

## **SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Communities & Environment Committee Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill At 6.00pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors J Daniels (Chair), B Bentick, R Gratton, B Jephcott (substitute for Cllr Fejfer), E Micklewright, A Mosley, K Pardy (substitute for Cllr Dartnall) and R Wilson.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Ruth Jones (Office Manager), Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets & Events Manager), Andy Hall (Youth & Community Manager) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer).

Also in attendance were Katy Anderson & Daphne Du Cros from Shropshire Good Food Partnership.

#### **76/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That apologies were received from Councillors Dartnall and Fejfer.**

#### **77/25 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 Bentick     | Portfolio Holder for Health & Public Protection, Shropshire Council                                                                        |
| Councillor Jephcott    | Deputy Portfolio Holder – Planning, Shropshire Council                                                                                     |
| Councillor Wilson      | Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth and member of SC cabinet. Item 7 relates to portfolio but there was no conflict           |

## **78/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 4 February 2026 were submitted as circulated and read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 4 February 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

## **79/25 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising for consideration

## **80/25 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Town Clerk explained that Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed annually at Full Council. This was an opportunity for the Committee to review its terms of reference to see whether they were fit for purpose given that these were new Committees and had taken a while to bed in. The Committee Chairs would review all the Committee Terms of Reference when they met next.

Councillor Bentick raised the issue of Shrewsbury Nature & Biodiversity corridors which should be pursued and would it sit on this Committee. The Town Clerk agreed and that they would have a discussion at the Committee Chairs meeting.

## **81/25 FOOD RESILIENCE**

### **81.1 Shropshire Good Food Partnership**

Katy Anderson and Daphne Du Cros joined the meeting to give a presentation from the Shropshire Good Food Partnership around the need to develop food resilience to withstand and recover from food systems shocks brought about by price increases, extreme weather events and supply shortages.

The core purpose was Building Food Resilience with the aim to build a more solid and secure food system for everyone, now and into the future. Their Mission was to bring people together to bring this vision of a local food system into being one which was good for people, place and the planet. They supported the work of organisations across the county, catalysed new initiatives and collaborations, and enabled joined-up innovative thinking to improve access to good food and reimagine land stewardship. They connected the dots at all scales - from farm building soil health and family businesses to food resilient communities, partner organisations, Town

Councils, County-wide food systems, to the bioregional level - even sometimes in National Policy discussions. for your own local Food Resilience Strategy. They worked in partnership with different stakeholders across all areas of the food system, from the community level, across the County and to the Marches level with their partners in the Marches Food Network. They provided a go-to place for individuals and groups to access support and engage in networking on all aspects of setting up and managing community-based food growing, cooking and sharing initiatives.

They were also a resource for land-based enterprises, farms and food businesses, supporting support innovation and create opportunities to access local markets. They engaged across sectors to build an enabling environment for the local food economy. They played a convening function, bringing together a range of stakeholder from across the county to engage on policy and planning and to work in partnership with to deliver goods and services. They worked alongside food partnerships in Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, & Powys to build infrastructure and share knowledge across a bioregional scale.

There was a need to support vulnerable people, and they needed to communicate effectively and be pro-active in their planning and learn from the Covid pandemic.

Councillor Wilson asked how the Town Council could help. They were asking the Town Council to provide time and space to look at the issue and where there was an effective place to start and to focus on how to communicate. Shrewsbury had a visible Council, and they were sure all were worried about resources but to have a structure to bring forward it would be good with leadership from the Town Council.

Councillor Micklewright asked if any other Town & Parish Councils were on board and they confirmed that Bishops Castle had been involved since 2021. They had small initiatives that brought together different people.

Councillor Bentick asked if this was the first Council outside of Bishops Castle they had contacted, what their responses were and what funding was required. It was confirmed that they had presented to Church Stretton, Ludlow & Market Drayton to try and build across the county. They had applied for funding including The Climate Action Fund with a joint bid across the Marches. There were no detailed costings at this point but if they did not receive funding they would need to work from scratch. He also asked how many people were in the organisation. There were 4 directors and a network of 10-20 partners who worked with them to deliver.

Councillor Mosley asked what described as a transformative project and what relation did they have with major supermarkets. They confirmed that they had a member of the Co-Op on board and Shrewsbury Food Hub who had links with retailers but there were further conversations to be had.

## **81.2 Food Resilience Strategy**

The Town Clerk reported that the Shropshire Good Food Partnership had explained about the impact that outside issues can have on the resilience of the town. As an example, two weeks ago the price of a litre of diesel was 145.9, now it is 168.9. This not only impacted on residents but businesses and they would eventually see those costs incorporated in food prices, goods and services. This showed how vulnerable markets were to such things as flooding, weather and geopolitical crises like the conflict in Iran. This showed the need to understand how resilient food chains and markets to these outside chains were.

The presentation had shown the rise in Good Food Partnerships across the country – there were 123 across the country and their ability to bring together partners from all walks of life including public health, transport, communities, business started to develop a holistic approach to working together.

There was a lot of sense in the Town Council being involved in this process because if they did not deal with the cause they would never be able to deal with the effect. There was a strong skillset to deliver this Strategy from the Good Food Partnership, and the Town Council could utilise its advocacy role to seek wider buy in. She said that this agenda item warranted consideration, and she recommended that she worked with the Partnership to bring more detailed proposals to the Policy & Resources Committee. This wasn't going to be a short-term quick fix; it would take time so suggested that this needed to be considered as an ongoing project for probably the remainder of this electoral term.

Councillor Mosley asked if this could fit in with the Cost-of-Living Scheme and could a proposal be taken to that Working Group and reported back to this Committee.

Councillor Wilson said it could fit across the Cost-of-Living Group and the Policy & Resources Committee. He also suggested the Town Clerk being a member lead on this.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That:**

- 1. The report be noted;**
- 2. The Committee supports in principle the development of a Shrewsbury Food Resilience Strategy and Action Plan;**
- 3. The Town Clerk works with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership to develop detailed proposals for the development of a Food Resilience Plan for Shrewsbury;**

#### **4. The Town Clerk presents those proposals to the Policy & Resources Committee**

*Katy & Daphne from Shropshire Good Food Partnership left the meeting.*

### **82/25 BT PAYPHONES CONSULTATION**

#### **82.1 Consultation response**

Shropshire Council were seeking initial feedback from any interested bodies (including parish councils and town councils), after BT commenced a round of consultation with them regarding the proposed removal of 17 operational payphones across the county. This consultation ran through until 9 April 2026. Given that the Easter break falls in this period of time, the intention of the Council was to submit responses in advance of that date if at all possible.

16 of these payphones were modern style KX100 kiosks. These kiosks can only be adopted to house defibrillators. Individuals can't adopt kiosks themselves. The Town Council's views were sought on adopt of any of these kiosks for community use, or if the Town Council wished to make representations against removal.

4 payphones were identified in councillor wards: Mount Pleasant Road, Sundorne Road, Mytton Oak Road and Lancaster Road.

Councillor Bentick said most residents used mobile phones but there may be on occasion somebody who did not have one and may need to use a payphone in an emergency.

The Town Clerk added that the locations suggested for removal showed that they were hardly being used, and other payphones that had more use would stay in place.

Councillor Micklewright asked if they could be turned into defib locations and the Town Clerk confirmed they could, but the Town Council would need to fund the purchase of the defibrillators. Councillor Bentick said that the Henry Angel James Trust would install them free of charge or in areas of need.

Councillor Mosley confirmed that if there was a low call rate he would be happy to have it removed if it was located within his ward.

Councillor Jephcott said that BT do not maintain these payphones and that the calls highlighted would have been made for emergency use. If the payphone was located near to vulnerable residents it should remain in place.

It was agreed to seek the retention of the payphones located on Mount Pleasant Road and Sundorne Road and that they were happy to see the

removal of the payphones located on Mytton Oak Road and Lancaster Road due to low calls used.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Clerk make representations for the retention of Mount Pleasant Road and Sundorne Road payphones and the removal of Mytton Oak Road & Lancaster Road payphones.**

**82.2 Adoption of red phone box in Abbey Foregate**

The Town Clerk reported that during the previous administration the ward member for Abbey did seek the Council's views on adopting the red phone box outside of the Abbey. She had spoken to BT who were supportive of adoption. The box needed repair and Men's Shed were keen to look at repairing it, following a conversation they would need to have with the Conservation Officer given its listed status. The costs of refurbishment would come out of the UKSPF project to green Abbey Foregate. Previously the Shopshire Youth Theatre had expressed an interest in it being a youth theatre space. The Town Council would work with the Abbey Ward Member to develop a questionnaire to seek local views on what they would like to see happen in the phone box. The Town Clerk had looked at the agreement; this was the same agreement as the one they had signed for the phone box outside of the Library on Castle Street. She was happy to proceed with signing the necessary documentation and proceeding with the legal transfer.

**RESOLVED:**

**That**

- 1. The Town Council approves an adoption request for the payphone outside of the Abbey;**
- 2. The Town Clerk seek the necessary agreement to adopt the red phone box outside of the Abbey;**
- 3. The Town Clerk seek the support of Men's Shed to restore the phone Box;**
- 4. The Town Clerk work with the ward members to seek a future use for the phone box.**

### **83/25 COST OF LIVING GRANT SCHEME 2026/27**

The Town Clerk reported that the cost of Living Working Group had met earlier in the day to review the draft paperwork that was presented to this Committee. They had made minor changes, established a timetable to consider applications and distribute funds and agreed a programme of communications and monitoring. The closing date for applications would be the 15<sup>th</sup> May and all applications would be shortlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Applicants would be interviewed on 28 May and all applicants would be informed of the decisions on 29 May. Funding would commence on 1 June.

Projects would be monitored on Months 5 & 11 to coincide with half yearly drawdown of funding and approval for subsequent year funding.

Councillor Mickelwright was happy that the Working Group had been set up and thanked all staff for arranging it.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That all proposals as outlined for the Cost of Living Grant Fund be approved.**

### **84/25 GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK**

The Town Clerk had drafted a report on the kind of activities that the Town Council could promote as part of Great Big Green Week. They had programmed lots of activity in 2024 but sadly patronage was poor and didn't pose value for money for them to do something similar. Having said that there were lots of activities and blogs the team were working on that promoted good horticultural and biodiversity practice that they could signpost the community towards. This year would be a lighter touch whilst still capturing the sentiment of Great Big Green Week. The Communications Officer would also be producing blogs for Great Big Green Week.

Councillor Wilson agreed but asked that, on behalf of Councillor Dean, could the Town Council promote the services they do and how they fit into Climate Change, plant resilience etc.

Councillor Jephcott understood what the Town Clerk had said. He commented that two recent activities within his ward would both fit under the Big Green Week and any Countryside activity would also go well for the week.

Councillor Mosley suggested having link with allotments and how valuable they were. The Town Clerk said she would discuss this with the Allotment Secretaries at the scheduled meeting in a couple of weeks.

## **85/25 YOUTH**

### **85.1 Young Shrewsbury activity**

The Youth & Community Manager provided an update on Youth activity in Shrewsbury. Youth clubs at The Grange, Ditherington, The Hive, and Lodge Monkmoor concluded their sessions this week ahead of the Easter break. Attendance levels remained strong across all locations, with each club reporting positive engagement and consistent numbers throughout the last term.

HAF activities would commence over the Easter break and were scheduled to be well attended.

Delivery of the Alternative Curriculum continued throughout the term and remained a valued intervention for young people requiring additional support. This term, the programme welcomed new participants from Shrewsbury Academy, bringing the total number of places utilised to 12. Feedback from school staff and young people continued to highlight the importance of this provision.

The Youth Council was scheduled to reconvene on Thursday 23rd April 2026 at Guildhall, home of Shropshire Council. At the previous meeting, members agreed that future sessions should be held at a range of civic and community venues to broaden their understanding of the work undertaken by both Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council. Upcoming venues included Weeping Cross and the Guildhall, enabling young people to gain first-hand insight into the wider remit of local government and democracy. It was asked if any members wished to volunteer to join the Youth Council and Councillors Micklewright & Bentick agreed to join.

Work on the Million Hours Project was progressing well. During the Easter period, engagement activities would be carried out in the Quarry, the town centre, and Coton Hill. These sessions focused on consulting with young people, gathering their views, and shaping the direction of the project. Broader project planning was currently underway, with a full update to be reported separately.

Recruitment had now been successfully completed for all vacant youth worker posts, including roles required to support the delivery of the Million Hours funded project. Newly appointed staff would contribute to strengthening the programme and enhancing youth provision across the town. There was the possibility of recruiting two more members of staff, but this was not yet finalised.

Young Shrewsbury continued to deliver a wide range of meaningful programmes, maintaining strong engagement and supporting young people

across the community. Ongoing development work, including the Million Hours Project and Youth Council expansion, would further enhance opportunities for participation and influence a positive outcome for young people.

The newly installed Pump Track in Meole Brace was being enjoyed by many young people. The Youth workers regularly visit and engage with the young people there. They had also taken a local council on a visit to the track as they were interested in installing one also.

Councillor Bentick raised the issue of youth provision in the South of Shrewsbury and Gains Park and would there be a formal session for them. There were 400 young people in Meole Estate, and he would like a specific provision i.e. weekly youth clubs arranged. The Youth & Community Manager replied to say that they had looked at provisions in this location and how it could be funded and he was in talks with Councillor Tandy regarding this. They had completed a survey in Meole and a lot of the Young People already attended the youth session held at the Hive and said that they would not attend one in Meole Brace if it was organised. It was agreed that they would constantly review the provision. Councillor Bentick added that he had done consultations on the estate and he was getting a different story. He asked if the Town Council could bus young people into other areas, but it was confirmed that this does not happen. The only time young people have been bused anywhere was to Youth Council meetings.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted.**

**85.2 Million Hours Funding**

The Town Clerk updated members on the Million Hours Project. This was an exciting project which gave them a huge opportunity to develop intensive activity. Shrewsbury Town Council submitted a bid for £96,260 to deliver an intensive 26-week youth engagement programme within the town centre.

Rangers had been engaging with young people since half term, sadly less so by Youth Workers. This was something that the Youth & Community Manager would be addressing as they headed into the Easter Holidays and it would be a prime time to engage with young people. The Youth & Community Manager would be able to give details of rota arrangements and activities if required.

Councillor Bentick asked if they could advise on the wards the Young People came from, but the Town Clerk advised that there was no postcode data being captured.

Councillor Mosley asked in what context the partners were involved. The Town Clerk said that The Hive hold art activities and DJ work, the BID work

alongside bank to get young people smart with money and information about business schools, Public Health raise awareness sessions on County Lines/drugs etc, West Mercia Police are out and about alongside the Town Rangers, the Town Council work alongside Shropshire Council Youth and the High Sheriff may open further doors for further funding.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the update be noted.**

### **85.3 Hosting the Knife Angel in Shrewsbury**

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had arranged for the Knife Angel to be hosted in the Square in July. Alongside this sculpture there would be a campaign to raise awareness with the public, young people and community workers. A really worthwhile project. The Knife Angel would act as the centrepiece of a two-month campaign.

Youth Workers would look to visiting School Assemblies and workshops, delivering using established national toolkits (e.g. No Knives Better Lives, PSHE resources), focussing on consequences of knife crime, peer pressure and decision-making and personal safety

As part of the Million Hours project there would be structured group sessions with targeted discussions on risk, conflict, and youth choices all delivered in a creative way.

The Town Rangers were working extended shifts to 8pm as part of the Million Hours Programme to deliver Street-based engagement in key locations, using intervention messaging. They would be promoting the upcoming Knife Angel events.

The Communications Officer was developing a “Shrewsbury Together Against Knife Crime” campaign for Social media, local press, and partner messaging using Youth-led content where possible.

The whole aspect of Knife Crime has established a need to carry out a programme of Knife Crime Awareness with public facing staff including Town Council staff, Shopping Centre Security, Town Rangers and any other Community-facing workers in the town centre in a collaborative Team Shrewsbury way.

A Shrewsbury contextual training course is being developed which will increase awareness of risk factors and warning signs, improved confidence in responding to concerns and set out clear understanding of safeguarding pathways to follow.

Youth worker hours, training costs and creation of educational materials will be covered by the Million Hours Funding from the National Lottery.

Councillor Mosley commented that they had previously tried to get the Knife Angel in Shrewsbury but sadly covid hit.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted.**

**86/25 TEAM SHREWSBURY**

**86.1 Update on the work of Team Shrewsbury**

The Office Manager provided an update on Team Shrewsbury activities. During the past 3 months, the number of incidents had fluctuated. However, on comparison with the yearly data, the incidents during 2026 had reduced.

Shropshire Council Financial Assistance was available, and the contact details were listed on the report.

Councillor Pardy stated that shoplifting appeared high and asked the reasons why. The Town Clerk reported that more of them were being captured by the Town Rangers, so figures were higher.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the contents of the report be noted**

**86.2 Policing Priorities**

The Office Manager provided an update on Policing Priorities. The policing priorities presented at this meeting were for ratifying for the April submission. The next submission would be July and requests for Councillor priorities would therefore be made during June and ratified at the Community & Environment Committee on the 12 August.

Councillor Micklewright asked if there was any update on the parking issues. The Office Manager replied to say that no further comments had been received and that the Police still stated it was not a Police matter. Councillor Wilson commented that government were bringing forward legislation to enforce pavement parking to enable the council to enforce but they were awaiting implementation from the Government.

Councillor Pardy commented that parking had been a complaint for many years and whilst they blamed each other there was nothing that could be done. It was a safety issue now and it was time it was sorted out.

Councillor Jephcott commented that this was a useful initiative and was appreciated and noted by the community. He said that in previous years there had been a representative of the Police on the Committee and asked if it would be possible for them to attend or try and re-start this process again. The Town Clerk confirmed she would talk to the Inspector to see if this was something that could be arranged.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;**
- (ii) That the Policing Priorities for January 2026 be approved.**
- (iii) That the Town Clerk contacts the Inspector to discuss a Police representative at future meetings**

## **87/25 QUARRY EVENTS CALENDAR**

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Quarry Events Calendar.

The schedule for 2026 was looking healthy with interest continuing to be received on a regular basis for potential events to be held in The Quarry and elsewhere. As the full list demonstrated the vast majority were from local organisations who recognised the unique setting on offer in The Quarry with its riverside setting and close proximity to the town centre.

As with 2025 there would be less large-scale festivals or concerts being held in the park this year, however this had allowed a greater degree of flexibility to what could be staged and enabled a number of complementary events to be planned for the same day in different areas of the park. Having said that negotiations were continuing with several local and national promoters regarding potential large-scale events they would like to bring to Shrewsbury in 2027. These discussions were continuing to progress well and there may well be some exciting developments for future events which can be announced later this year.

One event which won't be happening for the foreseeable future is the Shrewsbury Flower Show with the Shropshire Horticultural Society confirming their position shortly after the last report in February. The Town Council had continued to offer its support to the society as it explored which direction to take in the future, meeting several of their representatives for initial discussions in recent weeks.

The "Summer of Music" 2026 programme was growing all the time with the vast majority of performers returning once again and a steady number of new bands wanting to get on board. The schedule had nearly been finalised, which would then allow all the promotional elements to begin in earnest. The aim would be to take the same focussed approach to promotion and publicity but to try and reach people who

may have been unaware last year. New avenues to explore would include contacting places like assisted living accommodation and nursing homes, as well as schools and colleges directly to gauge interest. The approach last year proved very successful in providing audiences with a consistent message that there would be free musical performances to enjoy on the majority of weekends across the summer. Hopefully the increased variety of music on offer this year would also broaden the appeal.

Severn Trent Water and their contractors had completed the first phase of their large-scale sewerage infrastructure project from St Julians to Kingsland Bridge. They were now awaiting their plans for the next phase to run across the main arena although they would now have to work around the Town Council event schedule as they were warned.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted.**

## **88/25 MARKETS**

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Markets.

### **88.1 Indoor Market**

The report covered the first trading period of the year which was traditionally the most challenging as footfall and customer spend inevitably drops off after the Christmas and New Year mayhem. From speaking to traders, it was clear that there had undoubtedly been some quiet operating days, particularly when the weather was particularly poor. However, it was reassuring to note that the market had got busier week on week, especially on Friday and Saturday, with the most recent weekends being especially vibrant.

The entire market had continued to operate at 100% occupancy, including The Town Council's canopied section of regular traders where there were no rental arrears to report. Demand for trading space remained extremely high with speculative enquiries received on a regular basis and strong interest shown whenever any units or stalls become available. A double town council unit had recently changed hands due to the much-loved existing trader having to sell their business on health grounds. The new owner was excited to be able to build on the existing solid customer base and introduced some new product lines which would broaden the offer. The interest shown in these units was considerable with only limited publicity proving to be necessary.

There were two Shropshire Council traders who would also be retiring in the next month or so and their units would undoubtedly be filled very quickly. As ever the tenancy change process would continue to be managed

collaboratively between both management teams with the overriding aim being to make decisions which had the best interests of the market at the forefront. The plan at the moment was for an existing tenant to have the deserved opportunity to expand and a new trader to be brought in to further enhance the overall mix.

Since the last report the market had won another accolade at the annual NABMA awards in Birmingham. This time taking the title of Britain's Favourite Community market for 2026 which was another testament to everyone's hard work and further vindication of the approach they were continuing to adopt in relation to all aspects of the market operation.

There had been some debate in recent weeks about whether to continue with the late-night events at the market either in the existing format or through a new approach. Over recent years these nights had predominantly involved the food and beverage operators within the market with very limited uptake from the retail traders. The events had very much been led by the traders themselves and co-ordinated through their market hall development group with the management team then helping to facilitate the operation. The traders reported mixed results over 2025 with some dates proving much more successful than others. As a result, many of those traders who had previously taken part had decided to focus on other areas of their business and consequently there were insufficient numbers to make the late night's a viable proposition this year. An alternative approach was put forward to finish at 8 o'clock once a month on a Saturday but again it failed to gain enough support from the traders to move it forward. Although this was undoubtedly a disappointment to some, there were plans in place to look at holding special events on a more sporadic basis which may well prove to be more sustainable.

The portable wooden stall which was introduced just before Christmas had been back with Shrewsbury Men's shed to make some alterations to make it easier to be brought in and out of the building. It was returned to the market in time to be used very successfully over the Mother's Day weekend by the existing market florist. He had already indicated he would be looking to use it again soon and they were now in a position to promote its availability. The plan was to commission the Men's Shed to make a second stall to the new specification and also refurb the internal 'barrow' on the gallery floor.

## **88.2 Sunday Outdoor Market**

Following the face-to-face meeting between the operators of the Sunday Market and Town Council officers in Livesey House on 22nd January, there had been a great deal of scrutiny on the number of traders present and the footfall of potential customers in the weeks that had followed.

A challenging combination of poor winter weather and post-Christmas belt tightening continued to have a detrimental impact on the immediate Sundays following on from the meeting. Despite improved weather the traders' numbers and consequently footfall volumes were disappointing on the final market in January, whilst the cold and wet conditions for the first market held in February put paid to the hopes of a successful event.

From that point on there had been a solid if unspectacular improvement in both traders, car booters and footfall over the rest of the trading period when the weather had allowed a market to be held. This had enabled the trader numbers to slowly grow week on week and that continuity had attracted a steady growth in visitor numbers.

The continued Police presence, through their monthly surgery, had been of significant benefit offering both reassurance and a point of interest to visitors and traders alike.

The operators had been actively pursuing new traders and have had a good response, which should help to boost overall numbers as the weather improved. They had also been working with several charity partners, offering them free pitches to bolster their fundraising efforts and again increase general interest in the market. Hope House had been in attendance since the market's inception whilst the Motor Neurone Disease Association recently joined the scheme raising £300 at their first market.

Traders have had to deal with counterfeit £20 notes being presented, alerting traders and patrons, whilst logging the incidents and raising the issue with the Police at their surgery on 22nd February.

The cleanliness of the site continued to be an ongoing battle. There was clearly no litter picking done by the site owners on a regular basis; however, discussions had taken place with nearby fast-food outlets including McDonald's to try and address this issue at source.

It had clearly been a struggle over the difficult winter months and with the benefit of hindsight it would be prudent to consider suspending the market for a defined period between January and April. The evidence of this winter suggested that the numbers would not support the venture in its current guise through this three-month period.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted**

## **89/25 GRANTS**

The Town Clerk reported that the notes of the Grants Committee following their meeting with applicants, had been distributed to all. Their grant funding recommendations were contained within the minutes for this Committee for ratification.

Councillor Micklewright said the meeting had been well attended. The Group Committee could not give the full amount requested by the applicants, but every applicant got something. It was also a nice range of grant applications received.

Councillor Mosley briefly spoke about The Henry Angell James Memorial Trust who had requested a community grant. It was agreed by members that the committee continued the previous policy of recommending these applications to be funded by ward councillor grants. Councillor Mosley agreed to contribute £500, and the Responsible Finance Officer would email the other ward councillors. Councillor Mosley asked members present for their assistance on this.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the recommendations of the Grants Working Group be approved**

## **90/25 FISHERIES**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the work of Shrewsbury Town Council Fisheries.

The Fisheries had recently assisted Shrewsbury Town Council with the trimming back of trees around the fishing platforms in the Quarry Park. Over half the platforms, 26 in total, had been overgrown and prevented anglers being able to fish from them. With the prolonged high river levels during the winter over the last three years there had only been very small windows of opportunity to implement any tree maintenance, and this was a last opportunity to do the work for this winter. The fisheries received numerous comments from the public saying they were glad to see the work being done.

Coaching events for this year would be added to the website and ready for bookings in the first week of April.

The permit price increased for day tickets from £8 to £9 and the Emstrey full season permit from £35 to £40, this would be updated on the fisheries website to go live on 1st April.

As the river coarse season closed on 15th March, patrols continued to enforce the close season period with the assistance of wildlife police officer on some tours of the river fisheries. The pools all remained open for angling.

Councillor Pardy asked who employed the bailiffs and the Town Clerk confirmed that they were all volunteers.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted**

**91/25 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. All papers related to the meeting could be found on the website [www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk).