

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the Operations Committee Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill At 6.00pm on Wednesday 6 May 2026

PRESENT

Councillors D Vasmer (Chair), J Daniels (Substitute for A Wagner), J Dean, R Gratton (substitute for J Tandy), K Halliday, B Jephcott (Substitute for R Wilson), V Moore and A Mosley.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Danny Powell (Operations Manager) Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer)

81/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Tandy, Wagner & Wilson.

82/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Vasmer	Declared he was Portfolio Holder at Shropshire Council and had a dispensation to discuss matters relating to Shropshire Council's delegation arrangements with Shrewsbury Town Council.

83/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 4 March 2026 be received and adopted.

84/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no Matters Arising for consideration.

85/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk reported that Camlins had been appointed to develop the Quarry Conservation Management Plan. There had been an interesting workshop at the Annual Town Meeting which captured lots of ideas about the park from those in attendance. Camlins were working through those comments to help inform a wider consultation in late spring.

The Planning Application for the Dana Footpath had to be withdrawn as there were technicalities on ownership status. This had become ever more complicated as the area where the wall would be breached to create the walkway was in fact two walls: one owned by the Shropshire Horticultural Society and the other by the Cove Group (owners of Shrewsbury Prison). Shropshire Council Estates were dealing with the necessary agreements with both parties and whilst frustrating about progress on the planning application officers would start the tendering process now so that hopefully there would still be a window to carry out the works out of the closed tourism season.

The Greenfields Solar Lights were now in place.

The Chester Street Planters were all planted and they were awaiting a location plan of where they were going.

Ditherington Community Centre Outside space had been resurfaced.

The Roushill Park plant tender was now live with a view to Town Council staff planting the beds in September/October. Shropshire Council also wanted to talk to the Town Council about the necessary maintenance agreement and assistance with developing the meanwhile space. Councillor Dean commented on the meanwhile space at Roushill Park and that everybody in the town would be interested in this space and member involvement was needed.

Councillor Mosley commented that at a Policy & Resource Committee meeting it was agreed that Castlefields Community Centre should be on the Capital programme List for refurbishment.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Castlefields Community Centre be added to the Capital Programme upon understanding the scope of works required;**
- (ii) That the Capital Plan update be noted**

86/25 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council were undertaking a large programme of work around General & Fire Risk Assessments. All the Council's 37 buildings were being assessed to establish up to date Fire & General Risk Assessments. The Responsible Finance Officer had factored an improvement budget into this year's accounts. This work had also flagged the need to review COSHH Risk Assessments for chemicals used and Task Risk Assessments, many of which were out of date. Doing an activity like this in detail had created a changed culture about managing risk and certainly one for the better. Officers were looking at building the capacity of the organisation to meet increasing Risk demands not only for those tasked with managing health and safety but also upskilling all staff recognising that all employees had a duty under the Health & Safety at Work Act to co-operate with their employer to work within such assessments.

This was a large and complex piece of activity and whilst currently there was a lot to wade through, by the end of the year officers would have a better system to work in.

Councillor Halliday welcomed the report provided by the Town Clerk and asked where the risk was held and was it reviewed. The Town Clerk advised that the corporate risk register fell within the Town Clerk's Governance responsibilities; this was different from general day-to-day risk for which individual managers were responsible. The Council's Risk Policy and Corporate Risks were reviewed annually by the Policy & Resources Committee every February. Risk Assessments for buildings were based in the individual location to which the risk related. There was a difference between corporate and operational risk. The Operational risks would be completed by the end of the financial year and anything identified would be dealt with, within the financial year. The new services taken on by the Town Council had a suite of risk assessments; they would be subject to a more frequent review due to the newness of the service.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

87/25 STEPPING UP TEAM

The Operations Manager, Stuart Farmer, provided an update on the Stepping Up Team. The team were working alongside the new Street Cleansing Team. The Operations Manager maintained the master spreadsheet of works with these being added to from public enquiries, councillor requests as well as officer reports.

In addition to this a new process of logging work requests from ward walks was now in operation, this would be shared with the ward member and would allow them to see progress on actions.

The team have been working at many locations across Shrewsbury on areas highlighted from ward walks and public or councillor concerns. Re-visits to some sites had also been required to maintain areas, but it was hoped from now on that once a site had been cleared by the Stepping Up Team it would be transferred to the Street Cleansing Team for ongoing maintenance.

Following the successful implementation of the Street Cleansing Team, two members of staff from the Stepping Up Team had transferred across. A recruitment process was scheduled to fill those vacancies.

Councillor Jephcott commented that the work by the team was good and it could be seen where the team had tackled problem areas. He raised a couple of issues within his ward; in Herongate and Ellesmere Road. The cycle ways and footpaths in those locations were blocked by private hedges, which needed to be cut back, both locations were busy and a solution to addressing overhanging private hedges needed to be addressed.

Danny Powell, Operations Manager commented that this would need to be raised with Shropshire Council to enforce as some of the hedges in question were privately owned. If the owners didn't agree after a while to reduce the hedges, then Shropshire Council could ask the Town Council to do the work on their behalf.

The Town Clerk added that the cutting back of the hedges was not part of the shape files that determined work streams. Discussions were taking place with Shropshire Council to determine whether this was a potential service to be delegated, with the responsibility for enforcement staying with Shropshire Council. Councillor Vasmer, in his Portfolio Holder capacity confirmed discussions were taking place.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

88/25 STREET CLEANSING TEAM

The Operations Manager, Stuart Farmer, provided an update on the new Street Cleansing Team.

Following a successful recruitment process, eight of the nine positions were now filled; this included the roles of Team leader and the two HGV drivers for the road sweepers. Two positions were filled by staff TUPE transferred from the previous contractor; they had settled in well. Two members of staff had transferred from the Stepping Up Team.

Most of the team had started their roles on 23 March which allowed for inductions and training ahead of the 1 April start date.

All of machinery and vehicles were delivered by the 31 March 2026 in readiness for the 1 April start date.

All arisings were being processed through the Battlefield Waste Transfer Station, and all staff had undergone the necessary training from Veolia to tip waste.

Road sweeping had commenced within the Town centre area as well as the main arterial routes. At present the town centre was being swept on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Alongside this the smaller sweeper was also in the Town Centre on the same mornings focussing on key areas such the Chester Street Bridges, before moving on to footpaths and smaller areas across the town.

The road sweepers had so far completed a sweep in the following locations:

- Coton Hill
- Ellesmere Road
- Mount Pleasant Road
- Scott Street and Seabury Close Areas of Belle Vue

A plan of working areas and timescales for the road sweepers was currently being worked on and would be shared with members as soon as it was ready.

Litter picking had begun where time had allowed in residential areas however, at present this was being completed following the completion of the days bin emptying routes and requirements.

Part of the team's remit had been extended from the previous contractor to ensure that when a site was visited to empty a bin, the surrounding area was also litter picked at the same time.

The Team had highlighted a number of residents and businesses using the street litter bins to dispose of commercial and residential waste. Shropshire Council Officers were viewing this as fly tipping.

Detritus was being dug out of bins to maximise waste capacity and potentially reduce emptying frequency.

Councillor Vasmer asked that a message of thanks be passed to the staff involved; their work was appreciated and they were making a difference.

Councillor Mosley raised concerns regarding weed spraying as there were large weeds in many areas. He also asked if the sweepers had yet got a regular cycle and if they were going to struggle with the four times a year as stated.

The Operations Manager confirmed that clear routes had not yet been defined but members would be made aware when they were.

The Town Clerk added that the staff were 'playing catch up'; very few roads had been swept over the last two years, and the first sweep was taking time due to the level of detritus; the 2nd/3rd and 4th pass should be quicker.

Councillor Halliday commented that she had previously been critical of the new team being set up on time but was pleased that the Town Council had achieved the timescales. She asked if it was possible to build into the reports some of the trends / number of streets cleaned so they could inform the public conscious of the increased council tax for the service.

Councillor Jephcott asked if there could be a draft timetable made available for the next meeting or at least some indication of road sweeping within the wards. He commented that the Town Centre was also looking much better.

Councillor Mosley stated that some areas may require more or less than 4 times a year and could this data be shown also.

The Town Clerk stressed that this was still a learning curve for the staff and they were aware that different locations were more complex.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted;**
- (ii) That a message of thanks be sent out to the Town Council staff;**
- (iii) That further data be provided in future reports;**
- (iv) That details of sweeping routes be forwarded to members.**

89/25 PROJECT UPDATES

89.1 Shornccliffe Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk reported on the public consultation that had been carried out to determine how people valued the park and what they wanted to see. 282 completed the survey. Key areas for improvement were the MUGA, Skateboard ramps and the Parade Ground with the suggestions for a 1km running loop. Nature featured highly with requests for trails, bird boxes and wildflowers. Play was requested along with extra bins and seating and better weatherproof paths. Active travel questions had highlighted that the majority walked to the site so didn't see the need for parking and

there was an overwhelming desire to see access to the middle of the site restricted for parking.

The next stage was for Camlins to prepare an options report and then members would need to decide whether to commission Camlins to look at the next stage of concept designs or tender that out as a bigger project.

Councillor Mosley asked how people were contacted and the Town Clerk confirmed that letters were hand delivered within the ward and 282 people had responded.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

89.2 Solar Lighting at Greenfields

The Operations Manager provided an update on the solar lighting at Greenfields. These were now up and operational, having been commissioned. As these were new design lights, they would be reviewed for further rollout across the town.

Councillor Mosley asked if this project was completed to budget and it was confirmed that it was and that there had been no financial input from residents.

Councillor Jephcott said the lights worked well and he liked the slightly modified design to previous solar lights used around the town and it was a good prototype for the rest of the town. He stated that the resident's group had offered to part fund the scheme.

Councillor Jephcott also enquired about lighting the path in front of the bowling club; the Bowling Club had agreed to fund them. The Operations Manager confirmed there had been some discussion previously but there hadn't been any confirmation ahead of the wider scheme being installed.

Councillor Gratton commented that the lights looked good and he was excited for progress to be made at Kynaston Road Rec Ground.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

89.3 Abbey Foregate Project

The Operations Manager (Horticulture) provided an updated on the Abbey Foregate Project. The street furniture should be in place by mid-June, and he was still awaiting planting requirements. Once the planters were on site they could start planting.

Councillor Halliday asked where the planters would be situated; the Operations Manager confirmed they would run from outside Abbey Hardware to the Crown Public House; this would take up some parking spaces on both sides of the road. The aim was to break up the street scene and reduce car usage.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

89.4 Roushill Park Development

The Town Clerk reported that Morgan Sindall was the principal contractor on site at Roushill Park. Once they had finished hard landscaping, in late September, Town Council staff would commence planting on site. The plants schedule was currently out for tender. Officers were due to meet Shropshire Council officers to discuss agreements for ongoing maintenance as well as potential work on the meanwhile space.

Councillor Dean asked if officers could raise the issue of the Frankwell footbridge needing to be accessible on both sides and not just one the Roushill side.

Councillor Mosley asked if the Town Council were being paid for this work. The Town Clerk confirmed they would be paid for plants and materials. Staff time would be the Town Council's contribution towards this project.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted;

89.5 Update on the Beaver Project

The Town Clerk reported on the beaver project on the Old River Bed. This had been quite a complex project as the area was a wetland and things did move around on site meaning it had been really hard to establish solid ground across the site, hence the need to review the area around the water course and in particular the recently installed trash screen; there needed to be a different solution to securing the watercourse in a different way so that fish stocks were able to move around the watercourse whilst keeping the beaver family contained. Taking out any fencing did place vulnerabilities and as the Wildlife Trust had recently reported, there was the potential of the female being pregnant; so the fear of her either being outside of the compound when work was undertaken and giving birth outside of her lodge or her being separated from any new kit were she to be outside during construction meant they had to review construction times, hence schedules now moving to September. There was evidence that the beavers were constructing channels which broadened the wetland. Also, the site was holding a significant amount of water, but this was

more down to exceptionally high-water tables across the town and high river levels in the Severn which may be impacting on the Ragley Brook's discharge into the river.

Councillor Dean commented on the levels reaching the walkway and asked if the walkways could cope. The Town Clerk reported that the walkway had been constructed above usual water levels, but this winter had been exceptional. She was aware that the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water were also investigating. Councillor Jephcott said the construction of the walkway was sound and solid.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

90/25 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Chairman reported that he had received a question from Councillor Dartnall.

"Residents have complained about what they believe is evidence of the use of glyphosate on road verges on Sutton Road and the area around it. It seems pesticides have been applied to the base of trees- both living and felled and at the margins of the verge. The damage to grass can be seen in the attached photographs. One image has been annotated to show the extent of pesticide use in the immediate area (Sutton Road between the junctions with Millmead Drive and Sutton Way). The apparently liberal use of toxic materials, that will undoubtedly damage local wildlife and wildlife habitats, does not fit with Town Council policies, in particular the council's undertaking with regard to nature recovery. My understanding was that minimal use of glyphosate was undertaken where absolutely necessary.

Can officers please confirm whether or not this was the work of Shrewsbury Town Council? If so, please clarify how application of costly and damaging pesticides in such circumstances is justified."

The Operations Manager (Horticulture) reported that this work had unfortunately been carried out by Town Council staff, and he expressed his disappointment regarding the quality. Staff were instructed to trim around trees and street furniture in this area and use a weed killer to spray a small strip around the trees to knock back growth. The member of staff tasked with the spraying had undergone his full chemical spraying training but hadn't appreciated that he was using a translocated herbicide; this kills the whole plant and with grass being rhizomatous/stoloniferous travels along the route and can kill a wide area. This has only affected the verges on Sutton Road and Wenlock Road. The Operations Manager had visited the sprayed areas and reported that the grass was starting to recover in several locations, this shows that the chemical was very diluted when applied.

The Operations Manager reported that the Town Council still used a Translocated Weedkiller in some areas as alternative weedkillers were upwards of 5 times the cost with poor results. Having now taken on the Street cleansing work there was likely to

be less need to carry out weed control on street curbs across the town as streets would be swept more.

Councillor Dean thanked the Operations Manager for his response but commented that any members questions should go on the agenda. The Town Clerk informed members that the question was only received that morning, and it was felt that as it was a live issue, it was best to discuss it at this meeting.

The Operations Manager then went on to update the Committee on Grounds Maintenance. The weather had improved and the dry weather had allowed staff to keep on schedule with work programmes. On the downside the very nice sunny hot days had made the spring bedding displays go over quickly. With the changes in the Spring weather they were now experiencing, the team would have to investigate some changes to the Spring hanging baskets plants for next year.

The improvement in the weather had allowed Severn Trent to restart their work in the Quarry on the sewer relining work, and they hoped to see this completed soon. Severn Trent were still carrying out borehole work at several locations, but they hoped to have completed these soon as well. This work was required as part of a wider project to reduce the sewage entering the river.

In the Amenity Team, plant production for the summer bedding displays and hanging baskets was now under way. Winter bed maintenance across the town was completed and the summer programme of work had started. The removal of the Spring displays would start this month with the summer displays in place by the end of June. Hanging basket orders were starting to come in and the Town Council had not increased the cost for this year. The nursery would again be supplying other Town & Parish Councils with their bedding plants and hanging baskets.

The Castle carpet bed this year would be celebrating 100 years of the Rotary Club.

The Town Council were working with Morgan Sindall, principal contract for the Riverside Park, on the planting programmes and they were informed that the trees for the site should be in place soon.

The Countryside team were now carrying out general maintenance across all their sites. They had carried out several fence repairs and tree work on the Beaver Compound after the recent high winds.

The Rural mowing had now started. The Tree Team had now been moved on to their summer work programme, which was 2 weeks mowing and then 2 weeks tree work. Officers were in discussion with Shropshire Council regarding ongoing tree works as this work had been taken out of the delegation agreement.

Verge mowing been operational since the end of March, and one full cut had now been completed. The cool nights had kept the grass in check, and they had cut the verges without leaving large amounts of grass behind. The large area mower had now completed 2 cuts across its round.

The school contracts had started and again these had all been cut and summer sports markings carried out.

The Bank Holiday weekend saw the end of the football season on Town Council pitches. The goal posts would be taken down over the next 2 weeks, and renovation would start ready for next season.

The Summer sports seasons had started. There were 4 Saturday and 1 Sunday Cricket Teams at the County Ground along with 100 juniors having coaching on Thursday nights. Tuesday and Wednesdays was Evening League Cricket along with 100 Ladies playing Rounders. Bowls and Croquet games had commenced, and all Tennis Courts were open for Key Play Scheme users.

Cemetery summer mowing had commenced, and the Staff came in on a Saturday to help with a Childs burial where their school wanted to attend but not have to close the school for a day.

Winter servicing was all completed in house by the mechanics, and they were now carrying out vehicle safety checks and dealing with machinery breakdowns as they entered the busy mowing season.

Playground maintenance was now being carried out by new staff as the previous staff had left the organisation. They were carrying out the weekly safety checks and general maintenance work across the Town Council playgrounds.

Toilet maintenance was on-going; they had received several compliments on how clean the toilets were currently.

Work was ongoing on the Allotment sites following requests from the recent Allotment Secretaries meeting.

The Operations Manager also reported on a number of adhoc projects that the Grounds Maintenance Team had undertaken over the winter period; many were tasks that would have previously been contracted out. These included installation of gates and fences.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

91/25 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town Clerk reported that she had started to review where the Town Council had got to regarding the resolution to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The Council had last undertaken a carbon audit in 2023/24 which showed a carbon footprint of 484.03 tonnes, equating to about 40 households. She had gone back to Carbon Footprint Ltd to look to commission an audit for 2025/26 at a cost of £4500. They would probably have to do it again for 2026/27 given the increase in workload and staff increases which would increase Scope 1 & 2 emissions. The Operations Manager (Horticulture)

and the RFO had been looking at options for energy reduction in favour of onsite renewable energy at Weeping Cross and were currently considering a report from the consultant that had been commissioned to look at options. Hopefully they would be able to report to Committee shortly. The Town Clerk had also contacted a local Fleet Consultancy in the town to look at reviewing the Council's fleet to look at non-fuel options.

At this stage chair the Town Clerk needed resolution to proceed with the Carbon Audit as outlined.

Councillor Halliday asked if the Town Council could look at possible carbon offset and if it was possible within the Countryside sites to use Biochar, look at how they managed the countryside land. The Town Clerk reported that the Council had previously decided not to look at carbon offset but to look at ways of reducing the carbon footprint. The Council's tree planting and plant propagation would certainly make the Council carbon neutral. The Grounds Teams did use materials including biochar as nutrients for sites.

Councillor Dean asked whether the report could breakdown carbon usage according to locations to identify which areas needed to be prioritised. He also suggested that the Communities & Environment Committee need to consider the advocacy role of the Town Council given that it had the ability to influence the carbon usage of 39,000 rather than just focussing on reducing its own carbon footprint of 40 households.

Councillor Mosley asked whether a hydro-scheme was likely at the Weir; the Town Clerk advised that it wasn't feasible.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted;**
- (ii) That the Communities & Environment Committee be asked to consider an advocacy role for the Town Council in influencing residents to reduce their carbon footprint.**

92/25 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

92.1 Heart of England in Bloom

The Operations Manager reported that judging for Shrewsbury in Bloom was scheduled to take place on 22nd July 2026. The walking and driving routes for this year had been altered slightly but were not yet finalised. The tour would end at the Museum this year. The planter competition for the schools was open, and winners would attend the reception and to meet judges and receive their certificates.

Councillor Jephcott commented that he hadn't realised Percy Thrower's daughter, Margaret, was involved in the Bloom Committee and this was fantastic to hear and her input would be valuable.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

92.2 Notes of the Bloom Meeting

The notes of the Shrewsbury in Bloom Group meeting held on 19 March & 16 April 2026 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Shrewsbury in Bloom Group Meeting held on 19 March & 16 April 2026 be accepted and approved.

93/25 ALLOTMENTS

93.1 Allotment report

The Town Clerk reported that the report and Notes of the Allotment Secretaries meeting which had been circulated to members would give an update on allotment activity. All sites were relatively full, with minimal waiting lists. There weren't any major capital requirements, and other than staff making arrangements for supplies of woodchip and road plainings to be delivered to sites, the Allotment Committees were relatively sustainable.

In line with legislation all income raised from allotments rentals had to be spent on allotments and the RFO retained an earmarked reserve for any bigger expenditure.

Councillor Jephcott commented that he had attended an Allotment Open Day at Greenfields Allotments, and they had asked when their water supply would be turned on. The Operations Manager confirmed that he had sent a member of staff to do this the day following the Allotment Secretaries meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

93.2 Notes of the Allotment Secretaries Meeting

The notes of the Allotment Secretaries meeting held on 9 April 2026 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Allotment Secretaries Meeting held on 9 April 2026 be accepted and approved.

94/25 COMMUTED SUMS

The Town Clerk provided an update on negotiations with developers and transfer arrangements. They had not reached any trigger points for any further Town Council involvement and would continue to liaise with planners on development progress:

- (i) *Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space*** – offsite contributions to play (£30,498 - £20498 for Shornccliffe Drive & £10000 for Silks Meadow – to be paid on 75% occupancy) and open space (£115,000 for sports pitches & associated facilities at County Ground – paid on 50% occupancy) - funds in relation to landscaping at the County Ground have been drawn down

Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road – Phase 1 adopted; Snagging Phase 2/3 commenced. No identified date for transfer.

Further works had been carried out on site, some path surface repairs and drainage areas had been requested to be addressed. Several small areas of land were subject to legal checks, some of which did not appear to have appeared on the POS adoption plans.

(ii) *Shrewsbury South Urban*

1. Sutton Grange site – ongoing – likely transfer in 2024/25 – recent meeting with Taylor Wimpey to discuss logistics for transfer.

STC met the Developers on site in early March to walk the site again. Another detailed list was discussed and work started on site in April to address all the outstanding issues.

2. Bellway Homes site – discussion on land adoption and adoption of acoustic fencing.

Developers have been met on site and some small works were still outstanding along with required repairs to the play area already in place.

3. Galliers site – early discussions on land adoption
4. Community Centre – location on the site

Radbroke College site – Open space adoption – officers met with Floreat Homes on site – likely adoption once all phases are complete

STC had recently walked the site again with a representative from the Developer (Connexus). This person has now left the company, and MP was meeting another representative w/c 11th May to walk the site again. An independent Arb Consultant had produced a thorough tree inspection report for the site POS to be adopted, which mirrors STC previous requests.

There were a considerable amount of tree works to be carried out and some small areas of landscaping to be carried out to align to the landscape specification within the planning conditions.

- (iii) ***Weir Hill*** – Agreements to adopt the land at a future time have been signed -meeting with Taylor Wimpey looking at the possibility of the countryside land to be transferred ahead of the POS on the development site.

Councillor Daniels wanted to give the Committee a heads up that the land at Weir Hill which was subject to potential transfer was currently part of an investigation by the Planning Authority because various conditions of planning consent and the 106 agreement had not been met by the developers; indeed, they had not even really begun. He suggests it might be a good idea to delay any decision in regard to adopting it until the investigation is done.

They had been made aware of the concerns by Mr Maddison relating to:

- Non-implementation of the Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP)
- Incomplete delivery of ecological mitigation features
- Outstanding open space and Riverside Park provision
- Ongoing landscape management and infrastructure concerns

It is his view that the Town Council adopting land would undermine any ongoing investigation.

The decision to adopt the land had already been agreed and the Town Council had already entered into a legal agreement to adopt the land. The only area of flexibility was when. They were not yet in a position to accept the land as various elements of the landscape management park in relation to the country park had not yet been carried out.

Councillor Daniels thanked the Town Clerk for clarity on Wier Hill and understood the Town Councils position.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

95/25 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this Town Council meeting and thanked the staff involved in this meeting. This would be Councillor Vasmer's last meeting as Chairman. All papers related to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk.