**Minutes of an Annual Town Meeting in Market Drayton held on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Festival Drayton Centre, Frogmore Road, Market Drayton.**

**Present:** Councillors: R. Aldcroft, J. Beckett, T. Beckett, J. Cadwallader,

D. Edmunds, M. Erwin (Mayor), S. Glover, I. Nellings, C Smith, M. Whittle.

**Clerk:** Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Projects Officer

There were also approximately 14 members of the public present.

1. **Welcome by the Town Mayor**

Councillor Erwin introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said the meeting is an open forum for residents to ask questions relating to the Town Council. He encouraged members of the public to attend Town Council meetings where they also have the opportunity to ask questions.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received and accepted from Councillor Gould and Councillor Gough.

1. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7 March 2017 and 6 September 2017**

The Mayor asked if everyone was satisfied with the minutes.

Councillors and members of the public said they were.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Erwin seconded and it was **RESOLVED**:

**To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meetings held on 7 March 2017.**

Councillor Smith proposed, Councillor Erwin seconded and it was **RESOLVED :**

**To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meetings held on 6 September 2017**

1. **This is an open forum for any town residents to ask questions or raise any concerns they may have in connection with the town.**

A member of the public said Land and Water has done a splendid job renovating the moorings, unfortunately, the paths in front of the houses have been left stained. Land and Water are willing to re-surface but are waiting on Shropshire Council to forward details of requirements.

Concern was also raised regarding Betton Road and Waterside Drive as both areas need repairing, Shropshire Council Highways Department have been informed but no response received.

Councillor Aldcroft explained that Shropshire is the largest inland county. A programme of repairs is produced by Shropshire Council which focusses on the major roads. Councillor Aldcroft agreed to progress.

A member of public said she was pleased to see radar locks fitted on the new toilets. She also complimented the groundsman for upkeeping the garden areas, in particular by the bus station.

As the Town Council’s role is to campaign on behalf of residents she asked if they would continue to campaign for the bus service to Telford Hospital to be reinstated. She said that Telford is the hospital of choice for many resident’s, but transport is an issue, the community car and ambulance can be used by residents that are eligible, but others cannot afford to pay for a taxi or keep relying on lifts.

Councillor Aldcroft said that the Town Council have complained about the loss of the bus service and asked for it to be reinstated, but the decision has been taken by Shropshire Council to reduce the bus service across the county.

A resident asked why the Town Council did not use social media more to communicate with residents.

The Town Clerk responded that she sends information to the Town Crier to publicise Council meetings, all other information is available on the Council website.

It was suggested that the Town Council could use twitter or a Facebook light page where the public cannot leave comments or have an information only page on Facebook.

Councillor Aldcroft said that Social Media would be put on the agenda for a committee meeting. The Town Council also needs to investigate updating their website.

A resident asked if there were any plans for exercise equipment to be installed on the town park.

Councillor Aldcroft explained the Town Council are currently reviewing the playgrounds and looking at adult exercise equipment.

A member of the public asked how the Council deal with complaints.

Councillor Whittle explained that complaints are received by the clerk who refers them to the Mayor who in turn refers them to the Personal Committee for action.

A member of the public referred to correspondence relating to issues the Town Council has already investigated and asked if the new Mayor would carry out an investigation.

Councillor Erwin said the gentleman should write to the new Mayor after the 10th May 2018.

A member of the public asked why a financial report was not available.

Councillor T Beckett said that the end of year report was not ready as the accounts have not been audited; details of accounts have not been presented at Annual Town Meetings for 10 years.

Councillor R Aldcroft suggested that the Annual Town Meetings include a report from the Mayor and a report from each Committee Chair detailing what has been done since the last Annual meeting.

A resident raised concerns about road safety issues, in particular, the speed of traffic travelling from the A53 to Newcastle Road. Speed data has been recorded indicating that 442 vehicles out of 4061 were speeding. This information has been sent to John Campion, Owen Paterson and Councillor Aldcroft.

Councillor Aldcroft said that he has met with PC Ambrose and representatives from Shropshire Council’s Highways Department to discuss moving the signs out on the junction; the cost is approximately £40K. The area in question is not a concern for the local Police or Highways Department. The issue will be put on the agenda for the Community and Governance Committee.

1. **Mayor’s report and closing remarks.**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.