

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 11 December 2025 at 7.30pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett and I. Nellins.

In Attendance: 2 members of the public were present and 1 member of the public listening to the meeting via Teams.

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

1.FG APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apology:

Councillor R. Aldcroft	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor Mrs. J. Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor I. Nellins	-	Work Commitments

2.FG DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. There were no Pecuniary Interests declared.
- ii. There were no applications for Dispensations under s33 of the Localism Act 2011 received.

3.FG PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman welcomed the secretary from Market Drayton Swimming Club to the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow the member of the public to speak at the meeting.

The secretary said Market Drayton Swimming Club would like support from the Town Council towards buying 6 new competitive diving blocks; the current basic blocks are over 20 years old and are well overdue an upgrade. The blocks give swimmers the advantage to generate maximum speed, power and a streamlined entry into the water, which is crucial for race success.

The majority of the squad are county level, and many have also attended regional and national events, all putting Market Drayton on the map. There are 43 active swimmers, a dedicated coaching team and committee all run on a voluntary basis.

Each competitive starting block costs approximately £1,700, The club have applied for a grant from the Walker Trust and have been successful in securing over £4,000, they have the backing of the Swimming pool who are willing to install them and would like the help

from Market Drayton Town Council to fund the remainder of approximately £4000 to £5,000.

The Chairman said Town Council no longer has a large grants scheme and the funding required does not fit or comply with the CIL policy. He suggested the Secretary write to the Clerk to set up a meeting with himself and the Mayor, and that the Secretary is sent details of the appropriate officer at Shropshire Council who will be able to help identify suitable funding streams.

The Secretary thanked members for their time.

The secretary and a member of the public left the Chamber.

The meeting went back into Standing Orders.

4.FG MINUTES

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

To approve the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 30 October 2025.

5.FG POLICIES

Members considered adopting the two policies as set out in Appendix FG143 and FG144.

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

To approve and adopt the following policies:

- **Information Commissioners Office Model Publication Scheme.**
- **IT Policy.**

6.FG DRAFT BUDGET 2026-2027

Members considered the draft budget for 2026-27 as set out in Appendix FG145.

The Clerk made members aware that no funds have been allocated in the budget to cover the cost of running any services devolved by Shropshire Council.

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

To approve the draft Budget for 2026-2027 of £794,460.

7.FG FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix FG146.

The Chairman asked if members had any questions they would like to make.

There were no questions asked.

Councillor Adcock proposed, Councillor Blandford seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the income and expenditure report for 1 October 2025 – 30 November 2025.

8.FG CORRESPONDENCE

Members considered correspondence from Shropshire Council relating to Expression of interest: Shropshire School Library Service as set out in Appendix FG146a.

After a brief discussion:

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

To submit an expression an interest to Shropshire Council regarding Shropshire School Library Services requesting more information.

9.FG EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Adcock 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.

10.FG CHAMBER HIRE

Members considered the hire agreement for the chamber for a 6-month period starting 5 January 2026 as set out in appendix FG147.

After a discussion:

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

To agree to sign the hire agreement for the chamber for a 6-month period starting 5 January 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8.01 p.m.

Signed:

Date: ..12/2/26.....