201 Finance– Income & Expenditure 2018/2019**

To review the budget information for the year to date.

The Chairman of the F&P Committee asked that the Council be mindful of its levels of reserves in light of recent decisions relating to committed expenditure.

**RESOLVED – to receive and note the report.**

**18/12#202 Finance – Accounts for payment**

To review and note items of expenditure paid since the last meeting and approve schedule of updated payments.

Proposed: Councillor Hyde  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor N Gibbs

**RESOLVED – to approve the accounts for payment.**

**18/12#203 Town Clerk’s Delegated Powers**

[Local Government Act 1972 s101](#)

The Town Clerk will give Council details of any matters dealt with under delegated powers since the last meeting of Council.

Council was notified that a meeting of the appointed Working Group took place on 26<sup>th</sup> November. It was unanimously agreed to accept the lower quote and under delegated powers using the Local Government Act 1972 s133 [the Power to provide and equip community buildings] a contract had been awarded in the sum of £24,800.00 plus vat for the purchase of two new boilers at the Larruperz Centre from the Council’s General Reserves.  
(Full Council Resolution 18/11#188)

**RESOLVED – to note the report.**

**18/12#204 Herefordshire Council – Future of Museums, Libraries and Archives Service**

To receive a verbal report on Herefordshire Council’s decision taken on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 that *‘a procurement process is commenced for the future commissioning of museums, libraries and archives based on current standard of services with a further decision to be made by the cabinet member for contracts and assets on options for implementation’*.  
[Councillor H Bramer].

It was reported that HC cabinet agreed that to enable future sustainability a soft market test would be undertaken to look at options to outsource the services. Developments at Ross Library have been extensively undertaken in recent months with some outdoor work still to be completed. There are regular activities and courses run from the libraries and staff there have been offering advice about benefits. Changes to the existing model of benefits advice are being made and in future this will delivered through the CAB. There has not been a decision taken yet and bids to run the services will be requested on nothing less than the current standards to ensure there are no losses to this valuable community asset. At this stage it is just being considered to see if there are other viable alternatives to the existing model. The library service has expanded over recent years to incorporate other services making it a vital hub for local people.

**18/12#205 Government Review of Designated Landscapes (AONBs & National Parks)**

To consider the correspondence from the Wye Valley AONB Advisory Committee in relation to the open consultation and call for evidence as part of the Review.  
[Deadline 18<sup>th</sup> December]

The Planning Committee responses were circulated for comment and Cllr Caroline Utting was thanked for her work in collating the consultation response.

Proposed: Councillor Roberts  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Lister

**RESOLVED – to formally respond to the Wye Valley AONB consultation as per the draft circulated.**

**18/12#206 Notice of Motion from Councillor A Taylor received on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 that**  
*'this Council discusses residents' concerns with regards to Ross Community Hospital Minor Injuries Unit and any actions it feels it can take.'*

It was reported there is a lot of anxiety amongst residents in town since the closure has been announced. In addition, there were concerns raised regarding any potential longer-term plan to close the service permanently and that short-term closure could undermine the viability of the service. A question was raised as to decisions taken by the Trust to best use the staff resources from Ross by diverting them from Ross during the winter months when services in Hereford County Hospital are at their most critical. There was wide spread criticism due to the lack of consultation about the proposal, particularly as local GPs felt an opportunity had been missed in looking at an alternative model for the provision of minor injury treatments.

A proposed written response was circulated as a resolution and an amendment was proposed to vary some of the terms taking out the word 'demand' and using 'strongly requests' instead.

Proposed: Councillor Hyde  
For: 12 Against: 2

Seconded: Councillor Ravenscroft

The substantive motion was then voted on;

Proposed: Councillor Taylor  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Lister

**RESOLVED – that this Council objects strongly to the five-month closure of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Ross Community Hospital, which was instigated without prior consultation. The Council strongly requests the Wye Valley NHS Trust Chief Executive provides a full explanation for this decision, including all alternatives that were considered, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.**

**The Council also strongly requests the Wye Valley NHS Trust Chief Executive attends the next meeting of the Council to discuss this decision and explain why local stakeholders, including the Town Council, were not consulted prior to the decision being made.**

**The Council also formally requests the MP for Herefordshire South to engage with the Wye Valley NHS Trust in order to find a solution to this problem and enable the MIU to remain open.**

**18/12#207 To receive and consider request from the Tudorville & District Community Centre to appoint a Councillor to its committee and act as the official representative on an Outside Body.**

Proposed Councillor Lister  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Symonds

**RESOLVED – to appoint Councillor Taylor as the Council's representative on an Outside Body.**

**18/12#208 Reports from official representatives on Outside Bodies**

To receive reports from Councillors appointed to represent the Town Council on the following bodies:

Association of Ross Traders	Cllr C Bennett	No meeting
Basement Youth Trust	Cllrs C Bartrum, D Lister	Nothing to report
Betzdorf Twinning Association	Cllr P Cutter	Not present
Board of the Community Association	Cllrs C Bennett, D Lister	Not attended recent meeting
Cinema Group	Cllr C Bennett	Possible closure of the cinema is being discussed at present and it would be a loss to the town. Volunteers are being sought to enable the cinema to continue.
Condé Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	AGM held, everything on track for arrangements for the May 2019 visit
Education Foundation	Cllr J Roberts	Nothing to report
Friends of St Mary's	Cllr C Bartrum	Nothing to report
HALC Executive	Cllr D Ravenscroft	Written report circulated
Library Development Group	Cllr C Utting	No meeting
Market Towns Forum	Cllrs D Ravenscroft, V Coker	No meeting
Mental Health & Wellbeing	Cllrs C Bennett, H Lerego and J Roberts	A Healthwatch meeting took place recently which was well attended
Namutumba Twinning Association	Cllr J Roberts	Nothing to report
Parochial Church Council	Cllr R Mayo	Not present
Ross Charity Trustees	Cllrs N Gibbs, J Roberts	No meeting
Ross Fairtrade Group	Cllr C Bennett	Nothing to report
Ross Library	Cllr J Utting	Quiz, please support
Ross Sports Club	Cllrs P Cutter, H Lerego	Not present
Town Team	Cllr J Utting	Nothing to report
Walkers are Welcome	Cllr J Utting	Chairman attended Japan recently, plans for next year's festival are well underway.

8.25pm Councillor C Utting left the meeting having declared an interest being a member of the Town Team

**18/12#209 Correspondence for consideration and response.**

- i) Dennis Humble – Town Team – request to return grant award

An amendment had been received from the Town Team which indicated support for a Grant for £4500.00 to give towards new notice boards. In addition a request that the previously awarded grant for the market stalls should be returned in full.

Proposed: Councillor J Utting  
For: 4 Against: 9

Seconded: Councillor Roberts

The motion failed

8.40pm Councillor J Utting returned to the meeting

- ii) Paul Smith on behalf of the residents of Kent Avenue – Stone wall at junction of Kent Avenue and Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye

A proposal was made to consider the wall being reduced and that further investigations should be made.

Proposed: Councillor R Gibbs  
Unanimous

Seconded: Councillor Bennett

**RESOLVED – to refer the matter for consideration to the Amenities Committee for their recommendations to come back to Full Council, including the cost of making an application for a TRO to reduce the speed limit in that area to 20 mph.**

**18/12#210 In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is likely that the press and public will be excluded during consideration of this item (Item 18/12 # 196 above refers)**

To receive and note a verbal report from the Mayor about local arrangements for a confidential civic protocol.

The Mayor briefed the Council on county arrangements that are being made for a confidential civic protocol.

**RESOLVED – to receive and note the verbal report.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm

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Chairman

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Date

**Diary Engagements: 13 November - 10 December 2018**

<b>Start</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
	<u>The Mayor</u>	
Fri 16/11/2018 19:30	Ross Remembers	Larruperz
Sat 17/11/2018 15:30	Bromyard Xmas Lights Switch on	Falcon Hotel
Sun 18/11/2018 16:45	Hereford Light Switch on	High Town
Fri 23/11/2018 18:30	The High Sheriff's Lecture	Court No 1, Shire Hall, Hereford
Sat 24/11/2018 19:30	Ross Penyard Singers: Handel Comes to town	The Venue, Ross-on-Wye
Sun 25/11/2018 15:00	Christmas Fayre	Market House
Tue 27/11/2018 19:30	Newent's Civic Carol Service	St Mary's Church, Newent
Wed 28/11/2018 11:00	Dedication TDCC Mtg Room: Cllr Colin Gray	TDCC
Sat 01/12/2018 19:30	Choral Society Concert	St Mary's Church
Fri 07/12/2018 11:00	Elf Day	Ross Court
Sat 08/12/2018 00:00	Sainsbury's bag pack	
Sun 09/12/2018 15:30	Annual St John Ambulance Carol Service	St Martin's Church, Hereford
	<u>The Deputy Mayor</u>	
Wed 14/11/2018 19:30	Hope Support AGM	The Chase Hotel