

Church Stretton Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL OFFICE, 60 HIGH STREET CHURCH STRETTON ON TUESDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

Those present: *Councillors* : Cllr T Beaumont (Chairman), Cllr B Welch,
Cllr H Claytonsmith, Cllr M Walker
Officers : Mrs C M Harvey (Town Clerk) & Ms. P. Morris (PA)

EDC.125 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Cllr J Lloyd (illness)

AGREED to ask Cllr Morris if his work commitments are preventing him from coming to the EDC meetings, and if so, if he wished to stand down.

EDC.126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

EDC.127 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Proposed by Cllr. Welch, seconded by Cllr. Claytonsmith and

RESOLVED (unanimously) to confirm and sign minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held on 20th September 2011 and received at the Council meeting on 18th October 2011 (Min 11.86a)

EDC.128 MARKET ISSUES:

a) Update on markets

(i) Christmas Fayre and Lights – 19th November 2011

Cllr Beaumont updated members on the progress to date.

Successful in getting a grant from LJC for £1,400 towards this event which will cover the costs of entertainers, costumes and new lights.

(ii) Report on Weekly Markets

A report from the Town Clerk was circulated, together with a copy of correspondence from a stall holder and list of fees charged at Ludlow Market. Cllr Beaumont gave the background to this matter and reported that the Franchisee has confirmed that he has not put up the rents since taking over the franchise in 2008 but intends to charge for electricity from those who use it. He also explained that the Ludlow fees are actually more expensive than our fees (cost of open pitch plus covered stall or van/trailer). A query was raised as to the paperwork between the franchisee and stallholders and how we could attract more stallholders.

Proposed by Cllr Welch, seconded by Cllr Walker and

RESOLVED (unanimously) that

1. this Committee delegates the Town Clerk & Cllr Beaumont the authority to interview the Franchisee to see if these problems can be readily resolved to everyone's satisfaction and to put in place a paperwork trail between the franchisee & stallholders, before taking any further action regarding the Thursday market.
2. this Committee terminates the 2nd & 4th Saturday Franchise.

EDC.129 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS***a) Market Town Revitalisation Programme Schemes***

No meetings scheduled. Discussion took place on remaining funds and how best these might be channelled for the benefit of the whole community. Waiting to hear from Cllr Mike Owen regarding redirecting monies from the MTR.

ACTION :Town Clerk to try to establish when next meeting might be.

b) Website Mark III /Marketing Manager post

Hopeful it will go live in November; training scheduled for next week. LEADER funding of £28,800 secured to fund an 18 month contract for a Marketing & Development Manager to market the new Website, SHI & support a range of community events (match funded £3,200 by CSTC). 10 applicants were short listed to 4 who will be briefed and then interviewed by the panel comprising Cllr Beaumont, Cllr Hickman, Alan Garner and the Town Clerk, with the preferred candidate being appointed to commence the 18 months contract immediately.

c) SHI Project

Re-launch went well with a lot of excellent comments. New piano arrived and the old one will be disposed of.

d) 10:10 Campaign

Nothing to report.

e) The Shropshire Economy

Town Clerk & Cllr Claytonsmith to progress

f) Shropshire Hills & Ludlow DDP(Strategy & Action Plan)

Meeting has been arranged for Cllrs Welch & Town Clerk to meet the SC Tourism Officers regarding Shropshire Tourism and where it sits in this new strategy and clarify the terms of reference of these bodies.

g) Travel Hub/Visitor Centre

Representatives of Econ Dev & AONB have been invited to join the Working Group which will report back to this Committee in January. Cllrs Welch, Beaumont and the Town Clerk will be meeting with new SC Officer for Economic Growth & Development later this month and also with the Leader of SC, Cllr Keith Barrow.

Cllr Beaumont reiterated that the Town Council are not property developers and so sought clarification as to who will head this project. All options will be investigated by the Working Group to ensure all avenues of capital and revenue are established.

h) Ideas for Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

Residents have been asked to inform the working group of any events intended which can be added to the current range of activities planned. £1,400 left in LJC funds which they would prefer to see used for Jubilee festivities. Discussion took place on this matter and ideas from other towns were tabled.

EDC.130 BLUE BADGE HOLDERS CONSULTATION

A letter from Shropshire Council had been circulated. Discussion took place and it was

AGREED to reply that whilst the Council accepts the additional hour proposal, there is not a clear policy in this matter and so would recommend a policy review within the next year.

EDC.131 FINANCIAL MATTERS***a) Statement of accounts for the six months to 30th September 2011***

Figures for the six months to 30th September 2011 had been circulated and were discussed. It was agreed that as the balances are dwindling, consideration needs to be given to increasing income. Figures **ACCEPTED**

b) Budget 2012/13 – First look

A first look at the budget estimates had been circulated and discussed. The Council's input into Tourism promotion may have to be reviewed.

EDC.132 REVIEW OF TOWN PLAN***a) Employment opportunities for young people***

The progress table was looked at and discussed. Cllr Walker has been looking into the feasibility of a local recruitment agency and will report back to this Committee. Skill Builders in Ludlow is close to finalising a deal to set up a youth training workshop and will open it up to this area. Broadband speeds were also discussed.

EDC.133 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Changes to Radio Shropshire : an e-mail was tabled regarding the staffing cuts of 20%. **NOTED**

b) Further Review to Place Plan – AGREED to ask for comments from Councillors by beginning of December to enable a report to go to Council in December

c) Neighbourhood Watch - grading by insurance companies was reported and is something which residents needed to take into consideration. **NOTED**

EDC.134 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Set for Tuesday 31st January 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

.....Chairman 8.54 p.m.