

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of an Extraordinary Council Meeting held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 14 August 2025 at 7.30pm.

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

ABSENT: Councillors: Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, A Cartwright & I. Sharp

0 members of the public were present and 0 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:

Cllr I Sharp – Prior arrangement

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 PLAY AREAS

Information was circulated prior to the meeting in appendix C067

- i. To receive an update on works undertaken and proposed work on the play areas.

Members discussed the information provided and were in agreement that the works need undertaking.

Councillor Hughes requested that a review is undertaken as to who carries out the repairs. Councillor Hughes also asked to join the Play Area Working Group.

- ii. To consider and agree what action to take regarding the slide unit on Longlands play area

The slide unit needs to be removed due to rotting timbers. When the unit is removed there are two options as to what to do with the area underneath which is currently covered in wet pour; either cut off the legs below ground level and fill with wet pour or remove all the wet pour, lay topsoil and seed over.

Due to the amount of ASB in the area involving the throwing of stones, seeding the area was not considered a suitable option.

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Blanford seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with one against:

To progress with option 2: To remove the slide unit, cut off below ground level and fill the holes with wet pour at a cost of £4,230.

- iii. To consider the recommendation from the working group to replace the two rockers on the town park.

After a short discussion:

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

- **To obtain quotes to replace the two rockers on the Town Park with a seesaw.**
- **Funding to be from earmarked reserves.**

- iv. To consider exploring the option of extending the town park play area.

It was agreed that the play area on the town park is one of the smallest in the town and is in need of refurbishment and extending.

Councillor Hughes suggested that the extension includes an area for young children to run around safely.

After a short discussion

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

For the Play Area Working Group to explore the option of extending the play area on the town park.

- v. To discuss the ongoing ASB on Longlands play area.

Members expressed their concerns about the high levels of ASB on longlands play area, specifically the throwing of stones and breaking of windows. It was also raised that there have been recent incidents at the school relating to the animals. Concern was raised regarding the lack of action from the local policing team.

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

- That the Clerk contact the Local Policing Team requesting a multi-agency meeting regarding the ASB and the individuals concerned.
- That the Clerk contacts Longlands School for a statement regarding the recent ASB.

5.C CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

To consider purchasing new lights for Christmas 2025.

Information was circulated prior to the meeting in appendix C068.

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

To purchase new lights for around the Buttercross at a cost of £1,075 and new star lights for the tree in front of the library at a cost of £1,345.

Councillor Nellins requested that consideration be given to extending the Christmas lights to include Stafford Street and Shropshire Street.

Councillor Groves raised that the trees in front of the library need cutting back.

6.C COUNCIL COMPUTERS

To receive the notes from the Laptop Working Group and to consider the recommendations from the working group.

Information was circulated prior to the meeting in appendix C069

Members **NOTED** the notes from the Laptop Working Group

The working group identified two options which councillors could use to access their Town Council emails and documents, either using the Bring Your Own Device or by using a tablet provided by the Town Council.

After a short discussion

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Adcote seconded, and it was RESOLVED:

- i. To enable Councillors to access their Town Council emails securely they can choose either of the following options:
 - a. Town Council purchase and provide a tablet for Town Council use only.
 - b. Using their own electronic devices under the Bring your own Device scheme.
- iii. To approve the additional costs for adopting the Bring your Own Device scheme.
- iv. To approve any budget overspend to be taken from general reserves.
- v. An updated IT policy and a Bring your own Device policy be produced for consideration at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

7.C LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT 2025/26

Members **NOTED** the following information:

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026; an increase of 3.2% has been awarded.

8.C TOWERS LAWN TOILETS

- i. To consider the recommendation from the Towers Lawn Toilet working group for the upgrade of the toilets, including the provision of a drivers rest room.
- ii. To give the working group delegated powers to agree the Building Contract.

Information was circulated prior to the meeting in appendix C071.

Councillor Manton explained that the working group has done a copious amount of work throughout this project; they have looked in detail at all the tenders received and are now making a recommendation to Council.

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

To accept Quote D at a cost of £211,730 for the refurbishment of Towers Lawn Toilets.

To give the working group delegated powers to agree the Building Contract.

9.C CORRESPONDANCE

To consider the following correspondence from Councillor Heather Kidd.

Information was circulated prior to the meeting in appendix C072.

Members discussed the offer of a grief plaque to be placed on a bench in the town.; there is a QR code on the plaque, which when scanned, takes you to bereavement support and signposting.

Councillor Nellins suggested a suitable location for the plaque would be on a bench at the Cemetery.

Councillor Nellins proposed, Council H Hughes seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To accept the offer of a Grief Plaque.

The meeting concluded at 8.06p.m.

Chairman:

Date: