

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 27 January 2022 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Councillors: A. Allen, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, T. Manton, I. Nellins, M Smith, and M Whittle (Chairman).

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, G. Chevins and R. Hughes.

2 members of the public were present and 2 members of the public listening to the meeting via Teams.

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

1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor Aldcroft	-	Meeting at Shropshire Council
Councillor Chevins	-	Holiday
Councillor Hughes	-	Poorly

2.SF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public had requested to speak

Councillor Allen proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To suspend Standing Orders.

The resident spoke about:

- The damage caused to the round rope swing on Longlands Play area which has been taken down.
- She asked for an update on the buildings within town that are in disrepair. she has spoken about the issues in previous meetings, and nothing has been done about them.
- She requested Town Council write to Shropshire Council stating the bad state of repair of the buildings as the owners have a duty of care to the tenants.
- Seven Trent paid £1.5 million, and Thames Water paid £9 million in fines for allowing sewage to go into rivers; the problem should be rectified, companies should not be allowed to just pay the fines.

Councillor Nellins said there is a meeting scheduled for 8 February to discuss the state of repairs to some buildings within the town.

The meeting went back into committee.

4.SF MINUTES

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

To agree and confirm the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 4 November 2021.

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

To agree and confirm the minutes of an Extra Ordinary Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 2 December 2021.

5.SF NEWPORT ROAD TOILETS

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

- i) The swimming pool area on Newport Road is owned by Shropshire Council. There are several leases/agreements that cover the area as set out below:
- The public toilet block and skatepark area is leased to the Town Council.
 - The picnic area the other side of the river has been dedicated as a public playing field and recreational ground through an agreement between Shropshire Council and The National Fields Association, operating as Fields in Trust, which was signed on 8 November 2012.
 - The swimming pool area is subject to English Sports Council agreement signed in 2013.

Members **NOTED** the ownership of the picnic area, toilet block, skatepark and swimming pool area.

- ii) Members discussed the future use of the empty toilet blocks on Newport Road. Shropshire Council have said they will consider a change of lease; any proposals for the future use will need to be formally submitted to them in detail. It was agreed that the current multi use toilet would remain open.

Councillor Whittle proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To advertise for expressions of interest from local organisations/businesses outlining proposals for the future use of the unused toilet sections at Newport Road.

All internal costs are to be met by the proposer not the Town Council.

A separate quote to be obtained to update the two toilet facilities.

Any expressions of interest to be reported back to members.

6.SF TOWERS LAWN TOILETS

The Chairman asked members to consider updating the public toilet block at Towers Lawn; they have had no money spent on them recently and Council need to ensure they are compliant with health and safety legislation.

Members discussed the degrees of refurbishments,

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

To set up a Working Group to explore the cost of refurbishing Towers Lawn public toilets to three different standards.

The Working Group to be made up of Councillors: Allen, Whittle, Manton. Councillors who are not at the meeting to be asked if they would like to be on the group.

All reports to be brought back to a future meeting for discussion.

7.SF WELCOME BACK FUND

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

Shropshire Council was successful in its application to the Government's Welcome Back Fund to support towns to encourage the public back to High Streets post covid. £20,444 has been allocated to Market Drayton towards Town Centre public realm improvements and Christmas Events.

An update on projects being funded was provided.

The deep clean of High Street and Cheshire Street and the jet washing of the Costa Alleyway and Square on High Street is arranged for 25th January 2022. The date for painting and repair of all Street furniture, installing new bike racks and repairing the finger posts has not been confirmed.

The small Christmas trees and lights were purchased from the fund. Two new planters for Queen Street and a new planter for High Street and twenty additional hanging baskets have been ordered.

Shropshire Council has given provisional permission for benches to be installed on Queen Street; subject to the exact locations being agreed.

Members **NOTED** the Clerks report.

The next phase is to have banners installed on lampposts within the town. Some draft designs were circulated; it was agreed that additional designs need to be obtained to provide a choice. As soon as the designs are available, they are to be taken to the next meeting as there is limited time to spend the funding.

The proposed locations for the banners were discussed. Once the locations have been agreed the lampposts will be inspected by Shropshire Council to ensure they will carry the weight of the banner.

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

To agree the proposed locations for banners to be installed on lamp posts on Queen Street and Towers Lawn car parks and on Frogmore Road.

To agree the banner designs at a later date.

8.SF GREENFIELDS SPORTS GROUND

Councillor Nellins made members aware he has attended a meeting with Greenfields Association. There has been a delay in the relocation of the sports facility due to a funding shortfall. The current location has a number of large improvements that require work such as flood lighting needs to be refurbished, the netball pitches need work done to them to ensure the sports can still go ahead etc.

Members agreed Greenfields is very well attended and they should support this facility in any way they can.

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

To write to Shropshire Council to request they make the relocation of Greenfields a priority.

Councillor Chapman and Nellins to help write the letter along with the Clerk.

9.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION

The following updates were **NOTED:**

Festival of Lights

The event was a great success. There were over forty stalls and a variety of entertainment performed throughout the day.

Councillor Manton personally thanked all the Town Council staff for making the event an immense success and wanted his comments **NOTED.**

Christmas Lights

- The change in lights on the LED tree and the small Christmas trees on Cheshire Street and Queen street received positive comments.

- There was an issue with the tree lights on Cheshire Street as the batteries did not last very long, this issue will be rectified for next year.
- The projector which was ordered for outside the library area was not erected due to issues with the supplier.

Shop Window and Residents Competition

- There was a good level of entries from Shops and a limited number of entries from residents.
- The standard of entry was very high and prizes were awarded by the Mayor.

The Zone

- The position of Community Worker/Community Centre Manager is currently being advertised.
- The Zone building has been closed during January for general maintenance and to upgrade the security.
- The Councillor Working Group are meeting with a representative from the lottery to look at future options for the running of the Zone.

Councillor Chapman updated members about a meeting with The Zone Community Group. The meeting went well and was well attended. A short time after the meeting the Clerk received a letter from the Community Group declaring that they no longer wanted to be affiliated to the Town Council or the Lottery.

Councillor Allen asked who was running The Zone.

Councillor Chapman said the centre has been closed for a few weeks to make the improvements, the Clerk is running the facility temporarily until a new manager is appointed.

Recreation Areas

- The tender for Croft Way Play Area has been advertised.
- The closing date for tenders is the 31 January 2022.
- The next stage is to consult with residents on the designs.
- Resident's comments and details of the tender documents will be presented to the meeting on the 10 March 2022.
- The tender for Dalelands will be advertised in the spring for installation in September 2022

Tree Survey

- A survey of the trees on the cemetery and all parks is being undertaken.
- The report will be presented to committee along with quotes for any necessary work.

The meeting concluded at 8¹⁹ pm.

Chairman:

M Whittle

Date:

10/3/2022