

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
17 APRIL 2023**

Officer: Helen Ball – Town Clerk

HENCOTE

Purpose of Report

To update members on matters in relation to Hencote

Introduction

Councillor Phillips submitted a motion to Full Council on 27 March 2023 seeking investigation into the potential of applying for a Judicial Review. The motion sought for an extra-ordinary meeting of Finance & General Purposes Committee to be convened to appraise Council on a way forward. Minutes of that meeting have already been presented to this Committee.

The Actions of the Finance Committee of 12 April were as follows:

- (i) That the Town Clerk seeks further legal advice over the course of the next 20 hours to determine whether there could be grounds for Judicial Review and informs Group Leaders appropriately on the afternoon of the 12th April;**
- (ii) That Councillor Phillips, Dean & Green prepare a form of words to be the basis of the Statement of Grounds in a Judicial Review Application;**
- (iii) That Councillor Green, with advice from Councillors Phillips and Dean, draft a formal letter of complaint to Shropshire Council expressing concerns from members and local residents.**

Update

Subsequent to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting the Town Clerk further contacted:

- Planning Adviser to the Society of Local Council Clerks
- Kings Chambers

Both turned around a review of papers quickly and their respective opinions mirrored those already received; that being there were no grounds to seek a Judicial Review.

A meeting of the Group Leaders was duly convened and there was unanimous agreement that the Council having now received 5 sets of opinion not to proceed, any plans to seek Judicial Review should be stopped.

A Press release was published on that basis.

Officers are awaiting the draft letter from Councillor Green in relation to forwarding a complaint to Shropshire Council and an item has been placed on the next Planning Committee Agenda to formally review that Committee's process in dealing with Planning Appeals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the report be noted