


Council Meeting	 Market Drayton Town Council
Agenda Item: 7.C Market Drayton Messenger	
Date: 30 June 2022	
Appendix : C29	

Background

The Market Drayton Messenger is produced 3 times a year. Town Council currently pay £7,000 annually towards its production which is currently organized by Hamish Armytage trading as Drayton Works.

The Town Council has paid towards the production of the Market Drayton Messenger since 2013.

Request from Hamish Armytage

'A plan is in place to transfer financial responsibility for *The Drayton Messenger* from myself (Hamish) to the Market Drayton Trader's Association. Operational responsibility will also pass to the Trader's Association but continuing operational support will be available from me, and from my colleague, who is playing an increasingly important role in the Messenger production.

The reason for the proposed transfer of responsibility lies mainly with my own plans for retirement, and the fact that after 9 years of involvement with it, I feel a need to step back from the cycle of production.

The transfer will entail advertiser accounts being transferred from me to the Trader's Association - responsibility for invoicing will then lie with the Association, as will the responsibility to pay for printing. The Town Council subsidy should also be collected by the Trader's Association (after deduction for distribution charges by Royal Mail).

The Town Council, The Traders Association and my colleague can be assured of my support on the operational level whilst the transfer takes place on the run up to the October edition.

My understanding is that a Town Council resolution must be in place agreeing for the funding to be paid to Market Drayton Traders before the transfer of responsibility can officially proceed, and that the matter will be put to Councillors at a meeting in June. Subject to the resolution being passed, it is intended that the transfer becomes effective once the July issue has been issued and the final batch of invoices to advertisers and to the Town Council for the subsidy component; all relating to the July 2022 issue, have been raised.

There is no financial benefit, or reward (save more spare time) to me as a consequence of the proposed arrangement.'

To Consider

Members to consider transferring payment, for the production of the Market Drayton Messenger, from Market Drayton Works to Market Drayton Traders Association.