

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY AT 6.00PM ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT

Councillors P Adams (joined the meeting at 6.45 pm), Mrs G Burgess, J Dean, Mrs H Fraser, N Green, Mrs K Halliday, I Jones, A Mosley, P Nutting, K Pardy, A Phillips & D Vasmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Operations Manager), Andy Watkin (Responsible Finance Officer), Carol Pullen (Acting Committee Clerk), four representatives from Shrewsbury Fairtrade and two members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors P Gillam, Ms J Mackenzie, Mrs P Moseley and K Roberts.

30/19 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Mayor, due to a prior commitment and currently no Deputy Mayor in post, due to the recent resignation of Councillor Laurens, it was agreed that Councillor Mosley, Leader of the Council would Chair the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mosley be elected to Chair the Full Council meeting of 2 September 2019.

Councillor Mosley welcomed Councillor Gwen Burgess the newly elected Member for the Meole Ward.

31/19 APOLOGIES

Members were asked to authorise Councillor Ms Mackenzie's request for extended leave of absence.

RESOLVED:

That the extended leave of absence of Councillor Ms Mackenzie be authorised.

32/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Shropshire Councillors	Twin hatted members declared personal interests in matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Green	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 – Fairtrade as he has business interests in importing coffee.
Councillor Nutting	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 12(iv) – Minutes of Planning Committee, relating to two applications; which he declared interests in and absented himself from the meeting.

33/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 June 2019 were circulated as read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 June 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.

34/19 MATTERS ARISING

None

35/19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

35.1 Mayor & Deputy Mayor's Engagements - Details of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor's engagements for July and August were circulated to members.

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's schedule of engagements be noted.

35.2 Announcements from the Mayor and Town Clerk

There were no announcements.

36/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

No public questions or comments had been received.

37/19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions received from members of the Council.

38/19 SHREWSBURY BIG TOWN PLAN

The Chairman reported that the Big Town Plan Board were currently tendering for the latest phase of the Big Town Plan Masterplan. It was hoped that the tender would be awarded shortly. It would therefore be pertinent to delay any update until after that appointment.

Councillor Green left the meeting

39/19 FAIRTRADE

A presentation was given by Meriel Chippendale from Fairtrade, which for twenty five years have been a presence in Shrewsbury, having had its own dedicated shop and more recently a stall in Shrewsbury Indoor Market.

Fairtrade is not a charity but developed as a search for a just fair way of trading. It aims to guarantee a fair and living wage to farmers and enables families to be able to afford the necessities as well as paying each community a Fairtrade premium.

Ten years ago the Council passed a resolution supporting Fairtrade and subsequently the Group was successfully achieving Fairtrade status for the town. Since then work has been done to raise the profile of Fairtrade in Shrewsbury. Regularly they provide speakers at events to explain the concept and benefits of Fairtrade and to show the variety of what is available and work with community groups and schools.

In March each year, Fairtrade Fortnight is celebrated by staging a Big Brew Breakfast and inviting a range of speakers including coffee growers from both Costa Rica and India.

Fairtrade are active on twitter and social media and have been supported by Shropshire Radio.

Fairtrade have built up the expertise to be able to help farmers overseas, fighting new, erratic changes in weather patterns which can bring either disastrous drought or flooding. They also help farmers work towards farming sustainably, becoming organic and general improving farming methods.

This year Fairtrade celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Fairtrade mark, the only such mark to be independently audited.

Fairtrade Shrewsbury were seeking to renew Fairtrade town status and once again sought the Town Council's support.

Councillor Dean, the Town Council's representative on Fairtrade Shrewsbury, thanked members of the group and congratulated them on the broad involvement in the town; he presented the motion of support.

RESOLVED:

That Shrewsbury Town Council reaffirms its commitment of 15 March 2010 in promoting Fairtrade in Shrewsbury and resolves to:

- (i) **Promote the awareness of Fairtrade issues and the opportunities for supporting Fairtrade in Shrewsbury.**
- (ii) **Offer Fairtrade Marked food and drink options at Council & Mayoral events.**
- (iii) **Use its influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents.**
- (iv) **Uses its influence to urge local business to offer Fairtrade options to their staff and promote the Fairtrade Mark internally.**
- (v) **Use its media and social media to promote Fairtrade.**
- (vi) **Work with the Shrewsbury Fairtrade Group to renew the Fairtrade Town Status for Shrewsbury.**

Councillor Green re-joined the meeting and four members of the public left the meeting

40/19 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 July 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

Councillor Mosley reported that although the future High Street Fund bid had been unsuccessful, the Ministry of Housing Communities, Local Government were keen to work with the Big Town Plan Board.

Councillor Peter Nutting reiterated his previous comments about not printing Agenda papers; he requested printed copies of all Agendas and supporting paperwork at future meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 July 2019 be accepted and approved.

41/19 RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 17 July 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 17 July 2019 be accepted and approved.

42/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 25 June, 16 July, 06 August and 27 August 2019 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 25 June, 16 July, 06 August and 27 August 2019 be accepted and approved.

43/19 YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Youth Services Committee meeting held on 03 July were submitted as circulated and read.

Councillor Mosley reported that in light of county lines, a part time Youth Worker post was currently being advertised specifically to work with disengaged young people and provide alternative curriculum education.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Youth Services Committee meeting held on 03 July 2019 be accepted and approved.

44/19 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In light of the recent By-Election in the Meole Ward, Members were asked to approve changes to the Committee Membership for 2019/20 as circulated.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Burgess to be appointed to the following Committees:

**Finance & General Purposes – Member
Recreation & Leisure – Member
Youth – Member
Grievance – Member
Planning – Substitute**

45/19 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following items being considered involve the disclosure of confidential information.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

50/19 HARLESCOTT SUNDAY MARKET

The Town Clerk circulated a report relating to Harlescott Sunday Market, following the collapse of Town & Country Markets. Members were asked to consider a way forward.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.**
- (ii) That the Responsible Finance Officer seek to recover any outstanding balances from Town & Country Markets liquidator.**
- (iii) That the Interim arrangement for the management of the Sunday Market be approved.**
- (iv) That the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer be given delegated authority to seek the most appropriate mechanism for the future running of the market in collaboration with Finance & General Purposes Committee.**
- (v) That the Responsible Finance Officer endeavour to establish more comprehensive cash flow figures for the last twelve months to be presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 30 September 2019.**

51/19 MAYORALTY

Members considered the vacancy of Deputy Mayor following the recent resignation of Nic Laurens as Town Councillor for the Meole Ward.

It was proposed by Councillor Alex Phillips and seconded by Councillor Peter Nutting that Councillor Mrs Gwen Burgess be elected as Deputy Mayor for the period 2019/20.

In signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor Mrs Burgess thanked Councillors for the honour they had bestowed on her and said that she looked forward to fulfilling the role.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor Mrs Gwen Burgess be elected the Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury Town Council for the period up to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2020.**