

Ludlow 21

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
for financial year ending 31st March 2026
held at Ludlow Brewery on 16th October 2026, 7.00pm**

Present:

Megan Blackmore
Philip Adams
Kim Holroyd
Tish Dockerty
Liz Taylor
Roz Cox
Robin Pote
Faith Claringbull
Keith Claringbull
John Daniels
Marilyn Gaunt
Chris Deaves
Marianne Wakeling
Cath Burley
Leslie Stevens
Clare Currant
David Currant
Emma-Jane Brazier
Linda Downey
Alison Caffyn
Sue Campbell
Jane Cullen
Debbie Tillsley
Alex Urka
Stuart Waite
Giovanna Hammet
Michael Mason
Jane Lumley
Roger Furniss
Matt Taylor

Apologies:

Murri Smith
Christina O'Neill
Di Lyle

Introduction and apologies

Tish Dockerty (chair) welcomed everyone to the AGM and "Green Power Hour".

Minutes of 2025 AGM 13th November

These had previously been made available on the website.
They were proposed as an accurate record by Philip Adams and seconded by Sue Campbell. There were no objections.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts year ending 31 March

The report and accounts had been previously made available on the website.

John Daniels (treasurer) gave a brief verbal report. There were no follow-up questions.

John noted that Ludlow 21 depends on financial support in terms of membership fees, and thanked members for their continued support. John further noted that funds are available to Ludlow 21 groups for projects, with a simple application process, and encouraged any groups needing funds to apply.

Chair's report

Tish Dockerty introduced herself and gave a verbal report, a copy of which is available on the website here: <https://www.ludlow21.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/chairs-report26.pdf>

Reports from Family Groups

Reports had previously been made available on the website. A number of group representatives also said a few words about their groups as follows:

Fair Trade (Liz Taylor): Please sign the petition about the Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. There will be a mass lobby outside Parliament about this next Wednesday. Strengthening the Act will allow communities in the Global South to get a fairer deal from companies who are currently exploiting them.

The petition is here: <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/186243/petition/1>

Energy (Chris Deaves): Shropshire & Telford Battery Assisted Communities (SATBAC) is a new project aiming to install solar charged batteries at community buildings, to increase community resilience and reduce fuel costs and carbon emissions. If you are part of a community which would like to participate, please speak to Chris or for more information see <https://www.shropshireclimateaction.org/satbac-project>

Wellbeing (Kim Holroyd): We need to look after ourselves to continue the work that we do. A new group is forming aimed at improving wellbeing and making connections. Please speak to Kim if you are interested.

Climate (Kim Holroyd): Ludlow 21 would like to look at 'bitesize chunks' of climate issues which can be tackled locally. Please speak to Kim if you would like to be involved.

Peace (Kim Holroyd): We would like to form a new group to look at transformational peace work. Please speak to John or Kim if you are interested in being involved. The group had put together some words to describe what they would like to achieve:
"Ludlow 21 exists in order to promote sustainable living in the Ludlow area so as to advance a fair and just global society. Recognising that this must require united international effort which warfare can only hinder in various ways, and that war is once again prominent on the political agenda, the Ludlow 21 Peace sub-group aims to raise awareness about the root causes of international hostilities and to foster mutual understanding, negotiation and reconciliation in response to conflict, both local and global. As this is a new group the precise focus of its work will remain for members to work out together."

Election of Directors

There were no new nominations for election to the Board.

AOB

None.

Meeting ended at 7:57 pm

Following the formal meeting, there were short presentations by representatives from other local groups, as follows:

Emma-Jane Brazier, COO, Hands Together Ludlow

Last year 13.5 tonnes of food which would otherwise have gone to waste was redistributed via Hands Together Ludlow's Community Fridge. This is open to anyone and helps to reduce food waste. The community fridge is open 10-4 Mondays to Fridays. Surplus food is donated by businesses, but if you are a home grower and have surplus fruit or veg, please consider donating it.

Hands Together Ludlow also serves a Community Lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays.

For more information about these and other projects see

<https://www.handstogetherludlow.org.uk/our-projects>

Alison Caffyn, River water quality

Alison is part of a network of 8-10 people who regularly test water quality in the Teme and its tributaries. There are also another 40 people doing similar upstream around the Corve and Clun rivers. Three years ago the campaign to get recognition for a stretch of the Teme in Ludlow as bathing water was successful. There are concerns about pollution, and the bathing water status does not necessarily mean that the water is safe to swim in. What it does mean is that there is now a lever to make the Environment Agency test the water regularly, and in theory gives the Agency 5 years to make improvements.

Thanks to the Weirs Trust the walkway at Dinham has been repaired, making it easier and safer to access the water for bathing. General safety advice around swimming in the river to avoid contamination is – don't swim for a few days after heavy rain, don't swim if immunocompromised, cover any open cuts or wounds before swimming.

Jane Cullen, Shropshire Climate Action

National polls show that about 80% of people want action on climate change.

A Climate Cafe is now being held once a month at the Discovery Centre in Craven Arms using the National Emergency Briefing materials. Shropshire Climate Action is also running lots of other events throughout the county. There will be an evening on November 6th aimed at getting politicians to talk about the climate crisis – look out for further information.

There are also inspiring examples of art being used to take climate action. Local resident Jane Harding has held an open source art competition which received over 40 entries, the criteria being that the artwork must demonstrate concern about the environment.

Shropshire Climate Action crowdfunded just under £7,000 for a project in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Siren is a sculpture installed in the water where one of the islands has been lost to rising sea levels. Inspired by Solomon Islands climate advocate Gladys Habu Bartlett, the sculpture is partly a memorial, partly a message, and partly a foundation for a living reef. For more information see <https://solomonsiren.com.sb/>

Alex Urka, chair Friends of Gallows Bank

Gallows Bank is one of two Millennium Greens in Ludlow, comprising 4ha of former agricultural land. It is a brilliant example of how a community have succeeded in protecting land. In 1998, residents got together to save it from housing development, and secured a 999-year lease and designation as a millennium green. The site is well-used and valued by the local community.

Current projects include developing a sensory garden near the benches at the top of the bank. The Friends have a committee and trustees, and are always looking for new members. It is great to be here tonight and see how we can learn from each other. For more information see <https://www.gallowsbank.org/>

(Tish Dockerty suggested meeting with Incredible Edible Ludlow to see if there is any possibility for partnership work)

Robin Pote, chair Shropshire Wildlife Trust Ludlow Branch

All of Ludlow 21's work will intersect with wildlife in some way. The branch runs evening talks on many different aspects of wildlife. These are open to all, so please come along. For more information email Ludlow@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

(Tish Dockerty suggested we could host a wildlife-themed Tomorrow's Tuesday with the Wildlife Trust)

Tish Dockerty, Castle View Meadow

A Community Interest Company bought the land after a planning battle which saved it from housing development. This year work has focused on controlling thistles and sowing wildflower and grass seeds. The hedge planted by the developer before the sale of the land is now doing well.

The meadow is a very special place, with working parties throughout the year (the next one is next Tuesday) supported by Caring for God's Acre, and a community fundraising and social event in May. All are welcome, you don't need to live near the space. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/savetheLudlowmeadow/>

(Robin Pote mentioned that a connection could be made with a local hedgelayer via the Shropshire Wildlife Trust if this is useful)

Ludlow Town Council

Di Lyle was unfortunately unable to attend. Ludlow Town Councillor Matt Taylor did not give a speech but was available to chat and answer questions.

Ludlow Resilience Map

This was started at this year's Green Festival and continued this evening. It is a map of activities already happening, and desires for things which could happen. Tish welcomed all to contribute, and will be collating all the post-it notes and seeking to display the map, possibly on a website.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the evening!