**Minutes of an Annual Town Meeting in Market Drayton held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 7.00pm in the Festival Drayton Centre, Frogmore Road, Market Drayton.**

**Present:** Councillors: R. Aldcroft (Mayor), T. Beckett, J. Beckett, K. Brown, J. Cadwallader, S. Glover, R. Hughes, D. Erwin, M. Erwin, L. Owen, L. Ridgway, R. Smith V. Taylor and M. Whittle.

**Clerk:** Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.

There were also approximately 16 members of the public present (See appendix A).

1. **Welcome by the Town Mayor**

Councillor Roy Aldcroft welcomed all residents to the meeting and asked them to sign the attendance register.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received and accepted from Councillor C. Purcell.

1. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11 May 2015**

The Mayor asked if everyone is satisfied with the minutes.

Councillors and members of the public said they were.

Councillor S. Glover proposed, Councillor M. Whittle seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11 May 2015.**

1. **Written questions received from members of the public**

The Mayor said the Council have received a question from Mr. Peter Brown; his question is:

The Band D Council tax is currently £114. What is the maximum increase which is considered acceptable if some of Shropshire Council’s services are taken over?

The Mayor said he did not know at this moment in time. He said the Town Council are currently in the middle of negotiations for the transfer of assets from Shropshire Council; until this has been completely decided which is to be estimated a completion date by September 2016 he could not confirm any increase and suggested he contacts the Council then for an update.

Mr. Peter Brown thanked the Mayor.

The Mayor said the Council have received a question from Mr Malcolm Gray; his question is:

14/10/2014 Shropshire Star celebrated the opening of a new upgraded CCTV system in Oswestry costing £68,000. West Mercia agreed to repay the money over three years. 19/09/2015 (a year later) Shropshire Star reports pledge by MDTC of £40,000 over 2 years to upgrade our systems in Market Drayton. 05/11/2015 Shropshire Star reported MDTC was evaluating systems. Can someone please comment on progress to date?

The Mayor said he cannot comment on what happened at Oswestry. However, phase one of the new cameras are being installed as we speak within the town.

Councillor R. Hughes said there was no money available from West Mercia this year. He said he is aware that the situation is completely different in Oswestry to our town.

The Mayor said the Council are paying for the new CCTV upgrade within the town out of their budget and he thought the Council should be applauded for this.

Mr. Grey’s second question was: Does MDTC have a RFO (Responsible Financial Officer)? Who is this person and what qualifications are required to hold the post?

The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council does have a RFO and the position does not require any specific qualifications. He said the Council is functioning well with a RFO and he is not prepared to answer who the post holder is at this meeting because staffing issues are not discussed in an open meeting.

Mr Grey apologised and confirmed that this question was not supposed to be asked at the Annual Town meeting.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

The Mayors said Mr Grey’s third question was: Regarding the issue with dog fouling within the town.

The Mayor said he did meet with concerned individuals to reassure those regarding dogs in public spaces, as he promised. He said the conversation at the meeting resolved most of the issues so it was agreed there was little the Town Council could do until various legislations change. He said with regards to fouling the Chip and Pin system in Barking and Dagenham is still in its early stages after which a report will follow for this council to consider.

The Mayor said we have received a question from Mrs Grundy, she asks: A lot of elderly people are annoyed about the amount of rubbish around in the town. She is aware that in places like London they fine people £75 and Scotland fine people £50, she suggested that Market Drayton should fine people £30 and any money received can be put back into the community like other towns do.

The Mayor suggested that this question should be put on a Community and Governance Committee meeting agenda. He said doing this Mrs Grundy could attend the meeting and it could be discussed with all councillors where decisions could be resolved. He said he would let her know when the meeting will be held.

Mrs Grundy thanked the Mayor.

1. **To receive reports from the following local organisations:**
2. Dr. Richard Priestly on the ArtsFest and the Neighbourhood Plan

The Mayor introduced Dr. Richard Priestly who covered the following topics on the ArtsFest event:

* One of four MDCP working groups
* Voluntary members

DAF 2016 to be held Friday 28 October to Sunday 30 October 2016.

* Objectives are to showcase local talent in the arts / to bring artists from the wider region to MD / to encourage local participation in the arts

  Adds value to the town for local people and visitors

2014 + 2015- first community arts festivals for 25 years

  2300+ participants / audience in 2015

  Publicity / marketing - [www.draytonartsfest.org](http://www.draytonartsfest.org/)

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Dr. Richard Priestly covered the following topics covering the Neighbourhood Plan:

Objective of N’hood plan::

  To develop 10 to 20 years vision for the development and sustenance of the town

Initiative of Market Drayton Town Council

* Successor to the Town Plan
* Involvement of local community in planning developments and changes
* Town Council managed process to influence local planning policy
* To secure government investment in MD
* Steering group to manage process and prepare proposals
* January 2015 MDTC determined to adopt N’hood plan process   
  Time table of action January 2015 to April 2017   
  Statement of Intent produced - April 2015
* Identification of geographical plan area
* Publicity locally - June 2015
* Appointment of professional support
* Launch of process

Survey or residents and business interests

Areas identified for inclusion in the plan::

* Fostering of enterprise culture
* Employment opportunities + skills training
* Continue improvements to town centre
* Infrastructure development – housing, education, transport, IT
* Environment e.g. marina for canal area , ecology park
* Sports and leisure
* Health and care services
* Tourism and visitors

First round of consultation -September 2015

Evidence base

  Professional support / input

  Continuing consultation process

* May 2016 analysis of first round of consultation and first draft of N’hood plan for discussion on 5/7 May & 23 June
* August 2016 - revise plan
* Sept to Dec 2016 - 2016 – prepare second draft of plan and consult

Early 2017 - Independent examination; changes identified

March – April 2017 Referendum, vote and begin implementation

The Mayor thanked Dr. Richard Priestly.

1. Mr Mike Smith on Radio Gold

The Mayor Welcomed Mr. Mike Smith to the meeting.

Mr. Mike Smith said he is from a broadcasting background and thought it would be a good idea to start a radio station operating within the town so that local and international people can hear the different events and local publicise that are happening within the town.

He has been broadcasting for the last 14 months; he has just moved into a room kindly donated to him at Poynton House. People can stream the station through using their PC’s or smart phones at www.trueradio.co.uk but would like to move forward on a FM station; however this is very costly.

True Gold Radio plays 24 hours a day to include pre-recorded sessions which offers a good service to the town, such as advertising local business, having local interviews and covers local events such as the annual Rock and Bowl event which has become very popular to include listeners from as far as Australia tuning in.

Mr Smith encourages local people to take part in the radio to make it a more community spirit station and encouraged people at the meeting to visit the site.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Mike Smith.

1. **To receive a report from any other organisation based in the town.**

Councillor Whittle confirmed that on Monday night the Twinning Association closed mainly because people had passed away and younger people don’t want to take part. He confirmed that all money left over had been passed over to The Pezenas Society.

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

The Mayor said he does a weekly column in the Market Drayton Advertiser. He said his role as Mayor has been very busy attending different events and functions around the town and Shropshire which he has found very rewarding.

He was delighted to announce he has managed to raise £1800 for the local visual impaired group within the town and £1200 for the Linden Davies appeal at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

The Mayor concluded by thanking Dr. Richard Priestly and Mr. Mike Smith for doing the presentations and everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.