

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Council meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 1 August 2024 at 7.30pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillor M. Erwin.

In Attendance: 0 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.

The Mayor announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

1.C APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor M. Erwin - Prior Arrangement

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. Councillor Chapman declared an interest in Item 5.C as he is a Director of Market Drayton Sports Association; will abstain from the votes.
- ii. Councillor Chapman declared he has previously put in an application for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received to discuss Market Drayton Sports Association.

3.C TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

A Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan has been produced for the town which was presented to members at a recent workshop. The plan set out projects to enhance the town and surrounding areas.

Members discussed setting up a Working Group to implement the action plan.

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

To set up a Town Centre Action Plan Working Group to implement actions from the Town Centre Strategy Action Plan.

Councillors on the Working Group to be Cllrs; P. Glover, G. Groves, R. Hughes, T. Manton, and I. Nellins.

Members discussed the Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Action Plan Working Group as set out in Appendix CO55.

After a discussion:

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

**To agree the Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Action Plan Working.
To change the name of the working group to Town Action Plan Working Group.**

Members discussed allocating a budget for the Town Action Plan Working Group to carry out the works.

The Clerk advised members not to take the funds from General Reserves; there has been previous resolutions to spend from this area and it will result in the funds being too low.

After an in-depth discussion:

Councillor Hughes proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded,

Councillor Groves gave notice of an amendment to the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED:**

To allocate £20,000 from General Reserves to the Town Action Plan Working Group with 5 against.

Councillor Groves proposed an amendment the above proposal, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 3 abstentions:

In addition to the £20,000 from General Reserves to add an additional £25,000 from Earmarked Reserves 327 Public Toilets making a total of £45,000 for the Town Action Plan Working Group.

Members then discussed giving delegated authority to the Town Action Plan Working Group.

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

To give the Town Action Plan Working Group delegated authority to spend the budget allocated to implement the actions.

4.C EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Hughes 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.

The live streaming and recording of this meeting were stopped.

5.C MARKET DRAYTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION

A discussion was had about Town Council representation on Market Drayton Sports Association and the concerns about this arrangement.

After an in-depth discussion:

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

That with immediate effect the two Town Council representatives are removed as Directors of Market Drayton Sports Association.

The two nominated Councillors to be Town Council representatives only at Market Drayton Sports Association meetings.

To request that Market Drayton Sports Association amend their Articles of Association to reflect the above.

Members discussed the Health and Safety issues on land owned by the Town Council which is used for sporting activity.

After a discussion:

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

To ask Market Drayton Sports Association to carry out structural inspections of the lighting stanchions and electrical testing of the flood lights erected on the land owned by the Town Council; all reports to be forward to Town Council at the earliest opportunity.

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

If Market Drayton Sports Association do not agree to do the inspections, then Town Council will progress with the works.

A discussion was had on whether to produce a lease for the land owned by the Town Council.

After a discussion:

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

- **To have a five-year short-term lease drawn up between the Town Council and Market Drayton Sports Association for the use of the Town Council land, subject to any findings to any covenants on the land; a two year break clause to be included.**

The meeting concluded at 8.19pm.

Chairman: 

Date: 17/10/24