

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
held at The Starmer Meeting Room, The Parish Rooms, Church Street, Market Drayton on
Thursday 12 February 2026 at 7.30pm.**

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

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

In Attendance: 1 member of the public were present and 3 members 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. Adcock	-	Work Commitments
Councillor Mrs. J. Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor J. Blandford	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor R. Hughes	-	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

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

4.FG MINUTES

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

To approve the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 11 December 2025.

5.FG POLICIES

Members considered adopting the three policies as set out in Appendix FG167, FG168 and FG169.

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Glover seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To approve and adopt the following policies:

- Pensions Discretionary Policy
- Health and Safety General Policy Statement.
- Health and Safety Policy Procedures.

6.FG ERMARKED RESERVES 2026/27

Members considered the draft Earmarked reserves for 2026-27 as set out in Appendix FG170.

The Chairman asked if members would like to make any comments.

Councillor Manton asked why the amount under Regalia had increased.

The Clerk said there is engraving to do on the Mayors chain; moving unspent money from budget into Earmarked Reserves will enable this to happen.

Councillor Manton asked about the finances to upgrade the Town Park next year.

The Clerk said there is money in budget, allocated from CIL Neighbourhood Fund and Earmarked Reserves to fund the project.

Councillor Cartwright said there is no money in Public Toilets Maintenance.

The Clerk said all the public toilet projects should be completed by the end of the financial year; there is money in budget for any maintenance work needed at the public toilets.

Councillor Cartwright said there is no heading for the Chapel and Mortuary hire.

The Clerk said this goes into budget; there is money in Earmarked Reserves to upgrade the pathways at the cemetery.

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

To approve in principle the following draft Earmarked Reserves for 2026/27.

Code	Description	Proposed value for 2026-2027 £
319	Replacement Bowser	2,750.00
320	Election Fund	25,000.00
330	Cemetery Maintenance	35,000.00
334	Rec Ground	29,000.00
335	Vehicle Replacement Fund	41,000.00
338	Regalia	5,000.00
340	CCTV	8,000.00
345	Cemetery Equipment/Mower	26,500.00
347	CIL Neighbourhood Fund	107,164.72
349	Street Lighting	6,500.00
351	Farm Welfare Storage	3,000.00
354	Cemetery Land	50,000.00
NEW	Christmas Lights	1,075.00

7.FG SHROPSHIRE SCHOOL LIBRARY SERVICE

Documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix FG171.

- i. Members **NOTED** the additional information from the Shropshire School Library service.
- ii. Members discussed whether to continue with the expression of interest to Shropshire School Library service.

After a brief discussion:

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

To not continue with the expression of interest to Shropshire School Library Service.

8.FG FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix FG172.

There were no questions asked.

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

To agree the income and expenditure report for 1 December 2025 – 31 January 2026.

9.FG UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Members **NOTED** the following updates and information:

- i. Financial Regulations Section 2.6; the monthly bank reconciliations have been signed off.
- ii. The end of year accounts will be closed down on 21 April 2026.

10.FG EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Groves proposed, Councillor Manton 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 Teams live streaming was stopped and ended.

The member of public left the meeting.

11.FG SMALL GRANTS

Members considered the small grant applications as set out in appendix FG173.

Creative Drayton

After a short discussion:

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

To award a Small Grant of £300 to Creative Drayton.

North Salop Wheelers Community Bus.

After a short discussion:

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

To award a Small Grant of £500 to North Salop Wheelers Community Bus.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 p.m.

Signed: 

Date: 