

Market Drayton Town Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting held in The Town Hall, 18 Frogmore Road, Market Drayton on Thursday 16 July 2026 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: J. Blandford, A. Cartwright, P. Glover, G. Groves, T. Manton (Chairman), and I. Nellins.

ABSENT: Councillors: R. Adcock, R. Aldcroft, Mrs. J. Beckett, T. Beckett, R. Hughes and I. Nellins.

13 members of the public were present and 1 member of the public listening via Teams.

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

1.SF APOLOGIES

Members **NOTED** the following apologies:

Councillor R. Adcock	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor J. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor T. Beckett	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor R. Hughes	-	Prior Appointment
Councillor I, Sharp	-	Prior Appointment

2.SF DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS

- i. No disclosable interests were declared.
- ii. Councillor Manton submitted an application for Dispensations under section 33c the dispensation is in the interest of persons living in the authority area for Item 7.C Damson Wood; he is an active member of 'Save Damson Wood' and admin of Facebook group that opposes development in and on this area of natural beauty.

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

To accept the dispensation request from Councillor Manton with reference to Item 7.C Damson Wood.

To agree for Councillor Manton to remain in the meeting and participate in any further discussions of business and votes taken on this business.

3.SF PUBLIC SESSION

The Mayor welcomed the members of public at the meeting. There were two requests to speak at the meeting.

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

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

The Mayor welcomed the first resident to speak at the meeting.

The resident said he has concerns about the litter, weeds, poor cleanliness of roads and signs within the town, he does his own litter picks to help but feels more should be done.

He said he has previously sat on Madely Parish Council where he introduced a lengths person to do set hours per week on a self-employed basis to tidy up the town, he gave examples of the tasks carried out and costings. The resident suggested this town council should also do the same to improve the cleanliness and give residents and visitors a good impression of our lovely town. The contractors fees were taken out of reserves, and they used their own vehicle and tools to complete the works

The resident thanked members for their time.

The Mayor said Town Council are currently in discussions with Shropshire Council with regards to the devaluation of services, with this in mind his proposal will be considered.

The Mayor thanked the resident for attending the meeting.

The Mayor welcomed the second speaker to the meeting.

The speaker said he has spent the last six years along with other residents to save Damson Wood. The area offers a space to connect with nature, is used by many residents and helps improve people's wellbeing.

The group 'Save Damson Woods' has worked incredibly hard over the years and are grateful that the area has been recognised as an Asset of Community Value and they do not want to lose one of the few remaining natural spaces in the heart of the community.

He asked for the support from the Town Council to help in any way they could to retain the area of natural beauty so that enquiries into grant funding from different organisations can be looked into to raise the funds to try and secure it for continued and future enjoyment for people in and around Market Drayton.

The speaker thanked members for their time and hoped they would consider his concerns.

The Mayor said there is an agenda item later in the meeting for members to discuss further.

The meeting went back into Standing Orders.

4.C MINUTES

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

To agree and adopt the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 May 2026.

5.C TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor's announcements were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO044.

The Mayor said it is an honour to represent Market Drayton and thanked the Deputy Mayor for standing in for him on the occasions he was unable to attend.

Members **NOTED** the report from the Town Mayor.

6.C COMMITTEE MINUTES

Planning Committee

Councillor Glover proposed, Councillor Blandford seconded, and it was **RESOLVED:**

To agree the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on:
7 May 2026 4 June 2026 18 June 2026

Community and Governance Committee

Councillor Nellins proposed, Councillor Glover seconded, and it was **RESOLVED** with 2 abstentions:

To agree the minutes of the Community and Governance Committee meetings held on 2 July 2026.

Services and Facilities Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Services and Facilities Committee meeting held on 4 June 2026.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

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

To agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 June 2026.

7.C DAMSON WOOD

Members considered the requirements of Section 95 of the Localism Act 2011; Shropshire Council has received notification from the current owner that the above asset is to be disposed of through a sale of the freehold. The date for this purpose is 15 June 2026.

- i. Members **NOTED** the Community Right to Bid Moratorium Notice as set out in Appendix CO045.
- ii. Members considered what actions they may want to take.
The Mayor said a town council can express an interest under the Community Right to Bid process for the purpose of triggering the full moratorium; doing this would allow time for a community group to be formed to take the purchase forward.

After an in-depth discussion:

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

For Market Drayton Town Council to submit an expression of interest to Shropshire Council for Damson Wood to secure the 6 months moratorium period to allow time for a community group to be formed as the potential delivery or purchasing body during this period.

A member of the public left the Chamber.

8.C TOWN PARK EXTENSION

Members considered the three tenders received for the extension of the Town Park as set out in Appendix CO046.

The chair said the parks working group has scored the submissions and their recommendation is Quote B.

After a discussion:

Councillor Nellins Proposed, Councillor Blandford seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

To accept Quote B and award the contract to Ray Parry Playgrounds at a cost of £89,936 to extend the Town Park.

Payment will come from:

**£40,000 from Recreation Grounds, New Play equipment budget and
£50,000 from CIL Neighbourhood Fund.**

Works to start in September 2026.

9.C **MACHANICAL SWEEPER**

Members considered quotes for a mechanical sweeper to clean the town centre roads as set out in Appendix CO047.

After a brief discussion:

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

To accept Quote B from Sweeptech Environmental Services for a mechanical sweeper to clean the town centre roads.

This consists of:

6 cleans a year, for 3 hours each visit with 1 hour travel plus a minimum of 1 tonne waste taken away at a cost of:

Hours working plus 1 hour travel @ £50 per hour = £200.

Waste removed @ £135 per tonne (Min 1 tonne)

Total = £335 each clean

Payment for 2026/27 to be from Town Action Plan Projects within budget.

Conversations to take place with Shropshire Council regarding a financial contribution towards the cost for future years.

10.C **MAKE IT MARKET DRAYTON**

A member of the public left the Chamber.

A Make it Market Drayton update was circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO048.

Members **NOTED** the Make it Market Drayton report.

11.C **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE**

Members **NOTED** the written reports from the town's Shropshire Council Councillors David Minnery and Jeremy Blandford as set out in Appendix CO049.

No questions were asked.

12.C **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

Payment documents were circulated to members prior to the meeting as set out in Appendix CO050 and CO051.

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

There were no questions raised.

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

To agree the payments from 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

13.C INFORMMATION AND UPDATES

Members **NOTED** the following information:

- The presentation night for the In Bloom competition is on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at The Royal British Legion.
- All floral displays are up within the town.
- The brick wall on the corner of Frogmore Road and Cheshire Street has been repaired, the broken bricks and seating removed.

14.C EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC PRESS

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

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

The members of public left the meeting.

Live streaming was turned off.

15.C LONGLANDS PLAY AREA

Members considered a request from 4 All Foundation as set out in Appendix CO052.

The Mayor said this has come back to members to consider as the plans have been altered slightly.

After a discussion:

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

To consent to the 4 All Foundations proposals and for them to progress.

16.C THE PHOENIX CENTRE

Members considered a request from the Trustees of The Phoenix Centre as set out in Appendix CO053.

After an in-depth discussion:

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

To set up a Working Group to look into the proposal from the Phoenix Centre in more depth.

The Working Group to be made up of Councillor Groves, Hughes, and Manton.

An update to be provided at future Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings from the Working Group.

The meeting concluded at 8.41 p.m.

Chairman: Date: