

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 16 October 2025 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R. Adcock, A. Cartwright, G. Groves, R. Hughes, T. Manton (Chairman).

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, J. Blandford, P. Glover, I. Nellins, and I. Sharp.

0 members of the public were present and 2 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 R. Aldcroft	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor J. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor J. Blandford	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor I. Nellins	-	Work Commitments
Councillor I. Sharp	-	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 Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree and adopt the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting on 10 July 2025 and an Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14 August 2025.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said he has attended to some wonderful events as Mayor and thanked the Deputy Mayor for standing in on the events that he was unable to attend.

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

6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES**Planning Committee**

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

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10 July 2025.
Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the minutes of an Extraordinary Planning Committee meeting held on 14 August 2025.

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

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 September 2025.

Community and Governance Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

Personnel Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Personnel Committee meetings held on 10 July 2025.

7.C INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2025-26: Interim

The internal audit was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO099.

The Mayor highlighted the overall conclusion of the audit that '*the records are maintained to a high standard*' and thanked the RFO for her hard work.

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

To agree and approve the Internal Audit Report 2025-26: Interim.

8.C SHROPSHIRE TOGETHER

- i. The Mayor reported that Alex Wagner, Deputy Lead of Shropshire Council, came to speak with councillors on Monday 6 October 2025.

Alex Wagner discussed the concept of Town and Parish Councils within Shropshire possibly taking over some service; street scene is the first service being proposed. Three Councils, Shrewsbury, Shifnal and Oswestry, have currently signed up to the concept.

The Mayor said there are a lot more questions which need to be answered before any decision can be made.

- ii. Framework for Collaborative Working Memorandum of Understanding between Shropshire Council and the Town Council was circulated prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO100.

The Mayor highlighted to members that the MoU is not a legal binding contract; signing the contract would indicate that the Town Council is interested in finding out more about collaborative working, after which, more information will be provided by Shropshire Council.

After an in-depth conversation:

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

To agree to sign the Framework for Collaborative Working Memorandum of Understanding between Shropshire Council and the Town Council.

9.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO PARKING TARIFFS

A briefing note from Shropshire Council on adjustments to parking tariffs was circulated prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO101.

Members discussed the increase in car parking tariffs at Frogmore Road and Queen Street car parks from 60 pence per hour to 70 pence per hour, Towers Lawn 1 and 2 will remain the same.

Members were in agreement that the tariff was within the inflation margin; the last increase was in 2022.

Members **NOTED** Shropshire Council adjustments to parking tariffs.

10.C TOWERS LAWN PUBLIC TOILETS

The Mayor reported that the work at Towers Lawn public toilets has started. The Contractors are very professional, and the works are moving at a pace.

11.C TOWN HALL PUBLIC TOILETS

Members considered quotes to install new payment machines, including a contactless payment machine at the Town Hall Public Toilets as set out in Appendix CO102.

After an in-depth discussion:

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Groves seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 3 votes for and 2 votes against:

- To replace the payment machines in the Town Hall Public Toilets to include a combined Nyrex card and cash payment machine.
- To accept Quote B at a cost of £7,000.
- Payment to be made from Earmarked Reserves: Public Toilets Maintenance.

12.C SEATING AREA AT THE BOTTOM OF CLIVE STEPS

- i. Members considered a request for Clive Masonic Lodge of Market Drayton to install new benches as set out in Appendix CO103.

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

To agree Clive Masonic Lodge of Market Drayton install new metal benches at the bottom of Clive steps.

- ii. Members considered carrying out the necessary repairs of the area, which will include repairs to walls and pointing of brickwork.

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

- To agree to carry out the necessary repairs of the area, which will include repairs to walls and pointing of brickwork.
- If sufficient budget is available payment to be from Amenity Areas General Maintenance Budget, any over budget payments to be made from General Reserves.

13.C SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Members considered responding to the Consultation as set out in Appendix CO104.

Members **NOTED** the consultation and agreed to complete it individually.

14.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Members **NOTED** the report from Shropshire Councillor David Minnery as set out in Appendix CO105.

15.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payment documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO106 and CO107.

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

There were no questions raised.

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

To agree the payments from 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

16.C EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, and pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting and they are instructed to withdraw.

17.C THE ZONE AND LONGLANDS PLAY AREA

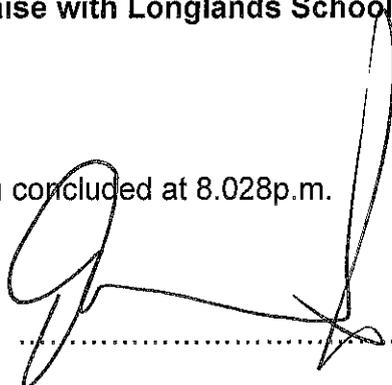
Members discussed issues relating to The Zone and Longlands Play Area.

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

- **To support, in principle, the progress of the plans submitted**
- **To liaise with Longlands School regarding the project.**

The meeting concluded at 8.028p.m.

Chairman:



Date:

15-01

T.M