**Market Drayton Town Council**

**Minutes of a virtual Council meeting held on 14 January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, (Mayor), Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, A. Cartwright, M. Erwin, S. Glover, J. Gough, D. Minnery, R. Smith, M. Smith, and M. Whittle.**

**Also, present: 8 members of the public in attendance.**

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

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

**1.C APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

**2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared.

**3.C PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public had expressed a wish to speak at the meeting and no questions have been submitted.

**4.C MINUTES**

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor R. Smith seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 October 2020.**

The Mayor agreed to come into the Town Hall when t is convenient for him to sign the minutes.

**5.C TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor said due to the Corona Virus outbreak and Government guidelines there has not been any organised events.

**6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Planning Committee**

Councillor R. Smith proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 12 November 2020 and 10 December 2020.**

**Community & Governance Committee**

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

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Community & Governance Committee held on 12 November 2020 and Extraordinary Community & Governance Committee held on 10 December 2020.**

**Services & Facilities Committee**

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor R. Smith seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Services & Facilities Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2020.**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee**

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

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2020.**

**7.C BUDGET 2021-22**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor handed over to the Clerk to discuss further.

The Clerk said all the three committee budgets have already been agreed at their own meetings but also need to be agreed at Council.

She reminded members that most of the additional increase in the budget is for the Youth Provision and the new cemetery paths.

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

**To agree the budget for 2021-22:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Committee** | **Budget 2021/22**  **£** |
| **Community & Governance** | **30,000** |
| **Services & Facilities** | **331,060** |
| **Finance & General Purposes** | **220,444** |
|  |  |
| **Total** | **581,504** |

**8.C PRECEPT**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Aldcroft said all members have had an opportunity to look at the figures and asked for any comments.

Councillor Minnery said he is usually in favour of an increase in the council Tax in line with national inflation however, due to the impact COVID-19 has had on many residents within the town and the Council are in a healthy financial position, he thought the precept should have no increase and the £33,459 deficit should come from general reserves this year.

Councillor R. Smith agreed and supported Councillor Minnery’s comments; he has read that surrounding councils in the area have increased their precept but feels with the COVID-19 situation it is good to support our community.

Councillor Aldcroft also agreed the Council have been very careful with their money over the years and feels an increase is not necessary when there is enough to cover this in reserves,

Councillor Whittle said he supports the no increase said the Council have also been very supportive in the community during the pandemic giving money to the Foodbank and supporting school meals.

Councillor Minnery proposed, Councillor Glover seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree to a no increase in the precept for 2021-22. The precept will be £487,945 and the £33,459 deficit will be taken from general reserves.**

**9.C MAYOR DESIGNATE**

Councillor Whittle said due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the current Mayor has had very few events to attend and represent the town and thought he should continue to be Mayor again next year.

Councillor T. Beckett asked how the Deputy Mayor feels about not being Mayor next year; he understands Councillor Whittles comments but knows this has caused a few issues in the past and would not like this to happen again.

Councillor R. Smith said he is more than happy to support Councillor Aldcroft being Mayor again next year.

Councillor Whittle proposed, Councillor Erwin seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with one abstention:

**To agree in principle for Councillor Aldcroft to be Mayor for the civic year 2021/22.**

Councillor Aldcroft thanked members.

**10.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS**

Councillor Minnery reported:

* The Local Plan has completed the Regulation 18 consultation period, this has gone to Cabinet to be adopted and Regulation 19 is now out for consultation. The closing date for this is the end of February but due to being unable to supplying the library’s with hard copies for people to have because of the lock down this may be delayed and an extension period may be made.
* Other consultations; is the Council Tax Consultation. Both Adult and Children’s services are heavily overspent this year due to the impact of the pandemic and the increased demand needed in these areas; protecting is Shropshire Councils main priority the venerable need to be looked after; money from reserves will need to be used as well as optimising the council tax; a final decision will be made at the end of February.
* A meeting he attended earlier in the week has outlined difficulties to locate a suitable premise within Market Drayton for the Covid19 vaccinations. Shropshire Council are pushing to get more local sites, so people do not have to travel great distances, but NHS England are the determining body and did not approve of the Medical Centre.
* The elections may not go ahead on the first Thursday in May because Government are concerned about the impact canvasing etc may have on the lock down; he is expecting to hear a decision in the next ten days but suspects it could be held in the late summer/early autumn.

Councillor Aldcroft reported:

* The NHS put down certain criteria regarding the Covid19 vaccinations location, they operate a point system, and these must be met for the site to be considered as a vaccination station. Currently some of the staff from the Medical Centre are administrating the vaccines at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, the surgery needs to continue to function as a surgery on top of considering how to possibly become a vaccine station site and getting potentially infected people into the surgery at the same time.

Councillor Whittle asked the two Shropshire Councillors why the elderly residents are being asked to travel to Oswestry or Telford Hospital for their vaccination knowing there are no direct bus routes from the town making it very difficult for them.

Councillor Aldcroft said difficulties travelling from Market Drayton to the vaccination sites due to the lack of bus routes was brought to the attention to the Director of Public Health at the meeting of which was noted and was told there is an intention to have sites approximately ten miles away from the town but these have yet to be confirmed.

He also said when people receive their letter to have their vaccine, if it is inconvenient for them to travel they can defer it and have the vaccine at a more local location; this will just mean having to wait a little longer to receive it.

Councillor Aldcroft wanted to reassure members that there is a team at Shropshire Council looking at the mitigations of the impact the HS2 will have on the highways. Most of the traffic will go through Woore with 500 lorry movements per day down the A51 and A525 which will have a significant effect on the A53 that will be in place for seven years.

**11.C INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2020-21**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk said the report has no issues raised by the auditor proving all systems and procedures are followed correctly and adhered to.

Councillor Minnery said he has read though he reports and he is delighted to see this report and indeed previous reports have been good; the staff need to be congratulated.

Councillor Minnery proposed, Councillor R. Smith seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree and approve the interim internal Auditor Report 2020-21.**

**12.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor asked if members would like to make any comments.

Councillor R. Smith asked if the £27.00 Christmas stall refund was in connection with a stall holder that intended to take part in the Christmas Lights Switch on Event market?

The Clerk said yes, due to the event being cancelled stall holders were refunded their payments.

There were no further comments.

Councillor R. Smith proposed, Councillor M. Smith seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To agree the payments from 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020.**

The Mayor said he was very pleased with how the community have dealt with the Covid19 situation from the street cleaners, the shop workers, the emergency services, all these services we rely on.

The Council is only functioning as well as it is because of the staff behind the scenes, he wanted to have a recorded formal thank you of his appreciation to the Clerk and all the internal and external staff for all their hard work through lock down.

All members agreed with the Mayors comments.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Signed:………………………… Dated: ………..……………