

**Market Drayton Town Council**

**Minutes of a Council meeting**

**held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 20 April 2023 at 7.30pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, W. Love, T. Manton, I. Nellins, A. Sanderson and M. Whittle (Mayor).

**ABSENT:** Councillor: R. Hughes.

**In Attendance:** 0 members of the public were present, and 1 member of the public listened to the meeting via Teams.

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

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

**1.C APOLOGIES**

Members **NOTED** the following apology:

Councillor R. Hughes - Prior arrangement

**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 MINUTES**

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

**To adopt the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 January 2023.**

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

**To adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.**

**5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor said that he had attended 85 engagements throughout the year.

Members **NOTED** the following Mayors events he had attended between 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 29<sup>th</sup> March:

Date	Event
Monday 23 January 2023	ALK at Wem
Monday 6 February 2023	Opening of Leek United Building Society
Monday 6 March 2023	100th birthday Invitation
Friday 17 March 2023	Children's Voices Musical Charity Concert
Sunday 26 March 2023	High Sheriff Legal Service
Wednesday 29th March	BBC Radio Shropshire - Kings Coronation

## 6.C **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **Planning Committee**

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

**To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee held on:**

<b>12 January 2023</b>	<b>26 January 2023</b>
<b>9 February 2023</b>	<b>23 February 2023</b>
<b>9 March 2023</b>	<b>23 March 2023</b>

### **Community and Governance Committee**

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

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

<b>26 January 2023</b>	<b>9 March 2023</b>
------------------------	---------------------

### **Services and Facilities Committee**

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

**To agree the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee held on:**

<b>9 February 2023</b>	<b>23 March 2023</b>
------------------------	----------------------


### **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

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

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

**23 February 2023**

Minutes of a Council Meeting on 20 April 2023

Initial:  .....

**7.C HONORARY TOWNSPERSON AWARDS**

Members considered opening the Honorary Townsperson Awards Scheme for nominations.

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

**To open the Honorary Townsperson Award Scheme for nominations. The closing date to be at the end of June with awards being considered at the Council meeting in July 2023.**

**8.C IN BLOOM**

The Town Council puts up over 100 hanging baskets around the town centre in June each year; 45 are available for outside commercial premises.

Members discussed whether to charge the commercial premises, which have a hanging basket provided by the Town Council, a £20 watering fee; the charge was considered value for money.

Councillor Erwin proposed, Councillor Sanderson seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To charge commercial premises a £20 watering fee for each hanging basket provided by the Town Council.**

**9.C CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

A copy of the Climate Emergency Action Plan was previously circulated.

The action plan had been updated to show the progress made. Councillor Aldcroft said that Councillors need to be educated on how they can promote the actions in the plan.

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

**To receive the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan.**

**10.C THE MESSENGER (TM)**

- i. To consider and agree terms of reference for the working group.
- ii. To receive the notes from the first meeting of the group held on 28 February 2023 and consider the recommendation.

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

Councillor Manton explained that the working group are recommending a two phase approach into looking at the production of the Messenger.

The first phase would be to circulate a questionnaire to residents asking for view on The Messenger, the second to request further information on its production.

The questionnaire would be put on the Town Council's Facebook page and website and circulated to the surrounding parish councils. Paper copies of the questionnaire would be available from the Town Council offices and Library. It was also recommended that the working group have a market stall, either on Cheshire Street or outside the Town Hall, where Councillors can talk to residents about The Messenger and complete the questionnaire.

Councillor Erwin suggested that a copy of the questionnaire be circulated with the next edition of The Messenger; it was agreed that this would be considered.

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

**To circulate The Messenger questionnaire electronically and in paper format and to have a stall to promote the questionnaire at a future Wednesday Market.**

#### **11.C KINGS CORONATION PLAQUE**

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members considered a request from Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Anna Turner to install a Coronation Plaque on the Town Council building.

The Mayor explained that each town is being given a plaque to be unveiled on the 7 May 2023.

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

**To install the Kings Coronation Plaque, provided by Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire Anna Turner, on the front of the Town Hall next to the notice board**

#### **12.C FUEL PRICES**

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the responses received from local fuel providers, Helen Morgan MP, Member of Parliament for North Shropshire and Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP, Minister of State at the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Councillor Manton said he was pleased that response have been received, but less pleased with the contact. He said that the offer to have a meeting with one of the local fuel providers should be taken up.

Councillor Nellins said that large companies are using local fuel prices as an excuse as to why they can charge less in surrounding areas.

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

**To arrange meetings with the local fuel providers to discuss the price of fuel in the town.**

### **13.C MARKET STALL**

Members considered having a Town Council market stall at the Wednesday market on Cheshire Street or outside the Town Hall, on a quarterly basis to provide residents the opportunity to raise concerns with Councillors.

Councillor Whittle said that the Council has previously had market stalls on the market; he said that the stalls should not be used by councillors for self-promotion.

Councillor Sanderson said he thought it was an excellent idea to give residents an opportunity to talk to Councillors.

Councillor Aldcroft suggested a rota be prepared for staffing the stalls so that Councillors who have regular commitments or work could arrange time off.

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

**To have a Town Council Market Stall on a quarterly basis outside the Town Hall or on Cheshire Street.**

**The initiative to be reviewed after one year.**

### **14.C SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

Councillor Aldcroft reported:

- Cherry Way is being resurfaced. Other roads to be repaired include Great Hales Street, Berrisford Road and Prospect Road. The pothole filler has also been out in the area.
- Despite what has appeared in the news about HS2, roadwork preparations are still going ahead.
- There is an electronic emergency alert being sent to mobile phones on Sunday at 3pm; raise awareness with any residents you think may not know about this.

Councillor Nellins reported:

- The LCWIP consultation is starting on the 2 May 2023; there will be a consultation stall outside the Town Hall on the 9 May 2023.
- School Street is being implemented at Market Drayton Junior School

- A meeting has taken place about the town circular bus route and some suggestions have been made. All changed have to be approved by the Traffic Commissioner; before any decisions are made there will be a consultation.
- Information on cost of living help is available from the Shropshire Council Website.
- The Armed Forces outreach team will be at the British Legion on the 2 May from 11am – 3pm offering support members of the armed forces and veterans.

### **15.C FINANCIAL REPORT**

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

No questions were asked.

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

**To agree the income and expenditure report from 1 February 2023 to 31 March 2023. See Appendix CO154.**

### **16.C SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

Papers were circulated prior to the meeting.

No questions were asked.

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

**To agree the payments from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.**

### **17.C INFORMATION**

The following information was **NOTED:**

- The Town Councils insurance has been reviewed and renewed.
- Arrangements are underway for the Kings Coronation Street Party on Sunday 7 May. Music will be played during the afternoon, children's entertainers and a face painter have been booked and light refreshments ordered. There will be craft tables and children's games available throughout the afternoon.

A holly tree has been purchased for the top of Stafford Street.

- The complaint discussed at the Council meeting on the 23 March has been resolved.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

Chairman:

*Ray Hazroft*

Date:

*11/5/23*

Initial: *RA*