

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 12 January 2023 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R Aldcroft, R. Bentley, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, W. Love, T. Manton, I. Nellins, A. Sanderson and M. Whittle (Mayor).

ABSENT: Councillor: R. Hughes.

In Attendance: 2 members of the public were present, and 5 members of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

Clerks: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

The Mayor announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

1.C APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apology:

Councillor R. Hughes - Prior arrangement

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

3.C PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had expressed a wish to speak at the meeting.

The Mayor announced he had raised £151.80 for his chosen charity; Market Drayton Death Society and presented a cheque to a member of the Society.

The Mayor was thanked for his donation, photographs were taken and the lady left the Chamber.

4.C MINUTES

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 2 abstentions:

To adopt the minutes of a Council meeting on 27 October 2022.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members **NOTED** the following Mayors events he has attended:

Minutes of a Council Meeting on 12 January 2023

Initial: 

Members were asked to consider either keeping the precept as it is with a 0% increase, based on a Band D tax rate, with the shortfall being paid for out of General Reserves or raising the precept to cover all or part of the shortfall.

The Mayor said Councils General Reserves are in danger of falling below the recommended amount as a result of additional funding being allocated to Market Drayton Sports Association. A precept increase of 3% is necessary to ensure the running of the Council is maintained; he asked for members comments.

Councillor Manton said due to the cost-of-living crisis it is a difficult conversation to have; he agreed with the Council supporting the sports facility within the town however the precept affects everyone and the maximum increase if any should be 2%.

Councillor Aldcroft said he agrees with the Mayor; the precept should be increased to cover all the added costs Town Council are picking up from Shropshire Council such as maintaining street furniture, street cleaning and to ensure floral displays can be maintained throughout the town.

Councillor T. Beckett said Shropshire Council are considering charging Council's for road closures for events such as the festival of lights; this would be an added burden on the Councils budget.

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

To agree a 3% increase on the precept for 2023-24.

The precept to be £549,579.

The shortfall in budget of £9,841 to come out of General Reserves.

9.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET REVIEW CONSULTATION

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Shropshire Council are seeking views on their budget plans which seek to make more than £50 million of savings from their budget.

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To NOTE the budget consultation from Shropshire Council.

To put the link to the consultation on Town Councils website and Facebook page for members to comment on and to encourage residents to make their comments.

10.C THE ZONE COMMUNITY BUILDING

Documents and designs were circulated prior to the meeting.

The original project ideas for the Zone included having a graffiti/mural wall. The proposal is to have a mural on the building wall that runs parallel to the footpath; the mural will be painted by a professional Mural painter with the help of children. The project will be funded from The Lottery funding.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 vote against:

To have a graffiti mural being painted on The Zone building.

11.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Aldcroft announced that he has been poorly throughout December and has not attended any Shropshire Council meetings so has nothing to report back to members.

Councillor Nellins reported:

Budget review consultation

For every £5 in Shropshire Councils budget, £4 is spent on disadvantage people. All departments have been asked to look at their budget to see if any savings can be made; the reductions this will not affect the delivery of services. Shropshire Council has statutory services that they have to provide; those do not include providing services such as libraries and sports facilities. He urged all members to have a look at the consultation papers and submit their comments.

Floods

The River Severn water level is high and is expected to rise even more; all barriers have been put in place and a number of roads around the County have been closed due to surface flooding; it has caused a lot of work and funding has had to be used.

Single journey bus service

Under a Government initiative submitted by Commercial Enterprise at Shropshire Council bus journeys cost no more than £2 for a single trip until the 31 March; the bus route 64 is included in this scheme. He urged people to use the service to increase the amount of people using it.

Currently there are only four bus routes within the County that pay their way; routes are funded by Shropshire Council for this financial year.

A demand response bus service is being trialled in Shrewsbury; if this is successful it will be extended throughout the County.

A529 safety road works

There are safety improvement works being carried out to maintain the existing roads and footpaths and upgrade street lighting, the road will be closed for nineteen days between Great Hales Street and Phoenix Bank River Tern crossing from Monday 30 January to Friday 17 February. During this time signed diversions will be in place.

12.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

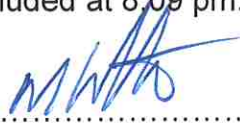
The Mayor asked if members would like to ask any questions.

There were no questions asked.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the payments from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The meeting concluded at 8.09 pm.

Chairman: 

Date: 