

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council Held Virtually on Microsoft Teams At 6.00pm on Monday 16 November 2020

PRESENT

Councillors P Gillam (Mayor), P Adams, Mrs G Burgess (Deputy Mayor), J Dean, N Green, Mrs H Fraser, Ms K Halliday, I Jones, J Mackenzie, A Mosley, Mrs P Moseley, P Nutting, K Pardy, A Phillips, D Vasmer & Mrs R Wall.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Andy Watkin (Responsible Finance Officer), Ruth Jones (Office Manager) & Carol Pullen (Committee Clerk).

50/20 WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed Councillors, Officers and members of the public tuning in to the Council's Virtual live-streamed meeting and ran through a few house rules. He also noted that the meeting was not being recorded and the Minutes would be published on the Town Council's website in the usual way.

51/20 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED:

That the apologies of Councillor K Roberts be accepted

52/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Shropshire Councillors	Twin hatted members declared personal interests in matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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53/20 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2020/21

It was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Nutting and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Gwen Burgess be elected the Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021.

The Mayor read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which she would sign and return to the Town Clerk.

The Mayor thanked her fellow Councillors for the honour they had bestowed upon her. She outlined her aims for her Mayoral Year and her hopes for 2021. She had chosen Lingen Davies for her Mayoral charity and looked forward to working with their fund-raising team to arrange some fundraising events.

54/20 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Moseley, seconded by Councillor Halliday and

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council hereby expresses its sincere thanks to Councillor Phil Gillam for the efficient, enthusiastic and impartial manner in which he has discharged his duties as Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council and that the Council also wishes to record its appreciation of the manner in which Mrs Carol Gillam has contributed to the success of her husband's Term of Office as his Mayoress.

55/20 RESPONSE OF THE RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Gillam appraised members of some of the many memorable events he had attended during his year in office, particularly the many meetings he had had with Shrewsbury's fantastic volunteers, charity workers and many inspirational people. He had managed to raise well over £13,000 for his chosen charity the Shrewsbury Samaritans with a series of events including the very successful Beatles Weekend back in 2019 and more recently his skydive. He thanked fellow Councillors and the team of Shrewsbury Town Council officers for all their support during his 18-month term.

56/20 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2020/2021

It was proposed by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor Vasmer and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Julian Dean be elected the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021.

The Deputy Mayor read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which he would sign and return to the Town Clerk.

57/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14 September 2020 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That upon the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14 September 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

58/20 MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

59/20 ANNOUNCEMENTS

59.1 MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

There were none.

59.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN CLERK

There were none.

60/20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that standing orders had been followed in seeking questions ahead of the meeting, but she had accepted questions up until 4pm on the day of this meeting. No questions had been received.

61/20 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

62/20 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 October 2020 were circulated as read.

In proposing the minutes, Councillor Mosley thanked officers for the work they had done during the pandemic in continuing with services and also undertaking functions that were usually outside of the Council's remit, joining with other partners in ensuring that things be dealt with effectively and efficiently by all concerned in the public arena. The Capital Plan had continued to be successfully pursued and a great deal of improvements carried out

within the Town. He reported that there had been a further meeting of the Climate Emergency Advisory Group and drew members' attention to the report and outlined some of the work being done of which the working group were very appreciative and complimentary of the progress being made.

RESOLVED:

That upon the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5 October 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

63/20 RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2020 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That upon the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 30 September 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

64/20 PLANNING MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 06 October 2020 and 27 October 2020 were submitted as circulated and read.

In proposing the minutes Councillor Green thanked the officers involved who had once again put in a lot of work beforehand to ensure the smooth transition to a virtual committee system which he believed to be have been a success.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 06 October and 27 October 2020 be accepted and approved.

65/20 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Grievance Committee meetings held on 25 September 2020 and 29 October 2020 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Grievance Committee meetings held on 25 September and 29 October 2020 be accepted and approved.

66/20 UPDATE ON COUNCIL ACTIVITY AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE RECOVERY PLAN

The Town Clerk's update report had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. No questions were raised.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk's report be noted

67/20 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Responsible Finance Officer reported that the conclusion report of the 2019/20 accounts had not yet been received from the External Auditors but as the deadline was 30 November, this was expected imminently.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the report being received, the 2019/20 Annual Accounts and granting of authorisation to publish those accounts be deferred to the Finance & General Purpose Committee's meeting on 7 December 2020.

68/20 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Town Clerk's report on public convenience provision in Shrewsbury had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

Councillor Nutting expressed his concern on the condition of some of the toilets around the town, particularly the Quarry, Abbey Foregate and Butcher Row facilities. He asked the Council to consider some major investment in toilets around Shrewsbury to improve the standards and make them more welcoming to visitors. He urged the Group Leaders to have a discussion and come up with ideas as to how things could be improved.

Councillor Phillips echoed Councillor Nutting's words on the provision of toilets and suggested the Council should focus on this more widely and he also highlighted the condition of the grass verges and the general tidiness of the town. In order to make the town more welcoming he urged Councillor Nutting to lobby Shropshire Council to address the issues of the railway bridges and the continued mess caused by the pigeons which he considered to be a major area that did let the town down.

Councillor Mosley responded that the Group Leaders and the Recovery Group were aware of problems with the toilets and officers were working constantly to ensure that the toilets were safe, accessible and free of damage and as free as possible from anti-social behaviour. A sum in the region of £200,000 had been allocated within the Capital Plan to replace the toilet in the lower end of the Quarry. Some revenue expenditure had been included for refurbishment whenever possible for the other toilets within the town. This investment was planned and would go ahead. Refurbishment of the Quarry toilets would not be carried out until there was some long-term idea of how the Quarry might be used in the future.

Negotiations were taking place with the owner of Ten & Six to take over Hills Lane toilets on the condition that they would continue to provide publicly accessible conveniences that would be better equipped and more appropriate to the quality needed within the town.

Councillor Mosley was not aware of any particular problems with the Abbey Foregate toilets. He acknowledged the Butcher Row toilets had been particularly susceptible to problems but said these had been addressed and the toilets were being reopened.

In concluding he said that officers had been working under very difficult circumstances but he gave assurance that at its next meeting the Finance & General Purpose Committee would consider the excellent report that Officers had provided to this meeting and redress any problems immediately.

Councillor Vasmer raised the issue of toilet facilities for people with a disability and hoped that in the review of toilets the needs of people with a disability would be considered and adequate toilet provision made for them throughout the town.

RESOLVED:

That the report on public convenience provision in Shrewsbury be considered at the meeting of the Finance & General Purpose Committee on 7 December 2020

69/20 CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor closed the meeting and thanked all Councillors for attending and taking part in this virtual meeting. She also thanked staff who had supported this meeting.