

Market Drayton Town Council**Minutes of a Community and Governance Committee Meeting
held at The Starmer Room, at The Parish Rooms, Church Street, Market Drayton
on Thursday 9 April 2026 at 7.30 pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Adcock, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, and R. Hughes.

In attendance: 0 members of the public were present and 0 members of the public listening
via Teams.

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

1.CG APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor R. Adcock	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor Mrs. J Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor R. Hughes	-	Prior Arrangement

2.CG DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

3.CG PUBLIC SESSION

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

4.CG MINUTES

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

**To approve the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee
meeting held on 26 February 2026.**

5.CG SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

Correspondences were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in
Appendix CG197.

Members discussed the request from Shropshire Council requesting funding for
the Library Service.

Many questions were asked regarding the potential running of future Shropshire Council's services, members agreed that these need to be looked at and discussed as a whole prior to replying about the request for funding the Library.

A Working Group was formed to discuss further.

The Working Group was made up of Councillor; Aldcroft, Blandford, Cartwright, Manton, and Nellins.

A report will be presented back at the next meeting.

6.CG GINGER AND SPICE FESTIVAL

Members considered the request from the organisers of the Ginger and Spice Festival, as set out in Appendix CG198.

After a brief discussion:

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

To support the Ginger and Spice Festival on Saturday 26 September 2026 by:

- **Allowing the event to use Town Councils entertainment licence**
- **Allowing the event to use the electricity source under the Buttercross**
- **The public toilets to be open from 06.00 on the day.**
- **Allowing to borrow Town Councils Road closure signs**
- **Relocate some hanging baskets around the Buttercross**
- **Support from the Town Mayor/Deputy Mayor to officially open the event and judging the gingerbread window display.**
- **Use of the Town Hall facilities for volunteers and first aiders**
- **An up-to-date copy of Town Councils electrical installation report**
- **Copy of Town Councils Public Liability insurance.**

7.CG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN

Members considered the updated Climate Action Plan and Biodiversity Plan as set out in Appendix CG199.

The Chairman suggested setting up a Working Group to meet twice a year to go through the policy and the progression.

A Working Group was formed consisting of the following members: Councillors Adcock, Cartwright, and Nellins.

8.CG TOWN CENTRE MONTHLY REPORT

Members **NOTED** the town centre monthly reports for January 2026 as set out in Appendix CG200.

9.CG CORRESPONDENCE

- Members considered a complaint regarding speeding traffic on A53 and a number of accidents around the Tila homes new estate as set out in Appendix CG201.

The resident has been advised to report their concerns to Shropshire Council and the police; Councillor Blandford will bring the issue up with the Highways department.

- Members discussed a request to introduction of a Veterans Trail or National ~Veterans Walk as set out in Appendix CG202.

The Chairman said he is The Royal British Legion Chairman; this request has not been discussed with them, he will make contact to discuss the proposed requirements requesting more information to ascertain if the request can be fulfilled.

10.CG OUTSIDE BODIES REPORTS

Members **NOTED** the following written reports as set out in Appendix CG203.

- i. Grove School Community Steering group.
- ii. Market Drayton Community Covenant otherwise known as the Community Power Act.
- iii. Active Market Drayton.
- iv. North Shropshire Area Committee.

11.CG NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE PACK

The Neighbourhood Governance Pack has been designed it to help members influence the emerging Neighbourhood Governance proposals through the English Devolution and Community Empowerment (EDCE) Bill. The proposals signal a shift toward more localised, community-level decision-making.

The Neighbourhood Governance Pack was circulated to members as set out in Appendix CG205 prior to the meeting.

Members considered the draft motion:

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

1. **Call on our local Member of Parliament to press the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:**
 - **Ensure that parish and town councils are formally recognised as key partners within the emerging neighbourhood governance framework.**

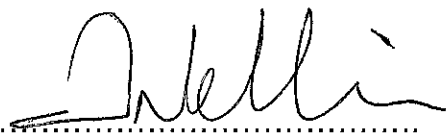
- Guarantee that the forthcoming regulations and guidance clearly set out how parish and town councils will be integrated into neighbourhood governance structures.
 - Provide assurance that new neighbourhood governance arrangements will not duplicate functions or undermine the democratic legitimacy of parish and town councils.
2. Write to the MP enclosing this motion and requesting active Lobbying on behalf of parish and town councils during the development of regulations under the EDCE Bill.
 3. Engage with our principal authority to express the Council's expectation that parish and town councils be meaningfully involved in shaping local responses to the neighbourhood governance duty.
 4. Publicly communicate this Council's position to residents, reaffirming our commitment to maintaining strong, local, democratic representation.

12.CG UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Members **NOTED**:

- A meeting took place with the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT), Town Councillors and representatives from the canal volunteer group on 17 December 2025 to discuss the relocation of the bin compound. The Clerk is in regular contact with the CRT; there is no update available at this time.

The meeting concluded at 7.57 pm.

Chairman:  Date: 