

**Market Drayton Town Council****Minutes of a Council meeting**

**held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 9 January 2025 at 7.57pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R Aldcroft (Mayor), B. Chapman, P. Glover, G. Groves, R. Hughes, W. Love, T. Manton, I. Nellins, and A. Sanderson.

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett and M. Erwin.

**In Attendance:** 0 members of the public were present, and 3 members of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

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

The Mayor announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed. He apologised that the meeting was later than advertised; this was due to the Planning Committee meeting running over.

**1.C APOLOGIES**

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor M. Erwin - Prior Appointment

**2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

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

**3.C PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public had requested to speak at the meeting.

**4.C MINUTES**

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

**To approve and adopt the minutes of a Council meetings held on 17 October 2024.**

**5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members **NOTED** the Mayor's report setting out all events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Date	Event	Who Attended
10 October 24	Food Conversation, Fordhall Farm	Mayor
12 October 24	Army Cadet Force Trust Cocktail Party	Mayor
20 October 24	Civic Service Ellesmere	Mayor
26 October 24	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Mayor
29 October 24	Calendar Preview at the Grove School	Mayor
7 November 24	Royal Visit Festival Centre	Mayor
8 November 24	Remembrance Service at HMP Stoke Heath Prison	Mayor & Deputy Mayor
10 November 24	Remembrance Sunday	Mayor & Deputy Mayor
11 November 24	Armistice Day	Mayor & Deputy Mayor
16 November 24	Festival of Lights Switch On	Mayor & Deputy Mayor
3 December 24	St Chads RAF	Mayor
4 December 24	St John Ambulance Christmas Presentation	Mayor
24 December 24	Carols Under the Buttercross	Mayor

## 6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Planning Committee

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

**To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31 October 2024 and 12 December 2024.**

### Community and Governance Committee

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

**To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meeting held on 14 November 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 12 December 2024.**

### Finance and General Purposes Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 31 October 2024 and 12 December 2024.

### 7.C BUDGET 2025-26

The committee budgets were circulated to members to consider as set out in Appendix CO127.

The Mayor asked if there are any comments; No comments were made.

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

To agree the following budget for 2025-26:

Committee	Budget 2025-26 £
Services and Facilities Committee	385,096
Finance and General-Purpose Committee	237,128
Community & Governance Committee	91,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>713,724</b>

### 8.C PRECEPT 2025-26

Documents showing the budget, income, shortfall in budget, Earmarked Reserves and bank balances was circulated to members as set out in Appendix CO128 and CO129.

Members discussed that the precept was not increased in 2024/25 resulting in the Council taking the £5,996 shortfall from general reserves. As the cost to provide services has increased, members considered increasing the precept for the next financial year.

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 vote against and 1 abstention:

- To increase the precept for 2025-26 by 3%.
- The precept request to Shropshire Council will be £585,214.
- The Band D Council Tax Charge per annum to be £136.02; an increase of £3.96 per year.

### 9.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

The Consultation document was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO130.

Members considered setting up a Working Group to discuss consultation and survey documents, and complete them before they are considered at a meeting.

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

- To agree to respond to Shropshire Council's budget consultation.
- To set up a Consultation Working Group to look in-depth at responding to consultations and surveys.
- To bring the Working Groups recommendations back to the next suitable meeting for all members to read before submitting.
- The Working Groups members to be Councillors: Glover, Hughes and Nellins.

#### **10.C GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND**

The consultation document was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO131.

It was agreed that the Consultation Working Group look at the consultation document and produce a response to be considered at the next appropriate meeting.

#### **11.C TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP**

- i. The Chairman said the Working Group was formed two years ago; various problems have been found including some serious electrical issues.

The Working Group last met in August for their fourth inspection of the town which took two days to complete; eighty-seven issues were raised and a further twenty-five new issues were highlighted. Eighty letters have been sent out highlighting the issues to the property tenants/owners.

During the inspection it was noted that the town looking unkept and messy. A meeting took place with the Street Scene Officer at Shropshire Council to discuss further. The meeting went well; the Officer agreed to look at some issues raised and was keen for the Council to keep logging all issues found on the 'Fix My Street' portal; doing this will provide a clear record and they must be actioned.

- ii. The revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group with changes highlighted in red was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO132.

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

**To agree the revised Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Working Group.**

## 12.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Nellins reported:

- Budget - Shropshire Council are currently facing many challenges due to the budget settlement from Central Government; the council will be speaking to MPs to raise their issues. A budget consultation is currently being held; he encouraged members to read it and submit their comments.
- 'Fix my Street' portal - Works on the 'Fix my Street' portal have been delayed due to budgetary issues.
- Highways - The weather has had a major impact on the highways department; rain has caused a lot of flooding, a lot of trees have fallen down in the storms and icy roads needed gritting.
- Bus services - The maximum bus charges will be £3 from January, the X64 bus service from Shrewsbury to Hanley has increased and work is in progress for a new bus route to Telford; this should be organised by April.

## 13.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Payments documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix C0133 and C0134.

No questions were asked.

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

**To agree the payments from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2024.**

## 14.C INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Members **NOTED** the following updated:

- The Shropshire Good Food Partnership Project was unsuccessful in securing funding for their project. They are looking for funding to implement piloting some of the great ideas generated at Grove School in Market Drayton. See Appendix CO135.

## 15.C EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Chapman 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.**

**16.C SHROPSHIRE LIEUTENANCY GARDEN PARTY AT ORLETON HALL, 4 JUNE 2025**

Members considered a request from Anna Turner, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, to nominate someone, who has gone over and beyond for their community in any way, to attend the garden party as set out in Appendix CO135.

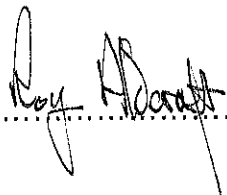
After a brief discussion:

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

**To Nominate the Town Crier, Geoff Russell to attend the Lieutenancy garden party at Orleton Hall on 4 June 2025.**

The meeting concluded at 8.33 pm.

Chairman:



Date:

