

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting held in The Starmer Room at the Parish Rooms, Church Street, Market Drayton on Thursday 15 January 2026 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R. Adcock, J. Blandford, A. Cartwright, P. Glover, G. Groves, T. Manton (Chairman), I. Nellins, and I. Sharp.

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, and R. Hughes.

0 members of the public were present and 3 members of the public listening via Teams.

In Attendance: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk, and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor J. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor R. Hughes	-	Prior Appointment

2.SF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS

- i. No disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. No dispensations were received for consideration.

3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had requested to speak.

4.C MINUTES

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

To agree and adopt the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 16 October 2025 and an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 20 November 2025.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayors announcements were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO149.

The Mayor said he is honoured to represent the town as Mayor and thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending the events he was unable to attend.

Members **NOTED** the report from the Town Mayor.

Committee	£
Services & Facilities Committee	460,085
Finance & General-Purpose Committee	242,275
Community & Governance Committee	92,100
Total £	794,460

8.C PRECEPT 2026-27

The budget expenditure, Income, budget shortfall and bank details was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO154 and CO152.

Members discussed that for the budget to be fulfilled they would need a precept increase of 20.55% based on a Band D property. It was agreed that an increase of this amount was not justified as general reserves of up to three to six months budget are held by the Town Council, as per the guidelines.

The chair said that in 2023-24 the precept was increased by 3%, in 2024-25 there was no increase in the precept and in 2025-26 the precept was increased by 3%; members were conscious of the rise in the cost of living and wanted to keep the precept increase low. Members were made aware that no funds have been allocated to cover any costs of running any services devolved by Shropshire Council.

After an in-depth conversation:

Councillor Manton Proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree to raise the precept for 2026/27 by 5%.

The precept to be requested will be £621,309

Band D properties will increase from £136.02 to £142.81; an increase of £6.80 per year.

The shortfall of budget £92,101; will come from Town Councils General Reserves.

9.C TOWERS LAWN TOILET REFURBISHMENT

The refurbishment work has now been completed. The cost of the white goods and furnishings for the drivers rest room was not included in the refurbishment costs.

After a brief discussion:

Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

- i. **To give the Clerk delegated authority to spend up to £2,500 from Earmarked Reserves: Public Toilet Maintenance to purchase white goods and furnishings for the bus drivers rest room at Towers Lawn Public Toilets building.**

After a brief discussion:

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

For members to respond to Shropshire Council Budget Consultation individually, noting the closing date is 16 January 2026.

13.C REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members considered nominating a member to represent the Council on the Market Drayton Climate Action Group.

Councillor Adcock proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

For Councillor Adcock to represent the Council on the Market Drayton Climate Action Group.

14.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

A Shropshire Council update report was circulated to members prior to the meeting for members to read.

The Chairman thanked the Shropshire Councillors for the informative report and asked if any member would like to ask any questions. No questions were asked.

Members **NOTED** the Shropshire Council Report.

15.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payment documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO156 and CO157.

The Chairman asked if any members had any questions they would like to ask.

There were no questions raised.

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

To agree the payments from 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

16.C INFORMMATION AND UPDATES

Members **NOTED** the following information:

An insurance claim has been submitted to our insurers because of a minor road traffic incident.

The meeting concluded at 8.07 p.m.

Chairman: 

Date: 07-05-26

Initial: TM