

## Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council meeting held on 13 January 2022, at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT: Councillors: R Aldcroft (Mayor), A. Allen, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, G Chevins, M. Erwin, T. Manton, I. Nellins and M. Whittle.**

There was 1 member of the public present and 4 members listening via Teams.

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

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

### 1.C APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received and accepted from Councillor R. Hughes due to a prior arrangement and Councillor M. Smith is running late for the meeting.

### 2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

### 3.C PUBLIC SESSION

The Mayor said a request has been received from a resident to speak at the meeting.

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

**To suspend standing orders.**

The Mayor welcomed the resident to the meeting.

The resident spoke about the poor state of repair some of the buildings are in within the town centre; they are extremely dangerous and need to be looked at urgently.

The properties were:

- 12 Stafford Street – the roof tiles and fascia board have fallen off onto the pavement below and need putting right again.
- High Street – the windows above the International shop are in a bad state of repair.
- Shropshire Street – there are flats in the area where the guttering is overflowing and needs rectifying. The guttering on the Nail Salon is full of grass and their window is broken, The Millennium takeaway skylights are broken and The Barber shop on the corner and the old sewing box shop are in a bad state of repair.

*WJ*

She said Shropshire Council can contact the owners to ask them to bring these properties back up to standard, which would make our town more attractive and safer. She asked for Town Council to relay this information on her behalf.

Councillor Nellins said these concerns have already been passed to Shropshire Council to investigate. The Heritage department has been out to look at the Barbers shop; they are content with the building at the moment. There is a virtual meeting planned soon with the Clerk and Officers at Shropshire Council where these issues will be raised again.

The Mayor thanked the resident for attending and speaking at the meeting.

The meeting went back into Standing Orders.

#### 4.C MINUTES

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

**To adopt the minutes of a Council meeting on 14 December 2021.**

#### 5.C BUDGET 2022-23

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk said members agreed budgets at the individual committee meetings; the total Council budget now needs to be approved.

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

**To agree the budget of £583,076 for the financial year 2022-23.**

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Services & Facilities Committee      | £333,327        |
| Finance & General Purposes Committee | £235,249        |
| Community & Governance Committee     | £ 14,500        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>£583,076</b> |

#### 6.C PRECEPT

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk said the projected income for 2022-23 is £562,381 this includes the precept of £502,931 which has been agreed by Shropshire Council today. The expenditure budget for 2022-23 is £583,076, an increase of £1,572 (0.27%) on last year's budget which has resulted in a shortfall of £20,695.

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 to raising the precept to cover whole or part of the shortfall.

The Mayor asked for members comments.

Councillor T. Beckett asked if Town Council were in a healthy position to cover the shortfall? and have Shropshire Council increased their precept?

The Clerk said on Appendix CO88 it shows Town Council will have approximately £253,967 in General Reserves at the end of this financial year and that Shropshire Council has approved a Council Tax increase of 3.99%.

Councillor Manton said he is aware Council froze the precept last year due to Covid, to cover the increased cost of running the council an increase should be considered this year.

Councillor Chapman asked how much Council are allowed to hold in General Reserves.

The Clerk said between three and six months, which we fall within.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 6 votes for, 3 votes against and 1 abstention:

**To agree a 3% increase on the precept for 2022-23.**

**The precept to be £518,018.**

**The shortfall in budget of £5,608 to come out of General Reserves.**

#### **7.C MAYOR DESIGNATE**

The Mayor asked members to consider agreeing in principle the Mayor for the civic year 2022-23 and asked for nominees.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Chevins seconded:

To nominate Councillor Chapman for Mayor.

Councillor Whittle proposed himself to be Mayor.

There was no seconder for this proposal,

There were no more nominees.

It was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree in principle for Councillor Chapman to be Mayor for the civic year 2022/23.**



### 8.C POLICE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Manton provided a brief report on the Police Panel meetings he attended on 3 November and 10 December 2021.

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

**To receive the Police Panel meeting notes held on 3 November 2021 and 10 December 2021.**

**To agree the following recommendations from 10 December 2021 meeting:**

- **The Town Council becomes a White Ribbon Support Organisation Campaign.**
- **To issue a press release to raise awareness of the Policing Panel and of the need for members of the public to report incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour in the town.**
- **That regular policing panel town walkabouts take place within the Town Centre and for action to be taken to solve/reduce identified issues if the costs fall within the budget available. (budget available in the new financial year).**

### 9.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORTS

The Mayor said Councillor Minnery, a Shropshire Councillor within the town unfortunately cannot make the meeting tonight but he has sent a statement about the Governance Reviews which the Mayor read out:

‘The guidance from the Boundary Commission has been revised and now Councils can consider future growth as per the Local Plan in determining ward boundaries.

The Commission have also stated that Shropshire Council cannot consult on proposals for Towns/Parishes until the Shropshire Council review is concluded in case recommendations within that have implications for Town/Parish boundaries. This does not, however, prevent SC from collecting evidence and data during the Shropshire process and so it is appropriate for your Council to start considering potential boundary changes.’

The Mayor said Town Council has already held meetings with neighbouring Parishes regarding the boundary review and will continue with further meetings in 2024 once Shropshire Council have completed their divisional boundary review



Councillor Nellins said Shropshire Councils budget came out just before Christmas, it highlighted that 85% of the budget is being spent on social care; leaving 15% to be spent on the remaining facilities such as leisure centres, highways etc. This shows how much pressure social care is under, money is extremely tight a lot of projects will have to be investigated for separate grant funding.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan meeting regarding new cycle/walking paths with a 10-mile radius around Market Drayton is scheduled to take place in March, he will be attending the meeting and feedback to members. He is aware the survey of the town is scheduled to be in March with a plan to marking the roads/paths in the summer.

Councillor Nellins reported at the Shropshire Council meeting held today, the first climate strategy report was released; the extensive document can be found on the website for those wanting to read it. Last year carbon footprint was reduced by 3% and they pledge to reduce it by 10% next year. He attended a Market Drayton Climate Action meeting at Mencap on 10 January; twenty-five people attended from the surrounding areas and local businesses to try and raise the awareness of climate change and there is another meeting scheduled in two week's time.

Councillor Nellins reported that the new recycling bin registration of interest went live on the Shropshire Council website today; residents can opt to have an additional bin for bottles and glass, the benefits of this is it is much bigger and does not litter the streets like the boxes do. He stressed these bins are free of charge.

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

**To agree the payments from 1 December 2021 to 31 December 2021.**

The meeting concluded at 8.06 pm.

Chairman:  .....

Date:  .....