

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
8 JULY 2026**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

MERESIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Purpose of Report

To support the Mereside Community Centre in extending its lease of land at Springfield Recreation Ground.

2. Background

In 2000, Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council granted a lease of land to the Springfield & Sutton Youth & Community Centre to develop a Community Centre on land at Springfield Recreation Ground. The lease was for a 25-year term. The trustees of the charity set about building the centre with various local and national funding pots. The Mereside Community Centre has run independent of local authority support/intervention ever since. Councillor Dartnall is the Town Council representative on the Management Committee; she is currently Chair of the Committee.

3. New Lease

The original lease expired in 2025, therefore it is necessary to renew the lease for a further period. A trawl of paper records at both the Community Centre, Town Council and Shropshire Council has not been able to find a copy of the existing lease. Contact has been made with the Village Halls Adviser at Community Resource as to a process to develop a new lease based upon the ACRE Village Hall Lease Template.

This process will require professional advice to develop a new lease.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report be noted;**
- (ii) That the Council supports the renewal of the lease of land at Springfield Recreation Ground for the continued use by Mereside Community Centre;**
- (iii) That Officer instruct the necessary legal support to establish a new lease**