

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

CIVICS WORKING GROUP

2 FEBRUARY 2022

Present – Councillors E Roberts (Mayor); B Wall (Deputy Mayor); C Lemon

In attendance – Helen Ball (Town Clerk); Sally Nicholson (Mayor’s Secretary); Ruth Jones (Office Manager)

Apologies – Councillor P Gillam

01/23 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None declared

02/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Civics Working Group meeting held on 27th January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

03/23 CURRENT MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

The Mayor reported that her Mayoral dairy was increasing and went on to advise that she was currently planning a 1920’s themed spring ball with one of her Charities, OMEGA. The date was yet to be confirmed but would either be 11th or 18th April and would take place at the Morris Hall in Shrewsbury. With regards to fundraising for her other Charity, The Hub, the Mayor reported that there had been little interaction with them as they were fundraising from other sources. The Mayor also advised that she has been asked to be guest speaker at a Shropshire Fire and Rescue event for International Women’s Day on 8th March. The subject for her speech is ‘Senior Women in Our Communities as Role Models’.

04/23 FUTURE MAYORAL ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Mayor reported that she was currently taking part in a Lands End to John O’Groats (LEJOG) Conqueror Challenge with two members from her team. They are raising money for one of the Deputy Mayor’s chosen charities for her Mayoral Year, Diabetes UK. Her other charity for Mayoral year will be Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

The Deputy Mayor continued to report that she had the following Charity Fundraising Events in the planning:

Dine in the Dark for Guide Dogs for the Blind Association – This is planned to take place at the Origins Restaurant at Shrewsbury College.

Masquerade Ball – this has been booked for 27th April 2024 and will take place at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

The Deputy Mayor advised that due to work commitments and availability that she will have 3 consorts for her Mayoral Year. She went on to advise that she had not yet decided on a Theme for her Mayoral Year but would give it a lot of thought over the next couple of months.

05/23 Recruitment of Mayor's Officer

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had run 3 unsuccessful recruitment campaigns to recruit a Mayor's Officer. Therefore, thought has now been given to change the focus of the position to a Driver's role. At a recent Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting the requirement of the post was raised and whether it was an unnecessary luxury. The Town Clerk advised that she had consulted with other councils however they do not have a Mayor's Officer or a Driver for their Mayor. The Town Clerk went on to say that a job description for a driver position had been created and it would be put forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting for consideration.

The Mayor felt that as the vehicle was not being used it was not required. The Town Clerk advised that the vehicle was purchased under a 3 year lease contract so would be difficult and costly to return until the lease was concluded and that the vehicle was used as a Pool Car. The Mayor reported that she had previously requested that the vehicle be made available to her to use to avoid wear and tear on her own vehicle and the purchasing of petrol. The Town Clerk reminded the Mayor that she was entitled to claim for mileage allowance. The Town Clerk went on to say that unfortunately, due to insurance, the vehicle could not be made available to The Mayor for her to drive.

06/23 MAYORS AWARDS

The Town Clerk updated the Working Group about the Mayor's Awards, advising it was now being advertised on our website; on all our social media outlets and was also in the January newsletter. The Mayor's Secretary advised that she had emailed the details to all councillors on the 20th January 2023 and had subsequently emailed Shropshire Bid, Shrewsbury Shopping Centre Manager and The Tourist Information Centre, Shrewsbury. The Mayor's Secretary also advised that at the time of the meeting we had received 13 nominations and that closing date for nominations was 12:30pm on Friday 24th March 2023.

There was discussion surrounding an Award the Mayor wished to make posthumously for Mr Midda who had recently passed away and had been a huge figure in the Market Hall before his retirement approximately 10 years ago. The Town Clerk suggested to the Mayor that she could use her Special Award Category for Mr Midda.

The Mayor also made mention of another Award she wanted to add, one for people within education/parents, to vote for their best Pastoral Care member, Primary and Secondary Teacher, specialist school, home-school provision and teaching assistant. The Town Clerk advised that it was not feasible to add another Award Category at this stage and that the Mayor should consider utilising one of the other categories. The Mayor's Secretary advised that she would send the award category list to the Mayor for her consideration.

07/23 FUTURE CIVIC EVENTS

The Town Clerk updated the Working Group on arrangements for the following:

- a. Shrewsbury School Service – Sunday 19th March
- b. Mayors Awards Ceremony – Tuesday 18th April
- c. Mayor Making – Tuesday 2nd May
- d. Service in State – Sunday 14th May
- e. Battle of Britain Service – Sunday 17th September
- f. Remembrance Parade – Sunday 12th November
- g. Christmas Lights Switch on – Wednesday 22nd November
- h. Carols in the Square – Wednesday 13th December

In addition, the Town Clerk updated the Working Group on the following:

Sword of State Repair. The Sword of State is at Fattorinis in Birmingham for repair and won't be available for the Shrewsbury School Service on Sunday 19th March. It will, however, be repaired in time for Mayor Making on 2nd May.

Honours Board. The Board of Honour of Mayors has been in storage for some time, had not been updated since 2015 and is almost full. These Boards were originally made in 1979 at the then Shrewsbury Technical College. Shrewsbury College have been approached to make some additional ones for us to display, along with the current ones in the new Office at St John's Hill. Shrewsbury College have confirmed that they have tasked a student on his advanced apprenticeship in architectural joinery to make the new boards and the work is due to commence shortly.

Coronation Pins. Michaels Civic Robes and Regalia have created a King Charles III Coronation Pin Badge which we can purchase at a cost of £3.95 per badge with a discount price for bulk orders. The Mayor's Secretary shared a picture of the Pin with the Working Group.

08/23 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20th April 2023.