

**Market Drayton Town Council**

**Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting  
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R. Aldcroft, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, P. Glover, W. Love, T. Manton (Chairman), I. Nellins and A. Sanderson.

**ABSENT:** Councillors: Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, G. Groves, and R. Hughes.

1 member of the public was present and 0 members of the public listening Teams.

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

**1.SF APOLOGIES**

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor R. Hughes - Prior Appointment

**2.SF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS**

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

**3.SF PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**To suspend Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak at the meeting.**

Mrs. Grundy spoke about the following points:

- Byelaws - Requested Town Council organise Byelaws to ensure rented properties are kept in a good state of repair.
- Towers Lawn Toilets – She is aware the Town Council are considering renovating the toilets. She suggested having a full-time cleaner in the building to ensure they are kept clean; there is currently mildew under the hand dryers in the ladies toilets.
- Newport Road Toilets – These toilets are currently closed; The Hikers regularly use the toilets when open and Shropshire Council are spending a lot of money on tourism to encourage people to visit the town; she asked for the toilets to be reopened.
- Trees – There has been a newly planted Chestnut tree in the grass verge in front of a newly built house on Longslow Road; further up the road there is a tree causing a lot of destruction in the road due to its roots and had concerns this tree would encounter the same issues.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Grundy for attending and speaking at the meeting.

The Chairman said the Town Council has a Working Group looking into the possible refurbishment of Towers Lawn toilets; there is an agenda item coming up to discuss this further.

Town Council has spent a lot of time and money to improve tourism in the town; recently becoming a member of Visit Shropshire which is an online facility to promote the town.

The **Meeting went back into Standing Orders.**

#### 4.SF MINUTES

Councillor Glover proposed, Councillor Chapman seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 4 abstentions:

**To agree and confirm the minutes of a Service and Facilities Committee meeting held on 21 March 2024.**

#### 5.SF STREET LIGHTS

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

Members considered a Street Lighting Maintenance contract quote.

The Clerk said the opportunity to quote was advertised on the Town Council's website and Facebook page and sent direct to two companies, only one of which quoted. She also asked other local town councils who they use for their street light maintenance with a view to contacting their providers; they all used the company which has provided a quote.

The company who has quoted currently carries out work repair work for the Town Council but only on an ad hoc basis.

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

**To accept a three year Street Lighting Maintenance Contract for 2024 – 2027 as per the quote.**

#### 6.SF TOWERS LAWN TOILETS

The Chairman informed members that a meeting of the Working Group took place this week. They met on site with a contractor and discussed the possibly having three or four single use toilets. The specification for each individual toilet has not been decided; discussions were around having male and female toilets, some of which would be disability compliant, similar to the public toilets at The Town Hall.

It is currently proposed that the left and middle of the building will accommodate the toilets with a store at the back leaving space to the right of the building for a possible phase two of the works.

The Working Group have arranged to visit Nantwich to visit a recently refurbished toilet block; the next meeting is scheduled on 14 June to discuss further and to draw up an official tender document.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions members would like to make,

Councillor Chapman asked that the Working Group do not miss an opportunity with the remaining building; this could be a good opportunity to utilise the space with The Grove School so that they can gain some practical training skills.

The Chairman said he will take Councillor Chapman's comments on board.

## **7.SF BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

Members were asked to work towards achieving objectives 1 – 4 of the Biodiversity Policy Action Plan and were given examples to achieve this.

Councillor Sanderson left the Chamber.

Members discussed the proposed action plan and thought it would enhance the town.

Councillor Sanderson entered the Chamber and re-joined the meeting.

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

**To agree to work towards achieving objectives 1 – 4 of the Biodiversity Policy Action Plan by implementing the following:**

- **To agree to install bat boxes and bird boxes; create a compost area for wildlife and leave an area un-mowed at the cemetery.**
- **To agree to install bird boxes on a selection of recreation areas.**
- **To agree to leave sections of Croft Way, Town Park, Grotto Road, and Forest Road recreation areas un-mowed and scatter wildflower seeds/plant plugs to increase diversity of habitats and food sources.**
- **To install appropriate signage at all locations**
- **To promote actions on face book and website**

## **8.SF PERMSSIONS**

- i. Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded, and it was **RESOLVED**:

To support the request from Ginger and Spice Festival to use Town Councils Premises Licence on Saturday 28 September 2024.

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

- ii. To Support the request from Market Drayton Carnival to use Town Councils Premises Licence on Saturday 20 July 2024.
- iii. To Support the request from Market Drayton Carnival to use the Town Park for the Carnival on Saturday 20 July 2024 subject to suitable Risk Assessments being submitted to the Clerk.

#### 9.SF WORKING GROUPS

Members **NOTED** the membership of the following Working Groups which report to this committee:

Play Areas	Cllrs: Aldcroft, Chapman, Manton
The Zone	Cllrs: Aldcroft, Hughes
Newport Road Toilets	Cllrs: Chapman, Hughes, Love
Towers Lawn Toilets	Cllrs: Aldcroft, Glover, Love, Manton, Sanderson

#### 10.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION

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

- The new fence has been installed on Croft Way Play Area.
- It was resolved on the 5 October 2023 to upgrade the play equipment on Grotto Road; £50,000 Neighbourhood fund was allocated for the project. The Working group will be meeting to progress this.

Councillor Chapman said the installation of the fence has not reduced the amount of dog mess on Croft Way Play Area.

The Clerk said new legislation has recently come in force which excludes dogs from fenced play areas. New signage will be put once the correct wording has been proved by at Shropshire Council.

#### 11.SF EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Aldcroft proposed, Councillor Chapman 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.**

A member of the public left the Chamber.

**12.SF THE CEMETERY CHAPEL AND MORTUARY**

The Chairman said the Town Council are now in receipt of a property survey valuation on the cemetery chapel and mortuary; the suggested rental value is £500 per year more than what has been offered for both properties.

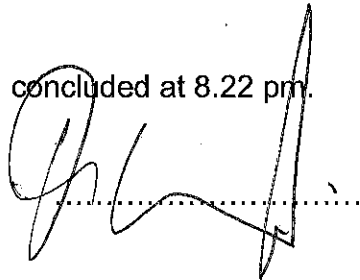
Before a lease can be agreed work needs to be carried out on the Chapels leaded windows; appointments have been arranged with specialists to quote for this work, updates on this will be presented at the next meeting.

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

**That the Chair and Clerk progress with the new lease for the mortuary and chapel building at the rental value provided by the surveyor.**

The meeting concluded at 8.22 pm.

Chairman: .....



Date: .....

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024