

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Council**  
**Held in the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Shrewsbury at**  
**6pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**PRESENT**

Councillors E Roberts (Mayor), B Bentick, R Dartnall, M Davies, J Dean, P Gillam, N Green, K Halliday, C Lemon, P Moseley, A Mosley, K Pardy, A Phillips, D Vasmer, A Warner & R Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk), Gary Farmer (Head of Operations), Andy Watkin (Head of Resources), Ruth Jones (Officer Manager), Michelle Farmer (Committee Clerk); James Jesic (Operations Director), Joy Doyle (External Communications Lead), Michael Keenan (Local Infrastructure Officer), & Stuart Hill (Local Infrastructure Officer) [Severn Trent Water]; Tim Pritchard (Shrewsbury Programme Manager, Shropshire Council) and 16 members of the public.

**29/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED:**

**That apologies be accepted from Councillor B Wall**

**30/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Shropshire Councillors	Twin hatted members declared personal interests in matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council
Councillor Alex Phillips	Personal interest in Greenfields Recreation Ground as ward member

**31/22 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 June 2022 were submitted as circulated and read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 8 June 2022 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record upon the inclusion of Councillor Phillips registration of a Personal Interest in the Greenfields Recreation Ground as Ward Member.**

## **32/22 MATTERS ARISING**

### **86/21 – West Midlands Ambulance Station, Mercian Road**

A letter from the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust had been circulated via email to all Councillors.

Councillor Lemon commented that the reply received had not addressed the concerns that had been raised and would like a meeting arranged with the Ambulance Service. Councillor Bentick agreed and said the site needed to be moved urgently from its current location.

### **107/21(iv) – North West Relief Road**

A draft letter had been circulated following Councillor Dartnall's motion. This had been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Transport Minister and the subsequent reply had been circulated to all Councillors via email.

## **33/22 GREENFIELDS RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Mosley informed the Council that the four group leaders had met on three occasions in relation to the resolution passed at the 8 June Full Council meeting. He assured the public that the matter was being taken seriously and were committed to future endeavours.

The report stated that Shrewsbury Town Council resolved to accept the findings of the Redfern Report and in doing so unreservedly apologised to the residents of Greenfields, members of the Greenfields Community Group and the wider Shrewsbury community for its failure to properly identify the legal status of the land referred to as "the Site" and for their failings to adequately communicate and consult with them. In doing so, the four group leaders made the following recommendations at this meeting:

- (i)** Means by which the site could be returned to public ownership and made available as a public amenity:

  - An agent had been instructed to value the land based on outline permission for eight homes and the current permission for fifteen. They were advised that this wasn't a straightforward process and may take several weeks.
  - They believe that Shrewsbury Town Council is entitled to buy the land under S124 of the Local Government Act (1972). Any proposed purchase of the land must be compliant with regulatory, statutory and fiduciary standards that Shrewsbury Town Council applies on behalf of and in the interests of all its residents. They had sought and were awaiting legal advice plus consideration from auditors on this.
  - A meeting had been held with the developer and they would meet with the Greenfields Community Group.
  
- (ii)** Following the recommendation in the Redfern report to establish a process for mediation as referred to in paras (e) and (f) of the report:

  - Shrewsbury Town Council remained open to mediation, however initial inquiries indicated that other parties noted in the Redfern report may not become involved and that further investigation of opportunities was required.

- (iii) The Town Council is finding an appropriate process for dealing with inadequacies in their policy and procedures recognised within the report:
- A working party was to be established of officers and members with a full report and recommendations brought to Full Council by the end of the year.
  - Advice and models were to be sought from NALC, LGA and peer councils.
  - Policies to be brought forward for assessment would include; Assess Disposal Policy (new), Community Engagement Strategy, Complaints Procedure (including Appeals), Vexatious Complainants Policy (new) and Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Model Publication Scheme).

The final part is to establish an internal process, supported by expert advice, to identify those issues not dealt with in the report as noted in the Post-script to the report. Efforts were underway to appoint an independent support in HR, Planning and Legal matters to advise if further action was appropriate and necessary.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) **That Council accepts the report and Group leaders continue to make progress as outlined.**
- (ii) **A further discussion to held at Full Council in September.**

**34/22 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

In the interests of continued public engagement, it was proposed and seconded and

**RESOLVED:**

**That standing orders be suspended to allow the public to take part in the meeting.**

**35/22 PUBLIC COMMENT ON GREENFIELDS RECREATION GROUND**

The following questions were as asked by members of the public.

***How much dialogue had there been between Shrewsbury Town Council and the developer?***

Councillor Mosley advised that there had been a meeting with the developer and Shrewsbury Town Council, attended by Councillor Mosley and Councillor Wilson, but the content of the meeting was not for publication at this time.

***Regarding the possible purchase of land, is it possible that the Town Council have another asset to offer the developer?***

Councillor Mosley confirmed that a land swap option was not being pursued.

**36/22 RECONVENING OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That standing orders be reconvened to enable the meeting to continue.**

**37/22 CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL DEBATE ON GREENFIELDS RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Davies proposed an amendment to the recommendation and asked if the Town Council should ask for a valuation of the site without planning permission and the timescales involved?

Councillor Mosley stated that the timescale had already been set for Full Council in September, but was happy to accept the amendment.

Councillor Vasmer said the Town Council needed to know how much the land is worth without the planning permission and that he didn't agree that the process of valuing the land would take several weeks.

Councillor Phillips commented that he was surprised the process was not straightforward but that was what had been advised. It was important to be thorough, and that he still agreed with mediation and that Shropshire Council had not said that they would engage and enter into mediation. He asked that Shropshire Council showed the same commitment as the Town Council and worked together towards a resolution. He also suggested that the Town Council meet with the community before the next Full Council meeting and provide an update as involvement from the community was important.

Councillor Mosley stated that the Town Council had approached a local agent asking for a valuation and that the correct process had to be followed. He gave assurances that the group leaders were taking this issue seriously and would hold meetings with the developer, Greenfields Community Group and Shropshire Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the report be accepted with amendment;**
- ii) That Group Leaders report back to the next Full Council meeting in September**
- iii) That the Greenfields Community Group liaise with Councillor Alex Phillips to arrange a meeting before next Full Council meeting**

**38/22 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**38.1 MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor & Deputy Mayor's engagements for the period 4 March 2022 to 30 June 2022 were circulated and noted.

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting she had a full diary and attended a number of events including a visit to the de-commissioning of HMS Talent from the Royal Navy on the 20<sup>th</sup> May which was a privilege to be part of and to meet HRH The Princess Royal.

The Mayor had attended many events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee including the Beacon Lighting Ceremony, parties and afternoon teas.

**38.2 TOWN CLERK ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk had a number of events that she made Council aware of; these included the Queens Baton Relay - 18 July. The Town Council was working alongside Shropshire Council for this public event which would finish in the Quarry. Staff were maintaining the Castle and the Quarry in preparation for the event. The Town Clerk advised that the Finance & General Purposes meeting scheduled for the 18 July would be moved to 11 July as a number of staff were required at the event.

Britain in Bloom Judging - 26 July. This would start at The Castle and end at The Flaxmill. Abbey Gardens and Monkmoor Meadows would be entered in the Parks and Open Spaces Category.

Royal Yeomanry Freedom Parade - 30 July. This would be a march through the streets of Shrewsbury in recognition of the long association which has existed between the town and the regiment.

### **39/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

The Town Clerk confirmed there had been a number of questions from the public, but they all related to Severn Trent and suggested that they be deferred the questions to that item on the agenda.

### **40/22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

No questions had been received.

### **41/22 RIVER SEVERN**

The Mayor welcomed James Jesic, Joy Doyle, Michael Keenan & Stuart Hill from Severn Trent Water who updated the Council on plans to improve the rivers.

Severn Trent Water provided 8 million people across the region with water and wastewater services. They employ over 7,000 people and were supported by an extensive supply chain of around 2,800 direct suppliers. They maintain over 49,000km of clean water and 92,000km of sewer pipes.

They had been awarded the top 4\* rating by the Environment Agency for their environmental performance.

They had launched their new river pledges; Get River Positive and had spent £1.5 billion on environmental initiatives including the Great Big Nature Boost. This was a plan to restore peatland, receive 12,000 acres of land, plant 1.3 million trees and restore 2,000km of rivers by 2030.

Severn Trent had a Triple Carbon Pledge 2030, aimed to have a 100% electric fleet, 100% renewable energy and Net Zero Carbon Emissions. They had also supported post-Covid economy with a £566 million green recovery investment.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had said the rivers were generally healthier and were improving overall, although they did need to ramp up the pace. The water sector had cut ammonia emissions by 70%, phosphates by 60% and toxic metals like cadmium and mercury by 50% over the last 30 years. The sector had also cut serious pollution by 90% over the same time. They admitted that they had too few rivers at 'good' status.

The CSO (combined sewage outlet) legacy accounted for about 4% of the problem and one they were determined to solve. There was generally ample capacity for sewage, but it was intense rainwater that caused problems with CSOs.

Severn Trent Water plan to improve the rivers by having river pledges.

- Pledge One was to ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers
- Pledge Two was to create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the region's rivers.
- Pledge Three was to support others to improve and care for rivers
- Pledge Four was to enhance the rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive

- Pledge Five was to be open and transparent about their performances and plans.

#### **42/22 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

To enable public present to take part in the debate and ask questions it was proposed, seconded and

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That standing orders be suspended to allow the public to take part in the meeting.**

#### **43/22 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

##### **Claire Kirby**

*In my local Shrewsbury Neighbourhood, all too often (and increasingly) there is raw sewage (including sanitary towels, wiped and toilet paper) splurged along the 'pig trough' footpath and the 'flash garden' in Coton Hill. The sewage splurges up through the manhole cover right by Coton Hill cso\* and often up several of the other manholes at regular intervals along the foot path.*

*Along with many other people, I have reported these to Severn Trent for several years. Apart from vain efforts to clear up the worst of it at the time, nothing has been done. Over the last few months, I have been in communication with Leighton Collier in public protection at Shropshire Council as sewage is full of pathogens (some of which are now antibiotic resistant).*

*Whilst it is (erroneously) legal to dump raw sewage into the river, in what world is it alright to contaminate a (very well used) footpath and public park with raw sewage?*

*Being that Shropshire Council is charged with our public protection and Severn Trent are responsible for the pollution and you are both here today, what are you going to do about it?*

*\*Coton Hill combined sewage outfall permit number s/02/21023/0 'discharged' 36 times (that were recorded may have been more) for a total of 284 hours in 2021.*

#### **Response:**

Severn Trent confirmed that they were aware of the issue at Pig Trough and confirmed the problems were not acceptable. They were looking at how to resolve the issue and were focused on a resolution, but it would take time. They confirmed there were flow monitors around the area that would give them an idea on a solution. It could take six to twelve months to see any variations. Severn Trent also agreed to ensure the gates were locked so that residents were not walking through waste and the area would be fully cleaned whilst finding a solution.

##### **Julian O'Halloran**

*What steps has the Council taken in the last few years taken to curb the dramatic increase in poultry farms and how big a part are poultry farms now playing in serious agricultural pollution affecting our rivers?*

**Response:**

Severn Trent Water confirmed they work with 9000 farmers and support regenerative farming. They had introduced a team of river rangers who would be taking spot samples. £8 million had been invested in phosphate removal. They were engaging with farmers to resolve any issues and want to do the right thing and be educated also.

**Ron Berry**

*Between 1991 and 2021 how much did Severn Trent Water invest in maintaining and upgrading the sewage infrastructure? In the same period, how much was paid in dividends to STW shareholders?*

**Response:**

Severn Trent had spent £12 billion on environmental improvements since privatisation, and they invest a billion pounds each year. With regards to dividends, £250 million had been paid which helped fund staff pensions. Severn Trent had reduced ammonia by 70% and wildlife was returning to the rivers. They appreciated there was more they could do and were willing to do more.

**Jane Asterley Berry**

*Scottish Water is in public ownership and its CEO is paid £366k per annum. Since 2002, Scottish Water has invested 35% more in its water infrastructure than England's water companies and 60% of Scottish rivers have achieved 'good ecological status'. By contrast, English water companies are all privatised. As an example of pay comparison, the CEO of Severn Trent Water most recently received a pay package of £2.4m. Yet only 14% of England's rivers have achieved 'good ecological status'. Why are there such differences in reward and achievement?*

**Response:**

Severn Trent said they could only answer for Severn Trent and not Scottish Water. They invest a billion pounds every year into the water infrastructure. They were unable to comment about Scottish Water's pay packages but confirmed that the pay package for the CEO of Severn Trent Water was performance related.

**Paul Holden**

*Severn Trent Water's annual report for 2021-22 said "our region's rivers have improved significantly in the past 32 years". What evidence from the early 90's is that claim based on?*

**Response:**

The data Severn Trent had showed that the rivers were the best they had been since the industrial revolution. They admitted there was always more that could be done. The monitoring wasn't great in the 1990's but that had now improved, and they had set things in place that show how rivers had improved.

**44/22 RECONVENING OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED:**

**That standing orders be reconvened to enable the meeting to continue.**

## 45/22 CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL DEBATE ON RIVER SEVERN

Councillor Green commented that residents in his ward were not happy with the situation in Pig Trough and asked when the problem would stop. Severn Trent Water advised that this would not be a quick fix due to decades of expansion to deal with but they were committed to having a full plan within two years.

Councillor Bentick asked what had been done to reduce discharges over the last 30 years and asked how much money had been spent on the Reabrook in Shrewsbury. Immediate improvement was required, and the Town Council would be happy to work with Severn Trent Water. Severn Trent was happy to work with local councils and accepted there was more they should be doing. They had learned from errors made and agreed that more could be done.

Councillor Phillips stated that Severn Trent Water needed to come back with a timescale and a list of priorities as Shrewsbury is neglected. Severn Trent were currently looking at reviewing investment for 2025-2030. They would be happy to return to Council once those investment plans were agreed.

Councillor Halliday had circulated a motion prior to the meeting. In presenting her motion she said that:

Clean, healthy rivers were essential to Shrewsbury's prosperity and wellbeing. In recent years the water had deteriorated for a variety of reasons but the chief contributor in urban areas were the frequent and intermittent discharges of raw sewage when it rained. The combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) had contributed to the deterioration of the water quality and biodiversity and had a negative health impact on those who swim in the river. According to local Angling clubs, fish stocks had reduced by 60% in the last 10 years. Data released by the Environment Agency showed that water companies discharged raw sewage into English Waters 400,00 times last year, an increase of 27% on the previous year.

The Environment Act (2021) required water companies to ensure progressive reduction of the adverse impact of discharges, and introduced additional monitoring and reporting obligations. However, it did not give water companies a timetable to invest and update the sewage system, and there remains no legal duty on water companies not to release sewage into waterways. It is therefore important that Shrewsbury Town Council plays an active role in holding key partners to account.

Councillor Dartnall queried the £12 billion investment and how that compared with the profit made during the same period. Mr Jestic wasn't aware of the profits made but the £12 billion investment equated to current values.

Councillor Vasmer asked what discussions Severn Trent had with Shropshire Council over new development. Mr Jestic advised that Severn Trent Water was not a statutory consultee in the planning process.

To address the issue of cleaner water, Severn Trent had recently announced the Green Recovery programme which works towards a goal of 15km (9.3 miles) of bathing quality waters by 2025. This includes the River Teme in South Shrewsbury which falls within the constituency of Philip Dunne, Chair of the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee. Severn Trent had also pledged to double the amount of bathing rivers in its region in the



next 10 years. In January 2022, a motion improving river quality was passed unanimously by Shropshire Council.

Councillor Dean sought an amendment to the motion seeking an understanding on the cumulative impact of sewage discharge on housing and agricultural development. Councillor Halliday was happy to include this amendment.

**Resolved that;**

**Shrewsbury Town Council is greatly concerned with the extent of sewage discharges and farm-related discharges and its impact on the environment and the health and well-being of residents. Hence, they wish to play a role in raising awareness of the issue and encouraging multi agency co-ordination by considering organising a public meeting to look at the following:**

- **To better understand the reasons for sewage discharges and farm-related discharges**
- **To understand the nature of the infrastructure improvements that would be necessary, and to ask water companies to provide timescales for mitigating the effects of sewage and other pollutants being discharged into the rivers in Shrewsbury, and to discuss the funding of capital schemes and possible access to additional funding.**
- **To better understand the monitoring of these discharges, ensuring that there is a comprehensive coverage across Shrewsbury and that the reporting of any results was easily available, open and transparent**
- **To identify a section(s) of the Severn in Shrewsbury that could benefit from bathing Water status and how to achieve and maintain that status.**
- **To seek to understand the cumulative impact on sewage discharge on housing and agricultural development**

#### **46/22 RIVERSIDE DEVELOPMENT**

The Mayor welcomed Tim Pritchard, Shrewsbury Programme Manager (Shropshire Council) to the meeting. Tim presented an overview of the proposed works for the Riverside area of Shrewsbury.

He explained that there was a conceptual masterplan with different phases for each plot and there was still a lot of work to be done. The first phase was to include a Leisure & Mobility Hub, Multi-Agency Hub and Public Services hub. These phases were their current priority. Riverside would still connect to Pride Hill. Shropshire Council owned all of the site, apart from the Premier Inn.

Shropshire Council had agreed a programme of works including:

- The construction of the Multi-Agency Hub
- Planning application and tendering for the demolition of the Riverside Shopping centre
- Procurement and delivery strategy for Smithfield Riverside
- Life cycle carbon assessments for phase one of the programme
- Engagement with the Environment Agency/River Severn Partnership regarding adaption for Climate Change.

- Declare the Shirehall building as surplus to requirements and implement the disposal and marketing strategy for the site

This would be a challenging time, but the timescales were set as March 2026 for completion. Consultants had been appointed and a detailed programme for demolition of the Riverside Shopping Centre, and procurement would commence in Spring 2023 for completion by Spring 2024 (subject to EA/Planning approval). For the construction of the multi-agency hub and Leisure and Travel hub, a development Management consultancy team to be appointed in September/October 2022.

Councillor Vasmer queried why there was no mention of a bus station in the proposal. Mr Pritchard reported that a bus station was tagged in the drawings and was being dealt with as part of the Movement Strategy.

Members made the following comments.

Councillor Dean enquired on the drive for such a scale of development; it was clearly to maximise the value of the land, but was that for the benefit of Shrewsbury residents? Mr Pritchard reported that Shropshire Council needed to show leadership to trigger investment and make development opportunities viable.

Councillor Phillips believed there was a market demand for housing and not for a hotel. Why wasn't housing being promoted as a priority? Mr Pritchard advised that investment ahead of housing was needed to make the site viable.

## **47/22 MOTIONS**

### **47.1 (i) Shrewsbury Town Council Residents' survey and Visioning – Presented by Councillor Wilson**

Councillor Wilson presented the following motion.

This Council notes:

1. The latest set of elections for Shrewsbury Town Council took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
2. The results of the Local Elections represented a political shift in the makeup of the Council.
3. At the Full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the Town Clerk presented a paper "to seek Council's approval in undertaking an in-house visioning exercise to develop a Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan to assist the Town Council in its service delivery over the next 4 financial years ending in the 2025/26 financial year.  
(<https://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/36-Agenda18-Visioning-Exercise.pdf>).
4. It was resolved:
  - a. That the contents of the report be noted.
  - b. That the plan for the Visioning Exercise be agreed.
  - c. That members of Full Council commit to active participation in this exercise.
5. The proposed timetable was:
  - a. Initial Session w/c 27th September 2021
  - b. Follow-Up Session w/c 18th October 2021
  - c. Action Plan Session w/c 15th November 2021
  - d. Final Session w/c 29th November 2021
  - e. Presented to Finance & General Purpose Committee 6th December 2021

6. The first Visioning session was planned for 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
7. On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 it was decided that the proposed Visioning Sessions throughout October and November should be cancelled on risk of COVID outbreak grounds.
8. The Big Town Plan Masterplan Vision was published in January 2021, and sets out the vision for the development of Shrewsbury over the next 20 years, under the direction of the Big Town Plan Partnership (a joint venture between Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council and Shrewsbury BID).
9. Many Town Council's run annual residents' surveys to assess satisfaction with council services and seek views on other services that could be run by the council. For example:
  - a. Witney Town Council (<https://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/news/witney-town-council-annual-residents-satisfaction-survey-2022/>),
  - b. Frome Town Council (<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-chance-to-help-to-shape-our-town/>),
  - c. Flitwick Town Council (<https://www.flitwick.gov.uk/flitwick-residents-annual-survey-2022/>),
  - d. Woodley Town Council (<https://www.woodley.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/woodley-residents-survey>),
  - e. Knaresborough Town Council ([http://www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/Resident\\_Survey\\_41356.aspx](http://www.knaresboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk/Resident_Survey_41356.aspx)).
10. The largest 5 civil parishes in England (Northampton, Sutton Coldfield, Weston-Super-Mare, Crewe and Shrewsbury) do not, it appears, currently run an annual residents' survey.
11. There is a sum of £8000 in the earmarked reserves for "Community Engagement".

This Council resolves:

1. To launch an annual Shrewsbury Residents' Survey, including, but not limited to:
  - a. assessing satisfaction with the services currently run by the Town Council,
  - b. seeking views on other services that could be provided by the Town Council.
2. To recommence the "Visioning Exercise" at the earliest possible opportunity to provide direction for Shrewsbury Town Council's decision making through to the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

**RESOLVED:**

**(i) That the motion be referred to the next Finance & General purposes Committee for further discussion**

#### **47.2 Flag Flying – Proposed by Councillor Wagner**

Councillor Wagner presented the following motion.

This council notes:

1. The Union Flag is the national flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Crown Dependencies and the Overseas Territories. It is a symbol of national unity and pride. The first Union Flag was created in 1606 and combined the flags of England and Scotland; the present Union Flag dates from 1801.
2. There are designated days when the Union Flag must be flown on UK government buildings by command of Her Majesty the Queen. However, UK government buildings are encouraged to fly the Union Flag all year around.

3. Local authorities and other local organisations are encouraged to follow suit where they wish to fly flags.
4. The Union Flag currently flies daily from the flagpole in the Quarry Park.
5. The flag in use by Shrewsbury Town Council is a banner-of-arms from the town coat of arms. It can be described in heraldic terms as "Azure, 3 leopard faces Or."
6. The three leopard loggerhead pattern, referred to as "loggerheads" locally, was used by local lords of the area on their shields. The use of Loggerheads on the Shrewsbury town arms, first recorded in 1623, is an example and the symbol has become part of the local identity over the years.
7. With the upcoming move of the Town Council from Rigg's Hall to a more prominent town centre location, there is an opportunity for the Town Council to proudly fly its own flag daily.
8. The Government defines specific days that the Union Flag should be flown in precedence ([Union Flag flying guidance for UK government buildings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)).
9. There are other specific days that the Town Council may decide to fly an alternative flag, for example Shropshire Day (23<sup>rd</sup> February), St George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April).
10. There are other specific occasions that the Town Council may decide to fly an alternative flag, for example the White Ensign when HMS Talent are on an official visit, or the Rainbow Flag during Pride Month.

This council resolves:

1. To ensure that the new Shrewsbury Town Council HQ can fly at least one flag from either the front elevation or roof of the building.
2. That the Civics Committee should develop a flag flying schedule for the Shrewsbury Town Council HQ and the Quarry Park taking account of UK Government advice.
3. To fly the Shrewsbury Town Flag daily on the HQ, except on other designated days.
4. To continue to fly the Union Flag daily in the Quarry Park, except on other designated days.
5. To publish the flag flying schedule on the Shrewsbury Town Council.
6. To purchase new flags of standard size as required to fulfil the schedule.
7. To implement the flag flying schedule on the new Shrewsbury Town Council HQ and the flag pole in the Quarry Park as soon as possible.
8. That the Mayor may, with the agreement of the Leader of the Town Council and Town Clerk, request for other flags to flown.

Councillor Dean stated that he disagreed with this motion and would not be taking part in any vote.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the motion be referred to the next Finance & General purposes Committee for further discussion.**

## **48/22 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS**

### **48.1 End of Year Accounts**

The Responsible Finance Officer had prepared the End of Year Accounts in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011, which had been discussed and approved by the F&GP committee. The Responsible Finance Officer had provided an extensive summary of the accounts at the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The RFO reported that he had made reference to the Town Council's resolution 27/22 within Assumption 8 of the Annual Governance Statement and Note 20 Contingent Liabilities of the Annual Accounts.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.**
- (ii) That the Statement of Accounting Policies for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.**
- (iii) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.**
- (iv) That the Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.**
- (v) That the Statement of Movement of Reserves for the financial year 2021/22 be adopted.**
- (vi) That the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022 be adopted.**

#### **48.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return**

The Responsible Financial Officer had prepared the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the period 2021/21. This had three sections:

1. Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 confirming the Council acknowledged its responsibility for ensuring that there was a sound system of internal control including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting system. This was to be signed by the Mayor & Town Clerk.
2. Accounting Statements 2021/22 taking key financial information from the End of Year Accounts. This was to be signed by the Mayor & RFO.
3. External Auditor's Report & Certificate 2021/22. This would be completed by the External Auditor upon the conclusion of the external audit

Once completed and signed, this form would be forwarded to the Town Council's External Auditor before 01 July 2022. At this point the accounts and Annual Return would be made public.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2021/22 be approved and signed by the Mayor & Town Clerk.**
- (ii) That the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 prepared following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities, be approved and signed as by the Mayor and RFO**

#### **49/22 COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

The Liberal Democrat Group sought change to the Finance & General Purposes Committee membership.

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Vasmer replace Councillor Davies on Finance & General Purposes Committee and she in turn act as a substitute.

## **50/22 OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Liberal Democrat Group sought nominations to the vacant Helicopter Liaison Group.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That Councillor Wagner be nominated as the Town Council representative on the Helicopter Liaison Group.**

## **51/22 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**51.1** The minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2022 and 6 June 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4 April 2022 and 6 June 2022 be received and adopted.**

### **51.2 Shropshire Council Housing Allocation Policy Letter**

The Town Clerk had drafted a response to the Housing Allocation Policy. There were no proposals for the letter to be sent.

## **52/22 RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee held on 4 May 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 4 May 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **53/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 5 April, 26 April, 17 May and 7 June 2022 were submitted as circulated as read:

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Planning Committee meetings held on 5 April, 26 April, 17 May and 7 June 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **54/22 CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the informal Climate Change Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal Climate Change Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **55/22 COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the informal external Complaints Committee held on 31 March 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the informal external Complaints Committee meeting held on 31 March 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **56/22 WORKING GROUPS**

### **56.1 YOUTH WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the Youth Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Youth Working Group meeting held on 5 April 2022 be received and adopted.**

### **56.2 JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The minutes of Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 April 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 6 April 2022 be received and adopted.**

### **56.3 HEALTH & WELLBEING WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Working Group meeting held on 3 May 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Group meeting held on 3 May 2022 be received and adopted.**

### **56.4 QUARRY WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of Quarry Working Group meeting held on 19 May 2022 were circulated as read.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Quarry Working Group meeting held on 19 May 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **57/22 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 April 2022 were circulated as read. There were no actions for the Council to consider.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 April 2022 be received and adopted.**

## **58/22 EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

Prior to the meeting a list of executive decisions made by the Town Clerk had been circulated to members. These were decisions that would ordinarily have been made by the Standing Committees but were currently informal meetings to inform the delegated decision making whilst COVID regulations were in place. There were no questions raised by members.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the report be noted and decisions accepted.**

## **59/22 DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Members considered the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to revert back to physical meetings for Full Council and its Standing Committees following the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972. There would no longer be a need to rely on any executive delegation to the Town Clerk

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the delegated authority granted to the Town Clerk on 12 April 2021 (Min 4/20) be withdrawn and all standing committee meetings going forward follow the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and revert to physical meetings.**

## **60/22 FREEDOMS OF THE TOWN OF SHREWSBURY**

### **60.1 HMS Talent**

The Town Clerk reported on the decommissioning of HMS Talent from the Royal Navy on 20 May 2022. The submarine was granted freedom rights by Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council on 7 June 2002. Close links had continued throughout its service. The crew was keen to visit Shrewsbury one last time to exercise its freedom rights one last time. The Town Clerk would liaise with the Commander to identify a date.

### **60.2 Royal Yeomanry**

The Town Clerk reported that the Shropshire Yeomanry had wanted to exercise the freedom rights granted on 30 April 1995, back in May 2020. This was cancelled due to Covid. The Colonel of the Regiment was now keen this would be a full regimental parade; this would take place on 30 July 2022.

## **61/22 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.**

The Mayor advised that live streaming of this meeting would now stop. She thanked members of the public for logging in. All papers relating to the meeting could be found on the website [www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk)

**62/22 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 12 April 2022 were circulated as read.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 12 April 2022 be received and adopted.**