

Market Drayton Town Council**Minutes of a Services and Facilities Committee Meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 28 July 2022 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft (Chairman), B. Chapman, G. Chevins, T. Manton, I. Nellins, N. Roberts, and M Whittle.

ABSENT: Councillors: A. Allen, G Chevins, M. Erwin, R. Hughes.

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

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

1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor A. Allen	-	Prior arrangement
Councillor G. Chevins	-	Prior arrangement
Councillor M. Erwin	-	Prior appointment
Councillor R. Hughes	-	Prior arrangement

2.SF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public had requested to speak.

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

To suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

The first resident spoke about the following issues:

- installation of a high fence around the perimeter of her property, which is next to the town park, to stop balls hitting her solar panels.
- teenagers playing football on the town park during unsociable hours
- the poor management of the swimming pool in the Town; she asked why Whitchurch and Shrewsbury pools were being prioritized over Market Drayton
- the poor condition of litter bins by the library
- Activities for children with special needs being held at the Zone; she said the Mencap building would be more suitable.

Councillor Nellins replied that the Town has a swimming pool in good condition. The Pool at Whitchurch has been closed since covid and there are issues with the Shrewsbury Pool.

The Chair replied that The Zone is suitable for children with educational needs and is being used by other groups.

The Chair thanked the resident for her comments.

A second member of the public, a resident of Manor Gardens, spoke about the antisocial behavior on the Town Park and the removal of the picnic benches. He asked members to consider not relocating the picnic benches closer to Manor Gardens as it would move the antisocial closer to residents on that side of the park. He also said that when he first moved into Manor Gardens the park was locked in an evening and he asked if it would be possible for the park to be locked again.

The Chair thanked the resident for speaking and said the Antisocial behavior and location of the picnic benches would be discussed later in the meeting.

The meeting went back into committee.

4.SF MINUTES

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

To agree and confirm the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 26 May 2022.

5.SF ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR - TOWN PARK

The benches on the Town Park have been removed.

Due to levels of antisocial behaviour and complaints from residents members considered delaying the benches being installed by the play area for a period of time to allow the ASB levels to be monitored. The clerk did not have any information relating to the park being locked in an evening as mentioned by a resident earlier in the meeting.

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

To reconsider relocating the picnic benches in 6 months' time, during which time the level of antisocial behaviour to be monitored.

The Clerk to make enquiries regarding the locking of the park and report back.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

6.SF DALELANDS PLAY AREA

Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

- i. The chair explained that the responses to a recent survey about the improvements on Dalelands Play Area were in support of keeping the bike track. In light of this information, he asked members to re-consider the decision to remove the bike track.

Councillor Chapman said that phase one of the improvements to Dalelands Play area is to flatten and level off the mound, cover the bike track and install new fencing and gates. This could be altered and a hybrid option of flattening the mound and spreading the spoil over a smaller area, or taking some of the spoil away, could be considered. The result would be a levelled multi use area where goal posts would be situated, and the bike track being kept.

Councillor Manton suggested the bike track be kept and upgraded to include road markings to help raise awareness of road safety.

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

To keep the bike track on Dalelands Play Area.

- ii. Members considered the tenders received for phase one of the Dalelands Play Area Improvements. Information was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Chair said there was a significant difference price in tenders received.

As a result of the decision to keep the bike track on the play area there will need to be negotiations with the contractor over the work to be undertaken.

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

To accept tender B at a cost of £37,954.68.

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

To give delegated powers to negotiate the change in contract to the Chair and Town Clerk.

7.SF THE EXTREME TOUR

Councillor Whittle left the room.

The Methodist Church are organising events with The Extreme Tour this year and have requested permission to use the Skatepark area, The Zone and Fairfields playing field.

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

To give the Methodist Church permission to hold the following events:

- i. **Saturday 3rd September (early evening) - Music at the Skatepark.**
- ii. **Sunday 4th September (afternoon) - a small music festival at The Zone and Fairfields Play Area.**

Councillor Whittle re-joined the meeting.

8.SF SKATEPARK

Members considered holding skateboard/scooter events this year.

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

- i. **To organise a skateboard/scooter event at the Skatepark on the evening of the 3 August to complement the Extreme Tour Event.**
- ii. **To organise a skateboarding/scooter event during the school holidays.**

9.SF FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

- i. Members considered stall hire charges for the Festival of Lights on 19th November 2022.

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

To charge £30 per 10ft x10ft stall for general stalls and £35 per 10ft x 10ft pitch for Catering Vehicles.

- ii. Members considered purchasing new Christmas Lights. Councillor Nellins said the Festival of Lights is the largest event organised by the Town Council and adding new lights each year enhances the event.

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

To give delegated powers to the Clerk and Chair to purchase new lights for the Festival of Lights and to spend up to £3,000 from Earmarked Reserves if needed.

10.SF IN BLOOM

Members consider awarding a £20 gift voucher as first prize for each category.

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

To award £20 gift vouch as first prize for each In Bloom Competition category

11.SF UPDATES/INFORMATION

Welcome Back Fund – New benches have been installed on Queen Street. The installation of the bike racks by the library are still outstanding.

Croft Way Play Area – Installation will start on 22nd August 2022.

Armed Forces Covenant – to be signed before the Full Council Meeting on 27th October 2022.

Towers Lawn Toilets – the work has been ordered as per the resolution.

Chancel Drive Play area – the play area has been successfully purchased by the Town Council.

Councillor Nellins thanked everyone involved for their hard work, in particular the Assistant Clerk who dealt with the initial enquiries.

The meeting concluded at 8.14pm.

Chairman: Date: