

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 27 November 2025 at 7.30pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Blandford and R. Hughes.

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

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

1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor J. Blandford	-	Prior Arrangement
Councillor R. Hughes	-	Prior Arrangement

2.SF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS

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

3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had requested to speak.

4.SF MINUTES

Councillor Glover proposed, Councillor Aldcroft seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 2 abstentions:

To agree and confirm the minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025.

5.SF YOUTH PROVISION

Members considered continuing to pay Shropshire Youth Association to provide two weekly, term time youth clubs sessions for juniors and seniors for 2026/27 as set out in Appendix SF137.

Members agreed SYA offer a great facility for the children of Market Drayton, which is well attended.

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

Minutes of an Extraordinary Services & Facilities Committee Meeting on 27 November 2025 Initial:

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To continue to pay Shropshire Youth Association to provide two weekly, term time youth sessions for 2026/27, without trips, at a cost of £22,560 including room hire.

6.SF STREET LIGHT UPGRADE

- i. Members **NOTED** the streetlight inspection report as set out in Appendix SF138.
- ii. Members considered a rolling programme to replace the concrete columns and repair other columns; approximately 30 per year over the next three years and to increase the Street Lighting General Maintenance budget by £12,000 to cover the costs.

After a brief discussion:

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

To agree a rolling programme to replace the concrete columns and repair other columns; approximately 30 per year over the next three years and to increase the Street Lighting General Maintenance budget 2026-27 by £12,000.

7.FG PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

Members considered budgeting up to £5,000 for a computerised playground inspection recording system. This amount would include the setting up of the system and training. It is anticipated that the ongoing annual cost would be in the region of £1,650 per annum.

After an in-depth conversation:

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

- **To agree to put £5,000 into the 2026/27 budget for a computerised playground inspection recording system.**
- **More details of the computerised system to be brought back to a future meeting.**

8.SF TOWERS LAWN TOILETS

The Chairman said the refurbishment work is progressing well at the Towers Lawn Public toilets. The contractors are very professional, work to an exceedingly high standard and the works are on target to completed on time.

9.SF DRAFT SERVICES AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET 2026-27

Members considered the draft Services and Facilities Committee budget for 2026-27 as set out in Appendix SF139.

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

Councillor Adcock asked if £40,000 set aside to upgrade the Town Park would be enough.

The Chairman said members could also look at using CIL money towards improving the Town Park.

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

To approve the draft Services and Facilities Committee budget for 2026-27 of £470,025.

10.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION

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

- i. The slide unit on Longlands play area has been removed.
- ii. The light has been installed by the skatepark.
- iii. The Festival of Lights event was held on the 15 November and was a huge success again this year.

The Chairman said the Festival of Lights Event was fantastic again this year, the town had a lovely atmosphere and was well supported; an event that the Town Council should be enormously proud of. He thanked the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Administrator for doing all the organising on top of their normal day to day jobs, the outside staff for all their continued support, Councillor Glover for his fantastic role of playing the Gingerbread Man and the Town Crier for helping throughout the day.

11.SF EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

Councillor Aldcroft 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.

12.SF GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT 2026-2028.

Members considered the tenders received for the Grass Cutting Contract as set out in Appendix SF140.

A discussion was had on each of the eight tenders received for the grass cutting contract.

After an in-depth discussion:

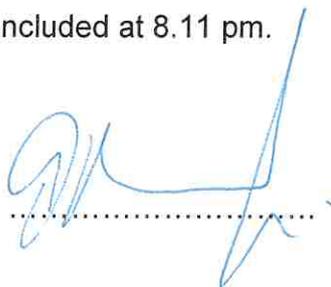
Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Glover seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

That subject to satisfactory clarification on documentation provided, to award the tender to contractor number six for the grass cutting contract 2026-28 at a price of £27,778 over the three-year period, based on the cutting schedule. This figure may increase if additional cuts are required.

If contractor number six does provide suitable clarification as requested to award the tender to contractor number five for the grass cutting contract for 2026-28 at a cost of £56,505 over three years.

The meeting concluded at 8.11 pm.

Chairman:



Date:

27-01-26