**Market Drayton Town Council**

**Minutes of a virtual Council meeting held on 22 April 2021 at 7.30pm.**

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

**Also, present: 5 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**

Councillor Nellins declared an interest in item 8 and item 9ii and will be abstaining from the vote.

Councillor Whittle declared an interest in item 9ii.

**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 14 January 2021.**

The Mayor agreed to come into the Town Hall when it’s 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.

He said he has attended a church service and laid a wreath at the War Memorial to commemorate Prince Philip; both presentations were very low key due to the coronavirus.

**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 14 January 2021, 28 January 2021, 25 February 2021, and 25 March 2021.**

**Community & Governance Committee**

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

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Community & Governance Committee held on 28 January 2021.**

**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 11 February 2021 and 25 March 2021.**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee**

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

**To receive and agree the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 February 2021.**

**7.C FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2021**

Councillor Whittle thought a date should be set so that planning the event can start but we need to be mindful of government guidelines that are still in place.

The Mayor said hopefully the restrictions should be eased by the end of November and it gives people something to look forward to.

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

**To agree to hold the Festival of Lights event on Saturday 20 November 2021.**

The Mayor said further discussions regarding the event will be reported to members in future committee meetings.

**8.C IN BLOOM**

i) The Mayor asked for members thoughts on holding the In Bloom competition in July 2021.

Councillor Whittle said many residents look forward to the competition; it worked well in the height of the pandemic last year and said it should be run the same again this year.

Councillor Glover asked if the reduced categories from last year would be the same this year.

The Clerk said the categories worked well last year and thought they ` should remain the same for this year.

Councillor R. Smith said last year was very difficult but was fully enjoyed and supported; he offered to do the judging again this year along with his wife.

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

**To go ahead and hold the In Bloom competition in July 2021, having the same categories as last year.**

**Judging to take place on 20 and 22 July 2021.**

Councillor Gough joined the meeting.

**ii)** The Mayor said the floral displays will be put up around the town in June; Council normally charge shop keepers who have requested a hanging basket £20 for watering them throughout the summer months; he asked for members thoughts on whether this charge should be made.

He proposed that due to the difficulties shop keepers have experienced this year the hanging baskets should be offered free of charge as a good will gesture.

Councillor Glover asked if there is a watering schedule for the shops hanging baskets.

The Clerk said yes; all floral displays including all hanging baskets are watered five times a week.

There were no more comments.

The Mayor left the meeting due to internet problems.

The Deputy Mayor; Councillor R. Smith continued with the meeting in the Mayors absence.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Gough seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

**To agree not to charge shop keepers a watering fee of £20 per hanging basket this year.**

**9.C SMALL GRANTS**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor said there has been two small grant applications received for members to consider.

Councillor Glover said there is £4,000 available in the Finance and General Purposes Committee budget for small grants.

Members discussed the following applications:

1. **Market Drayton Day Centre**

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

**To agree to give a small grant of £300 to Market Drayton Day Centre.**

1. **Dig4Veterans**

Councillor T. Beckett proposed, Councillor R. Smith seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

**To agree to give a small grant of £300 to Dig4Veterans.**

It was agreed by members to move onto item 11.C due to the Mayor who is a Shropshire Councillor not being in the meeting to report back to members.

**11.C FINANCIAL REPORT**

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Whittle asked Councillor Glover if he has looked at the income and expenditure report and is he happy with it.

Councillor Glover said he has looked at the report and it is excellent work completed by the Responsible Finance Officer and the rest of the staff.

Councillor Whittle also thanked all the staff for their hard work throughout the year.

The Mayor re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Whittle proposed, Councillor Cartwright seconded and it was **RESOLVED with 1 abstention.**

**To agree the income and expenditure report from 1 February to 31 March 2021.**

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

The Mayor returned as Chairman of the meeting and thanked the Deputy Mayor for taking over.

Due to The Chairman unable to comment on item 10.C members agreed to discuss this item now the Mayor was back in the meeting.

The Mayor said due to the forth coming elections and purdah rules there has not been a lot happening at Shropshire Council. He is aware Shropshire Council have made extra funds available to sort out the potholes in the county, he knows certain contractors have been disciplined due to theirperformance, it has highlighted the fact the works needs to be supervised and a plan of works is being looked at.

Councillor Cartwright reported to members that the Market Drayton Community Enterprise will be holding a Green Festival on 7 July; he thought the Council should have a representative at the event.

The Mayor said this will be put in the Mayors diary.

Councillor Whittle is a representative on the RAF Helicopter and Noise Liaison Group; he reported the helicopter take offs and landings will reduce substantially over the next twelve months due to the use of simulators meaning the use of air noise will be reduced by approximately sixty percent.

**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 said he has looked at all the payments made; on 11 January 2021 there was a payment for £31.65 for two laptop cases and again on 21 January 2021 for a further two laptop cases costing £39.98; he asked what the difference is and who were they for?

The Clerk said due to having to work from home on occasions they were for the laptops at the Town Hall; they are different sizes hence the price differences.

There were no further comments.

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

**To agree the payments from 1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021.**

The Mayor said this is the last Council meeting of the Civic year; with the elections coming up he wanted to thank all the administration staff for all their hard work and support during the four-year term.

The meeting concluded at 8.21 pm.

Signed:………………………… Dated: ………..……………