

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting

held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 27 October 2022 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: R. Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, R. Hughes, T. Manton, A. Sanderson, and M. Whittle (Mayor).

ABSENT: Councillors I. Nellins and N. Roberts.

In attendance: 9 members of the public present and 4 members listening via Teams.

Clerks: Sue Thomas, Town Clerk and Kate Harvey, Assistant Clerk.

The Chair announced the meeting was being recorded and live streamed.

1.C APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor I. Nellins	-	Prior arrangement
Councillor N. Roberts	-	Work commitments

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

3.C PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public had expressed a wish to speak at the meeting.

4.C GREENFIELDS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

1 member of the public entered the Chamber.

- i. To receive a presentation from Greenfields Sport Association and Strategic Leisure Ltd on the production of a detailed feasibility study into the improvement of sports provision in the town.

The Chair of Greenfields Sports Association explained that they would like to commission a report from a specialist sports consultant into shortening the timeline of the Greenfields relocation proposal. The report would focus on the findings of the Knight, Kavanagh and Page report and develop capital income generation solutions to mitigate any funding shortfall. He also provided an update on the current condition of Greenfields Sports Ground.

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

To suspend Standing Orders to allow members to ask questions to the Chairman of Greenfields Sports Association Steve Walwyn and Rachel Fowler from Strategic Leisure Ltd.

Councillor Manton said the sporting provisions are woeful and the facilities are an embarrassment to the town. He is confused why Shropshire Council have not seen the move of Greenfields through and asked if the report will be in focus at Shropshire Council?

Rachel said the relocation of Greenfields has been allocated in the Local Plan however there is no money in Shropshire Council's budget for this move because leisure is a discretionary service. She would like to conduct the report to open further potential support to move the club forward.

Councillor Hughes said there is no assurance that the club will be moved for a further five to seven years and currently no one is looking into the potential resources for additional funding.

The meeting went back into Standing Orders.

- ii. To consider a request for a contribution towards funding the study – quoted at £7,000.

Mr Walwyn said the report will cost £10,000 and did not know where the £7,000 figure has come from.

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

- **To pay a £10,000 contribution to Market Drayton Sports Association towards funding a detailed feasibility study into the improvement of sports provision in the town.**
- **Funds to be taken from General Reserves.**

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

To formally write to Shropshire Council to:

- **Reaffirm Town Councils support of the relocation of Greenfields Sports Association facility to go ahead.**
- **Explain the difficulties the Association are currently experiencing.**
- **To request a three-way communication between Shropshire Council, Town Council, and the consultant from Strategic Leisure Ltd.**

Mr. Walwyn thanked members for letting him speak at the meeting.

7 members of the public left the Chamber.

5.C MINUTES

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

To adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 30 June 2022 and Extraordinary Council meeting held on 29 September 2022.

6.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members **NOTED** the Following Mayors events he has attended:

24 June 2022	Entertainment Event for AED Donate
26 June 2022	Bowling Club Event
3 July 2022	Youth Presentation and Enrolment
5 July 2022	High Sheriff of Shropshire Visit
15 July 2022	Guided walk with Market Drayton Rotary Club
17 July 2022	In Bloom Judging
26 July 2022	Twinning Boules Evening
31 July 2022	Rotary Fundraising BBQ
7 August 2022	Mayors Civic Service
13 August 2022	Tunstall Hall Fun Day
21 August 2022	Pezenas Twinning Association BBQ
24 August 2022	Mayor & Mayoress of Telford & Wrekin Civic Service
27 August 2022	Market Drayton Carnival
4 September 2022	Extreme Tour at The Zone
8 September 2022	Annual Reception RAF Shawbury
9 September 2022	Wreath Laid for Queen Elizabeth 11
9 September 2022	Two-minute silence at The Grove School
11 September 2022	Proclamation reading in Shrewsbury with the High Sheriff
11 September 2022	Proclamation reading at Market Drayton
14 September 2022	St. John Ambulance
17 September 2022	Civic service for her late Majesty
18 September 2022	Minute silence at St. Mary's Church
19 September 2022	St. John Ambulance meeting
21 September 2022	In Bloom presentation evening
22 September 2022	Comedy Night at Festival Drayton
23 September 2022	Official Opening of Housing Development
23 September 2022	Judging of Best Dressed Gingerbread Character
24 September 2022	Ginger and Spice Festival
24 September 2022	Walkabout with MP Helen Morgan
24 September 2022	Evening of Jazz and Blues at St. Mary's Church
25 September 2022	Market Drayton Duck Race
1 October 2022	The Little Haberdashery Shop opening
2 October 2022	High Sheriff of Shropshire Afternoon Tea
9 October 2022	Harvest and Civic Service Church Lawton
21 October 2022	Trafalgar Night Dinner at The Royal British Legion

7.C COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee

Councillor Manton proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee held on:

30 June 2022	28 July 2022	1 September 2022
29 September 2022	13 October 2022	

Community and Governance Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee held on:

14 July 2022	29 September 2022
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Services & Facilities Committee

One member of the public left the Chamber.

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

To agree the minutes of the Services & Facilities Committee held on:

Extraordinary on 14 July 2022	28 July 2022	6 October 2022
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One member of public entered the Chamber.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Councillor T. Beckett proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on:

Extraordinary on 30 June 2022	1 September 2022	13 October 2022
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Personnel

Councillor Erwin proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 3 abstentions:

To agree the minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 6 October 2022

8.C EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which will involve the 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.

9.C COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting and the Mayor read out the relevant section of the co-option policy.

There were two candidates for the councillor vacancy. Each candidate returned to the chamber in turn and gave a presentation about themselves and explained why they would like to become a councillor.

Once all the candidates had spoken members discussed each one in turn.

Councillor T. Beckett proposed, Councillor Whittle seconded, with 4 votes for and 4 votes against the Mayor used his casting vote and it was **RESOLVED:**

To co-opt Adam Sanderson as a Councillor to fill the existing vacancy.

The Clerk left the Chamber to inform the successful candidate.

The Clerk and Councillor Sanderson entered the Chamber and joined the meeting.

Adam Sanderson accepted the position and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Members congratulated Councillor Sanderson and welcomed him to the meeting.

The meeting went back into Standing Orders.

10.C EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Town Council do not opt-out of the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) central external auditor appointment arrangements.

11.C INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2022-23: INTERIM

The Internal Audit was circulated prior to the meeting.

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

No questions were asked; Councillor Manton congratulated and thanked the RFO for another superb audit.

Councillor Whittle proposed, Councillor Manton seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 1 abstention:

To agree and approve the Internal Audit Report 2022-23: Interim.

12.C RESIDENTS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting detailing the competition categories agreed the previous year.

After a discussion:

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor J. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

Residents Christmas lights categories to be:

- **Best individual property**
- **Best decorated garden**
- **Best overall property**

Prizes along with a certificate to be awarded for each category:

- **First prize a £20 voucher**
- **Second prize a £10 voucher**

13.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATES

Councillor Aldcroft circulated his report prior to the meeting. The main topics discussed were:

School Streets Scheme

Shropshire Council's Cabinet has approved an 18-month 'School Streets' scheme trial and agreed an automatic numberplate recognition camera be used to enforce restrictions; Market Drayton Junior School has been chosen to trial the scheme.

Swimming Pools

Shropshire Council have agreed a £400,000 programme of works to allow the main pool at The Quarry Swimming and Fitness Centre in Shrewsbury to reopen.

Modern Slavery

At last month's Council meeting you unanimously approved the publication of the Council's "Modern Slavery statement." If you suspect modern slavery, report it to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or report it online, or the police on 101.

Public Charging EVA's

Most of the chargers charge a flat fee of £0.35 / KW and charge at a maximum rate of 7.4KW. This means that an average 60KW electric vehicle would cost around £21 to charge fully.

Market Drayton Market

Meetings have taken place to discuss how to encourage more traders for the outside and indoor market and to have better advertisement.

Towers Lawn Car Park

No response has been received from Shropshire Council Officer, Zoe Mortimer regarding the provision of barriers to stop travellers parking on the car park.

Infrastructure

Market Drayton drainage and sewer systems are creaking under the pressure from new developments, corresponding with Severn Trent to try to establish a maintenance programme.

Waste

Waste Collection Days are changing; leaflets being issued. Shropshire Council are still accepting orders for purple bins.

14.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor asked if members would like to ask any questions.

Councillor T. Beckett asked why some payments had a minus against them.

The Assistant Clerk explained the payments with a minus against the figures shows a transfer from accounts where spend has been agreed from Earmarked Reserves.

Members understood the reasoning and were happy to proceed.

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

To agree and accept the payments from 1 June 2022 – 30 September 2022.

15.C PLANNING AMMENDMENT

Reference: 22/04231/VAR

Address: Joules Brewery, Great Hales Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire,

Proposal: Variation of Condition No.7 (operating hours) attached to planning permission NS/08/01001 dated 01/09/08 (description amended)

Councillor Chapman proposed, Councillor T. Beckett seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 2 votes against:

To accept and support the variation condition on the planning amendment provided the 07.00am restrictions is changed to 08.00am to reduce noise to the surroundings.

16.C UPDATES

Members **NOTED** the following updates:

Mobile Breast Screening Unit

The mobile breast screening service has been centralised to the main hospital sites, Royal Shrewsbury hospital and Princess Royal hospital, this is a temporary service change to the mobile service for Market Drayton and Bridgnorth to help catch up with screening appointments following the pandemic. The equipment on the unit is going to be upgraded during the autumn. The upgraded county mobile unit will resume its 3-year plan from January 2023

Councillor Resignation – Geoff Chevins.

The casual vacancy has been advertised. The rule allows TEN ELECTORS for the parish in which the casual vacancy has arisen to request the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill the vacancy. That request must be made within FOURTEEN DAYS of the date of the notice. The fourteen-day period ends on 31st October 2022.

If an election is not called Town Council must, as soon as practicable after the expiry of the fourteen-day period, co-opt a person to fill the vacancy.

Remembrance Sunday

The Church Service followed by wreath laying at the war memorial will be held on Sunday 13 November 2022. There will also be a short service by the War Memorial on Friday 11 November 2022 at 11am.

25 Remembrance Tommy Lamp Post Signs have been purchased to be put on lampposts in the town centre.


Street Lighting

A new 6-month electricity contract has been signed. There has been a significant price increase.

Budget 2023/24

Committee Chairs will be considering budgets for 2023/24 during November. Councillors are asked to forward any ideas for projects/initiatives that they would like implemented in the next financial year or any budgetary suggestions to be forwarded to the relevant chair and clerk.

The meeting concluded at 9.11 pm.

Chairman: 

Date: 