

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting
held at The Starmer Room at the Parish Rooms, Church Street, Market Drayton, on
Thursday 29 January 2026 at 7.30pm.**

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

ABSENT: Councillors: G. Groves and R. Hughes.

0 members of the public were present and 3 members 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 G. Groves	-	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 Sharp seconded and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree and confirm the minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 27 November 2025.

5.SF CEMETERY HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Members considered the four quotes obtained to reduce the hedge along the cemetery boundary with the school as set out in Appendix SF160.

After a brief discussion:

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

To accept Quote D at a cost of £1,700 to reduce the width of the hedge along the cemetery boundary with the school, retain five/six trees and reduce the height of everything else to the height of the school fence.

To be paid from the cemetery maintenance within budget.

6.SF FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

- i. Members considered setting the date for the Festival of Lights Event 2026 bearing in mind the Artisan Market will be held on 14 November 2026.

After a brief discussion:

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

To agree to hold the Festival of Lights Event on Saturday 14 November 2026.

- ii. Members considered the quotes obtained for the supply and erection of market stalls and lights at the event as set out in Appendix SF161.

After a brief discussion:

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

To accept the quote from Bescot to provide 50 x 10ft gazebos, and 1 x 15ft gazebo, including tables, back sheets and lighting for the Festival of Lights Event in 2026 – 2028 at a cost of £3,809 with no price increase.

- iii. Members considered the hire charges for stall holders; the current charges are £35 for a stall and £40 for a catering stall.

After a brief discussion:

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

To agree the hire charges for stall holders at the Festival of Lights to be:

£40	-	For a regular stall
£60	-	For a catering stall

7.FG TOWERS LAWN TOILETS

The Chairman reported that there have been a few minor snagging issues at the toilets; these are now being put right and the facilities will be open soon.

8.SF PROJECTS

Members considered allocating £30k towards upgrading the Street Lights and £50K towards upgrading the Town Park from CIL Neighbourhood Fund within Earmarked Reserves for future projects.

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

To allocate the following money from CIL Neighbourhood Fund within Earmarked Reserves for future projects:

£30,000	-	towards upgrading the Street Lights
£50,000	-	towards upgrading the Town Park

9.SF YOUTH PROVISION

Documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix SF162.

Members were delighted to read the variety of activities carried out over both sessions and that the attendance numbers are high.

Members **NOTED** the Autumn 2025 term monitoring and evaluation reports for the Junior and Senior Youth Clubs from Shropshire Youth Association.

10.SF EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Councillor Aldcroft 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.

Live streaming was turned off.

11.SF CEMETERY CHAPEL AND MORTUARY LEASE

The Cemetery Chapel and Mortuary Lease was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix FG163.

After an in-depth discussion:

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

The lease was agreed in principle. There are three outstanding issues: delegated powers given to the Clerk to agree the final version of the Cemetery Chapel and Mortuary Lease.

12.SF ASSET TRANSFER

Documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix FG164.

Members considered a request regarding asset transfer.

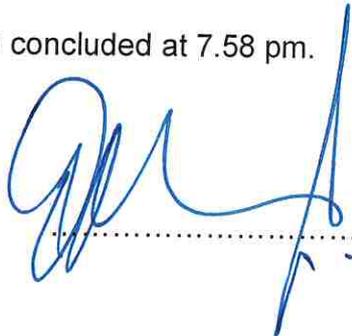
After an in-depth discussion:

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

To decline the request regarding the asset transfer.

The meeting concluded at 7.58 pm.

Chairman:



Date:

12-03-26

