

**Market Drayton Town Council**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Services and Facilities Committee held on  
4 November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

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

**2 members of the public were present and 3 members of the public listening to the  
meeting via Teams.**

**Present:** Town Clerk

**1.SF APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Aldcroft and Hughes due to illness and Councillor Nellins due to work commitments

**2.SF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Councillor Chevins declared an interest in agenda item 6.SF.

**3.SF PUBLIC SESSION**

A member of the public had requested to speak

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

**To suspend Standing Orders.**

The resident spoke about:

- Housing Plans. She asked why Shropshire Council are not installing electrical charting points in new housing developments and why they are not forward thinking in relation to climate change.
  - Infrastructure. She said the infrastructure in the town is abysmal. Organisations will not take responsibility for flooding/draining issues in the town. New electric was put in for the business park, she asked where it was coming from and if there was enough for everyone.
  - She said the old B&M building by Frogmore Road carpark and the old Sewing Box on Shropshire Street are both suffering from neglect from landlords. She requested that Shropshire Council make owners repairs their properties.
  - Drains and potholes in the town need fixing
  - Rubbish – she is concerned about the amount of rubbish in the hedgerows by the Mencap building and asked for the area to be cleaned.
- MW*

Councillor Smith said that the Town does not have a good supply of power and with the introduction of electrical charging points a substation twice the size of the current station would be required to deal with additional demand.

Councillor Whittle suggested that power provision be included on a future agenda.

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 21 October 2021.**

#### 5.SF WELCOME BACK FUND

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chairman said Shropshire Council was successful in its application to the Government's Welcome Back Fund for funding to support towns to welcome 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.

Council previously agreed the work they would like undertaken in the town which included, painting of street furniture, installing banners and a deep clean of Cheshire Street.

The Chair said Councillor Aldcroft requested a discussion about putting additional planters and benches on Cheshire Street. The Clerk said permission would be needed from Shropshire Council as the street is still classed as a highway.

Councillor Chapman said the main access to Queen Street is through the barriers by the carpark, he expressed concerned that the street gets narrow as it goes towards high street, therefore putting in additional flower displays and seats would restrict access.

Councillor Allen suggested that any new litter bins installed should be sturdy cast iron bins.

After a short discussion it was agreed to progress with the installation of benches if approval could be obtained from Shropshire Council.

The Chair said the funding must be spent and claimed from Shropshire Council by the end of March 2022.

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

*MW*

**To give delegated authority to the Clerk and Chair of Services and Facilities Committee to progress with organising the agreed work and ordering of equipment to ensure the £20,444 budget is spent.**

#### **6.SF NEWPORT ROAD TOILETS**

Councillor Chevins left the room.

Information was circulated prior to the meeting

The Chair said the Clerk has investigated ownership of the toilet block and it is currently leased from Shropshire Council. The lease states:

'The Town Council hereby covenants with the Council that they will:

- use and maintain the land for the purposes of a skatepark and public conveniences only.'

Councillor Smith said that the area has been discussed previously and that the area was given to Market Drayton by a Miss Onions; the area includes the whole picnic area, the toilet block, skatepark, car park and swimming baths area. He said he has done a lot of work regarding ownership of the area and that Fields in trust are responsible for it; they use Shropshire Council to manage the area. He said that about three years ago Shropshire Council asked the Town Council if they were interested in taking on responsibility for the area, and that council were going to write to Shropshire Council to get details of how much it costs to maintain the area.

He said he is concerned that Fields in Trust seem to be in the background; Shropshire Council manage the area for them and it looks like we are asking to change something that Shropshire Council haven't got control over. Councillor Smith said he had a lot of information regarding the issue which he would share with the Clerk.

The Clerk said she believed it is only the picnic area that is protected by Fields in trust; she said she would make the necessary enquiries regarding ownership of the land.

Councillor Chapman said regardless of ownership Council may still be restrained as to the future use of the toilet block, it is important to report back on what action we can take as the building is in poor repair; should we update the toilets or should they be returned to Shropshire Council.

The Chair said that the toilets are well used and should remain open.

The report was **NOTED**. The Clerk to report back at the next meeting.

Councillor Allen left the meeting due to work commitments.



## 7.SF QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

Councillor Chevins re-joined the meeting.

The Chair said the item is to consider two requests to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

He said the first request is from a member of the public wishes to purchase and install memorial benches on the recreation areas.

The Clerk said where the benches are installed is at the discretion of the Town Council; if permission is given for Benches on Queen Street they could be installed there.

A short conversation took place regarding the number of benches, who would pay for the installation, where they would be located and future maintenance costs.

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor Smith seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with one vote against.

**To accept the residents offer on the condition they provide the money for Council to purchase benches and towards maintenance; Council to decide the style of the benches, where they are to be located and how they will be installed and maintained.**

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair said the second request is from Market Drayton Royal Navy Association to plant a tree and have a small memorial garden on the Town Park. The plot where they would like to plant the tree is in the top left hand corner, in the middle circle where plants were previously planted; an area of approximately 4mts diameter

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

**To give permission to Market Drayton Royal Navy Association to plant a tree and have a small memorial garden on the Town Park in the top left hand corner of the town park as detailed above.**

## 8.SF RECREATION AREAS

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Chapman updated members on the findings of the working group. He said that repairs to equipment have been arranged as a result of the Rospa Inspection and the repair/replacement of the two rockers on the Town Park is continuing.

The first proposal from the working group was to install a new piece of play equipment on Westland Road play area for children aged 6-8 years from within the

current budget. He said that conversations have taken place with residents in the area regarding the preferred style of equipment.

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

**To install a new piece of equipment on Westland Road Play area from within budget.**

Councillor Chapman said the second proposal was to go out to tender to upgrade and extend the play area at Croft Way and install new metal fencing.

Councillor Chapman said the expression of interest for £50,000 funding from CIL Local has been accepted by Shropshire Council toward this project and a decision notice issued. The decision notice is the approval to fund subject to the completion of the technical check form; the form has been completed and will be submitted to Shropshire Council along with the successful tender document.

Council previously agreed to match fund £10,000. The Clerk asked members to agree which budget the £10,000 will be taken from.

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

**To go out to tender to upgrade and extend Croft Way Play area and install new metal fencing with a budget of £60,000.**

**The £10,000 match funding to be taken from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund.**

Councillor Chapman said the next proposal is to upgrade Dalelands Play area and install new Metal fencing. He said there is £51,918 funding available towards the project; he asked council to consider allocating £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to make the overall project total £101,918.

He said the tender would be for toddler, junior and senior play equipment and two pieces of equipment with disabled access.

Councillor Manton said in addition to the requirement for disabled equipment he would like some sensory equipment provided.

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

**To go out to tender for the upgrade of Dalelands Play area with a budget of £101,918.**

**To allocate £50,000 from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund and £51,918 S106 funding for the project.**

Councillor Chevins recommended that the cycle path is not kept as it is not used.

Councillor Chapman said the next play area to be considered for an upgrade would be Grotto Road.

## 9.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION

The following updates were **NOTED**:

The Zone – A meeting has taken place between the working group and the residents group. Agreement was reached to progress with the recruitment of a new manager for the Zone and set up a Trust.

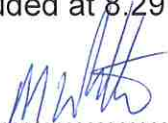
Planters on Queen Street – the planters are installed.

### Christmas Activities

- New lights have been ordered as agreed at the meeting on 23 September. Small Christmas Trees are being put up on Cheshire Street and Queen Street.
- Festival of Lights is on the 20th November. Entertainment has been arranged for the event and over 40 stalls have booked.
- The Shop Christmas Lights Competition and Residents Competition have been publicised.

The meeting concluded at 8.29 pm.

Chairman: .....



Date: .....

