

Market Drayton Town Council

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Council meeting
held at The Town Hall, Frogmore Road on Thursday 12 October 2023 at 7.30pm.**

PRESENT: Councillors: R Aldcroft (Mayor), Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, B. Chapman, M. Erwin, G. Groves, R. Hughes, W. Love, T. Manton, and I. Nellins.

ABSENT: Councillor A. Sanderson.

In Attendance: 3 members of the public were present, and 0 members 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

No apologies have been received.

2.C DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- i. No disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. The following dispensations were received for consideration:

| Councillor | Reason | Dispensation |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Councillor Chapman | Relative is a main sponsor of Market Drayton Town Football Club. | To allow participation but not vote on all matters concerning the club for the remaining term of office. |

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

To grant dispensation to Councillor Chapman to allow participation but not vote on all matters concerning Market Drayton Town Football Club for the remaining term of office.

| Councillor | Reason | Dispensation |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Councillor Manton | Club sponsor/pitch side advertising at Market Drayton Rugby/Football Club. | To allow participation in and vote or further votes concerning the clubs for the remaining term of office. |

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

To grant dispensation to Councillor Manton to allow participation and to vote on all matters concerning Market Drayton Town Rugby and Football Club for the remaining term of office.

3.C ASSESSMENT OF FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Documents were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed Rachael Fower from Strategic Leisure Limited to the meeting.

Members received a presentation from Rachel Fower on the Assessment of Facility Development Proposals report produced for Market Drayton Sports Association. See Appendix CO81. She welcomed any questions members may have.

Rachel said she has not just focused on the Clubs at Greenfields she has looked at all sporting facilities within Market Drayton, she has spoken to all clubs within the area plus Shropshire Council, National Governing bodies, New housing developers, schools, and the Medical Practice to get an overall scope of the need for facilities within the town.

The analysis indicated there is a need for investment for outdoor pitches in the area; Market Drayton has areas of deprivation, and it was highlighted at the schools there has been an increase of young people getting involved with petty crimes, The schools would like to see more provisions provided to children them out of trouble.

The existing MSDA facilities are tired with major safety issues and insufficient on-site carpark. The clubs are junior clubs are oversubscribed as there is a lack of facilities to cater for them.

Councillor T. Beckett said he has had experience hiring out The Grove Schools outside sporting facilities for the 10k race; he found them very expensive.

Rachel said it is not an option to do nothing at Greenfields; the facility does not meet health and safety standards, safeguarding is an issue, the facilities and club house do not house everyone.

Improved provisions in Market Drayton could be achieved by clubs joining together. However, some of the sporting clubs already have their own facilities and may not want to be part of MSDA, others are too far out of town to be considered. The schools are being approached to see if they will consider partnering up.

Rachel said options could be explored by setting up a working group to consider all options.

The Mayor said The Grove School Community Group are in discussions with the school about sharing the outside sporting facilities they are just awaiting on the new headteacher starting their post to escalate it.

The Mayor said he has a query with item 5.6 Recommendation 1 on the report, it reads: A market Drayton Sports Facility group is established – this should be led by MDTC and should include Shropshire Council, MDSA and other stakeholders in Market Drayton. This initial step was agreed by the MDSA Board 30 August 2023. He said Town Council does not have the resources to do this and council should not take control of the project.

Rachel said when she wrote this on the report because it was commissioned by the Town Council. It was clarified that the report was commissioned by MDSA; Town Council gave funding to MDSA for the report to be produced.

Rachel confirmed she has spoken to Shropshire Council about the possible relocation of the facilities; it is on their aspirational list to do. She made members aware that providing sporting facilities is not a compulsory provision for Councils, funding needs to be sourced from other avenues; the Town Council could increase the precept to cover costs.

Councillor Hughes said Town Council has financially supported Greenfields for several years; in the last twelve years they have received £430K, Town Council cannot afford to continue doing this as there are other things within the town that need money spent on.

Councillor Hughes said the facilities at Greenfields are not fit for purpose and need replacing; focus needs to be on the critical points as he cannot see the site being relocated for at least ten years.

Rachel confirmed the club’s annual payments have increased to cover part of the shortfall. The next stage of the process will be to look into the governance and put a business plan together.

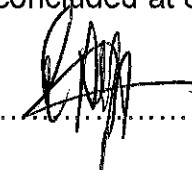
Councillor Mrs J. Beckett and T. Beckett left the Chamber due to work commitments.

The Mayor thanked Rachel for attending the meeting to discuss the assessment.

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

To NOTE the Assessment of Facility Development Proposals report.

The meeting concluded at 8.38 pm.

Chairman: .....

Date: ...11/1/24.....