

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

ABSENT: Councillor R. Hughes.

In Attendance: 2 members of the public were present, and 0 members of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

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

1.C APOLOGIES

Councillor Sanderson entered the Chamber and joined the meeting.

Councillor Hughes - Illness

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. Councillor Love declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12.C Small Grants; he is a member of the Drayton Civic Society and Friends of Market Drayton Library.
- ii. There were no applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received.

3.C PUBLIC SESSION

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

4.C MINUTES

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

To adopt the minutes of a Full Council meeting held on 11 January 2024.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members **NOTED** the events the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor had attended:

Date	Event	Attended By:
15 February 2024	Presenting of Building Certificates	Deputy Mayor
23 February 2024	Opening of Woore School Extension	Mayor
1 March 2024	Crown Wharf Stone Event	Mayor
3 April 2024	Museum Fundraiser Coffee Morning	Mayor
4 April 2024	Beulah House Event	Mayor

6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

11 January 2024 25 January 2024 8 February 2024 22 February 2024
7 March 2024.

Community and Governance Committee

Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meetings held on:

25 January 2024 and 7 March 2024.

Services and Facilities Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meetings held on:

8 February 2024 21 March 2024.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on:

22 February 2024

Extraordinary on 21 March 2024.

7.C TOWERS LAWN PUBLIC TOILETS (TM)

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Manton said that due to vandalism and antisocial behaviour the toilets are regularly closed. He along with the Clerk have met with two professional commercial installation companies to explore possible refurbishment options. Three options were identified as set out in appendix CO170.

He also reported that the drain at the back of the toilet block has collapsed.

The Mayor asked members for comments regarding the works.

Councillor Chapman said the toilets need updating to a commercial standard; he suggested that any unused space in the building be utilised to provide it an opportunity for a commercial start up business.

Councillor Groves said the drains are getting blocked as unsuitable equipment is fitted; how is option 3, a total refurbishment of the building, going to rectify this happening?

Councillor Manton said the cisterns and other fittings are of a domestic standard, these would be changed to commercial standard which would increase the water pressure.

The Clerk showed members before and after pictures of a recent refurbished public toilet block at Nantwich where separate toilets were installed.

Councillor Chapman said drainage may be a problem with the building due to its age and suggested creating a Working Group to discuss the specification further in depth.

Councillor Sanderson asked if the Council had sufficient funds for the refurbishments.

The Clerk said yes.

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

To go ahead with Option 3 in principle to convert Towers Lawn public toilets into four separate toilet facilities at an approximate cost of £91,560.

To create a Working Group to produce a specification, look into costs in more

detail and report back to Council.

The Working Group to be Councillors: Aldcroft, Glover, Manton, Love and Sanderson.

8.C IN BLOOM

The Town Council puts up over 100 hanging baskets around the town centre in June each year; 45 of these are available to be put outside commercial premises.

The floral hanging baskets are provided free of charge to commercial premises; a £20 watering fee has previously been charged for each hanging basket.

Members considered charging a watering fee for this year.

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

To agree a £20 watering charge for the floral hanging baskets at the commercial premises for 2024/25.

9.C COMMUNITY AND GOVERNANCE BOUNDARY REVIEW

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Shropshire Council are proposing the boundary between the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley be amended to move the Western Way Ward of Adderley Parish into the Market Drayton East ward of the Market Drayton Parish as set out in Appendix CO171.

After a brief discussion:

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

To support the boundary between the Parishes of Market Drayton and Adderley be amended to move the Western Way Ward of Adderley Parish into the Market Drayton East ward of the Market Drayton Parish

10.C MARKET STALL

Members discussed whether to continue having a Town Council Market Stall every three months at the Wednesday Market. The stall provides residents with an opportunity to speak to Town Councillors about local issues and Councillors to provide updates on Council projects.

After a discussion:

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Groves seconded, and it was

RESOLVED:

To continue having a Town Council Market Stall every three months at the Wednesday Market.

11.C TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

After a short discussion:

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded, and it was

RESOLVED:

To produce a regular news article to promote the work of the Council. The updates to be produced by each Committee Chair and circulated via the council website and Facebook.

12.C SMALL GRANTS

Members considered the small grant applications as set out in Appendix CO172.

After a brief discussion:

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 7 votes for and 4 votes against:

To refuse the request from Drayton Civic Society for £500 to help towards roof repairs at the Museum because the Museum own their own building and are moving into a new location very soon.

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

To award the following Small Grants:

£500 Beacon Community Centre to help towards refurbishment of the kitchen and flooring at the centre.

£500 Market Drayton Men Shed to help towards with overhead costs.

£500 Friends of Market Drayton Library to help purchase audio equipment for library events.

£350 Classical Music Series/Festival Drayton Centre to help towards a collaboration between local artists and an internationally acclaimed musician.

£500 Market Drayton Climate Action to help towards running such as room hire at Mencap, speaker costs, domain name costs, produce paper leaflets and training.

13.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Nellins reported:

- Shropshire Council budget - for every £5 received, £4 goes on social care, 0.50p goes towards waste and the remaining 0.50p goes towards highways, leisure, library's etc.
- Green waste – This service is not a statutory requirement and a proposed £52 annually fee for the service has been suggested. A consultation has just started; in a few days there has been over 14,000 responses.
- Recycling Centres – These are being looked at, Shropshire Council do not want to close them and are investigating if these can stay open with reduced opening times.
- Parking charges – A consultation has taken place and an increase of 0.20p per hour has been agreed. The Park and Ride facility at Shrewsbury has been reduced to £1 to encourage more people to use the service which will reduce the amount traffic within the town.
- Anti-Social Behaviour – The new Anti Social Behaviour Lead Officer met with town councillors last week and was shown around the town.
- Dog Fouling – It has been agreed at Cabinet to introduce the powers to charge people for leaving their dog fouling within the streets, under the same powers dogs are not permitted in fenced off play areas.
- Potholes – The County has a lot of potholes; this is partly due to unprecedented weather conditions. Last year Shropshire Council spent £42K on repairs. 50% were repaired within five days, some are temporary repairs due to road closure restrictions.
- Number 64 bus service – This service is well used, currently it operates every two hours. Subject to sufficient funding, it is hoped this service will be reinstated to an hourly service in June.

Councillor Chapman said he does not understand why Shropshire Council have to spend £6.2K on consultants to tell them how to save money.

Councillor Nellins said consultants are used for many things within Shropshire Council; Officers have their own job to do and do not have the spare time to look at particular projects in more depth hence why they engage consultants.

Councillor Groves said the green waste consultation states it will cost residents £1 per week; this is a bit misleading because it is collected every two weeks, they should be more honest.

Councillor Nellins said he understands what Councillor Groves is saying, £52 has been broken down into a weekly charge of £1; the feedback received so far is that people are willing to pay, however, you do not have to subscribe to the green waste service. Cheshire Council have recently started to charge for the same service, it is working well and there has been no increase in fly tripping.

14.C BUDGETS 2024/25

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

To receive a copy of the Financial Budget for 2024/25.

15.C RESERVES

I. Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To receive a copy of the Earmarked Reserves for 2024/2025.

II. Members **NOTED** General Reserves stand at £181,670 on 1 April 2024.

16.C FINANCIAL REPORT

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting; see Appendix CO175.

There were no questions raised.

Councillor Chapman. proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the Financial Report from 1 February 2024 to 31 March 2024.

17.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting; see Appendix CO1176.

There were no questions raised.

Councillor Chapman. proposed, Councillor Mrs J. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the payments made between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2024.

18.C UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Members **NOTED** the following updates and information:

- i. The Insurance Policy has been reviewed and renewed.
- ii. The end of year close down of accounts has been completed.

The Mayor announced that this was the final Council meeting as Mayor in this Civic Year: he thanked all members for their support and the administration staff for their continued hard work throughout the year.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Chairman: Ray Abcroft Date: 9/5/2024